BRAVERY AND SKILL.

Presentation of the Bennett Medal to Captain Daniel J. Meagher.

HIS HEROIC ACT.

Deeds Which Have Been Similarly Rewarded in the Past.

"THE ROLL OF MERIT."

At Fireman's Hall yesterday the Bennett Medal was presented by Commissioner John J. Gorman, by request of the trustees of the fund, to the fireman who had performed the most gallant act of the year 1878, in life-saving. The recipient was Captain D. J. Meagher, foreman of Hook and Ladder Company No. 3. At eleven o'clock the entire company, under command of Chief of the Sixth battalion E. W. Welhelm and Captain Meagher, filed into the large hall and were formed in two sides of a square. Following them came ten heroes, who had previously been decorated with the medal. Each man had his medal displayed prominently upon his breast. They formed on the left of the line. On the right Chief Bates and nearly all the chiefs of the battalion formed. A few minutes after eleven President King, the other Commissioners, Secretary Jussen and a number of visitors appeared. Mr. King, addressing the command, read a letter from Colonel T. Bailey Myers, one of the trustees, in which he regretted that he was detained at home by sickness; but expressed the hope that the presentation ceremonies would incite others to acts of heroism, such as Captain Meagher had performed.

THE PRESENTATION ADDRESS.

Then Commissioner Gorman stepped forward and addressed the command, as follows:—

GENTLEMEN—You are assembled to-day to participate in one of the most pleasing duties we are called upon to perform—that of presenting the Bennett Medal to the fireman who has performed the most meritorious, noble and daring act in the year 1878. The fireman thus selected is doubly fortunate—First, in having the opportunity to save life; next in having the courage to act promptly when there is a greater probability of saving a life than that of losing his own. Courage is defined as bravery, intrepidity; that quality of the mind which enables men to encounter danger and difficulties with firmness or without fear or depression of spirits. To see life in peril, to plan the rescue intelligently, to act promptly and successfully in saving the life so in peril, is real bravery. To see, to think, to act, all must be instantaneous, but not with rashness, which is inconsiderate promptness, often causing the failure of a well intended act. Cool, deliberate, intelligent bravery is generally successful and will always have its reward, if in no other way in the happy reflections consequent upon a knowledge of having acted well your part.

At midnight, on the 2d day of May, 1878, fire was discovered on the upper floors of No. 28 East Fourteenth street. The alarm was sounded for station 339. Captain Meagher, of Hook and Ladder Company No. 3, with his command, was in front of the burning building in less than two minutes from the time the alarm was sounded, and on his arrival saw a female form partly hanging out of the fourth story window. He ordered a forty-two foot ladder placed against the building, which was done with almost the speed of thought, but it proved to be about ten feet short. He ordered that it be placed on the highest step of the front stoop. Fireman Flood (than whom no more gallant man is in this department) ascended the ladder, which was still too short to reach the person hanging out of the window. At this point Fireman Flood unfortunately seriously injured his foot, the severe pain of which for a moment paralyzed his efforts.

THE CAPTAIN TO THE RESCUE.

Captain Meagher, taking in the situation at a glance, ordered that the ladder be held erect and away from the building, so as to get all the length possible. He then ascended, standing on next to the top round of the ladder, fifty-two feet from the sidewalk, and his head just up to the feet of the woman. He gave her some words of encouragement, and, in a calm but decided manner, directed her to hold her limbs and body as rigid as possible. All being ready he told her to drop; she did so; he caught her in one arm, steadying himself by the power of his limbs and one hand on the top of the ladder, and thus passed Sarah Freeman to his comrade, Fireman Flood, who, notwithstanding the intense pain he was suffering by a badly bruised foot, carried the frightened woman to the sidewalk in safety. For this act of cool, well planned and determined bravery the trustees have decided that the Bennett medal for 1878 should be awarded to Captain Daniel J. Meagher, of Hook and Ladder Company No. 3.

At this point Captain Meagher, by request, stepped to the front, when Mr. Gorman placed the gold medal upon his breast and said:—

It affords me unusual pleasure to present to you and place on your breast the Bennett Medal for 1878, awarded to you for saving the life of Sarah Freeman at midnight on the 2d day of May, 1878, by rescuing her from her perilous position hanging from the fourth story of the burning building, No. 28 East Fourteenth street. May your life be long spared to aid and assist those powerless to help themselves.

