THE FASHIONS.

Comparison of Present Styles with Those of the Past.

SUMMER SILKS.

The Novelties Most Favored by the Beau Monde.

On looking over a little volume, published some time ago, which gives a review of the history of la mode in France, several passages were found which seem almost as though they had been inspired by the spirit of prophecy. A few lines in different portions of the book may be quoted as instances of the difference between the fashions of the present and those of the past.

"In 1530," says the author, "by the example of Marguerite of Navarre the women frizzed their hair on their temples, brushing it back in waves from the forehead. They wore caps of satin or velvet, trimmed with precious stones and gold." Here is found exactly what the most ravishing little caps of to-day are composed of—velvet and lace, with beads and galloons of gold; these are certainly copied from the coiffures of the above mentioned period and remind one of the famous headdress worn by Marie Stuart, with the legendary point lowered on the forehead. All this new freak of fashion for 1878 requires to insure its establishment is the good will and authority of a pretty woman. And again—"In 1636, during the reign of Louis XIII., ladies superposed two dresses—one short, the other long and trained; the corsage was décolleté in a square; the sleeves, large and high, were very tight below the elbow." This style of sleeves is the most fashionable at the present time. "They were lavish in the use of lace for cuffs, collars, veils and trimmings; also ribbons, embroideries, beads, figured galloons, feathers, flowers, flounces and furbelows scattered in profusion on garments."

THE TASTE OF THE PRESENT.

One must observe the agreement between these quotations and the taste of the day. We have beads, feathers, superb embroideries, galloons, gold and glittering braids of all sorts, and toilets and headdresses, for both morning and evening wear, are overladen with these ornaments. Ball dresses in tulle or gauze absolutely dazzle one by the brilliancy of their beaded splendor. There is certainly an advantage to be derived from this luxury and extravagance in dress; it forms another trade for women, that of an embroideress. This work is pretty to do and remunerative.

One of our great "maison de nouveautés" has just created a model of a dress which seems destined to obtain a great success. The material is a fine woollen texture of the natural color, known as beige, the trimmings which accompany it are embroidered with beads of the same shade. This bead has not the brilliancy of jet, of clair de lune, nor of Parc au ciel; it accords admirably with a costume of this material, and is likely to be most popular with ladies who desire to follow the fashion in a quiet ladylike manner. For evening dress a very pretty berthe is now worn, which deserves to be noticed, the more so as it is but little known. This graceful model is in white crepe lisse, draped in flat folds round the corsage décolleté. The berthe is rather low in front and at the back; however it is long over the shoulders, where it falls in a square. Nothing can be more becoming and graceful than all this soft looking crepe round the shoulders.

MODERN FASHION'S ADAPTABILITY.

There is nothing more remarkable about modern fashion than its flexibility, its adaptation to individual style and taste. The elderly lady can wear her plain gown, with leg of mutton sleeves, if she likes, and flat real lace collar and coiffure, such as she would have worn twenty years ago and be "all right." The lady of middle age can trail her elegant princess dress in stately matron fashion, and the young girl wear a short dress of thin wool or pretty cotton, and one and all be attired beyond cavil or reproach. All that is essential to style and taste is harmony and reality. The pretty yoked waists and basques are among the most becoming designs of the season, and are especially suited to the lighter washing materials, to prints, ginghams and the like, also to the somewhat straight and slender style of American female architecture.

The most remarkable thing in dress material is the manner in which all the rare and costly fabrics are imitated in cheaper lines of goods. The bourettes, checked, *bouclé* and basket-woven stuffs in the fine kinds, costing from $1 a yard upward, are found imitated in cotton and cotton and wool goods, costing not more than ten, fifteen and twenty-five cents a yard. The marvelous shades of color are imitated, too. There are the pale grays, shot with bright gold color, red and blue; the pale and dark grounds, in shades of olive-green, bronze, tilleul, navy blue and water blue; even delicate tints of shell pink and chamois or buff, shot with light or dark lines of positive color, all in cotton goods and at the prices mentioned above.

NEW IDEAS IN GRENADINES.

No class of materials has been more largely affected by the spread of bourette designs than grenadines, of which now seem scarcely to be genuine lines, so greatly has their character become changed. Black or black is not infrequent, but very beautiful. White showy grenadines have silken and fleecy beautiful and some bright color, crimson or bright pink dashes of pale, woven in in a pattern or small [illegible] blue, for examples, comparatively few threads of black. [illegible] check, with centres is black, with flattened threads. Grenadine lamines blue steel or red tinsel—weft of metal—gold, silver, black grenadines have arm[illegible] even in the bars. Other effects, and many of the [illegible]re grounds, with crapelike small patterns in [illegible] brocaded grenadines are in shapes. Gauzes, [illegible] flower sprays or lozenge stylish transformations [illegible] like manner, evince many to those which [illegible]tions and show changes similar Many charming [illegible] have taken place in grenadines. Evening or [illegible]gly tasteful examples, designed for laces of w[illegible] summer wear, are found in both on surfaces of color[illegible]ite, and all the pale shades, combinations varied [illegible] or texture—oftentimes of the two—afford adm[illegible] opportunity for choice. Plainly woven grenadines, however, are always in demand, and, like black silks, seem never to become unfashionable. Therefore they are presented and are purchased by ladies who shrink from dressier styles. Plainly woven grenadines begin at fifty cents per yard. Drap mirabeau shows on a surface of havane, or some other subdued shade, regular stripes, in self-color or in contrast, which, composed of short, fringe-like ends, lying flat, are yet capable of being roughened by the touch, or, to use a familiar expression, it "rubbed the wrong way." Whence the connection between such fabric and the terrible patriot of the French Revolution seems difficult to determine.

