THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

A Corps of Herald Reporters in the Crowded Class Rooms.

Over Twenty Schools in an Unsanitary Condition.

Overcrowding, Fetid Atmosphere and Foul-Smelling Closets.

Ugly Revelations in the Fourteenth Ward.

Demoralizing Temptations to the Children of the Poor.

On Monday last, with the view of ascertaining what truth there is in the charge that many of the public schools are dangerously crowded, illy ventilated and the scholars affected by disease, a corps of HERALD reporters inspected all the schools below Fourteenth street. All the class rooms were visited and the temperature closely noted. In many of these class rooms the thermometer proved that they were kept at a point of temperature dangerous to the pupils. From the descriptions given below it will be seen that a number of the schools are distressingly overcrowded, while others are so wretchedly ventilated as to seriously endanger the health of the occupants. One school is reported unfit for habitation. In a number of them the closets are so situated that the windows of the class rooms must be kept closed to prevent the foul odors entering and permeating the entire structure. Two schools in the Fourteenth ward were found where the innocent little girls are subjected to grossly demoralizing influences. This inspection clearly establishes the necessity for prompt and sweeping reformatory measures on the part of the local trustees, as well as the Board of Education.

SIXTH WARD.

Grammar School No. 23.—Perhaps there is not in the city any educational building in greater need of more ample accommodations than Grammar School No. 23, in City Hall place. It is one of the oldest schools in the city, built according to old time methods, and so effectually shut in by blank walls as to be cut off from anything like a sufficiency of light and air. The class rooms in some departments are as full as they can well be and any further influx of pupils would evidently lead to considerable discomfort and positively dangerous sanitary results. The reporter took care to ascertain these facts, as he had been informed some time since that it was the intention of the ward trustees to give up a building close by, which they have been using as a school, and crowd its occupants into the narrow limits of the grammar department. It appears that this outside building was leased some time ago by the trustees to accommodate the children who could not be supplied with seat room in the school. Two classes were located there, and now there are almost a hundred children in it. To take these away and cram them into narrow places hardly large enough to hold them is more than an indiscreet proceeding—it is a positive inhumanity. When the reporter visited the school he asked the principal where these incoming pupils were to be accommodated, and two spaces were shown him in the assembly room, which are to be partitioned off for the use of the two new classes. These spaces are about fourteen feet square, and when it is known that about fifty children are to be crowded into each of them an idea may be conceived of the comfort and health they will be likely to enjoy. To add to the extreme unfitness of these rooms for occupation, the closets are located on the floor with them and are accessible only through them. As a consequence a constant passage and repassage of children from other classes will be entailed, and what annoyance this will be likely to cause both teachers and pupils can be easily divined. The school trustees are charged with the care of the children intrusted to them. Let them pause before assuming such a responsibility as they contemplate in cramming a hundred more little children into the close, ill ventilated class rooms of Grammar School No. 23.

SEVENTH WARD.

Grammar School No. 12.—In Grammar School No. 12, located in Madison street, near Jackson, the reporter found that the accommodations were quite inadequate to meet the demand upon them. This school is in a neighborhood where a large number of tenement houses are built, and although there is more ample school room in this ward than in many others of its size, its school going population is far in excess of most of them, and this is a point which seems to have received very little consideration. The residents of this locality belong for the most part to the laboring classes, and many of their children receive only the instruction comprised in the primary course before they are withdrawn from school. Consequently the primary departments in most of them are overcrowded, and in spite of the old time expedients existing in them for supplying light and heat they are entirely unsuited for occupation by children who are easily affected by draughts and impure air. This school is one of the oldest in the city, dating from 1832, and having all the disadvantages to be found in such old structures. Several wings have been added to it in the course of the last few years, but they have contributed very little to increase the capacity of the building. The erection of large tenement houses in the rear has shut out the light from the lower floors, and the wing projections also interfere with it to some extent above. A few of the rooms are comparatively well ventilated, but some are so located that it is quite impossible to supply air without creating an injurious draught, and there are two apartments from which the light is almost entirely debarred. There exists an urgent necessity of extending this school over a larger area, and providing ampler accommodations for the primary pupils than they now enjoy. The attendance, when the reporter called, was 1,295, and more care should certainly be taken where such a large number of children are crowded together to afford better warming facilities than stoves, and some other chances for lighting and ventilating than those supplied by wall enclosed windows. Various cases of croup and occasional instances of affections of the throat were reported in the classes of younger children, the teachers of whom are themselves disposed to properly appreciate the extreme unfitness of the building in its present state for occupation.

