MR. GERRY OR THE STATE.

N. Y. HOSPITAL CASE HIS SECOND FIGHT AGAINST STATE CONTROL.

Rights Under a Royal Charter Decided in the Dartmouth College Case—But the N. Y. Hospital Once Accepted State Amendment of Its Charter and State Money.

William Rhinelander Stewart, President of the State Board of Charities, returned to town yesterday, but refused to discuss the board's request to the Attorney-General to begin mandamus proceedings against the Society of the New York Hospital to compel the management to allow inspection of the hospital by the board's representatives and to keep its records in accordance with the board's requirements. It was learned, however, from a source which should possess accurate information that the State's representatives feel confident of their ability to demonstrate that the State of New York really is bigger than Elbridge T. Gerry. The hospital society's attitude toward the State is similar to that of Mr. Gerry's Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

"There is an interesting question in just what the relative positions of Commodore Gerry and the State of New York are," said one lawyer. "He succeeded in having it established that his children's society is not subject to the visitation of the Supreme Court of New York, and if the State Board of Charities can't have any supervision over it, it's difficult to see who on earth can interfere with the exercise of Mr. Gerry's absolute will in its management and operations. Now he opposes the board's effort to inspect his hospital and obtain records of its operations, and he is now a resident of Rhode Island."

"We're not living under George III.," said another lawyer, referring to Mr. Gerry's taking refuge under the charter granted the hospital by that King.

Inquiries showed yesterday that although there are other organizations in this State with royal charters, none has set up any claim to superiority to the authority of the State in the several branches of its administration. Columbia College was instanced as one such, which has never opposed the authority of the Regents.

It is pointed out that more than a hundred years ago, early in the existence of the hospital society, the New York Legislature had amended its charter, the society accepting the amendment and accepting money from the State also. The general right of the State to control corporations doing business here was put forward with confidence as including the right to exercise such supervision as might be deemed necessary over the New York Hospital.

There is an interesting decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in a case which is held to be similar to this and which backs up Mr. Gerry's position. It is the Dartmouth College case, argued by Webster in 1819, in which the New Hampshire Legislature's action in passing laws amending Dartmouth's charter, which was granted by George III. in 1769, was involved. The trustees had refused to assent to the change in the charter.

"These letters patent," said Webster, "are to be good and effectual in law against the King, his heirs and successors forever, and the trustees named in the charter enjoy singular the privileges, advantages, liberties and immunities to them and their successors forever. No funds are given to the college by this charter. A corporate existence and capacity are given to the trustees." He said that "all proper powers of government, superintendence and visitation" were "vested in the trustees."

"If the Legislature can at pleasure make these alterations and changes in the rights and privileges of the plaintiffs," he said, "it may with equal propriety abolish those rights and privileges altogether. The same power which can do a part of this work can accomplish the whole. * * * The Legislature of New Hampshire has no more power over the rights of the plaintiffs than existed somewhere, in some department of government, before the Revolution. The British Parliament couldn't have annulled or revoked this charter as an act of ordinary legislation. If it had done it at all it could only have been in virtue of that sovereign power, called omnipotent, which does not belong to any Legislature in the United States.

"The Legislature of New Hampshire has the same power over this charter which belonged to the King who granted it, and no more. By the Revolution the power to create corporations is part of the royal prerogative. By the Revolution this power may be considered as having been devolved upon the Legislatures of the States, and it has accordingly been exercised by the Legislatures. But the King couldn't abolish a corporation or new-model it or alter its powers without its assent. This is the acknowledged and well-known doctrine of the common law."

Again he said: "The corporation in question * * * is an eleemosynary corporation. It is a private charity. The eleemosynary sort of corporations are such as are constituted for the perpetual distribution of the free alms or bounty of the founder of the place, which persons it has directed. Of this are all hospitals for the maintenance of poor, sick and impotent and all colleges, both in our universities and out of them." * * * Where there is a charter vesting proper powers of government in trustees or governors, they are visitors, and there is no control in anybody else; except only that courts of equity or law will interfere so far as to preserve the revenues and prevent perversion of the funds and to keep the visitors within their prescribed bounds. * * Rights to do certain acts, such, for instance as those of visitation and superintendence of a college, may be vested rights as completely as to possess property."

The opinion, written by Chief Justice Marshall, held "that this (the charter) is a contract the obligations of which cannot be impaired, without violating the Constitution of the United States," and that "it results from this that the acts of the Legislature of New Hampshire (altering the charter), are repugnant to the Constitution of the United States."