After reading the official report of Captain Meagher regarding the rescue of the woman and complimenting him upon his modest reference to his own part in it, Mr. Gorman gave a history of the creation of the medal fund:—

HISTORY OF THE FUND.

In September, 1868, the residence of James Gordon Bennett, founder of the NEW YORK HERALD, was on fire. The action of the Fire Department on that occasion prompted Mr. Bennett to place in the hands of Colonel T. Bailey Myers, James M. McLean and Robert S. Hone, as trustees, on April 13, 1869, $1,500, the income of which they were directed to use in procuring annually a gold medal, to be struck from a die and conferred on the fireman who may be best entitled to that reward. The trustees have discharged their duties faithfully and well. Although but ten years have elapsed since Mr. Bennett placed this trust in their keeping they have had made and presented fourteen medals, as follows:—

Assistant Foreman Minthorne D. Tompkins, since promoted to be foreman.

Foreman Benjamin A. Gicquel, since promoted chief of battalion.

Assistant Foreman Charles L. Kelly, since promoted foreman.

Fireman Ambrose L. Austin.

Assistant Foreman Thomas Henry, since promoted foreman and retired on half pay.

Fireman Thomas Hutchinson, since promoted assistant foreman and again promoted foreman.

Battalion Commander William H. Nash, killed in discharge of his duty September 16, 1875.

Fireman Alfred Conner.

Assistant Foreman Henry Schuck.

Foreman William Mitchell, died in service of department April 26, 1876.

Assistant Foreman James Horn.

Fireman Joseph McGowan.

Fireman Thomas J. Dougherty.

Foreman Daniel J. Meagher.

THE ROLL OF MERIT.

Mr. Gorman proceeded to speak of the formation, in November, 1868, of what is known as the Roll of Merit, wherein the acts of distinguished bravery by the members of the force are inscribed. "I now propose," said he, "to call the Roll of Merit, and hope it may be called at each presentation of the Bennett Medal hereafter made, that the names of the noble fellows inscribed thereon may be kept fresh in our memory. I have arranged the roll in the order of their present rank in the department, and I take great pleasure in announcing the first name to be that of the present Chief of Department, Eli Bates, then Chief of Brigade. William Rowe, chief of First battalion, then captain of company; William H. Nash, chief of Fourth battalion, whose name was inscribed five times on roll of merit and who was killed in discharge of his duty September 15, 1875; John W. Miller, chief of Fourth battalion; Benjamin A. Gicquel, chief of Fifth battalion, then captain of company; Edward W. Wilhelm, chief of Sixth battalion, then assistant foreman of company; William W. Rhodes, chief of Ninth battalion; Gilbert J. Orr, chief of Tenth battalion. Captains—Patrick Donohue, at that time assistant foreman of company; James H. Monroe; William F. Hayes, twice inscribed on roll of merit, then assistant foreman of company; Jacob Van Orden, twice inscribed on roll of merit, and died in service of department January 22, 1877; John D. Sullivan, at that time assistant foreman of company; Charles L. Kelly, then assistant foreman of company; Peter Weir, died in service of department August 12, 1875; George W. Erb, Joseph F. McGill, John Sattler, William Mitchell, died in service of department April 21, 1876; Daniel Bradley, then an assistant foreman of company; Michael F. Reeves, Daniel J. Meagher, Robert Williams, George Gillies, Thomas Hutchinson, then a fireman. Assistant foremen—James Beaney, twice inscribed on roll of merit; Matthew Hicks, at that time a fireman; Andrew Lynar, at that time a fireman; John McDermott, at that time a fireman; Charles McNamee, then a fireman; John F. L. Du Flow, then a fireman; Francis Carey, then a fireman; Terence P. Brennan, Henry Schuck, Thomas Lally, twice inscribed on roll of merit; Edward O'Brien, twice inscribed on roll of merit; James Horn, twice inscribed on roll of merit; James McCutchen, Hugh J. Golden, Alexander McDonald, William J. Colby; assistant engineer of steamer Christopher C. Fleck, then a fireman; engineer of steamer John Kavanagh, then fireman; assistant engineer of steamer Richard D. Hale, then a fireman; assistant engineer of steamer Denton E. Hemsworth, twice inscribed on roll of merit, then a fireman. Firemen—Joseph Weidman and William F. Craft, twice inscribed on roll of merit, who died from injuries received January 28, 1873; Thomas L. Jacobus, Thomas J. Dougherty, William McKenzie, who died in the service of the department, October 21, 1874; Ambrose L. Austin, twice inscribed on roll of merit; John Brown, three times inscribed on roll of merit; George McLoughlin, James McGivney, Theodore Dakin, John P. Flood, inscribed on the roll of merit three times; Michael McIvo, twice inscribed on roll of merit; Alfred Connor, John McParlan, William D. Clendenning, Timothy McDonald, Thomas F. Fannan, William Wogan, William H. Guy, twice inscribed on roll of merit; Thomas Harrison, Albert Hendrickson, John McClane, twice inscribed on roll of merit; Joseph Moss, twice inscribed on roll of merit; Anthony Stephenson, John Wright, John Horn, Charles W. Smith, John H. Griffen, John Carney, Jacob Reiter, Thomas Larkin, Joseph McGowan, James Lewis, John Robertson, Nicholas P. Loesch, James W. Gallagher, John Ricley, No. 1, killed in discharge of his duty, January, 1879; Timothy Dwyer, Thomas O'Hearn, Patrick Foley, John Cavanagh, George Murphy, Dennis J. Doran, William H. Reynolds, Luke Gleason, Patrick Healy, John Hope, William Kline, John J. McManus, Charles Hopper, John McKeown, Thomas O'Halloran, Patrick Kennedy, Michael Connors, Timothy McAuliffe, Lawrence P. Farle, James H. Campbell, Bernard J. Reilly and William Jackson. Privates—William T. Lear and Patrick J. Lynch, promoted to be a fireman for his daring act November 14, 1879, at the fire at No. 80 Cannon street."

