PHILADELPHIA CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

	Bid.	Asked.		Bid.	Asked.
Camb Steel	21¾	21¾	Phila Trac	96¾	97
C. O & G.	33	34	T'water ...	15	15¼
C. O & G.	43¾	44	Union Trac	38	38¾
E L Co'f A.	12¾	12¾	UGI Co...	149¼	151
E Sto Bat c	78	80	W N Y & P.	7¾	7¾
E & P Tas.	99¾	100	Wels L Jo.	42¾	44
Leh V R R.	24	24¼	Wels C a...	9	10
Marsden...	11¾	12	Wels C p...	56	—

Final sales compared with those of yesterday as follows:

	Jan. 26.	Jan. 27.		Jan. 26.	Jan. 27.
A. T. & S. F.	19¾	19¾	Nor Pac c.	51	51
A. T. & S F p.	60¾	60	O & West..	21¾	21¾
Am S R ...	115¾	116	Peo G & C..	103¾	103¾
Am Tob....	99¾	99¾	Pac Mail ..	43	42¾
Brook R T.	71¾	71¾	Pul P Car..	188¾	188¾
B & O.....	57¾	57¾	Rock Isl...	106¾	106
C. B. & Q...	121¾	121¾	Read 1st p	50	50¾
Ches & O..	29¾	29¾	St Paul c...	118	117¾
Ch Gt W ...	13¾	13¾	So Railway.	11¾	11¾
Ill Cen	114	114	St L S W p.	26¾	26¾
Lou & Nash.	78¾	78	Tex Pac....	15¾	15¾
Lac Gas....	79	80	Tenn C & I.	83	83
Man Con...	93¾	93¾	Union Pac.	46¾	46¾
M & St L..	59	59¾	Union Pp.	75¾	75
Mo Pac. ...	42¾	42¾	U S Rub...	38	38
Met St Ry..	168	167¾	U S Les....	16¾	16
N & W	24¾	24¾	Wh & L E..	9¾	9¾

Government bonds firm. The 3s closed ⅛ per cent. higher bid. Railway and other bonds dull, but firm. The features were Central of New Jersey general 5s, Chicago and Rock Island general 4s, Colorado Southern 4s, Iron Mountain 5s, Southern Railway 5s, Union Pacific 4s, Western New York and Pennsylvania incomes, Wisconsin Central 1st 4s, Northern Pacific, St. Louis Southwestern and Wabash issues.

Commercial price of bar silver in New York, 59¾c. Bar silver in London closed at 27⅜d. Mexican silver dollars were quoted at 47⅜c.

Money on call, 2@3 per cent. Time money is 4 per cent. for three, four, five and six months on railroad stocks, 4 per cent. for sixty days and 4½ per cent. for ninety days on 30 per cent. industrials and 70 per cent. railroad stocks. Commercial paper is in good demand. Rates are 4@4½ per cent. for prime single names and bills receivable and 4½@5 per cent. for other grades.

Foreign exchange market closed firm at unchanged quotations. Posted rates are: Long bills, $4.85; sight drafts, $4.88½. Actual rates are: Long bills, $4.84¾@4.84⅞; sight drafts, $4.87¼@4.87½, and cable transfers, $4.87⅛@4.88. Francs were quoted 5.20@5.19¾, for long, and 5.16¼@5.16¼ for short; reichsmarks, 94 7-16@94 9-16 for long, and 95 1-16@95 3-16 for short; guilders, 40⅛@40 3-16 for long, and 40⅛@40 7-16 for short.

Domestic exchange on New York: Boston—par and 25¢@5c. premium. Charleston—Buying, par; selling, ⅛ premium. Savannah—Buying, $1 premium per $1,000; selling, par. New Orleans—Bank, $1 premium; commercial, 75c. discount. San Francisco—Sight, 15c. premium; telegraph, 17½c. premium. St. Louis—10c. premium. Chicago—30c. premium. Cincinnati—Between banks, 35c. premium; over counter, 50c. premium.

The weekly statement of averages of the Clearing House banks shows:

	Jan. 26.	Jan. 27.	Changes.
Loans ..	$930,817,200	$888,332,600	Inc. $7,515,600
Deposits	785,318,100	750,528,100	Inc. 15,008,000
Cir'l'n.	16,294,000	16,637,100	Inc. 342,500
Leg'ts.	62,957,400	60,647,000	Inc. 8,690,600
Specie .	152,607,800	157,762,500	Inc. 5,154,700
Res've	$215,565,200	224,409,500	Inc. $8,844,300
Re'r'd	191,379,525	195,131,525	Inc. 3,752,000
Surplus	$24,185,675	$29,277,975	Inc. $5,092,300

The surplus a year ago was $30,232,025, and two years ago, $35,900,450.

