THEATRICAL AMUSEMENTS.

STARS THAT SHINE AND PLAYS THAT PROSPER WITHOUT THEM.

Nathaniel C. Goodwin as Nathan Hale in an American Historical Drama by Clyde Fitch—A Fine Variety of Stage Diversion Available for To-Morrow's Holiday.

The stage diversion available for to-morrow's holiday, afternoon and evening, is extensive in variety and generally good in quality. Stars will shine brightly, and many plays will prosper without them. The only theatre that will not have an extra matinée is the Knickerbocker, where the appearance of Nathaniel C. Goodwin in a new drama will be held off until night. Then he will impersonate an American hero in "Nathan Hale," a native composition by Clyde Fitch. Mr. Goodwin is a versatile actor, who has accustomed us to see him in jovial aspects, but this time he will undertake a serious character and figure in a romance of love and patriotism. It is understood that Mr. Fitch has blended fact and fiction in his version of the Revolutionary hero's gift of his life to his country. Chicago and Boston have liked the play, and have without hesitation accepted Mr. Goodwin as its chief personage. So the entertainment comes to New York highly recommended. Maxine Elliott-Goodwin now shares with her husband the distinction of big type in the bills. She is a clever actress and beautiful woman. The company is, to a considerable extent, the same that it was when here a year ago. Its more important members are William Ingersoll, Gertrude Elliott, Thomas Oberle, Clarence Handyside, Estelle Mortimer and Hattie Russell. They have had sufficient practice in "Nathan Hale" to have become proficient. The scenery has been described as exceptionally tasteful and pretty.

Jefferson De Angelis will take his comic opera company and "The Jolly Musketeers" to the Harlem Opera House for the week. It is unlikely that the performance will be in any way different from what it was in Broadway earlier. That was not long enough ago to permit the skill or spirit of the players to flag nor the gay costumes and scenery to fray. Mr. De Angelis and his working partner, Mr. McDonough, are a comic pair of very harmonious comedians and the play is a good one in its class.

Andrew Mack, the singing Irish comedian, will be at the Columbus, in Harlem, where he will enact the humorous, sentimental and gallant hero in "An Irish Gentleman," a neat Irish comedy by Ramsay Morris. There is a charm of unaffected naturalness in Mr. Mack that is rare among the stars of the stage. He is just about the most engaging of lovers, and his wooing in this play is pleasantly serio-comic. He sings ballads of his own composition, as well as old ones, in a way to charm.

Annie Russell will end her engagement at the Garrick with the hundredth performance of "Catherine" on Saturday night; but she will resume in March, after spending the interim in Boston. That she does not stay longer now at the Garrick is due to the fact that Mrs. Leslie Carter and "Zaza" cannot be kept from coming in next week. Accounts from Washington are extravagant in praise of the play and the actress. It is said that "Zaza," as adapted from the French, is a new and very much stronger "Camille," and that the rôle provided for Mrs. Carter enables her to prove herself a great artist.

Della Fox passes into the second week of the three allotted to "The Little Host" at the Herald Square. This is a farce of Tenderloin revelry, and its wit and humor relate to Tenderloin life, but there is nothing indecent in it all, and much that is amusing. Its costumes and scenery are pretty and tasteful. Several of its comedians are very comic. "That Man" will be seen here next, and after that the new Herne play.

May Irwin will stay at the Bijou until late in February, filling out three months there with "Kate Kip, Buyer." This farce is regarded as next to the best that she has had. Only "The Widow Jones" has exceeded it in practical value as a medium for her personal humor. Her company is quite as capable as ever in comedians and as attractive in finely gowned young women. Negro ditties are still demanded of Miss Irwin.

Olga Nethersole will come to Wallack's a week from to-morrow with "The Transgressor," a new play by Louis N. Parker. She is to remain four weeks, and will appear also in "Camille" and "The Second Mrs. Tanqueray." Owing to Julia Arthur's withdrawal, the theatre will be closed in the meantime.

Viola Allen's intention is to remain at the Garden with "The Christian" the winter through, and she may spend the spring there, too. She says that she will make a tour of only seven cities next season, and after that bring out a drama which is being written for her by an English author, presumably not Hall Caine, as she does not name the man. "The Christian" will then be sent out with somebody else in the heroine's part.

Eugen Schady and Willy Faber, actors of note in Germany, will make their American début at the Irving Place on Thursday night, playing characters which really stand for William II. and Bismarck in the persons of a manufacturer and his confidential clerk. The drama, not yet acted here, will be Felix Philippi's "Das Erbe," which has been widely used and discussed in Germany and Austria. Aside from its advanced realism and its political significance, it is said to possess much emotional quality. The first half of the week will be given to "Where Is the Cat?"

Familiar plays will be available on the New Year's holiday in about all the kinds known to our stage. Opera in English will have an example in "Martha" at the American. The tuneful Flotow ballads will be sung by Bassett, Sheehan, Norwood, Macnichol, Stewart, Knight and Moulan, members of the Castle Square company whom the habitual audiences like. The next revival will be "Lohengrin."