Justice Story, who also wrote an opinion said: "Where trustees or governors are incorporated to manage a charity, the visitatorial power is deemed to belong to them in their corporate character. When a private eleemosynary corporation is thus created by charter of the crown, it is subject to no other control on the part of the crown than what is expressly or implicitly reserved by the charter itself. Unless a power be reserved for this purpose, the crown cannot, without the consent of the corporation, alter or amend the charter or divest the corporation of any of its franchises, or add to them * * * or change or control the administration of the charity or compel the corporation to receive a new charter. This is the uniform language of the authorities and forms one of the most stubborn and well-settled doctrines of common law. * * *

"But they (the trustees) are not therefore beyond the reach of all law. As managers of the revenues of the corporation they are subject to the general superintending power of the Court of Chancery * * * as possessing a general jurisdiction in all cases of abuse of trusts to redress grievances and suppress frauds."

LAWYER HALLEN SUMS UP.

Comes Into Court Without a Beard and Transforms His Appearance.

Lawyer J. D. Hallen, who is on trial before Judge McMahon in Part I. of the General Sessions accused of forging a bond and mortgage through which Mrs. Florence Cauldwell of New Jersey lost $16,500, took all of yesterday's sessions in summing up the case in his own behalf. He secured permission on Tuesday to shave off his beard and he came into court with a smooth face. Persons who had face business with him recently did not recognize him.

His appearance was so much changed that Assistant District Attorney Osborne, who had summoned Paul Newman, secretary to ex-Queen Liliuokalani, to prove that Hallen was the same man known to him in Honolulu as Julian D. Hayne, did not ask Newman to identify Hallen.

A woman who was married to Hayne and who lived with him several years says Hallen is Hayne, and many other witnesses have given similar testimony. None of these persons was called to identify Hallen after his beard was removed, although they all said that when they knew him as Hayne he wore only a mustache.

The case goes on to-day.

SPOKE OF THE EASTERN QUESTION.

Prof. Giddings Tells the Outward Club We Must Keep the Philippines.

Prof. F. H. Giddings of Columbia University talked to the Outward Club, 26 Delancey street, last night on "The Eastern Question." He favored our retention of the Philippines because the Eastern trade was to be the great opportunity for money-making in the twentieth century, and because the currents of this trade flowed naturally through the Philippines. The day had gone by, he said, when any great people could be organized as a nation on a simple pattern. All the dark races of the world must come under the control of the whites, and it was our duty to ourselves not to be left in the race.

Prof. Giddings's remarks met with the hearty approval of his hearers.

KITTEN BORN WITH TWO HEADS.

Engel Association, in Whose Rooms It Was Found, Hopes It Means Good Luck.

Whether the birth of a two-headed kitten is a harbinger of good luck or bad is now agitating the members of the Martin Engel Association, Silver Dollar Smith declares that the birth of any kind of a freak in a saloon changes the prevailing luck, and it has certainly been bad around the Engel Association rooms for some time. He believes the tide has turned.

The rooms of the Engel Association are at Grand and Ludlow streets. The association has an official cat as it has an official barber in the person of Pete the Barber of Essex street.

The cat is called Minnie and has been with the organization for fifteen years, it is said. On the first floor of the association building is the saloon kept by Alonzo Sabey, official caterer. Sabey also feeds the cat, for which he receives 25 cents a week from the treasury of the association.

When Fiddles Finkelstein opened up the headquarters yesterday morning he discovered Minnie nursing three kittens. Finkelstein examined them and then rushed downstairs to Sabey.

"For God's sake, Mister Sabey, come mit me up der stairs. Minnie der cat has kittens, and one of dem has two heads."

"Finkelstein, I did not think it was so bad," said Sabey. "Have a drink and you will feel better."

"I tell you dere vas no monkey pizness," shouted Finkelstein.

Sabey went upstairs. The kitten was perfectly formed in the body but had a double head. There were four eyes, four ears and two mouths, all perfectly formed. The kitten was alive when seen by Finkelstein and Sabey, and appeared to be as healthy as the other two kittens. It lived until 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon and then expired without a squeal.

The body of the kitten was on exhibition all day yesterday in the rooms of the association, and it will be sent to-day to a taxidermist. If conditions change for the better in the Engel Association the stuffed figure may find a resting place alongside the picture of Silver Dollar Smith in the clubrooms.

FLUSHING TROPHIES PRESENTED.

Soldiers and Sailors of Whitestone Honored by Their Neighbors.