HEROIC ACTS OF THE MEDAL MEN.

At the conclusion of the reading the ceremonies ended, the company moving off under command of Chief Wilhelm and Captain Meagher, and the medal men, in whom all the officials take pride, separating to their various company quarters. Below will be found a brief sketch of the acts of bravery of each member of the force who has won the Bennett Medal:—

M. D. Tompkins, assistant foreman of Hook and Ladder Company No. 1, at a fire on November 14, 1868, at a four story hotel, Nos. 478 and 480 Broadway, found a woman nearly suffocated on the fourth floor, and, at much personal risk to himself, carried her safely to the street, where she was turned over to the police.

Benjamin A. Gicquel, then foreman of Engine No. 9, on the morning of September 26, 1869, at No. 73 Montgomery street, rescued four persons—two women and two children—from one of the upper floors of a burning structure, and safely passed them out to his comrades.

Charles L. Kelly, assistant foreman of Engine No. 9, at a fire corner of Division and Forsyth streets, on February 9, 1871, hearing piercing shrieks from one of the upper floors, without waiting for the ladders to be thrown up, gallantly climbed the shutters and awning of an adjoining building, forced an entrance through a window, and finding three persons nearly suffocated dragged them to the window and passed them down to the street.

Ambrose L. Austin, fireman of Engine No. 15, at a fire on April 24, 1871, at No. 35 Bowery, while waiting for water, saw a woman in the smoke inside of the basement door. He pushed through the smoke, and, dragging her out, turned her over to the police.

Thomas Henry, assistant foreman of Hook and Ladder No. 6, at a fire at No. 23 Suffolk street, February 15, 1872, entered the second story and carried through dense smoke Mrs. Metz, Miss Metz, Mary Walsh, Mrs. Greenwald and four children. He passed the eight persons safely out to and down the ladders. This brave fellow has been retired on half pay.

Thomas Hutchinson, of Hook and Ladder No. 1, on December 29, 1872, at a fire in No. 63 Baxter street, ascended the rear fire escape to the second floor. From the fire escape on the third floor he found a boy hanging. Calling to the boy to let go he caught him in his arms as he dropped and removed him to the street.