"Suerba" will contain new things at the Fourteenth Street. That mixed entertainment of extravaganza and pantomime is freshened annually. This year's alterations are said to be more extensive than usual. They include various specialties, a spectacular Arctic scene and long spells of farce. One week hence Chauncey Olcott will appear here in "A Romance of Athlone."

"Cumberland '61" will make still another visit. Since its first run, last winter, it has had ten engagements in eight theatres in Greater New York. The eleventh will be played this week at the Metropolis, the handsome new house in Bronx borough. The romance of West Point and the Cumberland Mountains seems to wear well. This season's company carries the original set of artistic scenery.

"The White Heather" will break the rule of regular Monday change at the Grand Opera House by staying a second week. One reason for this doubling of time is that the performance shows no appreciable falling off from that which it had during last season's long run in this city. Rose Coghlan and others are playing their original parts, and the substitutes are capable. The scenery, including that of the deep-sea duel, is just as before.

Chrose has started the Empire season with Charles Frohman's stock company in a way to hold its vogue. The excitements of Anthony Hope's novel are transferred to the stage significantly by those who made the dramatization and by those who do the acting. The especially interesting member of the cast is Miss Millward, because she is a recruit; but this is her first Frohman employment, as she left the heroine of that Empire drama, "The Girl I Left Behind Me," during the eight months that it ran in London.

Madame Sans Gêne" will employ Augustin Daly's stock company at his theatre beginning on Tuesday night. The play is partly the work of Sardou, and it was used several years in this country by Kathryn Kidder, who popularized the role of the historic laundress whom Napoleon made a countess. Ada Rehan will now take up that part. The costumes and scenery from the Kidder production, which was a notably handsome one by Augustus Pitou, will be utilized at Daly's.

"Trelawny of the Wells" will command the services of Daniel Frohman's accomplished players at the Lyceum the greater part of the season, no doubt, as the way has been cleared for it by setting aside some pieces that were in rehearsal. Thus an English translation of "Der Weissen Rossel," scheduled here, will be brought out at Wallack's next month instead.

"On and Off" will have a hundredth performance at the Madison Square a week from to-morrow night, and souvenirs will be distributed. There is as yet no intimation of a date for its withdrawal, and, of course, it will not be disposed of so long as it draws such audiences as are now laughing at its clean, hearty, abundant fun. "Because She Loved Him So," crowded out of the Garden, is thought to be a possible successor, but surely not for some time to come.

"The Two Orphans," longest lived of all the melodramas, has never been out of use any season since we first had it at the Union Square twenty years ago. It will be brought forward again to-morrow at the Murray Hill by the Dunedin company. Hannah May Bagshaw and Randol Milliken will enact the persecuted foster sisters, whose misadventures at the hands of the high-born and low-bred Parisian villains make up the sympathetic element of the play. Mr. Dronet, Mr. King, Mr. Allen and Mr. Redmond will assume the principal male characters.

"A Dangerous Maid" will depart from the Casino after next Saturday night, and its successor there will be "La Belle Hélène," with Lillian Russell at the head of the company.

"The Sorrows of Satan" has pulled itself together determinedly at the Broadway. The electrical effects, which were uncertain in the first performance, are now in working order, so that the illuminated ballets have become as sightly as they were intended to be. The acting, which was good at the start, is more effectual under the present conditions. The pantomimic dance by Violet Dene is a feature to be talked about.

"The Turtle" is a farce which its author seems to be proud of. His name is Leon Drandillot, and he has telegraphed from Paris a holiday greeting to the company performing it at the Manhattan. The management of that theatre has an option on his newest similar composition; but it is said that the ensuing piece here will be "A Stranger in a Strange Land," depicting the adventures of an American Indian as a quack doctor in England.

"Sporting Life" has only a fortnight left at the Academy of Music before going on a tour of several big cities. Its successor here will be "The Ragged Earl," in which Andrew Mack has appeared elsewhere this season. For its New York production it will be considerably expanded in scenery, and a full choir of boys will sing in its episode of a church marriage. Mr. Mack's part is melodramatic as well as humorous, besides being Irish through and through and making him sing agreeably.

"A Runaway Girl" is running right along at the Fifth Avenue. The only noteworthy thing that has happened to it lately is the introduction of fresh topical verses for Comedian Powers to sing. The preparation of "Three Little Lambs" has been suspended, and no date is fixed for its production. It will not get a chance until the current entertainment ceases to be profitable.

"When London Sleeps" will spread its scenes of excitement before Bowery audiences this week at the People's. It is a conglomerate of sensationalism, with hairbreadth escapes from dreadful perils, and just about the most desperate collisions between virtue and vice that have ever happened on the stage. In merit it is above the average of plays in its class. It has been popular two seasons in theatres where such melodramas find favor.