WHITESTONE, N. Y, Dec. 21.—Corporal John M. Newmeyer and Privates John I. Munson of Company K, Seventy-first New York Volunteers; William J. Wallace of Troop A, Frank Kane of U. S. S. Indiana, Eugene Turner of U. S. S. Iowa, Harry Robertson of U. S. S. New Orleans and Frederick Burns, who was Admiral Schley's messenger the day Cervera was defeated, all of this village, received handsome medals to-day from their fellow townsmen of Flushing in honor of their services in the Spanish war. The medals were delivered in handsome morocco cases. The medals were made by Tiffany, and each consists of a bronze Greek cross suspended from a bar by a red, white and blue ribbon. Upon the face is a circular disk, surrounded by a laurel wreath, bearing the words: "For patriotism and valor, Flushing Trophy, San Juan, 1898." Upon the back is the name of the holder, his regiment or ship and the scene of his services and the words: "Presented by his fellow citizens of Flushing in recognition of his services in the Spanish war."

MR. STEELE'S STAFF.

Four Assistants Named and the Republican Machine Satisfied.

Ex-Judge Hiram R. Steele, who is to become District Attorney in Brooklyn at the beginning of the new year, has consulted with Lieut.-Gov. Woodruff and the other Republican leaders in reference to the appointments of his staff, and there is not likely to be any serious friction between Mr. Steele and the organization, although the fact that Mr. Steele is apparently determined to retain Arthur H. Welkley, a machine Democrat, as chief clerk has aroused considerable opposition. Alexander H. Van Cott is to be first assistant, Levi W. Naylor second, John H. Kemble third, and Frank S. Angell fourth. The fifth and sixth assistants will be named to-day. These are said to be slated for clerkships: Alfred T. Hobley, Philip T. Williams, Edward Langdon and ex-Judge Remson. Ex-Judge Steele is familiarizing himself with the routine of the office and yesterday he called at the County Court and took a seat on the bench with Judge Aspinall.

DIED IN PHILADELPHIA PARK.

Miss Vosseler of Williamsburg, a Schoolteacher, Was Visiting There.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 21.—Matilda Vosseler, 30 years old, a Brooklyn schoolteacher, was found dead in Fairmount Park this evening. Heart disease was said to be the cause of death, but the police are investigating a story that she took poison. The body was removed to the home of her brother, 1013 North Third street, where she had been visiting.

Miss Vosseler was the daughter of the Rev. George Henry Vosseler of 212 North Sixth street, Williamsburg, fomerly the pastor of the German Evangelical Lutheran Church on North Fifth street. She formerly taught school at South Second and Hooper streets. She went to Philadelphia a few months ago. At the house last night her brother said that the family had known she was sick, but had not heard of her death.

VICTORY BATEMAN AT BELLEVUE.

Suffering from Hysteria and Will Be Examined for Insanity.

Victory Bateman, the actress, was taken to Bellevue Hospital last night and confined in the insane pavilion for examination. She was accompanied by Mrs. John T. Burke, a friend. Miss Bateman has been failing all season. She was playing in the West when she broke down. She went to Newark, where she remained until Tuesday, when she went to live at 103 West Thirty-eighth street. It was deemed best yesterday to send her to the hospital. Dr. Robertson, who has charge of the insane ward, said she appeared to be suffering from hysteria.

RUMORED GAS MEASURES.

One for Reduction in Price, One for an Investigation of New York Business.

It was said yesterday that two bills affecting the gas companies would be presented at the next session of the Legislature. One of them will provide for a reduction in the price of gas for illuminating purposes to 90 cents a thousand feet and for commercial purposes to 60 cents. The other bill will provide for a commission to investigate the gas business in this city and report to the Legislature.

Maxim—Hamilton.

HAGERSTOWN, Md., Dec. 21.—The marriage of Miss Josephine Hamilton, third daughter of the late Gov. W. T. Hamilton, to Hiram Percy Maxim of Hartford, Conn., son of the inventor of the Maxim gun, was celebrated to-day in St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church in this city, the Rev. Henry Cotton, rector, officiating. Miss Lenora Hamilton was maid of honor, and Mr. Thomas W. Goodridge of Hartford best man. The ushers were Lieut. R. C. Kelton, U. S. A., Messrs. F. H. Stockett of Annapolis, William T. Hamilton, Jr., Alexander H. Mason, John S. Kausler, Buchanan Schley, Jr., and James T. Briscoe, Jr., all of this city.

Young—McAllister.

Miss Louise d'Aubray McAllister of this city and Alexander C. Young of Hoboken were married yesterday afternoon in Elizabeth, N. J. The bride is a niece of the late Ward McAllister. Her sisters, Misses Amelia and Harriet McAllister, and Miss Adeline Pierson of this city were the bridesmaids. James Lindsay Gordon was the best man. The bride was given away by her brother, Gerard McAllister.