SUMMER SILKS.

Light summer silks in small checks or stripes, though hardly stylish, may be regarded as standard goods, since for a certain class of persons they seem almost a necessity. This year, in narrow widths, they commence as low as fifty cents per yard. Something handsome, lustrous and soft is the American armure pongee. It is of pure silk, in solid as well as double colors, in which black forms the background and the narrow zigzag stripe running lengthwise, is of cardinal red, dark blue or any other desirable color. Still another variety of this pongee shows the bourette peculiarity, and is striped lengthwise with rough, cord-like threads of fawn and dark brown mingled. "Gros faille" is the name of a class of silks, without stiffening or gum finish, lustrous, and of all the prevailing shades worn at the present time. It is also very beautiful in white, is soft and drapes in the most graceful manner. Printed silks which have black grounds, with pinhead dots, stripes, small sprays of leaves or a delicate little flower in white, are among the most comfortable and best wearing materials for summer wear. Lace striped bunting is introduced, and bunting plainly woven as hitherto sells at fifty cents a yard. A beautiful soft wool material is buff, or else pale gray, with pinhead blocks of darker buff and gray. Beige is a name applied this season both to a material and a color. The fabric is soft and not unlike camel's hair, and the color is rich brown.

For those who will pass the summer holiday at gay watering places there are exquisite damasses and summer brocades in every conceivable shade. Louisines, with pretty basket squares, silk bourettes and soft armures in pink, blue, chamois and rich cream color. With these summer velvets and gros grain silks of moderate weight are intended for combination.

There is also a fancy material called raye Helotse, with a brown or navy blue ground, varied by perpendicular clouded lines of white. This fabric is similar to peplin and costs $1 a yard for a width of twenty-four inches.

English bareges are again introduced, and combine very beautifully with silk, and the same use is made of plain heavy crapes in light colors.

The new linen batistes are extremely delicate and in the most attractive color, and are made up like grenadines and worn on dressy occasions. Similar shades are found in fine organdies, which are trimmed with the finest Torchon insertings and borderings. For ladies who are not obliged to take laundry expenses into consideration there are beautiful muslins and corded muslins, which will be worn with fichu wraps to match. Some of the prettiest and freshest of these materials are only 12½ cents a yard, and the colors are warranted. The old-fashioned indigo blue English calicoes, with bright orange figures, are used for young ladies' suits, made up with a white vest and blue buttons to match the dress material. Dress linens, newly introduced, are in blue, buff and gray shades, and for these there are bands of embroidery, which render them very showy.

TRIMMINGS.

The richest fringes are mixtures of jet or rainbow beads, with grass or lamina twist and plain heavy twist, with loops and showy pendants of jet and amber—dark red, brown and other colors, which are more somered than clair de lune. This is used for trimming black silk dresses. For colored silks embroidery is first choice, and this is supplied by bands of open work silk galloon, with beads wrought in figures; another style consists of appliques of cashmere and silk, finished by shaded floss needlework, done upon a machine and called "Bonaz embroidery." The richest colors appear in this trimming, and flowers are as handsomely represented as if they were printed. A new trimming for silk is an openwork velvet galloon, brightened at intervals with bits of floss embroidery in high colors. Besides the French laces, which are gaining high favor, there are white silk laces, thickly beaded with the imitation pearl. The latter has a showy and somewhat theatrical effect. White antique laces of heavy patterns form elegant garnitures for rich toilets of dark shades in silk or velvet now employed for dinner and reception occasions. Fine point and other expensive meshes are reserved for the more delicate purposes of lingerie.

A peculiarity of trimming is the simulated style. Frequently the skirt of a handsome toilet has the front breadth made extremely long and gathered upon a cambric underpiece so as to represent a shirred apron; lengthwise or crosswise bands of lace or embroidery are placed upon the side gores, in the panel fashion, and the back is pleated or left plain. For cambric, Scotch gingham and other inexpensive summer fabrics, bands of solid colors, with ruffles of machine embroidery, are as effective as anything, and these, with Smyrna or Torchon laces, are the leading garnitures. Delicate batistes are trimmed with colored needlework, done upon grenadine bands with silk. Such trimmings cost about eighty cents a yard. These are also used to trim grenadines.

MILLINERY.

When bonnets come, they come not single spies,
But in battalions!