"Down in Dixie" will be the native play at the Star. This is an example of intense melodramatic excitements, the biggest one being an awful predicament which the hero gets into and out of. The villain puts him insensible into a cotton compress. It looks as though he would be squeezed flat as a pancake. But, no! the heroine snatches him out safe and uncrushed as a doughnut. The scenes are at the South, and they include plantation diversions of an amusing nature.

The vaudeville houses start the new year tomorrow in a lively way with a good proportion of items that are new and with much of what is familiar of a high grade. Hugh Stanton, a veteran of vaudeville's dramatic players, promises a new comedietta for the Pleasure Palace, and will have in Florence Modena an unfamiliar companion. And the big dramatic item of the bill will be the Augustus Thomas version of "The Holly Tree Inn." This will be done by the same players who gave it very prettily a few weeks ago downtown, so it is sure to be a fine number of unusually delicate grade. Among the specialty folk listed will be the Glass brothers, Mazuz and Mazette, Young and Seller, Mason and Forbes, Alma Doerge and Rialta.

Keith's will have Signor Perugini in a sketch, and as his previous vaudeville employment was as tenor in an operetta he is put forward as a beginner. "A Sorento Scarf" is the title of the piece, and Rosabel Morrison is to be with him. Two engaging deceivers will be among the specialists. Servais Le Roy will bewilder with his tricks of magic and T. Nelson Downes will display his remarkable skill in palming coins. The Marcos hold over, and others newly listed will be Derenda and Breen, Hal Merritt, Seigle, the Halines, musical burlesquers, who are new here; the Healys and John E. Drew.

Henry E. Dixey will be a kingpin at Proctor's, and he promises a new budget of mimicry, to end with feats of sleight-of-hand. John T. Thorne and Grace Carleton will play a comedietta which they claim is new, and the other contributors will be familiar specialists. Among them will be Roy L. Royce, whose imitations still savor of the lyceum platform, though he has been in the variety shows for many months; Stinson and Merton, who are a comic sketch pair; Marion and the McCoys, who vary the usual song and dance specialty; O. K. Sato, a juggler; Jerome and Alexis, the Onris, the Kiejsts, the Floods, and N. Ceballos.

The short play for Pastor's will be "A Passing Fancy," for Lillian Burkhart. Tony Pastor and Maud Nugent will be the leading vocalists, Morton and Revelle will have first place among the sketch players, and the other innings will be for Bloom and Cooper, the Racketts, Lawlor and Connors, Mortimore and Darrell, Simmons and Gibbs, Corbin and Waldorph, the Fields, Harry Steele, the Boranis, Mlle. Sablon and Mamie Grey.

Continuous programmes will be given to-day at both Proctor houses. At Proctor's Theatre will be Rice and Cohen, Jane Whitbeck and Lafayette, among others. Some of the Pleasure Palace contributors will be Hayes and Lytton, Helene Mora and the Blackstone quartet.

To-day's offerings at the Eden Musée will be identical with those of the week days following. Time means a fine exhibit of wax works, motion pictures of war and of holiday scenes, a marionette show and two programmes of band music. Coming to the Musée are motion pictures from Havana, a photographer being now there to secure views of the incidents attendant on the Spanish withdrawal.

An event for the music halls to-morrow night was to be the appearance at Koster & Bial's of Cissie Loftus. She has been in the city long enough to make ready imitations of Fay Templeton and May Irwin to add to her budget, but now she announces that she will not appear in the same bill with the apparently half naked duellists of "An Affair of Honor." So whether she will be seen or not is uncertain. An excellent variety programme is assured from specialists who hold over.

A new burlesque by the Smiths and John Stromberg is in preparation at Weber & Fields's. What it is all about is not disclosed, nor is it told whether any portions of "The Heathen," "Cyranose," or "Hurly Burly" will be carried over to it. As it will have the same interpreters as the current pieces, it may be counted on as a laugh raiser. Of the specialists in this week's olio, Lafayette will be the leader.

This Harlem gets to-morrow another batch of burlesquers and specialists. "An Alderman's Election" is the title of the burlesque to be played, and the specialists include the Bernards, Dot Davenport, Howard and Emerson, Lily Clemens, Alice Sanson, the Cosmopolitan Trio and Annie Morris.

Weber & Fields's, the Harlem and the Dewey will have performances to-night. Sunday vaudeville concerts will be given, too, at the Star and at the Murray Hill, Isham's Octoroons appearing at the latter theatre.

A change of burlettas at Sam T. Jack's will bring out "A Hot Time in Alaska" to-morrow. Carrie Scott will be the chief specialist; Fatima, Stirk and Anita, and Halliday and Ward being among the others.

The Dewey will have a bill of about equal parts of variety performance and burlettas. Women will be a majority in the roster, and vocalism will be abundant in both olio and burlesquing.

MAINE ZEPHYR AND ARKANSAS ROAR.

Speaker Reed's Voice Quiets the Booming of Mr. Terry, and "the Bill Passed."

From the Washington Post.