Passenger Rates from Chicago Down.

CHICAGO, Dec. 21.—Eastbound passenger rates from Chicago are badly demoralized. Railroad officials say it is hard to see how an all-round rate war can be avoided. Regular rates are being cut right and left, and reduced holiday rates are being used in ways not contemplated in the agreement, but in every way fitted to spread the existing trouble. Commissions are also being paid, and are being used to increase the demoralization. None of the roads seems to know what is to be the next move.

Another Cut in Sugar Prices.

Another reduction of one-sixteenth of a cent a pound for refined sugars was made yesterday by Arbuckle Brothers and the Doscher Refinery. This brings their price for granulated to five cents a pound, the lowest point during the sugar war. The posted price for granulated of both the American Sugar Refining Company and B. H. Howell, Son & Co., representatives of the National and Mollenhauer refineries, remained at 5½ cents a pound.

Flynn's Water Contract Advanced.

The Jersey City Board of Finance last night concurred in the award by the Board of Street and Water Commissioners of a contract to P. H. Flynn for a new water supply. The contract price for the plant, when the city desires to purchase it, is $7,245,000. The contract will now be submitted to Mayor Hoos for his action.

ANOTHER SHOT AT COLLIS.

HIS ISSUANCE OF STREET VAULT PERMITS NOW ATTACKED.

The Commissioners of Accounts Charge That He and Mr. Brookfield Caused a Loss to the City of $103,078—Gen. Collis on the Asphalt Block Paving Contracts.

The Commissioners of Accounts took another shot yesterday at the old Public Works Department during the terms of Commissioners William Brookfield and Gen. Collis. They made a long report to the Mayor concerning the manner in which permits were issued to build vaults under sidewalks, in which they alleged that if the fines for violations of the ordinance governing the work had been collected, and the maximum price of $2 a square foot charged in every instance, the city would have $103,078.97 which it has not got now. The report also says that Commissioner Collis reduced in many cases the price a square foot for such privileges from $2 to 75 cents, at his own option, after he had the standard price fixed at the first figure. The Commissioners also allege that several vault permit blanks had been used by the Commissioner of Public Works personally, but that there is no record to whom they have been issued or for what purpose they were detached. The report winds up as follows:

"If nothing criminal is developed, or that no fines have been paid which have not been accounted for, it shows a lack of care and system or utter indifference which has permeated the entire Department of Public Works under the past administration, and which we find exists throughout all of the departments we have under examination of the former administration."

In regard to the report of the Commissioners in the matter of asphalt block paving contracts, Gen. Collis said yesterday:

"The Commissioners of Accounts, I see, charge that a concern called the Hastings Paving Company had a monopoly of the asphalt block paving during my administration, and that the extensive use of these blocks in the years 1895, '96, '97, seemed to them to be a suspicious circumstance. They further say that the city's interests would be as well safeguarded to do away with the specifications entirely, and contract for these blocks by means of a letter, inviting the Hastings Company to supply the desired quantity at their own price and upon their own terms.

"If these so-called accountants had searched the records of the Highway department they would have found that in every case where there was only one bidder a readvertisement was ordered, and that my policy in this respect brought new people into the business. They would have found the following contracts for asphalt blocks, let by me to the Atlantic Alcatraz Asphalt Company, of which Mr. John D. Crimmins, Jr., is President, they having bid lower than the Hastings Company:

	Square Yards.
115th street, from Boulevard to Riverside Drive	1,996
103d street, Fourth to Fifth avenue	1,485
Lexington avenue, from Ninety-seventh to 101st street	2,541
157th street, Seventh to Eighth avenue	2,691
125th street, Claremont to Boulevard	1,088
119th street, Boulevard to Riverside Drive	1,838
162d street, Kingsbridge road to Eleventh avenue	2,520
138th street, from Seventh avenue to Lenox avenue	2,650
Twenty-fourth street, from Madison to First avenue	8,907
Total	25,646

"And the following let to Messrs. Stone & Thurston of 220 Broadway:

	Yards.
179th street, from Kingsbridge road to Amsterdam avenue	5,110
100th street, from First to Second avenue	2,240
100th street, from Lexington avenue to Park	1,454
Total	8,804

"To Messrs. Clark & Co.:

	Yards.
Park avenue, east side, 97th to 100th street	2,210
Park avenue, west side, 97th to 101st street	3,174
Total	5,384

"If these Commissioners of Accounts have not got brains enough to get at the facts, why don't they employ a district messenger boy; or if they want to suppress the truth, why don't they wait until I die?"