The imports of general merchandise, including dry goods, at the port of New York last week were $9,934,924 against $10,045,513 the previous week and $11,417,556 for the corresponding week of last year. The imports of specie for the week were $126,333, of which $12,776 was gold, making total specie imports since Jan. 1, $1,451,340. Exports of specie were: Gold $59,859 and silver $1,060,072, a total of $1,119,931 against $1,565,259 previous week. The exports of specie since Jan. 1 have been: Gold, $5,127,303, and silver, $3,424,361, a total of $8,571,994.

The Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad reports gross earnings for December of $3,505,308, an increase of $91,121 as compared with the same month of the previous year, and net $1,422,470, a decrease of $108,836. For the six months ending Dec. 31 the gross earnings were $22,589,348, an increase of $2,256,000 as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year, and net $8,168,052, a decrease of $339,180.

The St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad reports gross earnings for December of $676,827, an increase of $98,931 as compared with the same month of the previous year, and net $279,077, an increase of $50,103. For the five months ending Dec. 31 the gross earnings were $4,154,454, an increase of $448,677 as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year, and net $1,802,534, an increase of $268,666.

The Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad reports gross earnings for December of $1,674,407, an increase of $144,912 as compared with the same month of the previous year and net, $408,355, an increase of $91,030. For the year ending Dec. 31 the gross earnings were $18,044,275, an increase of $1,827,790 as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year and net, $4,995,886, an increase of $331,793. Fixed charges were $3,667,410, leaving a surplus of $1,308,467, an increase of $252,840.

The Lake Erie and Western Railroad reports gross earnings for November of $448,671, an increase of $64,463 as compared with the same month of the previous year and net, $166,117, an increase of $43,819. For the five months ending Nov. 31, the gross earnings were $3,524,988, an increase of $390,740 as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year and net $1,591,804, an increase of $267,751.

The Wisconsin Central Railroad reports gross earnings for December of $955,937, a decrease of $1,504 as compared with the same month of the previous year and net, $152,908, a decrease of $10,123. For the six months ending Dec. 31 the gross earnings were $3,037,356, an increase of $148,790 as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year and, net $1,292,937, an increase of $148,453.

The Reading Railroad reports gross earnings for December of $2,395,428, an increase of $358,934 as compared with the same month of the previous year and net, $864,940, an increase of $56,870. For the six months ending Dec. 31, the gross earnings were $13,741,777, an increase of $1,747,290 as compared with the corresponding period of the the previous year and net, $5,375,170, an increase of $120,042.

The Reading Coal and Iron Company reports gross earnings for December of $2,598,689, an increase of $15,023 as compared with the same month of the previous year and net, $252,435, an increase of $133,967. For the six months ending Dec. 31 the gross earnings were $15,629,932, an increase of $4,335,557 as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year and net, $1,515,132, an increase of $711,595.

The Georgia Railroad reports gross earnings for December of $146,294, a decrease of $8,179 as compared with the same month of the previous year, and net $56,695, an increase of $15,542. For six months ending Dec. 31 the gross earnings were $833,518, a decrease of $25,417 as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year, and net $200,195, an increase of $33,474.

The Central of Georgia Railroad reports gross earnings for November of $577,201, a decrease of $44,081 as compared with the same month of the previous year, and net $212,277, a decrease of $40,378. For the five months ending Nov. 30 the gross earnings were $2,604,111, an increase of $8,005 as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year, and net $924,470, a decrease of $57,472.

The St. Paul and Duluth Railroad reports gross earnings for November of $294,053, an increase of $5,934 as compared with the same month of the previous year and net $83,962, an increase of $14,142. For the five months ending Nov. 30 the gross earnings were $1,282,534, an increase of $118,433 as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year and net $393,013, a decrease of $57,732.

The Pittsburg and Western Railroad reports gross earnings for November of $296,723, an increase of $14,357 as compared with the same month of the previous year and net $79,451, an increase of $1,539. For the five months ending Nov. 30, the gross earnings were $1,544,872, an increase of $83,681 as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year and net $479,087, an increase of $44,303.