One of the most striking characters in the Arkansas delegation in the House is the crabbed Judge Terry. He is unquestionably a man of ability, and his forcible way of getting at things attracts attention quite as much as his own picturesque person. Just before the House adjourned yesterday afternoon Judge Terry, tall and commanding in his suit of gray, trudged down the Democratic aisle with a bill in his hand.

"Mr. Speaker," he roared, without paying any particular attention to what the House was doing at the time.

Chairman Hull of the Committee on Military Affairs had addressed the Speaker in a much milder tone of voice and was saying something about the Reorganization bill.

"Mr. Speaker," roared Judge Terry at intervals, like the booming of cannon in the buzzing of voices. He seemed not to notice the fact that the wheels of the great machinery of the House had rolled over him once or twice—a thing that disconcerts less valorous men than the Arkansan.

"Mr. Speaker," continued Judge Terry in stentorian tones for the eighth or tenth time.

"The gentleman from Arkansas," said Speaker Reed in his gentlest voice and with a profound bow toward the man who had addressed him.

A page snatched the bill from Judge Terry's hand and the Clerk read it at some length. It was for constructing a bridge across some river that washes the great State of Arkansas on one shore. The prescribed formula for passing a bill was being gone through with. Judge Terry stood rather indifferently in the aisle. Speaker Reed had pronounced the legislative formula that would put the seal of the House's approval on the bill and the Clerk was proceeding to the third reading.

Suddenly Judge Terry swung his hand to his head in a forcible manner. "Thwack" went the Speaker's gavel and the Clerk stopped short in the middle of a sentence.

"Oh, nothing," returned the Judge, laughing, evidently quite pleased that at last so small a gesture could bring the House to a standstill. Then the bill passed.

POEMS WORTH READING.

New America.

Her eyes are full of noble hope,
A quiet strength is in her hands,
She sees the years of splendid scope
That brighten in the morning lands;
The seas are shadowed with her sails,
Through wider fields her plough is sped,
Her cup of plenty never fails,
She feeds the nations with her bread.

She throws o'er many an alien race
The shield of equal-poising law,
The weak are sheltered in her grace,
She keeps the violent in awe.
Around the world her eagle flies,
The peoples gather at her knees,
Her peaceful empire arches rise
Above strange lands in far-off seas.

1899.

Hail, '99!
Arise and shine!
Don't be a clam,
But spread yourself on Uncle Sam
And turn your glim
On him.
Look at him, will you? See
His glory and his majesty.
One foot is in Alaska's cold,
And with a bootleg full of gold,
Another down
In Florida, whose crown
Is fair Pomona's, Summer Queen,
Robed in her everlasting green;
Whose fruits and flowers,
In fragrant showers,
Pour ceaseless harvests; there
Is a world of sunshine, and the air
Is full of healing balm, and health
Adds to his wealth
Its benison. He spreads his hands
O'er other lands;
He smiles
Upon the Sandwich Isles,
And, with a grin,
He sticks them in
The pocket of his ample vest
At their request.
Snug little Porto Rico he
Wears as his finger ring; she
Is a diamond set
In a sapphire ring of wet.
He spreads his flying coattails o'er
The Cuban shore
And hills;
And suffering Cuba's ills
Are nevermore.
And Eastward, where the Orient leans
On the sunrise, he takes the Philippines
In clustered beauty, as his toll,
And pins them in his buttonhole.
About him everywhere, prosperity,
In field and shop and mill and argosy
Lies plenty, and
His is a happy land.
Say, '99, ain't he a looloo? Ain't
He a symphony in red paint?
Just watch him as he stands,
The guardian of one from many lands.
And see that handkerchief of his!
Gee whiz!
Get on to what it is!
The Stars and Stripes! Hooray!
And see him wave it. Say,
It's good for sore eyes, ain't it? Whoop!
He'll scoop
The universe before he's through
With that same old Red, White and Blue!
Flag of our Union, wide as earth;
Flag that in freedom found its birth;
Flag that shall nevermore be furled;
Flag that shall wave for all the world;
The red in its stripes a light to shine
For the rights of man as the right divine;
The white for the peace that blesseth all
Whose lot 'neath its loving folds may fall;
The stars of the sky for its diadem;
Flag of the New Jerusalem!
Say, '99,
Arise and shine.
No year since the great year 1 has been
Such a year as you will be. You're in
It up to your neck. So give us room,
And watch the Greater America boom!

W. J. LAMPTON.

Ye Poette's Christmas Feede.

From the Denver Evening Post.

Ye poette satte and tore hys hair and pawed ye naked floore,
And chewed hys pencil till hys jawes exhausted were, and sore,
And rolled hys eyes in frenzye fynne, and racked hys swinging brain
For inspirative fyre to frame ye Christmas Daye refrain.
Ye muse was in a sulking moode, refused to heede hys call,
And Pegasus in stubborn balk declined to leave hys stall,
Until at last a gleam of joye lit up ye poette fayce
And burning lynes upon ye sheete hys hand began to trace.