WELCOME TO RETURNED SOLDIERS.

Reception to Companies of the First New York in Albany, Newburg and Middletown.

ALBANY, Dec. 21.—Dismal weather seemed but to accentuate the welcome accorded by the citizens of Albany to her boys who were members of the Tenth Battalion of Albany and of the First Regiment (with the exception of Company C), New York State Volunteers, who arrived here to-night from Honolulu. Such a reception as was accorded the Albany soldiers has never been witnessed in the Capital City. Business and private houses were decorated gorgeously. Despite the slushy weather, the people lined the principal streets, so that passage was nearly impossible.

NEWBURG, Dec. 21.—A grand reception was accorded Company L, First Regiment, New York Volunteers, on their arrival at 3 o'clock this afternoon. Business was practically suspended and the city decorated all over.

MIDDLETOWN, N. Y., Dec. 21.—Company I, First Regiment, formerly the Twenty-fourth Separate Company, had an enthusiastic reception to-night on their return from Honolulu. The boys spoke in glowing terms, not only of their reception at the hands of the people of Honolulu but of their treatment as soldiers by the War Department, as regards both food and medical supplies. The Citizens' Committee will present each member of the battalion with a bronze metal appropriately inscribed.

The Young Man Who Smashed Windows of the British Embassy Declared Insane.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—A jury to-day declared that Joseph W. Pearson, the young man who smashed the windows of the British Embassy with bricks last week, was not responsible for his actions. An order for his commitment to the Government Hospital for the Insane will be issued by the Court. The international feature of the case will be settled by sending a copy of the jury's verdict to Sir Julian Pauncefote with an expression of regret for the incident and a promise that the United States Government will pay for the damage done.

Alfred Zabriskie Shoots Himself.

PORT WASHINGTON, L. I., Dec. 21.—Alfred Zabriskie, 45 years old, shot himself to-day in the abdomen and head, with suicidal intent, on the estate of his brother, George Zabriskie, at Sand's Point. He had been ill for three weeks and was despondent, and was affected by the large amount of quinine he had used. His brother is a lawyer with offices at 21 Broad street, and is travelling in Europe. It is believed he is in Venice at the present time. Alfred Zabriskie has been conducting the estate in his absence. Dr. W. Y. Cocks of this city probed for the bullet without success, and Prof. Carll of Manhattan borough was sent for. Zabriskie is very weak and his recovery is not expected.

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FLINT'S FINE FURNITURE

Inlaid Mahogany Tea Trays,

$9.00.

45 West 23d Street.

MRS. CUDDY LOSES $11,750.

The Assignment of That Amount to Her by Miss Geddes Set Aside by the Courts.

Assignments of bonds and mortgages which Miss Isabella Geddes made at the age of 72 years, in October, 1897, to Mrs. Mary Cuddy, with whom she boarded, were set aside by Justice Daly of the Supreme Court yesterday. The mortgages aggregated $11,750 and embraced all the property that Miss Geddes had. It was alleged by her nieces, her nearest relatives, in the action that Miss Geddes was mentally incompetent and that the assignments were not her voluntary act. It appeared that the assignments were drawn by the husband of Mrs. Cuddy and that Mrs. Cuddy guided the hand of Miss Geddes while the signatures were made. She was ill in bed at the time and died soon after. The Court says:

"Mrs. Cuddy was dealing with an elderly woman, enfeebled by long illness and on her deathbed, who had been her lodger and boarder for years and constantly in her company, and to whom she also held the position of nurse. She was procuring a voluntary conveyance to herself of what she must have known to be all the property of her patient, friend and boarder, to the exclusion of known kindred. Under the circumstances the burden is undoubtedly cast upon her to establish to the satisfaction of a court of justice that the paper was executed by a person capable of comprehending her act and doing it of her own free will."

The court holds that Mrs. Cuddy has failed to show this.

SHELLENBERGER PARDONED.

The Pennsylvania Banker Liberated Because Part of His Sentence Was Unjust.

HARRISBURG, Pa., Dec. 21.—The most interesting of the large number of cases before the Board of Pardons to-day was that of J. Monroe Shellenberger, the former Doylestown banker, who was convicted of forgery and embezzlement in 1890 and sentenced by Judge Yerkes of the Bucks County Court to imprisonment in the Eastern Penitentiary for twenty-two years. The prisoner's counsel said Shellenberger is on the verge of insanity. The lawyer added:

"The laws of Pennsylvania never contemplated that a sentence of death should be imposed for forgery. That's what further imprisonment means in this case."