Chief of Battalion William Nash, at a fire at No. 222 Division street in 1873, rescued from the flames two children named Rendz, at much personal risk. Chief Nash has since died.

RUN OVER BY HIS TRUCK.

Alfred Conner, of Hook and Ladder No. 10, while running in advance of his truck to a fire on July 19, 1873, saw a woman named Mary Brady crossing Broadway at Cortlandt street, and attempted to rescue her from being run over. In doing so both fell under the truck and the woman was killed and he injured. He was awarded one of the medals for that year.

Henry Schuck, assistant foreman of Engine No. 34, on December 7, 1873, at a fire in No. 422 West Thirty-second street, found a child partially suffocated in a second story room, and rescued it.

William Mitchell, foreman of Engine No. 10, on June 24, 1874, at a fire at No. 78 Pearl street, looked in through a window and saw a man crouched beneath smoke and flame. He battered down the doors and shutters, that were red hot, dashed in through the fire and rescued the man. Mitchell has since died.

James Horn, assistant foreman of Engine No. 11, at a fire Nos. 351 and 355 Rivington street on March 26, 1875, rescued two children named Hall from the fourth floor.

Joseph McGowan, fireman of Engine No. 6, at a fire in No. 15 Thames street on April 14, 1876, forced his way into the premises and on the third floor found four children, whom he safely conducted to the roof. Returning to the floor he found Mary Mulroy, aged sixty-three years, sick in bed and partially suffocated. He carried her to the roof through fire and smoke, and all the party were rescued through an adjoining house.

Thomas J. Dougherty, fireman of Hook and Ladder No. 1, at No. 29 North William street, on March 31, 1877, found that several persons were confined in the sub-basement near the stairs unable to escape. Breaking down the two doors with an axe, the gallant fellow jumped into the basement, where the fire was burning fiercely. There he found insensible and prostrate on the floor Julia Frank and Elizabeth Stevens. He dragged them through and under the fire to the entrance, and, being a man of herculean build, lifted them up eight or ten feet to his comrades, who received them and carried them to the street, where they revived.

Foreman Daniel J. Meagher, of Hook and Ladder No. 3, whose exploits were described in the presentation speech.

POPULAR PEOPLE.

The voting at St. Agnes' Fair attracted may friends of the candidates last evening. On Friday the voting of a cane to the most popular gentleman resulted in favor of Mr. Robert J. Deaddy, the sexton of the church. The brewers' cane was carried away last evening by Mr. Peter Doelger. The gold watch for the most popular young lady was awarded to Miss Mamie Lynch, who received 3,321 votes. The contest for the stole to the most popular clergyman will close on Monday night. Rev. Father Payton led the race last night with 1,317 votes in his favor, but the other Fathers are each near the thousands, and the race will be close on Monday night. Captain Eagan is ahead for the fireman's hat, Dr. J. C. Maguire has 1,473 votes for the surgical instruments and Dr. Perry 1,327. As the excitement among the friends of the rivals results in pecuniary benefit to the fair no one feels badly as to the result. The attendance for the last week has been all that the pastor could desire, and the financial result will be made public when the collection books are called in and the gold watch awarded to the lady who has collected the most money.

RAPID TRANSIT.

The property owners of Mount Vernon have within the last few days made an earnest movement in favor of securing rapid transit communication between that pleasant, healthy and flourishing village and this city. At a meeting of the Citizens' Association, held a few days since, a committee, consisting of Messrs. P. L. McClellan, James H. Jenkins and Joseph S. Wood, was appointed to arrange for a meeting of property owners to sign a petition to the Board of Supervisors for the appointment of a commission to lay out a route for a rapid transit railway to run in connection with those to be constructed in the annexed wards north of the Harlem River. Mr. Wood stated that the gentlemen who are to build the roads in the upper part of New York are ready and willing to continue the road to Mount Vernon; that to connect with one spur of the city road only about one mile would have to be built, while to connect with the spur of another road about four miles of road would be necessary. In response to an announcement that Judge J. O. Dykman, of the Supreme Court, had consented to visit Mount Vernon to administer the oath to the signers of the petition to the effect that they are householders and taxpayers (fifty being required) 107 promptly appeared and expressed their earnestness in the matter, and passed a vote of thanks to Judge Dykman for attending the meeting.