Grammar School No. 2.—Grammar School No. 2, in Henry street, has lately been altered and revamped, and presented inside an orderly and cleanly appearance. It is warmed by heaters, and as their supply of heat is under the control of the teachers the temperature of the class rooms is easily regulated. A system of reports has been introduced by the principal, Mr. Hagerty, which is well calculated to insure proper attention to ventilation on the part of the teachers and which remedies to some extent the disadvantages which an attendance of nearly 1,500 pupils naturally creates. A card is placed in the hands of every teacher at the opening of school and a correct thermometrical report is exacted at different hours of the day. The reporter found the class rooms pretty well aired and lighted, but the capacity of the building is far too small for an attendance which is still increasing. The playground is a very narrow enclosure, affording little chance for recreation, and although an effort has been made to so distribute the pupils through the building as to overcrowd no single room it is found unavoidable, and the greatest necessity exists for extending the structure and further increasing its accommodations.

EIGHTH WARD.

Grammar School No. 8.—This school is well constructed, but poorly ventilated. Many of the teachers have been suffering from slight illness caused by colds during the winter. The primary department has a low ceiling, and is the worst part of the building, which looks very well from the outside. The school has a large number of pupils. In the primary department on Monday there was an attendance of 399, with an average of 405. This school runs behind its average on account of the Jewish children, who have to remain home to celebrate the Jewish New Year.

Colored Grammar School No. 2.—This colored school is located in an old building in South Fifth avenue, constructed of brick and wood, and is cramped, cribbed and confined in its spaces. The building is unfit for occupation as a school, and in the neighborhood it is more than hinted that any kind of a building will do for colored children and their teachers. This building should be either altered and good ventilation provided, or it should be torn down by the Board of Education at once. The attendance Monday was, in the primary department, 117, with an average of 116 pupils; grammar department 74, with an average of 74. There have been many cases of sickness in this school and many pupils are absenting themselves.

NINTH WARD.

Grammar School No. 3.—At No. 409 Hudson street, is located in a large building at the corner of Grove and Hudson streets. Notwithstanding its dimensions and the really ample rooms set apart for the different scholars it is very much overcrowded. The principal of each of the departments admits this. The highest attendance on any day since January 1, 1876, was 604 in the boys' department—within 12 of the registered maximum. The average number of absentees since that same date was 15. The principal of this department considered that his school was overcrowded by at least 100 pupils. The average daily attendance during 1875 was 556. In the female department the attendance of Monday had not yet been made up, so that the highest number of pupils on one of the days of last week had to be taken. This was 604; the lowest was 448, and the average absenteeism 30. In this department, which is well ventilated, the principal tries to keep the temperature at 70 deg.; but, with the overcrowding, it is impossible. In the primary branch there were 734 children on Monday, and although 137 of those registered were absent, the class rooms were too full. It should not be forgotten that these rooms are ventilated only by means of the windows, and on very cold days these cannot always be used. The health of the children is reported as having been pretty good, notwithstanding the prevalence of throat affections. There have been no deaths.

TENTH WARD.

Grammar School No. 20.—The total number of pupils on the register in the Chrystie street school was 2,028. Boys' department, 521; girls', 415, and primary, 1,092. The building is well aired and lighted. The ceilings are high, and an air of comfort exists there. Like other schools, however, there is a tendency to overcrowding. In the primary department the salaries of the principal and vice principal depend upon the number of scholars on the register. Should the number fall below 1,000 a reduction of their salaries would be the consequence. Whenever a promotion to the grammar department of a large number of the children takes place they are forced to canvass for scholars to maintain their quota. This is the case in all schools, and it is a premium on overcrowding which is chargeable to the rules laid down by the Board of Education. The classes here average 50 scholars, and the rooms are not equal to the number of classes. The general condition of the school is above the average. The main fault is in locating class rooms for some of the primary children in such close proximity to the closets that it is necessary to keep the windows closed at all times, to exclude the foul air. The children are, as a rule, healthy.

Grammar School No. 7.—The above school, at No. 60 Chrystie street, is one of the oldest in the city—the main building having been standing fully fifty years. It was built under the supervision of the Public School Society years before the ward schools were inaugurated. It is wretchedly ventilated and heated with stoves. The primary department is located on the first floor on a level with the ground, and there being no cellar under it is unhealthy. It is overcrowded to a distressing degree, so much so that four classes are confined to two class rooms in an outbuilding attached to the school. The stove pipes and flues are out of order, and smoke from them filled the rooms. This has been so since last winter. Workmen have endeavored to remedy the evil several times, but without effect. Every half hour during the day the teachers are compelled to open the windows to allow the smoke to pass out. The percentage of sickness this winter has been larger than in previous ones. The school is to be closed and remodelled on May 1. This will leave at home or cast on the other already overcrowded buildings 1,225 children. It would be a far better plan to entirely demolish the present structure.

Grammar School No. 42.—This school, in Allen street, is one of the largest, if not the largest, school in the city, the total number of scholars being 2,770. The primary department numbers 1,600 children, divided into twenty-five classes. There are only twenty class rooms for them. The large assembly room is subdivided by folding doors into six more to accommodate the rest. The air in some of the rooms was foul and the ventilation very poor. The building is heated with steam, and the means of egress are good in case of necessity for a hasty dismissal. The grammar departments for boys and girls are in better condition, less crowded and better lighted, and also comparatively well ventilated. The general health of the children is good.