He explained further that when Shellenberger ran away and then returned of his own volition to stand punishment for his crime he would not allow his lawyers to make any plea for him, although four of the indictments on which he was sentenced could have been nullified under the statute of limitations, which was not raised. These indictments added ten years to the sentence, which deducted would allow of the banker's discharge at this time without any interference on the part of the Board of Pardons. When the board learned these facts it was at once agreed that Shellenberger should be liberated.

CAGED WITH A MAD DOG.

Three Small Children Suddenly Attacked by a Household Pet.

PATERSON, N. J., Dec. 21.—Three children named Peterson of 12 Fair street spent three-quarters of an hour early this morning in a room with a mad dog. The children are fatherless. Mrs. Peterson left home at 7 A. M. to go to her work. About 7:30 o'clock the neighbors heard screams from the Peterson house. These were accompanied by the fierce tones of a dog. No one would go into the place, but word was sent to the police station and Officer Bush was sent to the scene. The moment the policeman entered the room the dog rushed at him. Bush had his night stick with him and beat the animal off. Then followed a chase through the rooms, but the officer succeeded in getting in a blow at the dog that brought it to the floor and a few more blows killed it. The children are named Henry, Joseph and Mamie, and they are aged respectively 9, 7 and 5 years. Mamie has a bad bite on the arm, and Joseph is scratched by the dog's teeth on the legs. Henry is unhurt. The dog was a mongrel and had been a pet in the house.

TO CHOOSE A PASTOR FOR ST. MARK'S.

Wardens and Vestrymen Meet To-Day—The Rev. Richard Cobden a Candidate.

A meeting of the wardens and vestrymen of St. Mark's Church will be held at 5 o'clock today to consider the selection of a successor to the Rev. Dr. Joseph H. Rylance. The Rev. Richard Cobden, rector of St. John's Church, Larchmont, who was curate of St. Mark's for five years previous to 1897, is a strong candidate for Dr. Rylance's place. He is a graduate of the General Theological Seminary of this city.

The congregation of the church has grown smaller through the removal of many of its members uptown, but the parish, which formerly contained many of the oldest and wealthiest families in the city, is still in excellent financial condition, its income being $25,000 a year. Dr. Rylance received a salary of $10,000, and gave one-quarter of it back to the parish. It is said that the salary of the new rector will not be as much as $10,000.

NEW BIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

A Dinner and Election of Officers at the Metropolitan Club Last Night.

A dinner was given last evening at the Metropolitan Club by Col. Johnson L. de Peyster to his associates in the Biographical Society of America, an organization which was incorporated at Albany on Monday. The dinner was served in one of the private dining rooms and was attended by all the incorporators of the society, and by some of the gentlemen who are to become associated with them.

After the dinner the first meeting of the society was held. The constitution and bylaws were adopted, and the following officers elected for the ensuing year: President, Col. Johnston L. de Peyster; First Vice-President, Walter Rutherford; Second Vice-President, James Duane Livingston; Treasurer, Augustin H. Goelet; Recorder, Samuel Marsh. It is proposed to try to bring all the American biographical and genealogical societies into one national association.

WANT A CITY DRY DOCK BUILT.

Knights of Labor Prepare a Petition to the City Government.

District Assembly 220 of the Knights of Labor reported yesterday that it had prepared a petition to the city government asking that the city build a dry dock large enough to accommodate the largest ships that come into this port.

The petition says that the fees for the use of such a dry dock would pay the city a handsome profit on the money invested, and that the shipping interests in New York harbor would be greatly benefited by it, as there is at present no dry dock here big enough to receive the largest vessels.

Foreclosure Proceedings Against John Armstrong Chanler.

The Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States has brought an action in the Supreme Court to foreclose two mortgages of $70,000 and of $65,000 on the property 258 Broadway, owned by John Armstrong Chanler, Chanler's former wife, Amelie Rives, now the wife of Prince Troubetskoy, is also made a defendant. It is alleged that interest has been allowed to accumulate on the mortgages. Another action in foreclosure against property of Mr. Chanler uptown was brought about a month ago.

One Biscuit a Day for Ten Days.

BOSTON, Dec. 21.—The bark J. H. Bowers, for Boston from Rosario, with hides valued at $200,000, which was long overdue and which it was feared had been lost, came into port late yesterday afternoon. For ten days the members of the crew had subsisted on a biscuit a day for each man.

The Weather.

The pressure is low all over the country east of the Rocky Mountains, with the centre of depression over Lake Superior and a secondary centre forming over Kansas. This unusually extensive depression is causing unsettled, cloudy and rainy conditions in nearly all districts except in the Southwest and Rocky Mountain states. The temperature remains high and unseasonable, and is barely below freezing point except in Wyoming and Montana.