OPPOSED TO THE CENTAL.

The Chicago Board of Trade has taken a positive stand against the cental system, and in reply to the address sent them by the grain trade of the New York Produce Exchange, Mr. Charles Randolph, their secretary, was instructed to forward the following resolution in relation to the matter adopted by the Board of Directors of that association:—

Resolved, That we regard any effort on the part of individual boards of trade of this country to establish the cental system in their dealings as unwise and we believe until the necessary Congressional and legislative action is taken in behalf of the cental system to make it general throughout the country, and concurred in by a concert of action on the part of the various boards of trade of the country, such individual effort will prove abortive and impracticable.

MULDOON'S LAST CHALLENGE.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27, 1879.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

I issue the following challenge, which shall positively be the last I will ever issue to any wrestler again:—

I will wrestle any man in the world, best two out of three falls, Graeco-Roman style, for the championship and a trophy to be valued at any price from $10 to $500, the winner to take everything; or I will wrestle Mr. Bauer for nothing in a room, there to be only a referee present; or I will wrestle him before the public, I to pay all the expenses for a trophy, the receipts after the expenses to be equally divided between St. John's Guild and St. Vincent de Paul Society, the contest to take place at any date the acceptor of this challenge may name. Should the challenge not be accepted within thirty days I shall retire forever from the professional arena. Respectfully yours, WILLIAM MULDOON.

GLASS BALL SHOOTING.

EUGENE BOGARDUS WINS THE CHAMPIONSHIP OF AMERICA WITH THE RIFLE.

For the first time in the history of glass ball shooting with the rifle the above title was won in a *bona fide* match by Eugene Bogardus, a boy but fifteen years of age, on Friday evening last, at Captain Bogardus' Shooting School, in this city. The match took place between the boy Eugene and Dr. Bower Talbot, for a gold medal offered by the Winchester Repeating Rifle Company to establish the above championship in a legitimate way. One hundred balls were shot at with a Winchester rifle, sprung from Bogardus' new trap for rifle shooting, Eugene breaking 77 out of 100 and Dr. Talbot but 15 out of a like number. This medal must now be held by young Bogardus against all comers for one year. At the same place on Saturday evening Eugene Bogardus won a beautiful medal offered by Captain Bogardus for boys seventeen years of age and under, by a score of 75 glass balls out of 100 broken from the rifle trap with Winchester rifle. If the rifle shooters at glass balls, which we hear of in such numbers throughout the country, have any claim to the scores they publish, they can now set all doubts at rest by a contest with the young champion who holds these medals subject to the skill of any man or boy in America to wrest them from him.

ASTOR HOUSE, Dec. 27, 1879.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

My son, Eugene Bogardus, having on Friday last won the only medal ever offered and contested for in a *bona fide* match at glass ball shooting with a rifle, although but fifteen years of age, stands to-day "Champion glass ball shot of America with Winchester rifle." As by the terms establishing this championship the holder of the medal must defend the same for one year against all comers, I hereby give notice that I am at all times prepared to back my son against any one in a match for the championship medal under the rules which govern it. Yours, truly, A. H. BOGARDUS.

SKATING.

There was no skating in Central Park yesterday, and but few visitors. Owing to the snow which fell on the ice when it was wet there will be no good skating until a new coating freezes over, which will be in a few days if the temperature continues low for that time.

THE OPENING DAY AT CAPITOLINE LAKE FOR SKATING.

Yesterday was the opening day for the lovers of the delightful open air exercise of skating. Pretty soon after the baseball season closed the necessary arrangements for flooding the grounds were made. About a week before Christmas the water was turned on, and ice formed in the early part of the past week. Not, however, until yesterday was it sufficiently solid to bear the hundreds of visitors who usually attend. Everything passed off to the entire satisfaction of those who were upon the ice, as well as to the scores of elderly ladies and their attendants who occupied the shelter building both day and evening. With the grounds and buildings brilliantly illuminated, with elegantly dressed ladies gliding gracefully over the smooth surface of the ice, with the merry ring of laughter and the chatting of happy youths, a scene that was truly enchanting was presented to view at the entertainment last night.

