BRYAN IS NOT SO COCKSURE

BEGINS TO REALIZE THAT THERE IS REAL OPPOSITION TO HIM.

"Hopeful" Is Now the Superlative of His Confidence—Sees That His Attack on Senator Daniel Has Turned Virginia Sentiment From Him—Some Comments.

RICHMOND, Va., March 25.—William J. Bryan is not at all confident that he is to be victorious in the Democratic national convention at Denver. Two months ago he was all smiles and dimples when his third nomination for the Presidency was spoken of in his presence. He was then the personification of serenity and confidence.

Since that time the Democratic political perspective has changed. The indications point to a still greater change in the immediate future. He continues to attract the antagonisms of Democrats who were on the firing line when he was in swaddling clothes. His political doctrine, "thou shall have no other candidate but me," is not acceptable to the Democrats who want to win and who do not believe Bryan to be the strongest candidate.

Bryan has met with discomfiture, notably in Minnesota, where he confidently believed he had a walkover. Opposition to him has sprung up in a dozen other States, and it was learned here to-day that he is in for a peck of trouble in Maryland. The great majority of the Southern States do not want him. They do not believe he can win. They want to try it with either Johnson of Minnesota or Gray of Delaware or Harmon of Ohio or some Democrat of national repute not yet in the limelight.

Bryan has been here all day. He was the guest of Gov. Swanson and held a reception for the Legislature. When spoken to concerning his candidacy Bryan said he was "hopeful." That was the best you got from him. In December he believed he had all the national delegates, a thousand and odd, sewed up in his capacious waistcoat pockets.

Asked for his views of the platform to be adopted at Denver, Bryan replied: "When I get there there will be time enough to show them where I stand."

Bryan spoke to-night on non-political subjects in the auditorium. He was asked to-day to disavow the attack on Senator John W. Daniel and to call off the Bryanite movement to defeat Senator Daniel as one of the delegates at large for Virginia to the Denver convention. He declined to do so, saying that he did not deal in personalities. Later, though, he decided to make the following evasive statement:

"Major Daniel and I have been friends for a great many years. In 1896, when he introduced me here in Richmond, he paid me the highest compliment that was paid during the campaign when, paraphrasing a sentence from Holy Writ, he said of me: 'He has rolled away the stone from the sepulchre in which Democracy lay buried.'

"Senator Daniel has visited me in Nebraska and I have met him in Washington and at other places, and always with pleasure. While we differed as to some matters at St. Louis our difference did not interfere with our personal relations. We may not agree upon all public questions, but differences among Democrats are to be expected, for Democrats believe that each man should think for himself and that the opinion of the majority should control in all matters of government and of party policy. Neither enemies nor friends shall be permitted to disturb the cordial relations existing between Senator Daniel and myself."

The last time Bryan and Daniel met the relations between them were not ecstatically cordial. The Bryan movement to punish Senator Daniel for expressing his personal views to Bryan in Washington a short time ago continues with unabated vigor. It has aroused the ire of the Democrats of the entire State. It has been heated to such a pitch that Senator Daniel has been urged to declare himself a candidate for the support of the Presidential delegates of his State. The Senator's friends said to-day that they did not believe he would go as far as that. The Democrats of the State declare, though, unreservedly that they will not permit Bryan or Bryan's friends to defeat Daniel as one of the delegates at large to the national convention. The Democratic newspapers of the State, reflecting the views of their readers that Daniel shall not be humiliated by Bryan or Bryan's followers, are emphatic with indignant expressions of disapproval. The *News Leader* to-night, under the head "Shall Daniel Go Down?" says:

"No other chapter of history stirs the blood of people of British descent more than the story as told by Macaulay of the trial of the seven Bishops under James II. All who have read this will recall the note in which it is told that the miners of Cornwall sent humming through the kingdom from their deep and hairy chests the refrain that they sang as they plied their picks in gangs together, keeping time with their strokes to the cadence.

"'And shall Trelawny die?
And must Trelawny die?
Then twenty thousand Cornish men
Will know the reason why.
And twenty thousand under ground
Will know the reason why.'

"This proposition apparently coming from the Bryan representatives and leaders in Virginia to humiliate and ignore John W. Daniel, United States Senator from Virginia, soldier of Virginia and more than thirty years leader among Virginia people, will arouse in the breasts of Virginians a feeling like that which stirred the sturdy Cornishmen when Trelawny stood trial for his life."

Former State Senator Thomas, one of the Bryan representatives who is engineering the effort to humiliate Senator Daniel, has said that sentiment should have no part in this matter, and the *News Leader*, referring to that utterance, declares:

"Mr. Thomas of Lynchburg announces his decision that sentiment should have no place in our politics. To begin with, we would like very much to know what foundation there is for Mr. Bryan's strength except sentiment. Certainly the citizen who has led the party to two crushing defeats and identified it with policies which it has been compelled to abandon and repudiate cannot appeal to our practical sense and cool political judgment.