ELEVENTH WARD.

Grammar School No. 15.—This school, on Fifth street, between avenues C and D, was originally a small building containing but two class rooms on each floor. Wing after wing has been added until now there are fifty-one class rooms, and yet the structure is still old. The principal, Mr. N. P. Beers, says that it is with the greatest difficulty that a sufficient amount of fresh air can be obtained without subjecting the children to cold. An inspection of the several rooms found them of pleasant temperature, and all the boys and girls looked happy and contented. The old method of heating was by wood stoves, and these were removed to give way to steam radiators. The former were more preferable, as with them the ventilation was decidedly better than now. Mr. Beers has two improved radiators on trial in the assembly room, these being so constructed that volumes of fresh air are heated and then diffused. By the greatest pertinacity only did he succeed in having these placed in the building to give them a trial. They have greatly improved the ventilation of the rooms, and are much superior to the old, health destroying mechanical absurdities, the common steam radiators. Generally here the children are very healthy, as for instance in the boys' department, month of February last, with the registered number of 532 scholars, there was an average attendance of 506. On Monday, in this department, of the registered number of 530 there were 506 in their places, leaving 24 as being absent. In the girls' department there were 460 present out of 510 scholars, and of about the same number the average attendance in February was 485. In the primary department, of 928 registered there were 849 present. The average daily attendance in February was 828. The school is not overcrowded, as the principal has taken the most decided stand against admitting more children than he has room to pleasantly accommodate. What objections exist are due to the class rooms on the ground floor. Little children are compelled to remain in apartments that at once suggest sickness, and improvement in this respect is demanded. The total number of scholars in this school on Monday morning was 1,815, out of a registered 1,968, leaving 175 absentees. Many of the latter were children of Jewish parents, and they seldom attend immediately preceding and following their festival days. Miss Urania D. Secord is at the head of the girls' department and Miss A. L. Madden in charge of the primary classes.

Primary School No. 5, in East Fourth Street.—Of a registered 802 scholars there were present on Monday morning 687, leaving 115 absentees. Last week the average daily attendance was 718, and in February it was 686. The several class rooms were clean, and Miss Julia C. Flanagan, the principal, assured the HERALD reporter that the school was not overcrowded in any sense whatever. From the size of some of the rooms, however, and the number of children of tender years that remain in them five hours a day, there are fears that they are packed a little too closely, and though there may remain a vacant seat or two, it is very difficult to properly ventilate the rooms without giving colds to the little ones. The teachers are on the alert, and in this wise do the best they can, but more room could not be objected to. There have been many children ill during the winter months, but most of the sickness has been due to the weather.

Grammar School No. 22.—At the corner of Stanton and Sheriff streets this school is situated. It is one of the newer educational structures built by the city, but yet there is not sufficient accommodations for the scholars that daily flock to its rooms. In the boys' department there were present on Monday 396 out of a registered 445. Last week the average attendance was 410, and in the month of February 368. The registered number of girls is 480, the attendance on Monday being 454, as against the average daily showing of 415 in February. The primary classes give 933 as the registered number, while there were present 901. The daily average of February was 900. There is order and cleanliness in the rooms, and attention is given to the all-important requirement of ventilation, though one or two of the boys' apartments were slightly warm for health. In each of these departments one or more classes were in the main or assembly room, owing to the lack of proper accommodation, and there is also a dearth of teachers here. There have been many children ill during the past two or three months, but the bright weather is bringing them around nicely. The total registered number of scholars in this school is 1,858, while the attendance when visited was 1,751, showing 107 were absent. Mr. Sidney W. Merritt is principal of the boys' department, Miss Francis J. Murray the girls' and Miss Julia A. Bell the primary.

Grammar School No. 36.—The temporary quarters of this school are at the old private hospital building, corner of avenue D and East Tenth street. A new structure is in process of construction in East Ninth street, the old building having been destroyed by fire. The present house is inadequate to comfortably accommodate the scholars, though, perhaps, it was the best that could be obtained in the immediate neighborhood. In the boys' department, on Monday, of the 310 registered there were 270 present; in the girls' department of 251 registered 240 were in their places, and in the primary department of 366 on the books 722 answered to their names. The rooms lack the pleasant appearance of some of the schools in the ward, and in many instances they are uncomfortably crowded. The head of the boys' department, Mr. A. Dubois, said that the school generally was healthy, and that, under the circumstances, they were doing very well. The total number of registered scholars here is 1,361, of which on Monday 1,232 were in their seats, leaving 129 absentees. Mrs. Melinda H. Clarke is in charge of the girls and Miss Victoria A. Hulen the primary department. The average daily attendance in February was:—Male, 279; female, 242; primary, 701.

THIRTEENTH WARD.