HARLEM ATHLETES.

The rooms of the Harlem Athletic Club, on Third avenue, close to the Harlem River, were crowded last evening with members and invited guests. It was the annual reception of the club, which has heretofore taken place on Christmas Eve. At the door of the club rooms were Messrs. E. M. Molson, president; C. W. Gayler, vice president; J. V. Haviland, secretary, and W. J. K. Kendrick, as a reception committee, assisted by other members. A hearty welcome was extended to each guest as he passed in. The representatives from other Athletic clubs were W. D. Baker, of Brooklyn; R. H. Pelton, Greenpoint; A. H. Deronge, Shorthill (Milburn, N. J.); W. S. Connell, Scottish-American, and R. E. Van Giesen, Montclair. The New York, Plainfield, Manhattan and American Athletic clubs were also represented. Messrs. Hall (three brothers) and Scott, forming a quartet glee club, from Mott Haven, sang some part songs in admirable style. There was no formal programme, but plenty of music and dancing, and an abundant supper of the true Santa Claus standard.

AUGUSTA RACES.

The Citizen's Association of Augusta, Ga., will commence its race meeting on the 6th of January, and continue five days. There will be three races a day for four days, and on the fifth day five races will be run. About $3,000 will be given in purses, and the association seems determined to have some rare sport during the meeting.

HORSE NOTES.

A sale of fast young trotters from the State of Maine, the property of Mr. John F. Jackson, came off yesterday at Barker & Son's auction mart, corner of Broadway and Thirty-ninth street. The following are the horses sold, the purchasers and the prices obtained:—

Fannie, b. m., 6 years old, Mr. S. Robinson, New York	$225
Coin, b. g., 7 years old, Colonel Jennings, Hoboken, N. J.	335
Draco Dapple, g. g., 7 years old, Mr. W. Walsh, Jersey City	295
Ruby, blk. g., 6 years old, Mr. R. E. Schoneman, New York	230
Fred, ch. g., 8 years old, Mr. W. McMichael, New York	245
Annie, br. m., 7 years old, Mr. H. M. Wilson, Brooklyn	295
Pygmalion, br. g., 8 years old, Mr. T. McGregor, Buffalo	1,000
Captain, blk. g., 6 years old, Mr. P. Langevin, New York	250
Hester, b. m., 9 years old, Mr. C. Williamson, New York	105

The brown gelding Pygmalion was sired by Jules Jurgensen, and is said to be able to trot in 2:30.

Mr. W. W. Smith, of Cynthiana, Ky., sold on the 20th inst. his fine mare Lizzie Smith to a gentleman of St. Louis, for $3,000.

YACHTING NOTES.

At a regular meeting of the New Jersey Yacht Club, held at their club house in Hoboken on Friday last, the following gentlemen were elected delegates to the National Association of Yachtsmen for the ensuing year:—Commodore, T. H. Rogers; Vice Commodore, W. H. Dilworth, and Ex-Commodore, E. W. Ketcham.

A nautically-inclined genius in this city, says the San Francisco *Call*, December 18, is at work on the model of a boat which he expects will create a revolution in sailing craft and be especially adapted for pleasure purposes. The hull of the craft is not particularly new, but it is in the means of propulsion that the novelty occurs. This is done by means of a wind-mill. Large fans of cloth are attached to a cylinder which encircles the mast. The lower end of the cylinder is attached to a system of cogs which operate a horizontal shaft, which works to an ordinary screw. Very little wind is required to set the fans in motion, and the craft can be sailed directly in the wind's eye.

INDOOR ARCHERY.