"But thanks be to the good God above us Virginia people have not yet reached the point where they can disregard, forget or destroy sentimental considerations in their politics. We have not yet been chilled or machine cut so that we have lost the faculties of hating and loving and remembering and being grateful. * * * Virginia people have the same feeling [that the Cornishmen had for Trelawny] toward John W. Daniel.

"He is of their stock and kind, their old leader, tried and faithful. They do not lightly put aside at the behest of strangers those who have fought for their cause and made the blood tie with them by shedding blood for their soil; who have stood with and for them through dark days and tribulations.

"Senator Daniel has wider experience in public affairs and Federal politics than any man we have. He stands before the country as the most clear cut, thoroughly recognised typical Virginian in public life. * * *

"Are we to abandon this able leader, soldier, fellow Virginian of ours because he is not agreeable to Mr William Jennings Bryan, the affable orator from Nebraska, under whom we have encountered two disasters and are likely to go to a third? Is Mr. Bryan to regulate from Nebraska the management of our affairs here in Virginia and say whom we shall and shall not send to represent us in a national Democratic convention? Is he our master already?

"Some of us talk very fiercely of the tyranny and imperialism and monarchial tendencies of Mr. Roosevelt in the White House. Are we to accept as our law the nods and hints of Mr. Bryan not yet in the White House and with chances against his ever being there? Has he begun so early to set aside our ancient landmarks, to thrust out of the way our trusted servants and comrades? Who gave him a fee simple title of ownership of the Democratic party in Virginia and when was it done? By what authority is John W. Daniel to be cast away into oblivion and helplessness and the representatives, agents, managers or favorites of Mr. Bryan put into control?"

Similarly strong protests in opposition to the Bryan efforts to humiliate Senator Daniel are printed all over the State, of which the following are but a few:

Fredericksburg *Free Lance*: "And so because Major John W. Daniel differs from the 'peerless and the matchless' Bryan he is doomed. The partisans of the second defeated are organizing to defeat Daniel as one of Virginia's delegates to the Denver convention. Virginia's gifted and great Senator it seems is to be denied admission to the national Democratic convention because he has the audacity to refuse to bow down and worship the great Nebraskan. The tyranny and bossism of Bryan will brook no interference and will not tolerate any opposition from Daniel. But Daniel has not been defeated yet, not yet. Daniel, who imperilled his life for Virginia; Daniel, who bared his breast to the storm of shot and shell for Virginia and the South; Daniel, who was shot down in the forefront of battle; Daniel, the ex-Confederate soldier, is to be denied the honor of representing in part his beloved Virginia in the national Democratic convention because, forsooth, he will not blindly follow the great orator Bryan. As a protest to this we suggest that when Virginia's convention shall be held it shall send a delegation to Denver uninstructed but bearing with them resolutions of Virginia's Democracy that Daniel is Virginia's choice for nomination for President and that Virginia is proud of this her son; proud of his services to her in peace and in war and declares him worthy of filling the highest office and receiving the highest honors in the gift of this republic."

Staunton *Dispatch*: "We hope and believe an effectual lesson will be taught those who are trying to ostracise Major Daniel and prevent his going as one of the four delegates at large to the national Democratic convention simply because, exercising his right of manhood and free speech, he has declared his opposition to Government ownership of railroads and some other of Col. Bryan's doctrines never embodied in a Democratic platform. Most men admire the man who has the courage of his convictions. Major Daniel has frankly but politely expressed his disagreement with Col. Bryan, while a great many other Democrats who feel just as he does have dodged. Has the time come in Virginia when a Democrat is to be punished for daring to have opinions of his own and to give utterance to them."

Norfolk *Ledger-Despatch*: "That Senator Daniel should be corrected or disciplined because he spoke frankly face to face with Mr. Bryan regarding the matters of party policies is too foolish to discuss. Mr. Thomas should praise Heaven that we still have some men whose dignity is not dwarfed and whose convictions are not surrendered in the presence of any man. Senator Daniel gave utterance to no undemocratic doctrine, and if it has become treason to disagree with Mr. Bryan then there is no longer any Democracy."

As the philosophers have it, betting may be a fool's argument, but if political information from good sources is of value at this stage of the battle it is a barrel of red cheeked apples to a jewsharp that the State convention to be held at Roanoke City on June 11 will elect Senator Daniel as one of Virginia's four delegates at large to the Denver convention and that the delegates will not be instructed for any Democratic Presidential aspirant.

BRYAN REGRETS HIS WORDS.

Has Agents in the South Denying That He Ever Made Railway Ownership Speech.