He rhymed of mansion standing in ye shayde of stately trees,
Of laughter borne from happye lips upon ye passing breeze,
Of Christmas table studded o'er with thynges a god would crave,
And ruddy, sparkling wines o'er which ye epicure would rave.
He hastened to ye prynter man, who read with gaze intense,
Then gave him all ye stuffe he had, a dollar fyfteen cents;
Ye poette clutched with eager hands ye pyle of needed cashe
And revelled in a Christmas feaste of symple corne beefe hashe.

The Cat Show.

From the Chicago Tribune.

Hear the purring of the cats—
Stately cats!
What a gorgeous aggregation of Maltese aristocrats!
How they purr-r-r-r-r-r-r-r-r-r-r
In their ornamental cages
As you softly stroke their fur
Like a practiced flatterer
And inquire about their ages—
Keeping time, time, time,
In a sort of feline rhyme,
To the purring from these pampered pets that pine on Persian mats—
From the cats, cats, cats, cats,
Cat, cats, cats—
To the pur-r-r-r-r-r-r-ing of the cats!

Hear the howling of the cats—
Yowling cats!
What a wealth of rage and longing lingers in their sharps and flats!
In the startled air of night
How they scratch and screech and fight!
How their fiery eyeballs glare!
How they bawl!
How they hiss and growl and swear
And hold their swelling tails in air,
And caterwaul!
Oh, from the surrounding flats
What a gush of blasphemy, washbowls, old shoes, old hats,
And bed slats,
And brickbats
These cats have dodged! See the cats,
That smirk and simper to your pats!
Are they good for catching and despatching
Any rats, rats, rats?
Oh, rats! rats! rats! rats!
Rats! rats! rats!
What's their record when it comes to catching rats?

The Maiden's Aim.

From Harlem Life.

He pelted her neatly, from head to feet,
With snowballs soft and with snowballs fleet,
And seemed to think it no end of fun;
While she was busy preparing one.

Rolling, pounding it hard and sound,
With snow scooped up from the fleecy ground.

They aimed—she her missile fair and clear;
But he did not dodge, for he did not fear;

But calmly waited to see it fly,
And far from its target wildly sky.

When, whack! on the side of his smiling face
He caught it right in the very place

She had meant to paste it. By Jove, and Mars,
And Jupiter Ammon, but he saw stars!

For her brother, a baseball pitcher tall,
Had taught and trained her to throw a ball.

And this gay young fellow, who laughed with glee,
While bravely awaiting her onslaught, he

Walked sadly home, and 'twas later when
He fitted a smile to his mouth again.

MADELINE S. BRIDGES.

His Icebox Was His Castle.

From the Chicago Journal.

Highwaymen of the "icebox school" will probably be a little more careful in the future about inviting their victims to the refrigerator. Saloon Keeper Joseph Weissenrieder had read so many stories about men being placed in the icebox that he resolved to convert his into an arsenal, and Monday he had occasion to use it.

Weissenrieder conducts a saloon at 1039 Perry avenue. Monday afternoon two highwaymen entered his place, and at the point of revolvers forced him to get into the icebox. There was no place in the saloon that the man would rather have got under such circumstances, for there was where all his weapons were.

He had been comfortably located in the box the men went behind the bar. Then it was that Weissenrieder opened fire. One of the robbers was wounded and was assisted from the place by his companion. Both escaped. They secured no booty.

Weissenrieder had prepared his box for such an occurrence, having cut two portholes in the lid of it, and it was through these that he won his battle.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

L. S. L. sends this:

"In a volume published by Hugh Gaine in New York in 1787 with the title 'Military Collections and Remarks,' edited by Robert Donkin, a Major in the British Army, there was printed the following passage: 'Dip arrows in matter of smallpox and twang them at the American rebels in order to inoculate them. This would sooner disband these stubborn, ignorant, enthusiastic savages than any other compulsive measures, such is their dread and fear of that disorder.' This paragraph has been cut from all but one known copy, that being the late Dr. George Moore's, and now in the Lenox Library."

Allibone's gives the date of publication as 1777, which is probably correct. Another friend adds that the book was printed by Hugh Gaines "at the Sign of the Bible and Crown, Hanover Square, New York," "for the benefit of the children and widows of the valiant soldiers inhumanly and wantonly butchered in the bloody massacre committed on His Majesty's troops peaceably marching to and from Concord on the 19th day of April, 1775." This information refers to our answer to Barron in last Sunday's SUN.

Two friends write that William Wordsworth wrote a poem called "The Idiot Boy," which had ninety stanzas. Then that "Idiot Boy" is not anonymous; the "Idiot Boy" of which we spoke last Sunday was anonymous.

1. Why does the President write a yearly message? 2. How many soldiers in a company, regiment, brigade, division and army corps? 3. Does the President of France write an annual message? 4. What is the origin of the phrase, "As poor as Job's turkey?" S. R.