The New York Archery Club met yesterday afternoon in Excelsior Hall, Ninth avenue and Twenty-seventh street, to contest for the monthly prize. There were five lady contestants, and the match was a handicap, ninety arrows at thirty yards. The prize, a gold tassel for a quiver, was won by Mrs. De Luna, who made 307 points. Miss Morton made 304; Miss Howell, 222; Miss Wren, 200, and Miss Manger, 198. There was quite a large number of spectators present, nearly all being ladies. The contestants were neatly attired in dark costumes and wore Derby hats. Each lady carried a small green quiver, containing three arrows, slung over her back, and all wore colored handkerchiefs around their necks. A kind of "wristlet" made of leather was also used so as to prevent delicate fingers from being chafed by the arrow as it sped through the hands. The male members of the club also did some excellent shooting. In the future monthly receptions should be held in the houses of members. The next prize for lady contestants will be Thompson's "Wichery of Archery."

SPORTING NOTES.

Sweepstakes at pigeons were shot at Wheeler's Park, Eatontown, N. J., yesterday afternoon. Messrs. J. Von Brackel, H. White and C. Campbell were the principal winners.

A pigeon shooting sweepstake took place at West End, N. J., yesterday. The prize was a gun and the conditions 10 birds each, handicap rise. Mr. Grey, 29 yards, killed all and won.

James Sanford and W. Long shot a pigeon match at Secaucus, N. J., yesterday. The conditions were 50 birds each, 25 yards rise and $100 a side. Sanford knocked over 41 and Long 39.

Interesting pigeon shooting contests took place at Bergen Point, N. J., yesterday. Walter Godfrey won a cup and Colonel Butler and A. B. Dexter were winners in sweeps of 10 birds each.

Messrs. Traphagen and Blake shot a pigeon match at Roselle, N. J., yesterday. The conditions were 25 birds each, 21 yards rise, $50 a side and Rhode Island rules to govern. Traphagen killed 22 and Blake 19.

The Heights Club shot for a set of traps at Plainfield, N. J., yesterday. Thirteen members competed. The conditions were 15 balls each, 21 yards, 3 traps and Bogardus rules. Mr. Didwindle was the winner.

The monthly competition of the Bergen Point Rifle Club for the championship badge came off at Bayonne, N. J., yesterday. The conditions were 10 shots, standing, 200 yards, any rifle. The best scores were M. Rathien, 46; Dr. G. Dart, a lower 45, and J. T. B. Collins, 43.

OBITUARY.

WILLIAM HEPWORTH DIXON, ENGLISH AUTHOR.