ATLANTA, March 25.—One of the profound secrets of Col. Bryan's canvass for the nomination for President came to light unexpectedly to-night when two of Mr. Bryan's political agents talked too much, too loudly and too emphatically. They insisted that they had been instructed to travel through the Southern States to tell the Southern Democrats that Mr. Bryan never made that speech in Madison Square Garden, New York city, two years ago last August, demanding as part of the 1908 national Democratic platform the Government ownership of railroads.

It was further learned that these agents of Mr. Bryan had been instructed to tell all Southern Democrats that the Northern newspapers had not reported Mr. Bryan's speech correctly on that occasion, that he never advocated the Government ownership of railroads and that the Northern newspapers had deliberately misreported his speech to that effect.

These agents of Mr. Bryan also deny that influential Democrats from the Southern States urged Mr. Bryan both in London, England, and at the Victoria Hotel, in New York city, not to make the speech in Madison Square Garden wherein Mr. Bryan advocated the Government ownership of railroads.

When it became known here to-night that Mr. Bryan's agents had been instructed to deny that Mr. Bryan had made that speech in Madison Square Garden and to say that Northern newspapers had deliberately misreported the facts, it was recalled that before Mr. Bryan made the speech which is now troubling him not only the Northern but all other newspapers had advance copies of the speech and that he deliberately made it, notwithstanding the earnest and indignant protest of all Southern Democrats in New York city at the time, especially of Mr. Griggs, Mr. Williams and the large contingent of Southern Democrats assembled in the metropolis to greet Mr. Bryan on that festive occasion.

Found Him Guilty Then Hired Him.

Max Schwartz, who has been in this country a couple of months, was convicted yesterday in Judge Rosalsky's court in General Sessions of burglary in the third degree. Judge Rosalsky was in doubt what to do with him when Ignatz Kohn, foreman of the jury that convicted Schwartz, said he would give Schwartz a job. This was satisfactory to the judge and Schwartz was allowed to go.

The Weather.

The Western low pressure areas contracted into one yesterday, with a centre over Wyoming and distributed snow over Montana, Idaho, Minnesota and northern Michigan.

In the Atlantic and Gulf States the pressure was high and the weather fair. It was also generally fair in the Pacific States.

Colder weather prevailed east of the Mississippi. The temperatures were lower in the extreme Northwest and on the Pacific Coast. Also between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains it was generally warmer. Freezing temperatures reached southern New York and the middle of Pennsylvania and Ohio.

In this city the day was clear and colder; wind fresh northwest to northeast; average humidity 66 per cent.; barometer, corrected to read to sea level, at 8 A. M., 30.19; 3 P. M., 30.20.

The temperature yesterday, as recorded by the official thermometer, is shown in the annexed table:

	1908.	1907.		1908.	1907.
9 A. M.	30°	35°	6 P. M.	40°	41°
12 M.	38°	42°	9 P. M.	34°	52°
3 P. M.	44°	43°	12 Mid.	36°	36°

Lowest temperature, 29°, at 6:25 A. M.

WASHINGTON FORECAST FOR TO-DAY AND TO-MORROW.

For eastern New York, fair and warmer to-day; rain and colder to-morrow; increasing southeast to south winds.

For New England, fair and warmer to-day; rain to-morrow and colder in northwest portion; increasing southwesterly winds.

For eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware, increasing cloudiness and warmer to-day; rain and colder to-morrow; fresh southeasterly winds, increasing.

For the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia, increasing cloudiness and warmer to-day, probably rain by night; rain and colder to-morrow; fresh to brisk southeasterly winds.

For western New York and western Pennsylvania, fair and warmer to-day; rain and colder to-morrow.

EVANS UPHOLDS REUTERDAHL

ADMIRAL WENT ON RECORD AGAINST LOW ARMOR BELT.

Navy Critic, Just Back From Fleet, Says Service Knew the Admiral and General Board Had So Advised—Valuable and Patriotic Suggestions Pigeonholed.

It became known yesterday in Washington that Admiral Evans put on record last summer his opinion that the armor belt on our battleships is too low, thus upholding the contention made by Henry Reuterdahl in his article in *McClure's Magazine*. Mr. Reuterdahl, who has just returned to this city from the battleship fleet, talked yesterday about this new turn in the naval controversy.

The statement of Admiral Evans was made in his letter to the commanding officers of the ships after he had been ordered to detail boards to determine what weights could be removed from the battleships. This was his statement:

"It will be remembered that all our ships are now of greater displacements than that of their original design, and in consequence they not only have an increased draught of water, but in the case of armored ships their armor belt is practically awash at load draught, which leaves them, as far as protection is concerned, but little better than armored cruisers."

This statement is said to be on file in the room of the Senate Committee on Naval Affairs, as is also a similar statement made in 1906 by the General Board of the Navy, which recommended a reduction of weights on battleships in order to raise the armor belt.