Grammar School No. 34, Broome Street, Near Willett.—Mr. Morton, the male principal, has ten assistants, and Miss Godney, of the primary, has fifteen assistants. The girls' grammar department has a principal and ten assistants. The attendance is as follows, one day last week being taken as an illustration:—Boys present, 428; girls present, 406; primary boys, 322; primary girls, 324; total present, 1,480. Boys absent in grammar department, 25; girls absent, 46; absent both sexes in primary department, 25; total absent, 96. The average attendance in February was:—Boys, 405; girls, 422; primary, 822; total, 1,649. There has been some sickness among the children, and the female department is so crowded that about 100 scholars are kept in the main room. Miss Godney, of the primary department, sent up four classes in February; that accounts for this overcrowding. Her room is still so crowded that she has placed classes in the main room. The discipline is good, and the children are very neat and clean, especially in the primary branch of the school.

Cannon Street Primary School No. 10.—Miss Miller, the principal, has nine assistants, and the average daily attendance in February was 427. The report Friday last was:—Present—Boys, 351; girls, 224; total present, 655. Absent—Boys, 23; girls 39; total absent, 62. The principal reports that the school is not overcrowded, and 100 more could be accommodated; that there has been considerable sickness this year among the scholars and some deaths. The building is heated by hot air, and there is ample means of ingress and exit. A great nuisance is the location of the closets under the class rooms, instead of being placed in the yard. Otherwise there is little to complain of.

FOURTEENTH WARD.

Ward School No. 21, Marion Street.—This is a grammar school, with E. J. Delaney and six assistants in charge of the boys, Miss Sweeney and six assistants in charge of the girls and Miss Connor and nine assistants in charge of the primary branch. One day last week was selected as an illustration of the present and absent:—Boys present, 211; girls present, 220; boys absent, 18; girls absent, 22. Primary—Boys present, 224; girls pres nt, 218; boys and girls absent, 96. Total present, 873; total absent, 136. The average attendance in February was:—Boys, 228; girls, 205; primary (mixed), 426. In the primary department no thermometers were used in the class rooms. The teachers report but little overcrowding, but considerable sickness from sore throat, diphtheria and other diseases which children are heirs to. German, drawing and music are taught by special teachers. One of the lady teachers complains of very offensive smells in the rear class rooms. An examination shows that the closets are under the rear class rooms. They are exceedingly foul, and the offensive odor ascends, and, entering the windows, permeates the class rooms. The offence is rank, and somebody is certainly guilty of criminal negligence in the premises.

Ward School No. 5, No. 222 Mott Street.—This is one of the old style of school structures, the class rooms of which are pretty well ventilated and well lighted. The attendance and absentees are about as follows:—Boys present, 155; boys absent, 23; primary boys present, 241; primary boys absent, 10; primary girls present, 154; primary girls absent, 10. Total present, 550; total absent, 43. The average daily attendance in February was:—Boys, 156; primary, 360; total 516. The teachers report that, owing to the proximity of the parochial schools that exist in the ward, there is little or no overcrowding. There has been some sickness, but the children are now generally healthy. There is no female grammar department, as the girls some sixteen months ago were transferred to Marion street school. The building is heated by wood stoves. In the male department nearly every thermometer in the class rooms was broken. Mr. Birningham has five assistants, and Miss M. E. McGill, of the primary branch, has seven and a music teacher. The classes are mixed with both sexes. In this school was found a condition of things that is simply indecent and immoral. The closets are just inside the front doors by the entrance, and under the class rooms, instead of the rear yard. They are not protected by doors, are accessible to the bummers of the ward, and it is notorious that the children have no privacy. No wonder the morals of little girls are corrupted with such a condition of things that is a burning shame to the Board of Education and the local trustees, who, if they apply to the janitor, will hear some stories too disgusting to be put in print. The closets sadly require fumigating to prevent the foul air being carried into the class rooms above.

Grammar School No. 30, Baxter Street.—Considering the neighborhood and the fact that the children are the offspring of the poor, the school is a credit to the ward. Miss Connolly, the principal of the girls' branch, has three assistants, and Miss Ahern, of the primary branch, seven assistants. In the girls' rooms there were present Monday, 134 and absent 18. The average daily attendance is about 137. In the primary there were present 197 boys and 24 absent, and 148 girls present and 26 absent. The daily average in February was 323. The teachers report the health of the children good, and room for 100 more. The janitor, Bernard Doran, is 102 years of age, and on Monday performed nearly all the labors of heating and cleaning. The same complaint is made here as at the Mott street school. The closets are beside the front entrances, are without doors, open to the indecent acts of the bummers from the streets; and although the janitor is assisted by an able-bodied son, it is impossible to prevent scenes destructive of morals and an outrage upon decency.

FIFTEENTH WARD.

Grammar School No. 10.—This school is located in one of the most depraved neighborhoods in the city, and many efforts have been made by citizens to break up two places of ill fame which are an open and flagrant insult to the pupils of the building. The school is in a poor condition. During the past winter the school has been at times so cold, because the heaters were not properly attended to by the Board of Education, that the children have suffered rather from cold than over ventilation. The attendance on Monday was:—Boys' grammar department 335, average 340; girls' grammar department 250, average 280; primary department 500, average 520. Many promotions have occurred during the past week. The teachers do not consider that the school is overcrowded so much as they believe that there are not sufficient class rooms. They also say that the imperfection in the ventilation is the cause of croup and colds. Teachers also state that the boys' department is full, but not overcrowded.