1. Paragraph 1 of section 3 of Article II. of the Constitution directs the President to give to Congress from time to time information as to the state of the Union; and as Congress meets once a year the President gives it such information that it may legislate wisely. 2. In a company, 106 officers and men; in a regiment, about 1,300; in a brigade, two regiments at least, or about 2,700 men; in a division, two or more brigades, and two or more batteries of artillery, say 5,700 men; in a corps, two or more divisions, say 12,000 men, besides cavalry. The minimum strengths of brigades, divisions and corps are calculated not on the number of men, but on the number of regiments, brigades and divisions. 3. No. 4. It dates from Judge Haliburton's story, "The Clockmaker," published in 1837; therein he said that Job's turkey had only one feather in its tail and had to lean against a fence to gobble. It has been pointed out correctly that as the turkey is an American bird Job could never have had one.

Kindly inform me what date the collision took place between the United States steamship Columbia and a merchant steamer off New York; also the name of the latter and to what extent the Columbia was damaged. Were any lives lost? J. S. N.

The date was May 28, 1898; the colliding vessel was the British tramp steamer Foscolia. The Columbia had a large hole made in her starboard side, aft; the Foscolia lost her stem up to her collision bulkhead and sank. No lives were lost.

Are the divorce laws of Colorado recognized by the laws of any State? H. W. M.

They are recognized by the courts of all the other States. See the Constitution of the United States, Article IV., section 1, paragraph 1: "Full faith and credit shall be given in each State to the public acts, records and judicial proceedings of every other State," &c.

A letter was addressed to "Mr. John Smith, M. D." The party receiving it claims that the use of "Mr." here is incorrect. Kindly give your opinion in the matter. A READER.

It is incorrect. A person having a "doctor's degree" is entitled to be called "Dr. John Smith" or "John Smith, M. D." The titles "Mr." and "Dr." do not go together.

Your statement that the Franco-German war lasted about seven months has been challenged by a German friend of mine, who states that it lasted about a year and a half, and from this argues that the percentages of loss named by you should be changed much in favor of the Franco-German war. Are you right or wrong in this? W. A. R.

The war began on July 15, 1870, and Belfort capitulated Feb. 13, 1871, two days less than seven months afterward; the definitive treaty of peace was accepted by the French Assembly on May 18, 1871. The actual fighting lasted thus not quite seven months, and the legal war a little more than ten months. Our percentages are correct.

What steamship company of the port of New York leased its steamships to the Government during the late war and what ships have been returned? J. J. C.

One steamship company offered its vessels to the Government on such terms as the Government chose to make; three of its vessels have been returned. No company made a gratuitous loan of its vessels.

About what year did the Italians congregate around Mott street, below Canal? When did the Irish race predominate in Cherry street? KANE.

The Italian "invasion" began about twenty years ago; the Irish captured Cherry street about fifty years ago.

1. We have a picture called "The Trial of Constance De Beverly." Will you be good enough to tell me who Constance was and for what she was tried? 2. Also, will you please tell me what these initials imply placed after a physician's name: L. R. C. P., Edin., and L. F. P. S., Glasgow? J. R. K.

1. The story of Constance de Beverley is told in Scott's poem, "Marmion;" she was tried for breaking her vows as a nun. 2. Licentiate Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh; Licentiate Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow. These two faculties cannot confer the degree of Doctor of Medicine, but their licentiates are on a professional level with persons who have that degree.

Please state all the causes of the Mexican war. Was this war justifiable? A. C. W., Sergeant Battery C, Fifth Artillery.

The causes leading to the Mexican war are parallel in many respects to those leading to the "Jameson raid" of the Transvaal in 1895-96. A large number of Americans had settled in the Mexican State of Coahuila and Texas, where they enjoyed no legal rights. In 1827 they rose against the rule of the Mexicans, and in December, 1835, founded the Republic of Texas, which was recognized by the United States in March, 1837. The two countries agreed that the United States should annex Texas; this was done on Dec. 29, 1845. The war with Mexico followed, the southern republic never having recognized Texas as independent and always having asserted its sovereignty over it. Some historians, like Henry Wilson, Thomas H. Benton, Hubert H. Bancroft, and others, say that the war was unjustifiable; others approve it.

Will you kindly inform me what the examinations are for the New York City Fire Department, for which I am an applicant? I do not mean the questions, but simply under what classification they may come. U. S. MARBLEHEAD.

They are a very severe physical examination; a moderately severe mental examination. In the latter, there are questions in American history and geography, in arithmetic, and in the geography of the city.

Kindly inform me when, where, by whom, for what country the United States ship OREGON was built. A CONSTANT READER.

When: between 1890 and 1896; she was launched Oct. 26, 1893, and went into commission July 15, 1896. Where: San Francisco, Cal. By whom: the Union Iron Works. For what country: the United States.

I have frequently seen the words "Barmecide Feast" which I infer to be something very sumptuous. I know nothing about the origin or meaning of this feast and will thank you to explain it and oblige S. H. W.