Mr. Reuterdahl, in his interview yesterday, said:

"According to the public prints the letter of Admiral Evans and certain statements by the General Board were not admitted as evidence by the Senate committee which has been investigating certain constructive defects of our navy. The publication of it will undoubtedly prevent any whitewashing and help the country to ascertain the absolute truth.

"As this report was part of the public proceedings it indicates the temper of the other side in preventing it being known. The existence of Admiral Evans's letter was pretty well known to the service, and every one in the fleet was aware of the fact that the board which was appointed to investigate the conditions of the armor belt had reported that the belts were so low as to be practically, if not absolutely, useless in battle. The question of naval reform is very old. Certain tools were given our officers to fight with. They did not like their tools and they suggested improvements. These suggestions were carefully studied documents, containing an infinite amount of research and information. They were written in the most patriotic spirit and they were meant for no other purpose than to benefit the service.

"Instead of being received as honest efforts to improve existing conditions they were tied up with red tape and in most cases buried in a dusty pigeonhole. Had these suggestions been accepted by the proper authorities our people would never have known about our faults of construction—which already were well known to the foreigner. But they were not. Instead, all possible efforts were made to minimize the importance of the suggestions and every one became very busy 'to save his own face' instead of improving our ships, which were not up to the standards set by the foreigner.

"The instance of Admiral Evans's letter explains it fully. Here we have one of the greatest men in our navy, a man of twenty years sea experience, stating over his own signature almost two years ago that our battleships are nothing but armored cruisers and that they are so constructed as to receive no benefit from their armor protection, which is to protect their vitals against heavy gunfire. In the report signed by Admiral Capps and Admiral Converse some 50,000 words are used to disprove this blunt, simple statement by a man whom the entire nation respects.

"On one side there is the man who designed the ships, who sits securely in his swivel chair and who has fortified his position by theoretical figures, which do not apply to the actual condition previous to a sea fight. On the other hand are the documents by the men who are to fight our ships in battles, who must accept the responsibility for victory or defeat. Is their word to be taken or that of the man with a theory that does not work out? We don't give a hang for full load displacement or normal. What the country is interested in is to get its money's worth when building ships. And as long as we are paying battleship prices for armored cruisers we are not satisfied, and this is the exact situation. I have seen the belt of our ships hidden beneath the water for one week after leaving port, and it is only when the coal supply has been diminished one-half that the armor belt begins to be of sufficient use in case of action. And any one who discredits such statements can be convinced by the hundreds of photographs of the ships on their long cruise around the continent.

"We have been the fifth wheel in the naval world so long that it is about time to get into the position where our national ingenuity and talent will put us. It is no exaggeration to say that our ships are five years behind and that we have paid money for ships which should grace the Turkish navy list instead of our own. Take the Charleston, St. Louis and Milwaukee of 9,700 tons, built in 1904-05. They have no greater offensive power, no greater speed and use only 300 tons greater coal capacity than the Chilean cruiser O'Higgins, which is 1,200 tons smaller and which was built in 1897.

"And what can be done on a displacement 330 tons larger than the Charleston has been shown by the Italian constructor Cuniberti, who in the Pisa class of armored cruisers designed a ship carrying four ten inch guns and eight eight inch and with an eight inch belt.

"One year before, this wonderful constructor, by all means the greatest designer in the world, evolved the ideal battleship for the British navy, which, by the way, was the forerunner to their Dreadnoughts. One of our seagoing officers at his own expense completed the plans of a similar type and laid it before the Board of Instruction. Had it then been taken up we would now—in all probability—have had four Dreadnoughts afloat.

"Now all this has been known to our seagoing officers, who through actual experience have learned the requirements of an ideal fighting ship. And all these years they have bombarded the Department with suggestions for reform. But the reform did not come. Not until many lives were lost were the automatic shutters put in our turrets, and years before the Kearsarge accident reports came in advocating the removal of the electrical appliances from the walls of the turrets. Had these reports been heeded this accident could not have occurred and the lives of the officers and the men would have been saved. These reports met the same fate as the letter of Admiral Evans on the armor plate, the same official 'nothing doing.'

"Yes, this is the end of six years of official obstinacy, six years of resistance against the movement which had no other purpose than to make the navy better and without any extra expenditure. That some of these reforms were accomplished is due entirely to the President, who, by the way, is officially responsible for the introduction of our present system of target practice.

"The public seemed to have believed that my article was printed because of a desire to create a sensation. Such is not the case. I wrote it because I realized that nothing would succeed save absolute publicity. For six years our seagoing officers have been trying to correct these defects which are now being aired. The service publication, the *Navy*, hammered at the bureau system for one whole year, but all without result. What I have said is not personal opinion, but simply the statements of the facts which I have observed while going to sea on our ships, and I think that the testimony in Washington brought out the truth of my statements. It will mean a clean sweep and I think that those who are responsible for the faults will not have another opportunity to repeat them.