Grammar School No. 35.—In this school, which has a very large number of scholars (all boys), the ventilation is fair, but not as good as it might be, the building being quite old, although it has undergone many alterations, some of which have been for the better, while others are of no benefit. The principal, Mr. Fisher, pays special attention to the ventilation of his school, every day making inspection personally, and is thus able to remedy one of the defects of the construction of the building. In the grammar department the attendance on Monday was 1,010 and the average is about 1,000. The primary department had an attendance of 478, with an average of 486 pupils. In the primary department the ceiling was quite low, the air fetid and the class rooms are crowded. Three classes are constantly taught in the large room of the primary department, green screens being used as temporary partitions, and more class rooms are needed at once, as the children's health is not what it should be by any means. The boys' grammar department has 200 or 300 more pupils than any other department of a like kind in the city.

SEVENTEENTH WARD.

Grammar School No. 13, East Houston Street.—The attendance on Monday in the boys' school was 525; absent, 29. There are ten class rooms, in seven of which there is overcrowding of from six to twenty. No refusals of admission are made. This week there will be an increase of seventy-five pupils, promotions from the primary department. The attendance for the past two months averaged daily 465, ninety-four per cent of the whole register. In the girls' school the attendance on Monday was 490, which is the average. Fifteen pupils were absent. The class rooms are not overcrowded. In the primary department the attendance was 878, only five pupils being absent. Promotions to the number of 116 were made to the grammar school. The average attendance last month was 1,020. Within the past few weeks the local Board of Trustees ordered the closing of the class rooms on the ground floor, which sent away to other schools fifty children. These rooms were considered to be unhealthy. There are now school accommodations for 900 children in the department. There is at present serious overcrowing in the class rooms. The names of 300 children waiting for admission are on the books. The principal of the male department of the grammar school is Mr. Litchfield; of the female department, Miss Anna Hazard, and of the primary department, Mrs. Haggerty.

Grammar School No. 25, Fifth Street, between First and Second Avenues.—In the boys' department, on Monday, there were 426 names on the roll, thirty-three pupils being absent. The average attendance has been 432. Sickness has prevailed considerably during the winter months, especially in February. The class rooms are not overcrowded, but are well filled. The male department can accommodate 500 children easily. Ventilation is very imperfect, it being found difficult to free the rooms of foul air without going to the other extremity of cooling them too much. Thermometers are suspended in all the rooms, and the temperature is as carefully attended to as possible, an average of 70 degrees being sought for. Patent ventilators are in use; but the principal pronounces them to be inadequate to afford the desired degree of temperature. The class rooms are also badly arranged, it being difficult for the teacher to exercise a full control over each of the pupils in the seats. In the girls' department the number of pupils present was 467, twenty children being absent. The average attendance in February was 459, and in January 479. The regular daily attendance is good. There are ten class rooms, none of them overcrowded. This week the register will be increased by sixty from the primary department and about thirty from other schools in the ward. It is complained that on warm days the temperature of the rooms is excessive, the thermometer marking 78 degrees.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC NOTES.

To-night "Ferreol" will be played for the first time at the Union Square Theatre.

Hans Von Bülow commences a series of piano recitals to-night at Chickering Hall. Beethoven supplies the bill.

"Rose Michel" will be brought out at the Brooklyn Theatre this evening, with Miss Rose Eytinge as the heroine.

Robert McWade's version of "Rip Van Winkle" is to be played at the Arch Street Theatre, Philadelphia, this week.

"Der Freischutz" will be sung at the Academy on April 18, by Mrs. Imogene Brown, Messrs. Bischoff and Remmertz and the Liederkranz and Arion societies.

The big San Francisco Academy of Music, built by Lucky Baldwin, on Market street, has been opened. Barry Sullivan made his first appearance there in California as Richard III.

"Daisy Farm," which has had a worthy representation at the Chestnut Street Theatre, Philadelphia, has been withdrawn. "The Romance of a Poor Young Man" is presented this week.

The Speranza Amateur Dramatic Association is a new organization in the histrionic field, and will shortly give a Shakespearian performance for a charitable purpose.

Maggie Mitchell has underlined "Nannette o' Wearithorne," dramatized from the novel, by Miss Marion Reeves, entitled "Wearithorne," for one evening, during her engagement at St. Louis, which begins to-morrow evening.

Mr. R. Davy, not Mr. Daroy, as has been incorrectly said, is the author of the adaptation of Victor Hugo's "Marion de l'Orme," which Miss Augusta Dargon has accepted, and in which that powerful tragédienne will soon appear.

Mr. Appleby, proprietor of Central Park Garden, is making extensive preparations for the summer season of concerts. Downing's Ninth Regiment Band will appear, and negotiations are pending with choral societies and celebrated soloists. The garden opens on May 1.