This is an apt reflection every spring. Fashion conspires to-day, more than ever before, to puzzle bonnet tasters, as they may be called; for who out of a multitude of shapes, colors and kinds can select with spontaneous discretion? On one side lies the Marie Stuart, the modest cottage shape, the stylish coronet and the arched brim, which nobody better than a blonde knows how to fill out with light frizzes and a ripple of white lace. On the other is the Gainsborough, modified in shape and the brim relieved with rows of silver braid, narrow and delicate, laid down at intervals; the Fra Diavolo, more showy and coquettish; the Peg Wofington, still exceeding the Diavolo, and finally the sloping hat, without defined crown, and more than ever peaked at the peak, pleases the taste of many who pass by more quiet styles. In every shape so far introduced there is choice between high and low, round and square crowns, high brims, low brims, capes and no capes. The English walking hat still holds its place, and perhaps as firmly as it ever did. The Derby crown is as popular as the square crown in such hats, and the height of either is a matter of personal selection.

GILMORE'S BAND.

ITS DEPARTURE FOR EUROPE ON THE CITY OF BERLIN—THE AUSTRALIAN CRICKETERS AND OTHER DISTINGUISHED PASSENGERS.

The City of Berlin, of the Inman line, sailed yesterday freighted with the "promise and potency" of illimitable musical endeavor, a fair complement of muscular Christianity, opulence on a holiday and doubtless various possibilities in the direction of *mal de mer*. About two thousand people assembled on the pier, chiefly with the view of making their adieus to Mr. Gilmore and his band in their individual and collective capacities, and for two hours before the great steamer left her moorings she was crowded with visitors.

THE VOYAGEURS.

There was a passenger list of nearly two hundred and fifty names, and everybody appeared to have hosts of personal friends who firmly believed in the efficacy of that objective species of goodby known as a "send-off." The members of the Australian cricket team, who only arrived from the West in the morning, over the Northwestern line, from Chicago, were perhaps the most isolated, but even in their case there were some members of the St. George's Cricket Club present to wish them a pleasant voyage. Miss Emma C. Thursby was among the departures, and of course there were numberless friends in attendance to say farewell to that blithe songster. Mr. Jarrett was among these, as were also Mr. Joseph Tooker, Mr. Weber and many others. The orthodox offerings of flowers were also in order, and in this way valedictories came to this popular lady nestling in bouquets. Miss Thursby makes the voyage for rest and recreation, is under no engagements, but will sing at the Philharmonic, London. She is accompanied by her mother and by her sister, Miss Alice Thursby, and will return to this country in the fall. Mr. Donald G. Mitchell (Ik Marvel) is among the passengers. Mr. J. H. Redman makes the journey on business connected with Erie stock, and Mr. A. A. Conen, of Bonanza reputation, is distinguished from the other passengers in the fact that he possesses two staterooms—one for his private use and the other in which to entertain his friends. Mr. W. Seligman, the banker, is also a passenger.

ARRIVAL OF THE BAND.

The City of Berlin was half an hour late in starting yesterday. The fires were clear, the steam abundant, the United States mails on board, the vessel almost free of non-passengers, and the Count Joannes, having taken his last lingering look from the upper deck, had left the steamer. Everything was in fact ready except the band, and expectation stood on tiptoe awaiting its arrival. At last it came to the music of three or four drums and without any formal parade. It had been accompanied from the armory by about 250 members of the Twenty-second regiment in citizens' dress, and these now joined the crowd on the pier and helped the acclaim with the regimental cry. Mr. Gilmore was beset on all sides by friends and had to go through a vast deal of congratulations and farewells ere he had passed into the space of some two minutes. The musicians were handsome new uniforms braided and gilt, and if these do not get tarnished on the voyage they will cut a pretty figure at St. George's Hall, Liverpool, where the band will give its first concert. Afterward they will go to Dublin and then to London. The musicians, sixty in number, mustered aft on the upper deck under the shadow of the Union Jack and regarded with evident satisfaction the applause of the crowd on the end of the pier.

THE AUSTRALIAN CRICKETERS.