"The main points in question were the insufficient protection in our turrets and the faulty appliances for bringing up the ammunition, and the lowness of the armor the other. The first two were admitted as correct. Admiral Evans's letter, representing the views of the seagoing officers, and especially those in the Pacific fleet, upholds the contention that the armor is not where it ought to be, and I think that the country will take his word for it.

"From many sources I have learned that my article has been also accepted as a criticism on our seagoing officers and the men forward. Nothing could be more incorrect. Three months of association with them has confirmed my statement that man for man we are superior to any other navy. But we do not educate our officers or train our men to be killed in the first stages of an action. Hence we need all the appliances known to naval science."

ARMOR BELT TOO NARROW ALSO?

WASHINGTON, March 25.—The Navy Department has received from one of the naval constructors on the Connecticut, Rear Admiral Evans's flagship, a report concerning the allegation that the water line armor belt was too low, the constructor's views being based on actual observation and measurements on the trip from Hampton Roads to Magdalena Bay.

In his report the constructor says that there was clear weather for most of the cruise, but in spite of this the unprotected hull below the water line was exposed at times, thus indicating that the belt is too narrow also. The criticism of Commanders Sims and Key and other officers in regard to the belt is understood to have been confirmed in the report.

Admiral Evans made an indorsement on the report, but information as to its purport is withheld. No doubt is entertained, however, that Admiral Evans coincided with the constructor's view as he is on record, a fact carefully suppressed, as having made the statement last summer in a letter to commanding officers of his battleships that in consequence of increased draught of water due to the greater displacement of new armor clads "their armor belt is practically awash at load draught, which leaves them, as far as protection is concerned, but little better than armored cruisers."

This statement from Admiral Evans is said to be in the possession of the Senate Committee on Naval Affairs, which has been investigating the criticisms of battleship construction, but has not shown a disposition to take seriously the efforts of seagoing line officers to point out wherein present methods of construction are deficient. Why the committee did not produce this information in its public record has not been explained.

An effort may be made even before the Naval Appropriation bill is taken up by the House for consideration to bring out this information as well as some comments of the General Board of the Navy in a report made last year on the position of the armor belt.

According to the General Board belt armor should be so disposed as to afford adequate protection at full load displacement, and that "at full load displacement all of our battleships in commission have the water line belts awash or entirely submerged," and that "it therefore follows that all material not absolutely necessary should be removed in order to bring the belts as far up as possible."

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ROCHETTE SCARE TONED DOWN.

Liabilities Only a Third of First Figures—Efforts to Involve the Government.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

PARIS, March 25.—A rough official estimate of the liabilities of Henri Rochette, the financier who was arrested for swindling and fraudulent company promoting, is less pessimistic than current reports have made them, being placed at not to exceed $10,000,000. His assets are variously estimated at from $2,400,000 to $3,600,000.

Rochette was taken to-day to the Franco-Spanish Bank, one of the concerns he founded, where a Magistrate examined its affairs. A crowd gathered outside the building. Some of them hooted Rochette, while others cheered. There was a big assemblage of financiers, clerks and admirers in the bank, and they showered flowers on the accused banker.

The efforts of those interested to connect members of the Government and other politicians with the affair persist. It is expected that the matter will come before the Chamber of Deputies, where the anti-Government sections are likely to attack the Government. Public scandals in France are often thus manipulated.

There are the wildest rumors concerning the Government's culpability, but none of them can be substantiated.

DON'T LIKE DELMOUR'S WILL.

Brother and Nephew Object to the Widow Getting So Much.

Peter Delmour and Hugh Delmour, brother and nephew of Whispering Larry Delmour, the Tammany brave who died recently, filed a notice in the Surrogates office yesterday, through John F. McIntyre, their counsel, that they intend to contest the will on the ground of undue influence by the wife, to whom most of the estate was left. Mrs. Delmour was Miss Jennie Walsh, and nursed Delmour through a serious illness before she became his wife.

G. G. HAVEN'S WILL.

Residuary Estate Divided Among the Immediate Family.

The will of George Griswold Haven, the banker, directs the executors to divide $5,000 among Mr. Haven's servants and employees. Mrs. Fanny Arnot Haven, the widow, is to have the house at 24 East Thirty-ninth street with its contents and the use of the country home at Lenox.

The residuary estate goes in six equal parts to the widow and five children.

VANDERBILT SAILS SATURDAY

For a Summer in England, His Wife Remaining at Tuxedo.

Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt, whose wife, formerly Elsie French, has gone to Tuxedo Park to live for the summer in her brother's cottage, taking her son with her, will sail for England next Saturday for a long stay. He will run his coach Venture between London and Brighton. His famous matched grays were sent over some time ago to be prepared for the road.

Mr. and Mrs. Vanderbilt have only one child, William, who was born in 1901, a sturdy little fellow. His mother and father have been much apart, Mrs. Vanderbilt being occupied with social affairs and Mr. Vanderbilt with his stable of show and coach horses.