The Buffalo, Rochester and Pittsburg Railroad reports gross earnings for December of $956,867, an increase of $72,013 as compared with the same month of the previous year and net $139,298, an increase of $45,432. For the six months ending Dec. 31 the gross earnings were $2,278,076, an increase of $272,590 as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year and net $880,037, an increase of $174,056.

The Boston, Revere Beach and Lynn Railroad Company reports for the quarter ended Dec. 31:

	1898.	1898.	Changes.
Gross earnings	$77,814	$59,142	Inc. $23,872
Oper expenses.	72,773	50,923	Inc. 21,850
Net earnings	$4,241	$2,219	Inc. $2,022
Other income	5,930	4,519	Inc. 39
Total net.	$8,870	$6,739	Inc. $2,121
Charges	12,983	10,883	Inc. 2,099
Deficit.	$4,113	$4,134	Dec. $301

The San Francisco and North Pacific Railroad reports gross earnings for December of $416,852, an increase of $29,822 as compared with the same month of the previous year and net $100,915, an increase of $11,347. For the six months ending Dec. 31, the gross earnings were $2,611,130, an increase of $25,228 as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year, and net $236,186, an increase of $5,252.

The *Financial Chronicle* computes the gross earnings for November of 126 railroads at $78,036,668, an increase of $7,764,654 as compared with the same month of the previous year and net, $28,571,230, an increase of $2,635,266. For the eleven months ending Nov. 30 the gross earnings of 117 railroads were $728,148,632, an increase of $69,853,244 as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year, and net $245,956,073, an increase of $28,904,375.

The receipts of the Government to-day were: Customs, $495,273; internal revenue, $951,492, and miscellaneous, $41,305, a total of $1,658,070. The disbursements were $1,445,000, an excess of receipts over expenditures of $213,070. The receipts of the fiscal year to date have been $320,974,392, and the expenditures $300,083,599, an excess of receipts over expenditures of $20,890,772.

The official count of cash in the Treasury to-day compared with that of last Saturday:

	Jan. 23.	Jan. 27.
Gold coin and bullion.	$221,444,043	$218,205,321
Silver dollars and bullion	14,227,723	14,355,517
U. S. Notes	16,998,073	15,159,385
Other assets less demand liabilities	34,852,935	41,719,391
Available cash balance incl gold reserve ..	$286,918,374	$289,439,614

Money in London, 1½ per cent. Rates of discount in open market for short and three months' bills, 3@3¼ per cent. Paris advices quoted 2 per cents at 100 francs 2¼ centimes. Exchange on London, 25 francs 18 centimes.

COMMERCIAL.

SATURDAY, Jan. 27.—GRAIN—Wheat—Spot was quiet. Sales, 40,000 bush., for export here and at the outports. No. 1 Northern Duluth 4⅜c. over May; No. 1 hard 6⅜c. over. Northwestern receipts were 289 cars, against 374 last week and 482 last year; Chicago, 25, against 17 last week and 92 a year ago. Futures closed ⅜ to ⅝c. higher. Sales, 2,500,000 bush. Prices as follows:

	Opening.	High-est.	Low-est.	Closing.	Last Night.
March.....	.....	.....	.....	74	75¾
May.....	74⅜	75⅝	74⅜	74⅝	74⅝
July.....	74⅝	75⅝	74⅝	75⅛	74⅞

Oats were quiet on the spot. Sales, 35,000 bush. No. 2 mixed, in elevator, 26½c.; No. 3 mixed, 28¾c.; No. 2 white, in elevator, 31½c.; No. 3 white, in elevator, 34½c.; track and ungraded white, 31@35c.; track and ungraded mixed, 26@30c. Corn was dull. Sales of 240,000 bush. mainly for export here and at the outports. No. 2, in elevator, 40½c.; No. 2 white, 38½c. over May in Chicago; No. 2 yellow, 38½c. over. Futures declined ⅛c. for May, closing at 33⅝c. Rye was dull. No. 2 Western, 59½c. c. f. New York; carloads, Jersey and State, 56c.; track; May in Chicago, 53c. asked. This shows the grain movement:

	Wheat.	Corn.	Oats.	Rye.	Barley.
New York					
Receipts...	1,800	61,425	133,900	800	5,850
Exports....	16,000	82,708	3,890	.....	51,466
Chicago:					
Receipts..	24,300	167,207	300,250	3,900	74,300
Shipments	81,714	197,718	193,068	21,695	47,292