The Florences have made a great hit at the Walnut Street Theatre, Philadelphia, with the "Mighty Dollar." The audience drove the band from the orchestra on several nights last week—not that they loved music less, but the comedy more.

Theodore Thomas gives his fifth symphony concert at Steinway Hall on Saturday night, which will be preceded by a public rehearsal on Thursday afternoon. Miss Drasdil will be the soloist. Bach's Suite, No. 1, in C (first time), the heroic symphony and Wagner's "Faust" overture, form the orchestral programme.

An entertainment, in aid of the funds of the Brooklyn branch of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, will be given this afternoon and evening at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. In the evening a comedy by Mr. Henry Bergh, entitled "The Hard Sex," will be performed, with an appropriate prologue by Mr. Elbridge T. Gerry.

Coccia's "Stabat Mater" was sung last night at St. Ann's church, Twelfth street, under the direction of the eminent organist, Louis Dachauer. The soloists were Mlle. Corradi, Mlle. Gomien, Ch. Fritsch and Blum. The favorite pupil of Paisiello and composer of over forty operas, Charles Coccia, made his greatest success in writing for church choirs. In his "Stabat Mater" the most striking feature is an ingeniously and effectively constructed quartet, without accompaniment, which was sung in the best style by the admirable quartet of singers that appeared on the occasion. Dachauer's grand "Ave Maria" and Neukomm's "Tantum Ergo" were given during Benediction. Mme. Grand Val's "Stabat Mater" will be the feature next Sunday evening.

BISMARCK.

Private Letters of the Famous Chancellor.

HIS HUMOR AND STYLE OF JOKING.

What He Thinks of Marriage and the Troubles of Married Life.

The First Baby "Roaring Itself Blue in the Face."

SAYINGS FROM RUSSIA AND PARIS.

BERLIN, March 1, 1876.

The Society of German Bibliophiles have lately issued a very interesting collection of Bismarck's letters, containing several epistles of the celebrated statesman never before published. The edition of the work is very elegant, and much better than generally the case in German books. The publishers, Messrs. Delhagen & Klasing, of Leipsic, have copied in print and form one of the old Ezevirs, the whole presenting a very stylish appearance. The letters of Bismarck published in this edition deserve the greatest attention. The leading European statesman is no hidden, unapproachable nature. He neither veils himself before his friends and assistants nor before his opponents. His political life, efforts and thoughts lie in large, universal traits, exposed to the whole world. Every one, nevertheless, involuntarily thinks that this man "of blood and iron" cannot be sociable, even in confidential intercourse with his family and the intimacy of home. These letters, however, show him as a private man exactly as we know him as a politician. Everywhere in his affectionate letters to his wife and his only sister sparkles the humor of a genial character. His sense for everything practical—in fact, the key to Bismarck policy—betrays itself even in the most unimportant trifles of life. His bold courage, love of enterprise, happy carelessness are easily discernible in the off-hand style of his relations of little adventures and daily events. Bismarck displays himself in this book as

A MASTER OF SHORT HUMORISTIC LETTERS,

in which he easily glides from friendly jokes into practical household discussions, intermixed with delightful descriptions, which, when "his political career had been a failure," would have rendered him a brilliant journalist. The first letters in the collection, dated between the years of 1844 and 1846, are all addressed to his sister, his confidante—then lately married to Baron Arnim Kröchelndorf—whom he styles affectionately "mademoiselle," "dearest Arnim," "my little one," "ma sœur," "madam." All these youthful letters breathe a very pleasant love of great heartiness and vivacity. The robust "Junker," who, after a wild, adventurous university life, undertakes the management of his father's estate in Pomerania, and owing to his reckless frolics is known among his neighbors as "the foolhardy Bismarck," has an open eye for the attractions of country life and spares in his harmless sallies neither the circle in which he moves nor himself. From Norderney, where, when staying for the first time, he was filled with that passion for the sea predominant in him ever since, he described in a humorous, titful mood the parsimonious *table d'hôte* at which the guests daily assembled. "Beside me," he writes, "sits a Danish lady, whose appearance fills me with sadness and homesickness, for she reminds me of stout old Pfeffer in Kniephof (an old family servant on his Pomeranian estate) when he was somewhat thinner. She must be good natured or fate was unjust toward her. Her voice is gentle and she, in self-denial, always offers me twice of the dish standing before her. Opposite me sits an old Minister, one of those old bureaucrats who trouble us in dreams—a corpulent frog without legs, who opens his mouth at every bite to his shoulders like a travelling bag, so that I hold giddily on to the edge of the table. My other neighbor is a Russian officer, a good fellow, built like a bootjack—a long, slender body and short, crooked legs."

BISMARCK ON HIS ESTATE.