Meanwhile the cricketers remained quietly amidships. They had had a long and tiresome voyage, and they kept clear of the general excitement. They started from Sidney on the 29th of March, reached San Francisco on the 26th of April, started from there next morning, arrived in New York yesterday morning at eight o'clock, had a brief sojourn at a downtown hotel and repaired to the City of Berlin. They are a lithe, active set of men, whose ages do not average more than twenty-three years. They will play in England, Ireland and Scotland for three months, opening at Nottingham on May 20. Two matches are arranged with the England eleven, and these will be played at Lord's, London. Matches have been also arranged with the Gentlemen of England, and the team will also play in Dublin, probably with the Phœnix and Trinity College clubs, and at Glasgow, Edinburgh and Manchester. The team, which is known as the Australian eleven, is composed as follows:—D. W. Gregory (captain), E. Allan, H. Boyle, C. Bannerman, A. Bannerman, G. H. Bailey, J. A. Blackham, S. Garrett, I. Horan, W. Murdock, F. Spofforth and W. C. Gibbs (agent). Allan is the premier bowler of the team. He bowls left-handed and varies his pace, giving great break or twist to the ball. Spofforth is a very fast right-handed bowler, and is also a good batsman, and Garrett is a good change bowler with a medium pace. Boyle is also a medium pace bowler and very effective. The best bat in the team is C. Bannerman. He has a good style and is a fast run getter. At Melbourne he secured thirty runs in thirteen minutes against the bowling of Lillywhite, Shaw, Hill and Southerton. Horan ranks next as a batsman and he is what is technically known as a very expert "punisher" of loose bowling. A. Bannerman has the reputation of being the best fielder in Australia, his throwing in from out field being something wonderful for accuracy and rapidity. He is also a steady bat. The Captain, D. W. Gregory, is a good all round player and has hardly a superior as short slip. Blackham's force is in wicket keeping, and in this respect the English players say that he is equal to their keeper, Pooley. Murdock is also a wicket keeper and a fair batsman, and Bailey has the reputation of a good all round player.

THE DEPARTURE.

It was half-past three o'clock when the City of Berlin, carrying this varied list of passengers, made up of musicians, artists, cricketers, people of business and people of leisure, left her moorings, backed out into mostream and started on her voyage amid the cheers of the vast crowd on shore.

LADIES' FAIRS.

The ladies of the Pastor's Aid and Mission Society of the Church of the Heavenly Rest, Fifth avenue, near Forty-fifth street, opened a fair last week at Lyric Hall, Sixth avenue, between Forty-first and Forty-second streets, the proceeds of which are to be applied to reducing the debt of the church. The fair has been well attended and gives every promise of success.

In the Hall of St. Bernard's Roman Catholic Church, Fourteenth street, between Eighth and Ninth avenues, a ladies fair was opened last Monday and will continue during the next two weeks. The object of the fair is to procure funds to reduce the debt on the church. The fair has been very successful thus far, and the indications are that its prosperity will continue.

JUBILANT CARTMEN.

At a meeting of the Brooklyn Cartmen's Association, held last evening at Vineyard Hall, corner Fulton and Jay streets, in that city, Mr. Henry Baldwin, chairman of the Legislative Committee, reported the passage of the bill which enables Brooklyn cartmen to transact business in this city. Mr. Baldwin's remarks were loudly applauded. Speeches were then made by Mr. Warring, member of Assembly; ex-Aldermen Richardson, Aldermen Martina, Kenna and Phillips, in which the cartmen were congratulated on their success. An effort will be made to effect a permanent organization, and the association will in the future be known as "The Cartmen's Protective Association of the City of Brooklyn and County of Kings."

RECAPTURED.

John Gill, who recently escaped from the Hudson River Insane Asylum, was yesterday recaptured. Gill was a wealthy builder of Long Island some years ago, and while laboring under a fit of insanity shot his wife. He also at the same time attempted to kill Police Officer Klere, of this city.

THE TRANSIT OF MERCURY.

AN INTERESTING ASTRONOMICAL EVENT THAT WILL OCCUR TO-MORROW—HOW THE TRANSIT MAY BE OBSERVED—THE EARTH PASSING THROUGH THE PLANET'S SHADOW CONE

Transits of Mercury over the sun's disk although not separated from each other by such long intervals as transits of Venus are still sufficiently rare to be of great interest to astronomers. On account of the distance of Mercury from the earth they are worthless as a means of determining the solar parallax; but it is thought that the phenomena presented by them are so analogous to those presented by Venus under similar circumstances as to be capable of throwing much light upon some of the most obscure and difficult points connected with transits of the latter planet; and, furthermore, they present exceptional facilities for determining the exact longitude of Mercury, and almost the only possible opportunities of accurately measuring its equatorial diameter and polar compression.

FACTS AND FIGURES OF THE TRANSIT.

The circumstances of a transit examined somewhat more in detail are as follows:—Mercury, like all the planets of the solar system, intercepts the sun's rays and casts two vast conical shadows, one within the other—the smaller having its base resting upon the planet and its apex about 321,000 miles away, while the larger has the planet very nearly at its apex and stretches far into space, enlarging as it goes. To a person anywhere within the smaller shadow cone Mercury would appear larger than the sun and its transits would be seen as total solar eclipses; while to a person within the larger, but outside the smaller shadow cone, Mercury could never wholly eclipse the sun. The earth sometimes passes through the larger shadow cone, but never enters the smaller one.