Wheat went up on higher French cables, cold weather at the Northwest, predictions of continued low temperatures, small world's shipments, foreign buying, light receipts and higher English cables. Paris rose equal to 4½c. to 2¾c., while dour there rose 80 centimes. Berlin advanced 1¾c., Budapest ⅝c., Antwerp 12½ centimes and Liverpool ⅝ to ¾d. The Northwestern receipts for the week aggregated 1,872 cars against 2,267 last week and 3,248 last year. The primary receipts were 342,000 bush. against 678,000 last week. Buenos Ayres cabled: "Port Rosario closed, also the port. There are several suspicious cases of bubonic plague." Part of the improvement was lost later owing to profit taking and bear selling. The cash trade continued slow and the clearances were light at 571,000 bush. The official French crop estimate shows that in eight departments the condition of the crop is very good, fifty-seven departments good, seventeen fair and five poor. Corn weakened a little in sympathy with provisions and also because of colder weather which insures better roads and a larger crop movement. Recent buyers sold. The seaboard cleared 741,265 bush. Primary receipts were 455,000 bush. against 1,010,000 last year. Oats were steady.

FLOUR.—Trading was dull but prices were steadier. Sales, 5,500 bbls. Receipts were 6,590 bbls. and 15,802 sacks; exports, 5,089 bbls. and 8,631 sacks. Winter in bbls.: Superfine $2.35@$2.45; No. 2 extra, $2.50@$2.60; clears, $3@$3.20; straights, $3.30@$3.40; patents, $3.50@$3.65. Spring in bbls.: clears, $2.90@$3.10; straights, $3.25@$3.50; patents, $3.75@$3.90. Rye flour, $3.10@$3.60. Buckwheat flour, $1.75@$2; grain, 52@c. c. i. f. track.

CORNMEAL.—Spot cotton was unchanged. Sales, 1,500 bales for export; 432 for spinning. Middling uplands, 5c. against 5⅛c. last year. New Orleans and Gulf, 5¼c. against 5⅜c. last year. Baltimore advanced ⅛c.; New Orleans, Norfolk and St. Louis, 1-16c.; Norfolk sold 729 bales August, 12.15 bales Memphis, 1,400; Galveston, 1,000; New Orleans, 6,050; Liverpool advanced 1-32d. on the spot, with sales of 7,000 bales; futures closed 2½ to 4 points higher. The movement to-day was as follows:

	To-day.	Last Week.	Last Year.
Port receipts.....	23,896	24,168	23,724
New Orleans est. Monday..12,000 to	14,000	10,612	14,548
Augusta.....	542	509	586
Memphis.....	1,635	1,396	2,063
St. Louis.....	836	291	282
Houston.....	6,947	4,704	4,854
Houston est. Monday.....	7,000 to 8,000	4,108	4,189

Augusta shipped to-day 1,204 bales; Memphis, 2,291; St. Louis, 1,268 and Houston, 12,155. Port exports, 6,480 bales. New Orleans advanced 5 to 7 points. Futures here advanced 5 to 6c., closing steady with sales estimated at 90,000 bales. Prices as follows:

	Highest.	Lowest.	Closing.
January.....	7.70	7.68	7.68@7.70
February.....	7.67	7.64	7.65@7.66
March.....	7.64	7.60	7.62@7.63
April.....	7.60	7.57	7.59@7.60
May.....	7.60	7.56	7.59@7.60
June.....	7.60	7.57	7.59@7.60
July.....	7.61	7.57	7.59@7.60
August.....	7.58	7.54	7.56@7.57
September.....	7.06	7.04	7.04@7.05
October.....	6.88	6.85	6.85@6.86
November.....	6.84	6.83	6.82@6.83
December.....	.....	.....	6.82@6.83

Cotton again moved upward on the strength of Liverpool, small receipts, an excellent demand for spot cotton, a good business in cotton goods at Fall River and Manchester, some outside buying and more or less buying also by Wall Street, Liverpool and the South. The "slight" figures for the past week evidently surprised Liverpool, and they seem also to have caused some outside buying, though the public does not manifest the interest which it one time showed. The rise in Liverpool was right in the face of unfavorable south African rumors though it is true the spot sales there were only 7,000 and futures showed some signs of hesitation at the close. But the Liverpool stocks are over 1,000,000 less than a year ago, Lancashire is having the best trade it has had for years past and money markets both in England and on the Continent are steadily declining. Meanwhile the American statistical position is also strong, money is cheap and the consumption evidently large. Bulls think that this state of things cannot continue very much longer without again bringing in the outside public.