Dense fog prevailed along the coast from Florida to Maine, with light to fresh northeasterly winds.

In this city the day was cloudy and foggy; average humidity 93 per cent.; wind northeast, average velocity six miles an hour; highest temperature 42°, lowest 34°; barometer, corrected to read to sea level, at 8 A. M. 29.92; 3 P. M., 29.95.

The temperature as recorded by the official thermometer and also by THE SUN'S thermometer at the street level is shown in the annexed table:

	—Official— 1898.	1897.	Sun's 1898.		—Official— 1898.	1897.	Sun's 1898.
9 A. M.	36°	35°	40°	6 P. M.	39°	31°	42°
12 M.	38°	36°	41°	9 P. M.	38°	30°	41°
3 P. M.	39°	35°	41°	12 Mid.	38°	31°	41°

WASHINGTON FORECAST FOR THURSDAY.

For New England and eastern New York, rain; brisk southeasterly winds.

For western New York, western Pennsylvania and Ohio, rain; high southerly winds.

350 BROADWAY, OUR NEW ADDRESS, IS THE ADDRESS OF THE BURNED-OUT WARREN ST. SELLING FORCE.

For Christmas Day and every day—nights too—for every man and every boy, everything they wear.

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During this Yule-Tide season we have an unusually fine display of Grand and Upright Pianos; in the very latest art designs; cased in rare and choice woods. "Standard of Highest Merit," as applied to the Fischer Piano, means the perfection of Tone, Action, Artistic Workmanship and Durability. Pre-eminently the American Home Piano of the Highest Class. Established 1840. We respectfully solicit a call at our warerooms.

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Between 16th and 17th Streets, New York.

Open Evenings till December 24th.

Open Evenings.

TRADE MARK

Solid Silver.

THE MAUSER MAN'F'G CO.,

Silversmiths.

Factory and Shop,

No. 14 East 15th Street, West of Broadway.

MARINE INTELLIGENCE.

MINIATURE ALMANAC—THIS DAY.

Sun rises.... 7 21 | Sun sets . 4 36 | Moon sets. 2 20

HIGH WATER—THIS DAY.

Sandy Hook. 3 08 | Gov. Isl'd. 3 40 | Hell Gate. 5 33

Arrived—WEDNESDAY, Dec. 21.

Ss Teutonic, Cameron, Liverpool Dec. 14 and Queenstown 15th.
Ss Concho, Risk, Havana.
Ss Antilla, Montell, Nassau.
Ss Athos, Long, Kingston.
Ss Arkadia, Lloyd, San Juan.
Ss Geo. W. Clyde, Robinson, Wilmington.
Ss El Paso, Gardner, New Orleans.
Ss Hudson, Halsey, New Orleans.
Ss New Orleans, Gager, New Orleans.

[For later arrivals see First Page.]

ARRIVED OUT.

Ss Saale, from New York, at Bremen.
Ss Paris, from New York, at Southampton.
Ss Auguste Victoria, from New York, at Naples.

SAILED FROM FOREIGN PORTS.

Ss Britannic, from Liverpool for New York.
Ss Madiana, from St. Thomas for New York.

SAILED FROM DOMESTIC PORTS.

Ss City of Birmingham, from Savannah for New York.
Ss El Dorado, from New Orleans for New York.
Ss Leona, from Galveston for New York.

OUTGOING STEAMSHIPS.

Sail To-Day.

	Mails Close.	*Vessel Sails.*
Edam, Amsterdam	8 00 A M	10 00 A M
Santiago, Nassau	1 00 P M	3 00 P M
New Orleans, New Orleans		3 00 P M
Assyrian, Glasgow		

Sail To-Morrow.

Algonquin, Charleston		3 00 P M
Rio Grande, Brunswick		3 00 P M

Sail Saturday, Dec. 24.

Lucania, Liverpool	9 00 A M	12 00 M
La Bretagne, Havre	9 00 A M	10 00 A M
Statendam, Rotterdam	8 00 A M	10 00 A M
Palatia, Hamburg		2 00 P M
Tartar Prince, Azores		
Idaho, Hull		
Ohio, Newcastle		
St. Cuthbert, Antwerp		
Mesaba, London		9 00 A M
Norge, Christiansand	11 00 A M	1 00 P M
Caribbee, St. Thomas	9 30 A M	12 00 M
Altai, Kingston	10 00 A M	12 00 M
Concho, Havana	10 30 A M	1 00 P M
Grenada, Trinidad	12 00 M	2 00 P M
Curityba, Venezuela		
Wacosta, Galveston		3 00 P M
Carib, Charleston		3 00 P M
Hudson, New Orleans		3 00 P M

INCOMING STEAMSHIPS.