A Barmecide feast is one at which there is great show and nothing to eat. The term is applied also to an "ostentatious display of empty bounty." The "feast" is described in the Arabian Nights Entertainments by the "Barber's Sixth Brother." This man, Shacabac by name begs a meal from one of the Barmecide family, who seats him at a table richly covered with empty dishes. Shacabac pretends to enjoy the pretended meal, served to him with great attention. When he drinks from an empty glass, he pretends to get drunk, and strikes the Barmecide, then apologizes, on the ground that he is always "quarrelsome in his drink." The nobleman laughs, and then gives Shacabac a real dinner and takes him under his protection. The Barmecides were noble Persians, several of whom were Viziers or Prime Ministers to the Caliphs of Bagdad. The family was exterminated, A. D. 802, by Haroun al-Raschid, who was afraid of their power.

R. S. C.—The First United States Volunteer Infantry, Col. Hood, is stationed at various places in Santiago province, Cuba.

T. A. H.—The Veteran law does not apply to soldiers of the Spanish war; it will have to be extended before it can apply to them.

Sunflower.—Leaving Fifth avenue and 125th street, one does not go up or go down to Eighth avenue; he goes across or over or to Eighth avenue.

Sherman.—The bonds issued during Mr. Cleveland's second administration are redeemable in "coin"; Congress refused to make them redeemable in gold.

J. P. K.—In ordinary use there is practically no distinction between the words "Hebrew" and "Jew." Strictly there is this distinction: "Hebrew" is a racial term describing the children of Israel as strangers from the "other bank of the Euphrates;" "Jew" denotes descent from the tribe of Judah.

POLITICAL NOTES.

The New York State Commissioner of Agriculture serves for three years and receives a salary of $5,000 a year. The office was created in 1893, and the first appointee was Fred C. Schraub, the Democratic candidate on the Bryan ticket for Lieutenant-Governor in 1896. He was succeeded by Charles A. Wieting, whose successor will be appointed by Gov. Roosevelt in April, 1899. Mr. Wieting expects to be his own successor. He is the first Republican to hold this post.

The proposition to demolish Walhalla Hall, in Orchard street, and to erect tenements on what is sometimes described as "this historic site" is made at regular intervals of two years, and calls into play a flood of political reminiscences which may be better described, perhaps, as pipe-dream fictions. Walhalla Hall was at no time of any importance as a political meeting place; there are too many other more accessible halls in the neighborhood. What celebrity it enjoys comes chiefly from the social entertainments held in it, and these have been many and varied. As a labor headquarters Walhalla Hall has gained some distinction, but very little in politics.

The Georgia Senate has concurred with the House in voting to reduce the appropriation for the schools from $1,000,000 to $800,000. This reduction was vigorously resisted by many persons on the ground that it involves a violation of good faith, and that the condition of Georgia's finances and her increasing population do not justify any such reduction. Georgia, on an assessed valuation of $400,000,000, has a gross State debt of $8,000,000 only, and the population is more than 2,000,000. The neighboring State of Alabama has a larger debt and a smaller population and a total valuation of less than 40 per cent. that of the State of Georgia.

Among the applicants for appointment as patrolmen in the Police Department for the month of December, 1898, is one, the first, who gives his occupation as "soldier." Another—he is a resident of the borough of Queens, and his name is Freygang—gives his occupation as "summer resort."

The terms of the following Governors, elected prior to November, 1898, do not expire until January, 1900: Lloyd Lowndes of Maryland, A. J. McLaurin of Mississippi and Hebar M. Wells of Utah. The terms of the Governors following (elected prior to November, 1898) expire in January, 1901: W. D. Bloxham of Florida, E. W. Jumell of Delaware, John R. Tanner of Illinois, James A. Mount of Indiana, L. V. Stephens of Missouri, R. B. Smith of Montana, D. L. Russell of North Carolina, J. R. Rogers of Washington and George Washington Atkinson of West Virginia.

The city made an appropriation of $750 for varnishing, cleaning and putting in order the portraits in the Governor's Room. It has cost to renovate the portraits of the Mayors and Governors and to put on the frames the tablets giving the dates of their terms $841. In addition it seemed very desirable to have in the Governor's Room copies of a little pamphlet giving prominent facts about each Governor; this cost $95, making a total of $936, somewhat in excess of the estimate, but justified in view of the fact that the portraits of the Governors of New York are the ones first attached by judgment creditors of the city.

It is now computed that the total enrollment for primary election purposes in New York county at the recent election was 135,000—90,000 Democrats and 45,000 Republicans. The total vote of the county was 300,000, and the refusal of 165,000 electors to enroll themselves has been a sad blow to some of the perennial election reformers who regard, they say, "the primary as the keystone of pure politics." The meagreness of the enrollment has also been a sad blow to many optimistic persons who are great believers in enrollments. All the Democrats of New York county, with an army of election inspectors working for four days, enrolled 90,000 names, and all the Republicans, under the same conditions, 45,000—less than one-half collectively of the total number of voters at the election.

The New York Street Cleaning Department has purchased from Omar V. Sage as agent of the Sing Sing State Prison push brooms of the value of $865.33.