Mrs. Vanderbilt would have left Oakland Farm, Newport, for Tuxedo some time ago, it was said yesterday, had not the marriage of Gladys Vanderbilt and Count Széchényi made precipitate action unadvisable. Mr. Vanderbilt has been living at the Hotel Plaza.

NEWPORT, R. I., March 25.—Newport is quite satisfied that Mr. and Mrs. Alfred G. Vanderbilt have separated. The stately old farmhouse at Oakland was cleared today and the keys were delivered over to the caretaker of the place. Not since Mr. and Mrs. Vanderbilt were married had the residence been shut, Mrs. Vanderbilt always making it her headquarters. Mrs. Vanderbilt is evidently to have the custody of her son, who is very much attached to her and who drives about with her wherever she goes. The boy is light, like his mother, and in his general appearance he is very much like the French family.

Among the articles which Mrs. Vanderbilt had shipped to Tuxedo on Tuesday were many of her wedding gifts. Her presents were many, and nearly all of them that were useful for furnishing were employed in the adornment of Oakland. Many pictures were among them, including Munzig's beautiful portrait of Mrs. Vanderbilt. All these are among the effects shipped to Tuxedo. The smaller things of great value, including many of Mrs. Vanderbilt's jewels, have been put in safe deposit here.

Mrs. Vanderbilt will probably not return here till late in April, when she will come to assist her niece, Miss Pauline French, to prepare for her wedding with Samuel Wagstaff. Harbourview, the villa of her mother, Mrs. Francis O. French, will be open then and she will probably stay there.

DRURY LANE STAGE A RUIN.

Safety Curtain Saved the Rest of the Theatre—Damage Very Heavy.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, March 25.—The fire which was discovered in Drury Lane Theatre at 4 o'clock this morning did considerable damage, but not so much as was at first reported. The cause has not been ascertained, but it is known that the fire started back of the stage among some stored scenery.

Soon the whole stage was ablaze and the flames threatened to spread to the auditorium, but the prompt lowering of the safety curtain effectually prevented this and confined the flames to the rear of the building.

Forty engines and 200 firemen centred their efforts upon the endangered building, and within three hours got the flames under control. The entire front part of the theatre is undamaged and the auditorium presents its usual appearance.

It was not found necessary to take a single line of hose through the front of the building. The stage, however, is practically destroyed and a section of the roof has fallen in. The offices and dressing rooms are damaged and much scenery and many costly costumes were lost.

The damage will run into thousands of pounds and the work of repair will take several months.

ABRUZZI WANTS NO DOWRY.

Wives of Italian Royalty Bring Little or No Money—The King's Wish.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, March 25.—The Rome correspondent of the *Globe* says, with reference to the talk about the amount of the dowry Miss Elkins is to bring to the Duke of the Abruzzi should she marry him, that he has excellent authority for stating that not only has there been no bargaining as to that, but that it is the express wish of the King that Miss Elkins should be undowered. With this idea, the correspondent says the Duke is in complete accord.

The *Globe's* correspondent points out that it has become almost a rule that Italian royal princesses shall bring no dowry. Margherita, the Queen dowager, and Helena, the present Queen, brought no dowries, while the Duchess of Aosta brought but little.

KAISER MEETS KING VICTOR.

German Imperial Party at Venice on the Way to Corfu.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

VENICE, March 25.—Kaiser Wilhelm and the Kaiserin, accompanied by the Princess Victoria and Prince August and attended by a large suite, arrived in Venice to-day. They were met at the railway station by King Victor Emmanuel. The two monarchs warmly embraced each other.

The Kaiser and his party are on their way to the island of Corfu to pass a vacation at the Kaiser's villa Achilleion, which was the property of the late Empress Elizabeth of Austria. The party will board the yacht Hohenzollern here.

LADY COOK COMING HERE.

Primeval Suffragette Plans a New Agitation for New York.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, March 25.—Lady Cook, formerly Miss Tennessee Claflin of New York, is a passenger on the steamship Oceanic, which sailed for New York to-day. She is on her way to take part in agitation for woman suffrage in the United States.

Appraisal of Williamsburg Trust Company's Assets.

KINGSTON, N. Y., March 25.—Arba K. Alford and Claudius Hutchins, appraisers of the assets and property of the Williamsburg Trust Company, have filed their inventory and appraisal of the assets in the Ulster County Clerk's office. They report the book value of all property, cash, &c., $8,441,351.20, and the appraised value $7,935,917.35. The cash on hand amounts to $374,569.21.

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DEATH OF DR. CUTHBERT HALL

AFTER A SEVERE OPERATION DONE WITH LITTLE HOPE.

President of Union Theological Seminary Contracted in India a Tropical Fever With Abscesses of the Liver—Distinguished as Pastor, Lecturer and Author.