Now, what will be the condition of affairs on the morning of the 6th of May? The earth will be booming along in its orbit at the rate of 65,600 miles per hour, while Mercury, justifying his ancient reputation for swiftness, will be rushing through space at the rate of 98,200 miles per hour, and his shadow cone, at the point where it intersects the earth's orbit, will actually be going 229,900 miles per hour. The shadow is thousands of miles behind the earth, but is rapidly gaining on it. The hands of the Washington clock creep toward 10 A. M. The shadow nears the earth. The clock points to 10:04. The shadow touches the earth—it swiftly closes around it—three minutes later it engulfs it, and the transit has begun at all points where the sun is visible. Where was it first seen? Clearly at the point where the shadow cone first touched the earth, and there the sun must have been very near the horizon. As the shadow closed around the earth the transit commenced at places where the sun was successively higher and higher, until in less than two minutes it reached the longitude where the sun was on the meridian. After that it began at places where the sun was lower and lower, until finally the last point to be engulfed in the shadow cone was a place almost on the opposite side of the earth from that where the transit began, and here also the sun was nearly on the horizon. The shadow cone is so large that, although its centre does not pass over the earth, it is nevertheless seven hours and a half before its further edge reaches her, and she emerges by a process the reverse of her engulfment.

THE OBSERVATIONS AND THEIR METHODS.

How will astronomers observe the transit? In many ways; but at this brief article will be confined to a description of the methods which will be adopted by the United States Naval Observatory and by the gentlemen co-operating with that institution. The optical observations will be made with powerful achromatic telescopes, armed with double image micrometers of Sir George Airy's pattern. When the transit is about to commence the sun will be most carefully watched through these instruments, and the exact instant when the smallest perceptible notch is first cut in its edge by the planet will be noted very accurately. This is the first contact. About two minutes later Mercury will have advanced so far that the sunlight will close around him and make him appear as a very small, round, black spot upon the solar disk. This is the second contact, and the exact instant when it happens will be most carefully observed. For more than seven hours this little black spot will be slowly crossing the sun, and will finally break through its edge at a point nearly opposite to that where it entered. This is the third contact, and the exact instant of its occurrence will be noted. The planet will continue to move forward, and about two minutes later the last trace of it will disappear from the face of the sun. The instant when this happens is the fourth contact, and it also will be carefully observed. The first and fourth contacts are often called the exterior, and the second and third the interior contacts. If the sun had a hard, smooth outline, and if Mercury were destitute of an atmosphere, all these contacts would take place so simply that it would be possible to observe the exact instant of their occurrence to within one-tenth of a second of time; but, unfortunately for this purpose, the sun has no definite outline, and Mercury possesses a dense atmosphere, and the two together destroy the sharpness of the contacts and give rise to a whole train of phenomena concerning whose character, and even as to existence, there are great differences of opinion among astronomers.

MEASURING THE DIAMETERS OF MERCURY.

During the seven and a half hours that the planet is crossing the face of the sun the double image micrometers come into play. They are instruments somewhat like the eye piece of an ordinary spy glass, except that the second lens, counting from the object glass, is cut into halves which can be moved past each other by a micrometer screw. On looking through a telescope to which one of these instruments is attached, if the halves of the divided lens are in the same positions relatively to each other as before they were cut apart, only a single image of Mercury will be seen; but if the halves of the lens are moved a little past each other two images will appear, and by turning the micrometer screw until these images just touch each other the diameter of Mercury is measured. The polar compression is obtained by a comparison of the measured polar and equatorial diameters.

THE LONGITUDE OF THE PLANET.

To determine the longitude of Mercury we must determine its exact position upon the face of the sun at a known instant of time, and this is best done by means either of a heliometer or of a photoheliograph. As the Naval Observatory does not possess an example of the former instrument its observers will employ the horizontal photoheliographs which were used in observing the last transit of Venus. Each of them consists essentially of a forty foot telescope placed horizontally and pointed to the north, the sun's rays being reflected into it by a very perfect mirror suitably mounted and driven by clockwork. Sensitive photographic plates placed at the eye end of the telescope receive the image of the sun and thus pictures of it rather more than four inches in diameter are obtained. These pictures, no matter where made, will all be taken to Washington and measured upon an engine designed for that purpose by Professor Harkness, and from the measurements so made the position of Mercury upon the face of the sun at the instant when the pictures were made will become known.

HINTS FOR AMATEUR OBSERVERS.

Having now shown how the astronomers will make their observations perhaps some of the HERALD's readers would like to be told how they can see the transit. On the 6th of May Mercury will first touch the sun on its northeast side at about 10:06 A. M., Washington mean time, and will slowly pass across the sun's disk a little north of its centre, finally leaving it on its northwest side about 5:40 P. M., Washington mean time. The times of contact for any other place than Washington can be found by applying to the Washington time the difference between the time at the place in question and Washington time. For example—New York city time is twelve minutes faster than Washington time, consequently the transit will begin in New York at 10:18 A. M. and end at 5:52 P. M. While on the sun Mercury will appear as a round black point, so small that there is some doubt whether or not it will be visible to the naked eye; but it can easily be seen with an opera glass or a small spy glass. Of course a piece of smoked glass must be used in observing with the naked eye. Large telescopes always have suitable colored glasses for observing the sun, but spy glasses are rarely and opera glasses never provided with anything of the kind. However, this need not prevent their owners from using them to observe the transit, because a little smoke applied either to the object glass or the eye lens will make them answer every purpose.