COFFEE.—Rio on the spot was quiet at 8¾c. for No. 7. Sales, 1,000 bags Bahia, No. 8 at 7⅞c., 200 Maracaibo. Futures declined 5 to 10 points, closing barely steady. Sales, 24,250 bags. Rio declined 1-16. Hamburg ⅛ pfg. American warehouse deliveries, 19,801 bags. Rio was steady at 150 reis advance. Exchange, 7 19-32 d., 5-32 d. decline; receipts, 13,000; stock, 108,000. Santos was steady at 100 reis decline; receipts, 17,000; stock, 525,000. Prices here as follows:

	Sales.	Highest.	Lowest.	Closing.
January.....	500	6.90	6.90	6.80@6.90
February.....	1,500	6.85	6.80	6.75@6.80
March.....	750	6.85	6.85	6.80@6.90
April.....	.....	.....	.....	6.85@6.90
May.....	1,500	7.00	6.95	6.90@6.95
June.....	.....	.....	.....	6.95@7.00
July.....	250	7.10	7.10	7.00@7.05
August.....	.....	.....	.....	7.05@7.10
September.....	11,250	7.15	7.15	7.10@7.15
October.....	.....	.....	.....	7.15@7.20
November.....	1,500	7.25	7.25	7.20@7.25
December.....	7,500	7.30	7.30	7.25@7.30

Lower cables and local and foreign liquidation caused a decline in coffee. The receipts continued light and the warehouse deliveries liberal, but there was more disposition to sell than to buy.

NAVAL STORES.—Spirits of turpentine, 54@54½c. Common to good strained rosin, $1.62½@$1.65.

PROVISIONS.—Pork was strong; mess, $11.50@$11.62½. Meats were dull. Pickled hams, 10@10½c.; do. bellies, 6@7c.; do. shoulders, 5⅝@5¾c. Tallow, 4 1-16c. Dressed hogs, 6¾@6⅞c. Lard was dull. Spot Western, $6.22½; refined Continent, $6.30; South American, $6.70; Brazil kegs, $8.00. Butter, creamery, Western, extras, 25c.; do. firsts, 23½@24c.; State, extras, 24½@25c.; do. firsts, 23½@24c. Cheese—State, full cream, large or small, fall made, fancy, 12½@13c. Eggs, State, Pennsylvania and Western, 21c. Chicago, Jan. 27.—The rather free realizing by local longs in provisions caused a moderate decline early, from which there was a reaction, closing prices being slightly lower than yesterday. The cash trade continues good, and, coupled with the moderate stocks here and at Western packing centres and the prospects of only a moderate or light hog movement, makes the legitimate situation on the hog product strong.

STOCKS.—Raw was firm at 4 7-16c. bid for 96 test and 4 15-16c. for 89 test. Refined was fairly active and firm.

CHICAGO, Jan. 27.—These were to-day's prices:

	Opening.	Highest.	Lowest.	Closing.	Last Night.
Wheat:					
January.....	.....	.....	.....	66	66¼
May.....	68¼	68⅞	68¼	68⅝@⅝	68⅝
July.....	69¼	69¾	69¼	69¼	69⅝
Corn:					
January.....	30⅞	31	30⅞	31	31¼
May.....	33	33⅛	32⅞	33	33⅛@¼
July.....	33⅝	33¾	33⅛	33⅝	33¾
Oats:					
January.....	.....	.....	.....	22¼	22¼
May.....	23⅝	23⅝	23¼	23¼@¾	23⅝
July.....	22⅝	22⅝	22¼	22¼@⅜	22⅝
Lard:					
January.....	.....	.....	.....	5.87½	5.87½
May.....	6.00-2½	6.02½	5.97½	6.00	6.02½
July.....	6.10	6.10	6.07½	6.07½	6.10
Ribs:					
January.....	.....	.....	.....	5.72½	5.75
May.....	5.80	5.80	5.77½	5.80	5.82½
July.....	5.85	5.87½	5.85	5.85	5.87½
Pork:					
January.....	.....	.....	.....	10.55	10.60
May.....	10.80	10.82½	10.72½	10.75	10.77½@10.82½
July.....	10.85	10.87½	10.85	10.85	10.90

The Expression of Contentment

worn by a SUN reader may be traced to two things—first, to the fact that he reads that paper; second, to the prosperity he enjoys through association with reputable advertisers who use its columns.—Adv.

OTHER MARKETS.