The Rev. Dr. Charles Cuthbert Hall, president of Union Theological Seminary, died at his home, 46 East Seventieth street, early yesterday morning. He had been operated upon on Tuesday afternoon—the last of several operations and the severest—for an abscess on the back of the liver. He recovered consciousness after the operation, but no hope was held out for his life. Dr. Hall had been in poor health since his return from India, where he had been on a lecturing tour as Barrows professor of the University of Chicago. The abscess from which he died is characteristic of a tropical fever.

Charles Cuthbert Hall was born in this city September 3, 1852, the son of a druggist. In 1868 he entered Williams College, from which he was graduated in 1872. He entered Union Theological Seminary that year, and after taking his junior and middle years there was licensed to preach.

In the autumn of 1874 he went abroad, attending lectures at the Presbyterian College in London and the Free Church College in Edinburgh. He returned to this country in the summer of 1875 and accepted a call to the Union Presbyterian Church in Newburgh as the successor to the Rev. Wendell Prime, who had resigned to cooperate with his father, Dr. Irenaeus Prime, as editor of the *New York Observer*.

Dr. Hall was ordained and installed at Newburgh in December, 1875. He remained there until 1877, when he went to the First Presbyterian Church of Brooklyn. There he served for twenty years, establishing a high reputation as a theologian and preacher. He was next called to the presidency of Union Theological Seminary. He succeeded the Rev. Dr. Thomas S. Hastings as head of that institution.

Dr. Hall, in the controversies which beset the church in the days of the famous Briggs heresy trial and later in the case of Prof. Arthur C. McGiffert of Union Theological Seminary, maintained a neutral attitude, or at least refused to be drawn into the controversies. Dr. Briggs remained as professor of Biblical theology under Dr. Hall's administration even after he had been ordained into the Episcopal ministry. Dr. Hall wrote at that time:

"The constitution of the seminary contains nothing which is infringed by the action which Dr. Briggs is about to take and his tenure of the chair of Biblical theology is in no wise affected by his entrance into another branch of the Christian communion."

Dr. Hall was attacked by Dr. John Fox at a meeting of the Brooklyn Presbytery when his acceptance of the presidency of Union was announced. Dr. Fox, who was one of the most extreme opponents of Dr. Briggs, wanted the Presbytery to make a critical examination of two of Dr. Hall's books. He regarded them as in some respects unorthodox in their tendencies. He moved the appointment of a committee to consider the books but the motion was tabled by a large majority.

Dr. Hall received his first degree of doctor of divinity from New York University in 1890. Degrees were conferred upon him by Harvard in 1897, Yale in 1901 and Union College in 1905. He got a LL.D from Union.

Dr. Hall made two lecture tours in India for the University of Chicago, the first one being in 1902-03. He was also a regular lecturer at Vanderbilt and Harvard universities. He is the author of a number of works, including "Christian Belief Interpreted by Christian Experience," "Redeemed Life After Death," "Universal Elements of the Christian Religion," "Christ and the Human Race," "The Witness of the Oriental Consciousness of Jesus Christ."

Dr. Hall married Jeanie Stewart Boyd on August 2, 1877. He is survived by his wife and two sons and two daughters.

JUDGE HASCALL DEAD.

News Comes From Little Falls, N. J., Where He Was on a Visit.

City Court Judge Theodore F. Hascall died last night at Little Falls, N. J., where he went to visit friends three weeks ago. His death was due to heart disease. Judge Hascall's daughter, Florence, left their city home, at 110 East Sixteenth street, at that time to go to the bedside of her mother, who is dangerously ill in Paris. Mrs. Hascall obtained a divorce from her husband in 1900. Judge Hascall was one of the old time friends of Richard Croker and was for some years treasurer of the Democratic Club. He was a son of Judge A. P. Hascall and was born in Leroy, N. Y. He was an active campaign worker and ran ahead of his ticket when elected to the City Court bench. The body was brought to the city last night.

BIM THE BUTTON MAN DEAD.

Campaign Prophet Who Turned Builder of Theatres.

Myer R. Bimberg, best known as "Bim the Button Man," was found dead at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon in bed at his home, 217 West 110th street. He had been ill with tonsilitis since Saturday and complained yesterday to his wife that he felt very tired and wanted to be left alone so that he could sleep. He was not disturbed for some time, and when his father and his brother went to his room they found him dead.

"Bim the Button Man" was born in the old Seventh ward forty-two years ago. He sold campaign buttons for some years and made money at it, and in 1896 he made his first appearance at a national political convention at the Republican convention in St. Louis before the nomination of McKinley. He had a straight tip in advance and had a stock of 100,000 McKinley buttons, which went like hot cakes.