IRVING HALL DEMOCRACY.

A meeting of the Cooper democracy was held last evening at Irving hall. The attendance was large and enthusiastic. Among those present were Mr. John McCool, who presided; Mr. Hubert O. Thompson, Maurice J. Powers, John Fox, Judge Murray, Coroner Ellinger, Edward Cooper, Thomas Costigan, Peter Bowe, Judge Dinkel, Judge Callahan, William P. Mitchell, Joseph P. Strack, Assemblyman J. P. Maddonough and Assemblyman Daniel O'Kelly. Mr. Joseph Blumenthal made an address, in which he dwelt upon the necessity of securing unity between the democrats of the county. Judge Dinkel advocated the work of harmony and conciliation between the differing elements of the democratic party now warring against each other. The meeting adjourned subject to the call of the Chair.

THE COTTON EXCHANGE.

A ballot will be taken in the Cotton Exchange on Tuesday on the proposed amendments to the constitution, with the exception of the one relating to sampling, which has to go before the Board of Managers.

NEW YORK HORTICULTURISTS.

The May meeting of the New York Horticultural Society will take place on Tuesday next at Republican Hall.

THAT RATTANING CASE.

The complaint of assault and battery preferred by Mrs. Ramsdell against Miss Emily Thornton, principal of Primary School No. 12, in Brooklyn, for having struck her son Horace, ten years old, with a rattan, was yesterday dismissed by Judge Riley.

MRS. WALCOTT AND THE BROKER.

JAY GOULD'S PARTNER APPEARS AS COMPLAINANT IN A POLICE COURT—HER BAIL.

The sensational developments growing out of the relations of Mr. William Belden, the broker, and Mrs. Etta Walcott, which came to light on Friday in the Essex Market Police Court, created quite a stir yesterday. Mr. Belden's prominence in the financial world and the notoriety he has attained as Jay Gould's partner naturally intensified the interest in the issue. This contributed to fill the Essex Market Police Court yesterday when the hour set down for the examination drew near. From the beginning of the proceedings it was hinted that an effort would be made to cover the circumstances of the case and the matter would be summarily disposed of by the Court. This impression was strengthened by various delays which complainant's failure to appear occasioned, as well as the lawyers' preparations of papers and authorities. It was late in the afternoon when Corporation Attorney William A. Boyd appeared with Mr. Belden as his counsel, and, coming before Judge Bixby, asked to have the first charge of threatening his client's life with a pistol dismissed and have substituted for it a complaint that the prisoner had subjected William Belden to annoyance and had threatened to take his life. Mr. Boyd produced a number of letters, which he submitted to the Court as evidence of Mrs. Walcott's having repeatedly warned the complainant that she would proceed to any extremity in case her demands were not satisfied. These were seemingly of a character to preclude their production for publicity as yet, and were only laid before Judge Bixby for perusal. Mr. Boyd then had the proper affidavits submitted embodying the new charge, and the case was duly opened.

MRS. WALCOTT IN COURT.

Long before this Messrs. Howe and Hummel, the prisoner's counsel, had appeared in court and ushered into a waiting room, from the jail she had passed the night in, Mrs. Walcott herself. She seemed to have suffered in no way from incarceration and was attired as gorgeously as on the previous day and with an equal display of gold and gems. Accompanying her was a younger lady in silken attire and a modest looking youth apparelled in sober black. These were the witnesses whose production, her counsel claimed, would fully exonerate her from the original charge preferred against her, and Messrs. Howe and Hummel assumed quite a confident air as they led them to the stand. Evidently they were to be a surprise for the prosecution, but the latter it proved had a more startling one in store themselves. This came in the shape of a section in a volume of Colby's criminal law, to which Mr. Boyd at the opening of the case drew the attention of the Court. It referred to persons arrested to enter into a recognizance and read as follows:—

There is no examination or trial of the party arrested on the return of the warrant and he is not permitted to be heard either personally or by counsel at this stage of the proceedings. He must either enter into the recognizance when he will be discharged or in default thereof it becomes the duty of the judge to commit him.

PREVENTING AN EXAMINATION.

This was a barrier to the examination of witnesses and shut out the possibility of the case's details appearing. But Mr. Howe tried to meet the emergency by hurriedly calling the prisoner upon the stand and demanding that she be allowed to cross-examine her accuser. This the Court denied.

"I ask," said Mr. Howe, "that she be confronted with the man who has exposed her to imprisonment."

"I will concede that. Will Mr. Belden step forward?" said the Judge, and from the seat outside the broker passed before the Bench and took up his stand face to face with Mrs. Walcott. He seemed in good humor, was quite composed and in no way affected by the proceedings.

"I demand," said Mr. Howe, "that it be entered on the books that a lady deprived of her liberty is in this Court denied the right of cross-examining her accuser."

The entry was made.