Wheat:		Open-ing.	High-est.	Low-est.	Clos-ing.	Last Night.
Minneapolis	May	65⅝	66⅛	65⅝	66⅛	65⅝
	July	66¼	67⅛	66¼	67	67
Duluth	May	67⅝	68⅛	67⅛	67⅝	67⅝
	July	68⅝	69¼	68⅝	68⅞	68⅞
Toledo	May	73⅝	73¾	73⅛	73⅛	73⅛
	July	72¾	72¾	72¼	72⅝	72⅝
Detroit	May	73⅝	73⅞	73⅛	73⅛	73⅝
	July	72¾	73	72¾	72¾	72¾
St. Louis	May	70⅝	71⅛	70⅝	71	70⅝

THREATENED WITH JAIL FOR SAUCE.

Mr. Brenack Has Fun With His Creditor's Lawyer Instead of Answering Questions.

Richard Brenack, while being examined in supplementary proceedings in the City Court yesterday, had some fun with the Court and the lawyers, and he came near spending Sunday in Ludlow Street Jail. He had not paid a judgment of $300 which the Harding Electric Company obtained against him. He was examined by Mayer C. Goldman, counsel for the company. Brenack would not disclose his income, and the lawyer wanted to know under what conditions he lived and who paid his rent. He returned:

"The conditions are pleasant. On arising, I say my prayers, put on my clothes, take a bath, read the morning paper, and go downtown if I feel inclined."

He was brought before Justice Hascall who told him to answer the questions definitely. When he was taken back into the ante-room for further inquisition, the lawyer said: "Well tell us about that rent."

"I owe it," he replied.

"To whom?"

"To the landlord."

"Who is he?"

"The man who owns the house."

Before Justice Hascall he was straightway taken again, and on reading the examination the judge made out a non-bailable commitment and a deputy sheriff was sent for. Before his arrival, counsel for the company said he would not insist on Brenack's immediate punishment but would give him until Monday to confer with counsel. An adjournment to that time was taken.

PUBLIC LIBRARY TO COST MORE.

Chiefly Because It Is Growing in Size—Explanation of the Davis Bill.

Secretary George L. Rives of the Board of Trustees of the New York Public Library said yesterday that the bill introduced in the Legislature by Assemblyman Gherardi Davis last week, by which it is proposed to amend the Library act of 1897 by removing the clause restricting bond issues for the new library to $2,500,000, was made necessary partly because of the increase in the cost of supplies and labor since 1897, partly because of changes in the plans for the building, but more particularly because of the great increase there has been since the consolidation of the Astor and Lenox libraries in the number of volumes in them and their greater use by the public. On Jan. 1, 1897, just before consolidation, there were 392,784 volumes and 69,501 pamphlets in the two libraries. On Jan. 1 of this year there were 482,450 volumes and 179,906 pamphlets in the libraries. The number of patrons of the libraries has increased from 103,384 in 1897 to 115,426 in 1898.

HOW ERVIN HOPKINS, JR., DIED.

Heart Disease and Not a Reptile's Bite Was the Cause of Death.

A Chicago despatch was printed in THE SUN, the *New York Times*, and other New York newspapers on Jan. 25 announcing the death in the Republic of Colombia of Ervin Hopkins, Jr., a former resident of this city. The despatch said that Mr. Hopkins's death was supposed to have been caused by the bite of a poisonous reptile while he was on an expedition into the interior of that country. This, however, was not the fact. Friends who were with him when he died say that heart disease was the cause of death.

Mr. Hopkins was superintending the operations of a crude rubber concern in which he had an interest and was operating in the head waters of the Orinoco, a steel boat which he had built in this country.

Some accident occurred to the boat, and while attempting to raise her, the cable broke, and Mr. Hopkins started in a rowboat for Anauca, a distance of twenty miles, to procure assistance. While making this trip he was stricken with heart disease.

Receiver for a Brewery.

A petition in involuntary bankruptcy was filed yesterday against the Mount Vernon Consumers' Brewing Company of 530 to 540 West Fifty-seventh street by several small creditors. The company was incorporated on Dec. 3, 1898, with a capital stock of $200,000 and purchased the brewery formerly occupied by Philip Schaefer & Son. Judge Brown of the United States District Court yesterday appointed Benjamin Barker receiver of the assets of the company on the application of Samuel Fleischman, attorney for the creditors who filed the petition in bankruptcy. They wanted to keep the brewery going as a "live" concern, so that the beer would not spoil and the concern would not lose its customers. It was stated that the assets consist of the brewery property, mortgaged for $100,500, outstanding accounts $3,500, chattel mortgages nominally $15,000, actually $5,000, and some materials on hand.