In his first letters Bismarck touchingly inquires after his father, who, subsequent to the death of his mother, lived alone on his family estate, Schönhausen. He instructs his sister to write to the old gentleman more of the little events of daily life:—"Who has been residing at their house, what they had for dinner, how the horses are getting on, whether the doors creak and the windows rattle—in short, facts." Later on he writes to his sister from his estate at Kniephof:—"Only with difficulty can I overcome an inclination to fill my letter with agricultural complaints on night frosts, sick cattle, bad crops, worse roads, dead lambs, hungry sheep, want of straw, food, money, potatoes and manure. To heighten my aggravation John is whistling outside, as persistently as falsely, an infamous schottische, and I have not the courage to forbid it, as he doubtlessly is endeavoring thus to appease his violent lovesickness. The ideal of his dreams has lately, at the persuasions of her parents, refused him and married a wheelwright.

EXACTLY MY CASE,

with the exception of the wheelwright, who is still hidden in the lap of futurity. I must really—the deuce take it!—marry, for since father's departure I feel lonely and solitary, and a mild damp state of weather makes me melancholy, longing and in love. No resistance is of avail. I must marry—the people will have it so—and nothing seems more natural, as we two brothers are left alone. My lady love does not produce a great impression on me, but that no lady does; it is at any rate satisfactory where one cannot change his inclinations with his shirt, as seldom even as the latter may occur." How faithful Bismarck later on clings to his wife and children may be seen from many of his letters. After a short acquaintance he married his wife, a Baroness Pullkammer, on the 28th of July, 1847; made a wedding tour to Italy, and then settled down on his ancestral estate, Schönhausen, where he was shortly afterward elected as member of the Prussian House of Commons. During his stay in Berlin, as Deputy, his eldest son was born, to whose christening the worthy pastor Gossner was invited. One extract from the few letters in which he describes he cares and

TROUBLES OF A NEWLY MARRIED HAPPINESS,

in spite of the long mien he draws, the pleasure and pride of the young father, which he depicts to his sister from Schönhausen in the following humorous manner:—"The boy howling in major, the girl in minor, two singing nurses, and between wet diapers and milk bottles sit I as loving father. I have for a long time resisted the entreaties of my wife to visit a watering place with my family; but, as all mothers and aunts were agreed that only sea air and water could help poor little Marie, I should, if refused, hear complaints at every cold taken by the child up to her seventieth year, of my avarice and fatherly barbarity. I have very unwillingly decided to give up my country leisure; but having done so, the affair is beginning to take a rosy hue and I delight in the prospect of shortly being able to seize with my own hands coast herrings in the depths of the Baltic." A few days later, still occupied with the excursion, he adds:—"In reality, my yielding to this journey gives me a right of being placed in the new mad asylum, or at least of becoming a lifelong member of the House of Deputies. I see myself already, with the children on the Gentlun platform, and then in the carriage, with all sorts of childish necessaries in the midst of a party turning up their noses with disgust. Johanna, my wife, is ashamed to give the boy the breast, and he is roaring himself blue in the face; then a visitation of passports, a crowded hotel and finally waiting with both crying monkeys at Augermunde for horses. I was yesterday so desperate at all these prospects that I positively resolved to abandon the journey, but Johanna fell upon me in the night with the boy on her arms, and, with all arts that deprived us of Paradise, as a matter of course managed that everything should remain as arranged. I feel, however, like one who is shamefully used. Next year I shall certainly have to

TRAVEL WITH THREE CRADLES,

wet nurses, diapers, beds, * * * and if one only received a salary as deputy! But to travel with nurselings, on the remains of a fine fortune, I am very happy!" Notwithstanding all these sighs and groans it is palpable what satisfaction the young father finds in his little family. These letters of his youth and manhood show us the great statesman in his private life, before entering upon his political career. Although in the remaining part of the collection only one letter is of a purely political nature, nearly every line, even in the most harmless correspondence with his family, betrays in his frank and candid character the political schemes and thoughts in possession of him.

The next chapter begins with letters from the time of his stay at Frankfort-on-the-Maine as Prussian Minister to the German Diet, where he feels very uncomfortable. As Prussian "Inuker," filled with an overconsciousness that his country is called upon to play a great *rôle* in the world's history, he is pained that it is thrust in the background by Austria in the German Confederacy and not treated with due respect. The hollowness of the German Diet was soon perceived by him. Only a few weeks after his arrival in Frankfort he wrote to his wife:—"I never doubted that the representatives of the federal governments in the German Diet cooked with water; but such insipid, stupid water soup, in which no trace of fat can be found, surprises me. Send a groom from the stable or a boy from the kitchen when he is washed and combed. I will here make a show of him in diplomacy. Every one of us in the Diet acts as though he thought the other was full of astonishing schemes and plans if he would only exhibit them, and in reality none of us know in the slightest what will happen to Germany more than one of my ploughboys. No one, even the most spiteful republican, believes what charlatanism and airs of importance are hidden in diplomacy." On these complaints of the shallowness of official life follows a description of the charming country round