Then counsel went on to say that the construction of the arbitrary statute was opposed to the spirit of the constitution. The defence wanted to cross-examine with a view to establishing the falsity of the complaint. "This is the first time," he said to the Court, "that you or any other Judge has acted under this statute. This is a grave responsibility to assume. Never, even were he called to decide the life of a prisoner, has a case of such importance been presented to a police magistrate. You are here denying a right accorded by the laws of every civilized land to a prisoner to be heard in his own defence by committing this woman unheard."

Here the Court observed that it could deny counsel the privilege of speech as well as his client, and said that in another case a hearing would be given both.

Counsel still contended that the recognition of such a statute was an infringement of a prisoner's rights and was never before mentioned in court or even known to court practitioners, to all of which the Court calmly assented, but remained firm. After a vigorous protest counsel declared his intention of applying for a habeas corpus and a writ of certiorari as the only recourse left. The production of this statute, however, effectually prevented Mrs. Walcott's making public her relations with Belden on the witness stand and made of no immediate avail the testimony of others who had been summoned.

Her bail was set down by the Court at $1,000, and she was taken back to the prison where she passed the previous night.

THE PRISONER'S STORY.

She seems to bear her troubles lightly and entered into an easy converse with such officials as were called upon to look after her. Her story, which has been kept out of sight by the court proceedings, is substantially as follows:—She said she was a married woman, living with her husband in a fashionable uptown neighborhood, when she first met Mr. Belden, who resided in Park avenue, quite close to her abode. His attentions soon became quite marked, and as she repaid them the relations between them soon became a subject of gossip. In time her husband was made aware of them, and after suffering mutual annoyance and engaging in much domestic bickering they separated. Belden was then worth about $40,000 or $50,000, but he believed that his condition would be bettered by the admission of Jay Gould into the concern he was a member of, and was disposed to follow the latter's advice in reference to his private relations. On that account he preferred to delay making Mrs. Walcott his wife, but he supported her in scrumptuous style and paid her every attention. After Gould and he had transacted business for some time as partners she called upon him for a performance of his promise, but he refused. Then she brought suit against him for breach of promise, and claims to have got a judgment in her favor. In spite of that, however, refused to give over her relations with him, and persisted in maintaining them all the more vigorously when she learned that he had other intentions in view. Since that she declared she has frequently called at his house and threatened him if he broke the compact with her. On the day on which she is charged in the complaint with threatening to take his life she says she was out riding with a lady friend, and on passing Belden's door she stopped there and sent the coachman up to notify him that a lady wanted to see him. The man obeyed, but Mr. Belden when he saw who was in quest of him shut the door upon them and refused to appear. This angered her and she acted somewhat violently, but denies having drawn a pistol on him. She claims to have never carried a weapon of the kind in her life, and says that Mr. Belden is aware of it and uses that as a pretext to shield himself behind. She alleges that she has suffered on his account and has been turned from several respectable boarding houses because of him.

Mr. Belden's friends, however, say that he has acted in a most munificent way with the woman, and Justice Bixby, before whom she was before arraigned, says her conduct has all along been most reprehensible.

HONORING AN EX-MAYOR.

Ex-Mayor Charles H. O'Neil, of Jersey City, was presented last evening with a handsomely engrossed set of resolutions by the prominent citizens of the city in return for his services as Alderman, Freeholder and Mayor.

OBITUARY.

CHARLES TOAL.

Charles Toal, an old and respected citizen of the Seventh ward, died at his residence, No. 9 Montgomery street, on Friday evening. Mr. Toal was a native of Clones, county Monaghan, Ireland, and came to this country in 1820. After a few years' residence in Brooklyn he settled in New York, and began business as a hosiery and dry goods merchant in Catharine street in 1835, being a contemporary and business associate of the Brooks', Lord & Taylor and B. d. McAlpin. In 1867 he retired from business, and in 1872 was appointed general agent of the Roman Catholic Orphan Asylum, of which institution he has been for more than thirty years one of the Board of Managers, and continued to its service in that capacity discharging his duties with zeal and fidelity until within a few months of his death. He was also connected with nearly all the societies attached to St. James' Church, and at the time of his death was its oldest parishioner and pewholder. The deceased was highly respected for his strict integrity, the purity of his life and the uprightness of his character—no less than for his record as a Christian and a citizen—and his loss will be felt most by those who knew and appreciated his virtues.

HUGH SHIELDS.

Hugh Shields, a prominent Irish Nationalist, died at his residence, No. 1,595 Broadway. Mr. Shields was born in the North of Ireland and came to this country at an early age. By close attention to business and steady industry he succeeded in acquiring a considerable fortune and was well known in the tobacco trade. He resided several years in Cuba and up to a recent period was in the habit of making an annual trip to that island for the purpose of making purchases of tobacco, which he forwarded to this city. Mr. Shields was an active member of the Irish revolutionary organizations and was greatly esteemed by all who knew him. He will be buried to-morrow.

ARTHUR W. BELL.

Arthur W. Bell, of Porter, Bell & Co., of Pittsburg, Pa., and a prominent member of the Young Men's Christian Association, was buried in that city yesterday.

A CLUB HOUSE AFLOAT.