Stege & Bro., composed of George H. and Frederick H. Stege, wholesale dealers in eggs and butter at 17 Jay street have filed a petition in bankruptcy with liabilities $67,232 and assets $20,727.

To Advocate Canal Improvements.

A meeting of the New York State Committee on Commerce, which was appointed at the State Commerce Convention in Utica on Oct. 10 and 11, 1898, will be held in the rooms of the Board of Trade and Transportation 203 Broadway, on Wednesday, Feb. 7, to aid in every way the movement to improve the canal system of the State. At the Utica convention resolutions were passed stating that the canals ought to be materially improved and that the outlay in such improvements would be a wise investment of the people's money. The State committee, which comprises influential men from various sections of the State, was appointed at that time for the specific purpose of assisting in any legitimate movement to better the present canal system.

Helped Themselves to New Clothes.

Two thieves broke a pane of glass in the front window of Louis Aaron's clothing store at 280 Atlantic avenue, Brooklyn, on Friday night, and, entering, discarded their own shabby suits for new ones, each taking an overcoat in addition. They got away without attracting attention.

The List of Referees.

The following is a list of the referees appointed in cases in the Supreme Court last week:

By Justice Andrews.

Cases.	*Referees.*
Reynolds vs. Erdman	Louis Davidson
Sill vs. Barnes	Samuel J. Benson.
Matter of Palermo Mica Co.	William J. Harding.
Taylor vs. Sire	John H. Judge.
Matter of Hasbrouck & Co.	John E. Bradley.
Inness vs. Inness	Charles W. Coleman.
Buena Vista R. Co. vs. Bryant	John H. Judge.
Mitchell vs. Wahle, two cases	W. Benton Crisp.
Hirsh vs. Welcker	Charles Donohue.
Williams vs. Lennon	John H. Judge.
Rogers vs. Cohen	M. C. Miner.
Danzig vs. Wood	Samuel J. Benson.
Danzig vs. Kennedy	James W. Hyde.
Mcgaffe vs. Clarke	William R. Brenk.
Rosenstein vs. Barry	Henry W. Bookstaver.
Oppenheimer vs. Schaef	Charles Donohue.
McLaughlin vs. McLaughlin	John H. Judge.
Germania Savings Bank vs. Welte	William G. Bates.
Weber vs. Weber	Elbert Crandall.
People &c., vs. Manhattan Land Corporation	W. Benton Crisp.
Woolsey vs. Schillinger	Louis Davidson.
Emigrant Industrial Savings Bank vs. Lange	James W. Hyde.

By Justice Fitzgerald.

Mack vs. Mott	Charles E. F. McCann.
Barry vs. Hatfield	James C. F. Blackburst.
Graham vs. Good	George E. Kent.
Terry vs. Mooney, three cases	A. H. Van Brunt.
Tuttle vs. Seichew	John E. Duffy.
Montgomery vs. Devinney	Rollin M. Morgan.
Hussen vs. Meinken	Daniel P. Ingraham.
Stewart vs. Kurz	Rufus B. Cowing, Jr.
Matter of James Gregory Co.	Matthew Daly.
Kelly vs. city of New York	Henry W. Bookstaver.
Matter of Cash	James P. Keenan.
Bowers vs. Herzig	Ham Odell.
Same vs. Bach	Ham Odell.
Same vs. Malz	Ham Odell.
Same vs. Hickley	Ham Odell.
Hoguet vs. Avezzana	Eugene A. Philbin.
Lohrke vs. Trinsdell	Rasius S. Ransom.
Matter of Harlow	Augustus Van Wyck.
Chandon vs. O'Connor	Emil Goldmark.
Slade vs. Lipman	Peter B. Olney.
Goetz vs. Bailey	Charles Wentworth.
Matter of Paris	Randolph B. Martine.
Watts vs. Coleman	Isaac B. Brennan.
Slevin vs. Kelly	Augustus C. Brown.
Reuter vs. Stürz	Ralph H. Holland.

By Justice Smyth.

Wagner vs. Sullivan	Adam Wiener.
Elsworth vs. Ellsworth	John H. Rogan.

By Justice Leventritt.

People ex rel. John Chatillon & Sons vs. Feltner	Edward Browne.

By Justice Truax.

McClenahan vs. Greacen	Edward L. Patterson.

AROUND THE WHIST TABLE.

ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF TRUMP TACTICS.

A Thorough Understanding of the Management of Trumps Probably the Most Important Thing in Whist—Times When They Should Be Played—Killing a Hand.

Admiral Burney, in his "Treatise on the Game of Whist," published in 1823, says that nothing can be simpler than its general principles. "The highest card of the suit led wins the trick unless it is trumped. Every one must follow the suit led, if able. If they have no card of that suit, they are at liberty to trump or not."

"These rules," he says, "on being explained to a young friend of mine who was desirous of learning the game, were so immediately comprehended and appeared to him so plain and artless that he exclaimed 'Oh! if that is all I shall be able to play whist as well as anybody in four and twenty hours.'"

It would be interesting to know what this young friend of the Admiral's thought of the game after he had played it for about four and twenty years, and a record of the intermediate period would probably be equally instructive. It is a pity that someone does not design and arrange something on the order of a baby's biography for whist players; some convenient register in which a person could jot down the characteristic incidents that show the process of mental development through which most of our whist players pass before they attain their maturity. What delightful and artless stories of blighted hopes it would contain! What anecdotes of good things gone wrong and systems that didn't work! What exuberance of spirits we should find in the chapters covering the period during which he made his first acquaintance with private conventions! What sadness in those in which he would confess that the Street attachment would not work against experts!

The smiles, the tears, of fourth best years,
The call for trumps then spoken;
The suits so long now thinned and gone,
The four-trump hand now broken.

The elements of whist being so simple it is certainly, remarkable that they can be handled in such a manner as to produce the most profound game of modern times, one which gives greater scope for the display of intellectual power than all other games combined. There seems to be no end to any part of the subject, because one no sooner touches upon a point than it seems to need explanation by reference to others until they multiply with such rapidity that you lose yourself in the labyrinth of rule and exception.

A beginner asks you to give him a few points on the management of trumps. It seems to be a simple affair, and you tell him always to lead them with five or more, or when you have an established suit with a re-entry and four trumps, or if you see a cross ruff that needs to be stopped. Then you tell him not to force his partner unless he is strong in trumps himself and always to lead trumps to partner's call. After this you think you have given him a pretty good lecture on the subject and you go home quite satisfied with yourself. Just out of curiosity you take down your "Whist Tactics" from the shelf and look up the subject, and there you find that besides the five or six things you mentioned to your friend, the novice, there are thirty three other important points in the management of trumps, all of which came up in the play of a twenty-eight deal match.

A thorough understanding of trump tactics is probably the most important thing in whist strategy. They are the irregular verbs of the language, and their greatest difficulties are in the conditional mood. Confidence in one's partner's knowledge of sound principles is one of the best foundations of successful play, and nothing gives one a better insight into a position than an understanding of the trump situation. As an example of this, take the following deal, which was No. 26 at the Knickerbocker Whist Club compass game on Dec. 5. Hearts were declared trumps, A to lead. A-B's cards were held by Spafford and Elwell of the New Yorks.

TRICK.	A	Y	B	Z
1.....	♣K	♣6	♣8	♣7
2.....	6♠	5♠	K♠	3♠
3.....	♡7	J♠	2♠	4♠
4.....	♡A	♡5	♡2	♡4
5.....	♡10	♡8	♡Q	♡6
6.....	2◇	♡J	♡K	♡9
7.....	♣10	3◇	♣5	♣9
8.....	♣A	4◇	♣3	♣Q
9.....	♣J	6◇	7◇	9♠
10.....	♣4	10◇	9◇	10♠
11.....	♣2	Q◇	7♠	Q♠
12.....	8◇	A◇	♡3	J◇
13.....	5◇	A♠	8♠	K◇

A—B get twelve tricks.

Trick 2. The New Yorks use the call for trumps, but A is not quite sure that his partner is calling, and in order to show him how weak he is himself he switches to his singleton. Y should have recognized this for what it was and put in his ace immediately, but he didn't.

Trick 3. By forcing his partner, Elwell conveys to him the double information that he is strong in trumps and that he would like to have A show him the best trump he has by leading them first.

Trick 4. A has sufficient confidence in his partner to feel sure that he would not force him unless he had some trump strength, and there being no hope of making the clubs unless the trumps can be exhausted A leads his remaining trumps immediately.

Trick 7. A must finesse the club, because even if the finesse loses he is sure to get in again, his partner being marked with the long trump and the trey of clubs, which will put A into the lead again.

This looks simple and it seems