ABOUT FRANKFORT

and the numerous fine excursions indemnifying him for vexations caused in the federal palace. His travels on the Rhine remind the ripening man of his boisterous frolics when a student, travelling in this beautiful neighborhood. Full of sadness and precocious wisdom, he exclaims:—"If it might please God to fill my worthless being with His clear and strong wine instead of the effervescent champagne uselessly wasted in youth and only leaving sour dregs behind? How many are buried with whom I then loved, drank and played. My views of the world have these last fourteen years undergone many transformations, each successive change of which I considered as the right one, and how much now appears small what then seemed so great." Also in Berlin, when called to the Chamber, his never satisfied spirit seems to yearn for higher pursuits. "There is something demoralizing in the atmosphere of the Chamber," he writes to his wife. "The best people get vain without perceiving it and accustom themselves to the tribune as to a showy article of dress in which they appear in public. The intrigues of the Chamber, I find, above all expression, empty and unworthy. By constant living among them, however, deception works them into wonders. When I come here so raw from Frankfort, I seem like a sober man fallen among drunkards." In 1852, the young statesman, whose abilities seem even then to have been recognized, was sent to Vienna on an extraordinary mission. He follows the court to Olen, and revels with delight on the rural beauties of the Danube. Only the early rising of the Emperor, "the young master" and the court seem to disturb his complacency. With much humor he describes his excursions into the country, the enticing forms everywhere on the way—the peculiar charms of landscape, relates to his wife freely of the beautiful Hungarian women, with dark, flashing eyes, and his conversations with the Emperor on the organization of the Prussian army. In autumn we find him in Blankenbug, in the Harz mountains, at the hunt. Some of his prey is sent home, with instructions "to consume the bear with reflection, and to make some brawn from it, for it was shot by His Majesty's own hand." Next year

BISMARCK, AN ENTHUSIASTIC ADMIRER OF THE SEA,

goes to Ostende. "I have here," he writes to his wife, "again found my old love, and indeed as unchanged and charming as on our first acquaintance. * * * I can really scarcely understand how it is possible not always to live near the sea." On his return to Frankfort his letters to his sister breathe the old depression. In April, 1857, he is sent for the first time to Paris, for a few days only; but his sojourn seems anything but satisfactory. He says:—"I have five chimney-pieces and am always cold; five clocks, all going, and never know how late it is; eleven large looking glasses, and my cravat nevertheless sits always badly." When Emperor Wilhelm, in consequence of the mental disease of his brother, took the reins of government into his hands as regent, the reactionary Cabinet of Manteuffel, toward which Bismarck was never well disposed, owing to its weak foreign policy, was dismissed. As Bismarck was looked upon as a tool of Manteuffel and said to be even more conservative than his chief, he expected his recall. "When," he writes, "I can no longer find the parts of a gentleman and a diplomatist compatible I shall not deliberate twice on giving up the pleasure or burden of spending a high salary with decency. I have enough to live upon, and, if God grants me possession of my wife and children I may well say "*vogue la galère*" in whatever circumstances it may be. In thirty years' time it will be equal to me whether I have been a diplomatist or remained a plain "country tunker." Till now the prospect of a thoroughly honorable struggle, without encumbrance of official fetters, generally attached to political posts, has nearly as much charm for me as the perspective of a continued *régime* of truffles, despatches and decorations. After nine everything is over, as the actor says." His expectations of a recall are fulfilled. The Ministry of the "new era" wanted a "more liberal" representative in the Bundestag. Bismarck is removed to St. Petersburg, "where he feels as champagne placed on ice." In the Russian capital the easily excitable, fiery Frankfort diplomatist changes into an able, far-seeing statesman, without, however, sacrificing any of the original freshness and elasticity of his mind. St. Petersburg seems to suit him. The Dowager Empress, a Prussian Princess by birth, is very gracious toward him, and the Emperor treats him with distinction, added to which the bear hunts are enticing to such a passionate sportsman, and the entire aristocratic tone of society pleases him. However, in the midst of this new circle and new duties, the state of affairs in Germany and bitter experiences made in Frankfort, as well as the means for ameliorating matters, occupy him continually. Shortly after arrival at Petersburg he addresses to Baron Schleinitz, the then Minister of Foreign Affairs, a long memorandum pretty well containing his programme on the question of

GERMAN UNIFICATION.

The following passage in it is especially worthy of note:—"The word 'German' for 'Prussian'! I would only like to be written on our standard when we are more firmly and effectually connected with our other countrymen than at present; it loses its fascination when now employed and used up in the hollow German confederation. I perceive in our relation to the Diet a weakness of Prussia's which we must sooner or later, *ferro et igni*, must heal if we do not employ a timely remedy." This highly interesting note, written several years before the "Parliamentary conflict" and seven years before the Austrian war, contains nearly the same demands as aimed at by the National Union, and, later on, by the most vehement opposers of Bismarck's policy. Politics seem now so entirely to absorb him that he finds little time for his private correspondence. He has removed from the Russian capital to Peterhof, with the beauties of which he is delighted. He thus describes them to his wife:—"Imag