Due To-Day.

Heathfield	Hull	Nov 26
Ribston	Gibraltar	Nov 27
Strathgala	Rotterdam	Nov 27
North Cambria	Gibraltar	Dec 2
Knight of St. George	Liverpool	Dec 3
Kansas City	Swansea	Dec 5
Karamania	Gibraltar	Dec 5
Chattahoochee	Savannah	Dec 10
Algoa	Hamburg	Dec 5
Cuba	Liverpool	Dec 11
Pontiac	Gibraltar	Dec 7
El Mar	New Orleans	Dec 16
Alliance	Colon	Dec 14
Macedonia	Havana	Dec 16
Nacoochee	Savannah	Dec 18
Algonquin	Jacksonville	Dec 18
H. H. Meier	Bremen	Dec 10
Tuscarora	London	Dec 9
British Empire	Antwerp	Dec 10
Adria	Antwerp	Dec 10
San Marcos	Galveston	Dec 16
City of Macon	Savannah	Dec 19

Due Friday, Dec. 23.

St. Louis	Southampton	Dec 17
Ethiopia	London	Dec 10
Idaho	Hull	Dec 9
Camperdown	Avonmouth	Dec 9
Chicago City	Swansea	Dec 9
Nasmyth	St. Lucia	Dec 15
City of Birmingham	Savannah	Dec 20

Due Saturday, Dec. 24.

Etruria	Liverpool	Dec 17
Roland	Bremen	Dec 12
Knight Bachelor	London	Dec 11
Belgenland	St. Lucia	Dec 16
Cyrene	St. Lucia	Dec 16
Galileo	St. Lucia	Dec 17

Due Sunday, Dec. 25.

La Normandie	Havre	Dec 17
Madiana	St. Thomas	Dec 20

Due Monday, Dec. 26.

Manitou	London	Dec 15
Pretoria	Hamburg	Dec 12
Georgic	Liverpool	Dec 16
Craignore	Gibraltar	Dec 12
El Dorado	New Orleans	Dec 21

Due Tuesday, Dec. 27.

Spaarndam	Rotterdam	Dec 15
Anchoria	Glasgow	Dec 15
Westerland	Antwerp	Dec 13
Federation	Hamburg	Dec 13
Ormiston	London	Dec 13
Leona	Galveston	Dec 21

Mr. Gardner on Pastor Bastow's Resignation

P. N. Gardner of 741 East 175th street writes to THE SUN to say that he was not the leader of the opposition to the Rev. Mr. Bastow in the Tremont Baptist Church, and that, so far as he knew, the pastor resigned to accept another call. Mr. Gardner says that he resigned from the church, not as a protest to a minister show, but to engage in mission work in which he was interested.

Railroads.

Pennsylvania RAILROAD.

STATIONS foot of West Twenty-third Street and Desbrosses and Cortlandt Streets.

☞ The leaving time from Desbrosses and Cortlandt Streets is ten minutes later than that given below for Twenty-third Street Station.

7:50 A. M. FAST MAIL.—Pullman Buffet Parlor Car New York to Pittsburg. Sleeping Car Pittsburg to Chicago. No coaches to Pittsburg.

8:50 A. M. FAST LINE.—Pittsburg and Cleveland.

9:50 A. M. PENNSYLVANIA LIMITED.—Pullman Compartment, Sleeping, Dining, Smoking and Observation Cars. For Chicago, Cleveland, Toledo, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Louisville, St. Louis.

1:50 P. M. CHICAGO AND ST. LOUIS EXPRESS.—For Nashville (via Cincinnati), Indianapolis, Chicago, St. Louis.

3:50 P. M. WESTERN EXPRESS.—For Chicago, for Toledo except Saturday.

7:40 P. M. SOUTHWESTERN EXPRESS.—For Pittsburg, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, St. Louis.

7:40 P. M. PACIFIC EXPRESS.—For Pittsburg and Chicago. Connects for Cleveland except Saturday.

8:20 P. M. MAIL AND EXPRESS.—Pullman Buffet Sleeping Car New York to Altoona, East Liberty, Pittsburg, and points West, daily except Sunday. No coaches.

WASHINGTON AND THE SOUTH.

7:50, 8:20, 9:20, 9:50 (Dining Car), 10:50 (Dining Car) A. M., 12:50, 1:50 (3