THE NEW YORK YACHT CLUB HOUSE REMOVED TO ITS FUTURE LOCATION AT ALPINE GROVE, ON THE HUDSON.

The New York Yacht Club House, built by the late William F. Garner, was towed from Staten Island to the Palisades in seven hours yesterday. The distance is about twenty-eight miles. The building is 40 by 80 feet, three stories high, with a heavy tin roof, and weighs 200 tons. It stood on spiles at Stapleton. The moving of so large a building twenty-eight miles in one day, with adverse tides, was spoken of as an unparalleled feat. Only twelve men were employed. Six tugs towed it to a point near Sixtieth street, whence three tugs conveyed it up the river to its destination—Alpine Grove, under the highest of the Palisades, opposite Yonkers.

With flags flying and a band of music playing, the novel fleet left Stapleton at eleven o'clock in the morning. Captain William Timmons, wrecking master, engineered the removal for the Baxter Wrecking Company, and John F. Baxter, the manager, was in personal command. The manner of removing the house from its old site was very simple. Scows were sunk under the house as it stood on the spiles and when the tide was highest the water was pumped out of the scows, setting the building afloat. A part of the original dock accompanied it on the journey. Endless salutes were whistled by various steam crafts along the route, and notwithstanding the tide ebbed, the strange vessel reached the pier at the Grove at exactly six o'clock last evening.

The structure is to be immediately transferred to a level plot of land near the Grove, almost directly under the walls of the Palisades. It was not at all affected by the voyage. The doors and windows opened as easily as before its removal. People gathered at the different landings as the flat sailed by, and commented on its singular appearance. It looked like a floating Chinese tea house or pagoda. The appointments of the house are complete. There are elegant washrooms, parlors, dressing rooms, gilded chandeliers, gas fixtures, waxed floors, decorated panels, carpeted stairways and a canvas covered floor for dancing, which is 40 by 80 feet, covering the whole of the top deck, surmounted by a raised arch roof.

ARMY INTELLIGENCE.

WASHINGTON, May 4, 1878.

Second Lieutenant Henry H. Ludlow, Third artillery, is relieved from duty at the Artillery school, at Fort Monroe, Va., and ordered to duty upon the surveys west of the 100th meridian.

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

A STRANGE STORY CONCERNING THE DESTRUCTION OF THE AMERICAN BARK FOREST BELLE OFF FORMOSA—NEWS FROM THE ASIATIC SQUADRON—CHANGES.

WASHINGTON, May 4, 1878.

Rear Admiral Patterson reports to the Navy Department from Amoy, China, under date of March 13, the return of the Ranger from the island of Formosa, whither she had been sent to render assistance to the wrecked American bark Forest Belle. The Forest Belle left Cardiff October 3, 1877, with coal and patent fuel, bound to Hong Kong, China, and on February 16, 1878, struck on a sunken rock in Kivo Liang Bay. Large holes were made in her bottom, and she was beached in about nineteen feet of water. All hands were saved. The Captain of the Forest Belle chartered the English brig Onward, which was towed to the wreck by a Chinese gunboat. The gunboat was of very great assistance. Before the Ranger arrived all the movable property had been transferred to the Onward, which subsequently sailed for Hong Kong. Commander Manly is under the impression that the Forest Bell struck on "God's Rock," instead of an unknown one, as reported by her master.

Diligent search by the Ranger, with the master of the Forest Belle on board, failed to find the rock on which it was stated the vessel struck. The Forest Belle was a new bark of 1,3.0 tons, built at Bath, Me., and fitted with all modern improvements. When the Ranger was returning from the search for the rock the Forest Belle was discovered to be on fire from stem to stern. The fire was supposed to have originated from spontaneous combustion. She was burned to the water's edge. The reports are not very favorable to the officers of the ship.

Commander Manley reports the officers and crew of the Ranger all in good health.

Lieutenant Commander James Green is detached from the Navy Yard, Norfolk, Va., and ordered to command the Palos, Asiatic station.

Lieutenant Commander W. C. Wise from the command of the Palos on the reporting of his relief, and ordered to return home and report arrival.

Second Lieutenant J. A. Smyser, of the Marine Corps, has been placed on the retired list in pursuance of the finding of a board, approved by the President.

ENGLAND'S FREE TRADE.

[From the London Week, April 20.]

Anybody who happens to pass the shop of Maple & Co., in Tottenham Court Road, may see with his own eyes why it is that the English cotton trade is declining. The windows are full of cotton sheeting, and upon it are marked the brands of the "Wamsutta Mills, New Bedford," or of the "Lonsdale Mills." Neither of these mills is in Lancashire. One is in Massachusetts, the other in New York. It is needless to say that these goods are landed in England free of duty. Lancashire operatives may starve, but heaven forbid that we should ever depart from the sacred principle of free trade.

MARRIAGES AND DEATHS.

MARRIED.

COMEGYS—DEXTER.—April 30, 1878, by the Rev. Dr. C. F. Deems, HENRY W. COMEGYS,