His nickname did not become widely known until the return of Col. Roosevelt from Santiago after the Spanish-American war. Bimberg met Roosevelt at Montauk Point and pinned on his coat a button which read "Our Choice for Governor."

With the money made from the sale of buttons Bimberg began building theatres. He constructed in succession the West End, the Colonial, the Yorkville, the Astor and the Stuyvesant, and usually disposed of each theatre before it had been completed. He retained an interest in the Astor and West End theatres for some time. He had recently been negotiating for a theatre in The Bronx.

Mr. Bimberg is survived by his father, David, his wife, a young daughter and six brothers, who were associated with him in his theatrical ventures. They are David, Harry, Benjamin K., Joseph, Louis and Everett. He was a member of many fraternal orders and of Tammany Hall.

Obituary Notes.

Dr. Truman J. Backus, president of the Packer Collegiate Institute in Brooklyn for twenty-five years, died of kidney trouble early yesterday morning at his home, 57 Livingston street, in his sixty-sixth year. He was a son of the Rev. Dr. Jay Spicer Backus and was born in Locke, Cayuga county. He was graduated from the University of Rochester in 1864 and received his M. A. degree three years later and a LL. D. in 1883. At the close of the civil war he organized the first negro school in Richmond, Va. He was professor of rhetoric and English literature in Vassar College from 1867 until 1883. He was a member of the Civil Service Commission in Brooklyn under Mayors Schieren and Wurster and from 1896 to 1900 was a member of the board of managers of the Long Island State Hospital and later was president of the board. He also served for several years as a trustee of the Randall's Island House of Refuge. He was a trustee of the Brooklyn Library, vice-president of the Hamilton Club and a member of the Century Club, Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha Delta Phi. In 1905 he was president of the Association of Colleges and Preparatory Schools of the Middle States and Maryland. He was the author of "Great English Writers," "Outlines of English Literature" and of a revision of Shaw's "History of English Literature." Dr. Backus was twice married, his first wife being Sarah C. Glass of Syracuse and his second Helen C. Hiscock, a sister of Judge Hiscock of the Court of Appeals, who died less than two years ago. He is survived by three sons, Raymond B. Backus, Grosvenor H. Backus and the Rev. A. Hamilton Backus, and a daughter, Mrs. Roscoe C. E. Brown. The funeral services will be held to-morrow morning in the South Congregational Church, the Rev. Dr. Lyman, the pastor, officiating. The burial will be in Syracuse. The Packer Institute has been closed until Monday, and later on special memorial services will be held. It was the intention of Dr. Backus to retire at the close of the present school year to his vineyard near Penn Yan and he had made arrangements with the trustees to be succeeded in September by Edward Jasper Goodwin, assistant State Commissioner of Education.

Word was received here yesterday of the death in Baltimore of the Rev. Father Thomas O'Donoghue, C. M., who was for several years vice-president of St. John's College in Brooklyn and was for sixteen years one of the most noted Catholic missionaries in the country, during which time he preached in all the leading cities of the country. His death occurred in St. Agnes's Hospital on Tuesday, and at his funeral to-morrow from the Immaculate Conception Church, Baltimore, of which he was pastor, Cardinal Gibbons will be in attendance. Father O'Donoghue was born in Ireland in 1840 and came to St. Louis with his parents when he was three years old. He studied in parochial schools until 1853, when he attended St. Mary's College and Seminary at Perryville, Mo. He then studied at the congregational mission of the Vincentian Fathers. He took his theological course in 1862 and was sent to Our Lady of Angels College, Niagara Falls, as professor of literature. He was ordained in 1867, and in 1885 became vice-president of St. Vincent's College, Cape Girardeau, Mo. He joined the Vincentian Fathers' mission band in 1871, and for sixteen years travelled throughout the country with remarkable success. He went to St. John's College, Brooklyn, as vice-president, in 1892, and became the first professor of moral philosophy. He went later to become pastor of St. Vincent's Church, Germantown, Pa., where he is to be buried, and since 1902 had been pastor of the Baltimore church.

Humphrey W. Carr, one of Jersey City's oldest and best known citizens, died yesterday at his home, 78 Magnolia avenue, at the age of 81. He had been a member of the old Board of Public Works and an assessment commissioner and was vice-president of the Bergen Improvement Association at the time of his death. He was a trustee of the First Universalist Church. A daughter, Miss Ellen M. Carr, survives him.

Mrs. Elizabeth Duer, widow of James Gore King Duer, the banker, died yesterday in this city, of pneumonia, after a short illness, at the age of 83. She was Elizabeth Wilson Meads, daughter of Orlando Meads of Albany, and was married in 1864. She leaves three daughters, Miss Caroline King Duer, Mrs. Joseph Larocque, Jr., and Mrs. Henry Wise Miller. She was an aunt of Mrs. Clarence H. Mackay.

George Malcom, a retired brewer, died on Tuesday at his home, 221 Franklin aven