The Indianapolis Legislature is to choose this winter a United States Senator for a full term in place of David Turpie, Democrat, whose term expires on March 4. There are already a number of candidates in the field, particularly among the Republican members of the Indiana delegation to the House of Representatives, but in the opinion of impartial observers of Hoosier politics, the fight will narrow down to a struggle between Judge Robert S. Taylor of Fort Wayne and Congressman George W. Steele, who represents the Logansport district in the present Congress. Mr. Steele, who is a native of Indiana, served in the United States Army not only throughout the civil war, but also for many years afterward, his service not closing until 1876. At this year's Republican State Convention there was a contest between the delegates from the country districts and those representing the capital city of Indianapolis and its neighborhood, and the country delegates triumphed overwhelmingly. Mr. Fairbanks, the present Republican Senator, is a resident of Indianapolis, and as a consequence of this it seems to be regarded as certain that his colleague will be chosen from the rural districts of the State. Southern Indiana is traditionally Democratic and Senatorial contests, therefore, seem likely to test the popularity of Republican aspirants in the northern part of the State, which is strongly Republican. The districts from which Judge Taylor and Congressman Steele come adjoin each other and the fight between these two candidates promises to be lively, with a possibility that some third candidate may secure the prize.

Ex-Alderman Thomas Cleary is one of the sureties on the contract recently let for supplying stationery to the Police Department, which uses a great deal of it.

Under section 1,357 of the New York city charter vacancies arising in the Municipal Courts are to be filled not by the Governor, as was the case with District Court vacancies for many years, but by the Mayor. This fact was expected prior to last year's election to secure the promotion of one of the Municipal Court Justices to a place on the bench of the City Court; but the expectations of all the aspirants were disappointed, for the Democratic nomination was given to Thomas F. Haskell, who had not previously been a candidate for elective office in this city. At this year's election the places of ten Municipal Court Justices are to be filled.

New York is not the only large American city in which the number of saloons for the sale of intoxicants has been reduced by statutory regulation. In January, 1887, there were in St. Louis 4,067 saloons. This year finds that number reduced to 2,029, a decrease of 2,038. The Missouri law prohibits the adulteration of liquors.

The relation which the chief American cities bear to the politics of the State in which they are included is so unusual as to merit detailed consideration. In the politics of New York State the city of New York is uniformly Democratic, and the contest is as to the extent of the Democratic majority in it and of the Republican majority in the rural districts. St. Louis is a Republican city, and the contest in Missouri turns usually on the extent of the Republican majority in St. Louis as an offset to the certain Democratic majority in the rural counties. In Pennsylvania both Philadelphia and Pittsburg are overwhelmingly Republican and the rural districts of the State are normally Democratic. In Massachusetts, on the other hand, Boston is a Democratic city, usually with a Democratic Mayor, while the State at large is Republican. In the Presidential election of 1896 Mr. McKinley had 12,000 majority in the city of Louisville, but, outside of Louisville, Kentucky was carried by Bryan.

Justice William F. Moore of the Third District Municipal Court, in which a number of important reforms have been introduced, has taken no part, it has been observed, in some of the proposed demands upon the next Legislature for alterations in the charter provisions relating to municipal courts. There is no probability of the adoption of some of the proposed changes by the Legislature, and an insistence upon them will, in the opinion of many well-informed persons, have the effect of inducing the Legislature to make a radical reorganization of the Municipal Courts, as it did in the case of the Police Courts in 1895, turning out of office the Judges, establishing a new tribunal, and imposing new tests of eligibility upon Judges. Justice Moore has been twice elected by the voters of his district—the second time by a unanimous vote, no candidate being in the field against him.

The number of American municipalities now issuing bonds for the payment of city expenses or for city improvements is smaller than it has been for a number of years, notwithstanding the improvement in the investment market and the enlarged demand for desirable bonds of all kinds. The present debt of Newark, N. J., is nearly twice as large as the debt of Cleveland, O. Providence, with a population of 150,000, has a municipal debt of $13,000,000, while Washington, the national capital, owes $16,000,000 only. The present population of Washington is about 225,000.

NOTES ON SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

Engineering experts are greatly interested in the projected pipe-line delivery of 5,000,000 gallons of water a day at a place in the interior of Australia, some 350 miles from the reservoir in the mountains, where it is impounded. Most of the details of this scheme have already been published, but it appears that, to force the water through this line for such a distance, not only must its friction be overcome, but it has to be actually lifted some 1,300 feet; and yet, notwithstanding this and other, perhaps greater, difficulties such a line is to be built. The peculiar fact is that the desert through which the pipe line is to run is so impregnated with salts corrosive to iron that it is impracticable to bury the pipes in the soil in the usual manner, thus necessitating their being laid on the surface. But this construction introduces another serious factor, namely, the line's expansion due to variations of temperature. When a pipe line is buried the variations of temperature are not large enough to be appreciable, but when exposed to the wide ranges of atmospheric temperature, which even in the hot Australian climate may be 75°, expansion and contraction effects are intro