Mr. Hepworth Dixon, who died yesterday, in England, of apoplexy, in his fifty-ninth year, was better known in America than many of his superiors in the literary world, though what was known of him was not altogether conducive to his permanent reputation. As editor of the *Athenæum* for sixteen years his treatment of American subjects and American authors was the reverse of sympathetic, and the several volumes which he published on American institutions were not calculated to win him a reputation for historical accuracy. Still he was a man of great note and considerable influence in his time, and many of his books have been extensively circulated here. Mr. Dixon had a family leaning toward Puritanism, which ought to have served him in better stead when dealing with cis-Atlantic themes. He was the son of Abner Dixon, of Holmfirth, Yorkshire, and was born at Manchester June 30, 1821. His early life was spent on a farm, on account of delicate health, and he never enjoyed the benefit of a regular scholastic training. When still quite young he made his literary début by privately printing a five-act tragedy, which has remained unknown to the public. He was an early contributor of verse to Douglas Jerrold's *Illuminated Magazine*, and about 1844 became literary editor of a country paper at Cheltenham. In 1846 he settled in London as a law student at the Inner Temple, and began contributing to the *Daily News* a series of articles on the "Literature of the Lower Orders" and on "London Prisons," which were well received and were useful in directing philanthropic effort to the amelioration of the condition of the London poor. It was in this connection that he wrote his first published book, "John Howard, a Memoir" (1849). In 1850 he was appointed a deputy commissioner for the organization of the "World's Fair" of the following year, and rendered good service in the organization of above a hundred committees on technical subjects. In 1851 he published a, "Life of William Penn," written without much insight, but which accomplished the easy and useful task of exposing Lord Macaulay's calumnies against the founder of Pennsylvania. In 1852 he travelled through France, Spain, Germany, Italy and Hungary as far as Belgrade, wrote a biography of Admiral Blake and a pamphlet, "The French in England," ridiculing the invasion panic of that year. In 1853 he became editor of the chief critical weekly of Great Britain, the *Athenæum*, in which he wielded until 1869 a power altogether disproportioned to his critical ability. His magisterial relations with British authors procured him the doubtful advantage of the literary executorship of Lady Morgan, and in conjunction with Miss Jewsbury he published her "Memoirs." In 1858 the influence of the *Athenæum* was successfully exerted to obtain for historical students free access to the "State Papers" of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and shortly afterward he took the field as a champion of Bacon against Macaulay and Lord Campbell, publishing "The Personal History of Lord Bacon." In 1864 he made a long tour in the East, which resulted in a work on "The Holy Land" (2 vols., 1865), and he had some part in originating the Palestine Exploration Fund. He spent a few months in 1866 in travels in the United States, giving especial attention to Mormondom and socialism. As a result he published his two best known works, "New America" (1867), and "Spiritual Wives" (1868), in which he displayed a strange incapacity to judge correctly of American society or political tendency. In 1869 he retired from the editorship of the *Athenæum* and made a tour in Russia, the narrative of which was inappropriately entitled "Free Russia" (2 vols., 1870). About this time he was appointed a magistrate for Middlesex, and elected a member of the London School Board. His largest work was entitled "Her Majesty's Tower" (4 vols., 1869-71), which was supplemented last year by a similar book on "Royal Windsor." He made many other journeys in Europe, and in 1874-5 made a second visit to the United States, resulting in his best American book, "White Conquest" (2 vols., 1876), which, though written in a pessimistic vein, contains some useful information about the condition of the negro, the Indian and the Chinaman in America. Other of his writings were "The Lives of the Archbishops of York" (1863), "The Switzers" (1872), "The History of Two Queens—Catherine of Aragon and Anne Boleyn" (4 vols., 1873-4), "Diana, Lady Lyle" (3 vols., 1877), and "Ruby Grey" (3 vols., 1878), the two latter being novels. Last year he visited Cyprus and wrote a book on that island. Mr. Dixon was a liberal in politics, though conservative on religious subjects. He was an untiring lecturer and public speaker and at one time (1868) had aspirations for a seat in Parliament. He rendered good services on the School Board, also in promoting sanitary and architectural reforms for the benefit of the London poor, in procuring the establishment of Shaftesbury Park and the opening of London Tower to the public. He was a member of many learned societies and president of the Tonic Sol Fa Teachers' Association. He possessed great facility in writing and a pleasing style, which rendered his career a pecuniary success and kept his name before the public, but none of his works are likely to be consulted as authoritative by future generations.

COUNT ALBERT DE CIRCOURT, FRENCH HISTORIAN.

Anne Marie Joseph Albert, Count de Circourt, who died recently in France, was born at Bouxières-aux-Chenes, Department of Meurthe, June 25, 1809, graduated at the Naval School in 1826, served on the Levant coasts, was present at the blockade of Algiers in 1828 and at the capture of that city in 1830. Being identified by family associations with the house of Bourbon he resigned from the navy upon the change of dynasty in 1830, and devoted himself chiefly to historical literature, in which, as well as in general information, he became better versed than almost any man of his time. His writings appeared chiefly in Berryer's review, *France et Europe* (1835-40), in the *Revue de Paris* and the *Bibliothèque Universelle de Genève*, and included various narratives of travel and more than one romance. During the second Republic, to which he, like many legitimists, gave his support, he was the conductor of the Department of Foreign Affairs in the columns of the *Opinion Publique*. He held aloof from public life during the Empire, but was one of the founders of the "liberal union" party, 1863, accepted in 1872 an election by the Assembly to the Council of State. His chief works were "The History of the Mudejar Moors, or Moriscos, under Christian Domination" (3 vols., 1845-8), and a monograph on "The Battle of Hastings" (1858). He was the chief author of the volume entitled "Decentralization and Representative Monarchy" (1862), which contained the political programme of the legitimist party of that date.

THOMAS KNOX, SCOTTISH PHILANTHROPIST.

Mr. Thomas Knox, the most prominent champion of temperance reform in Scotland, died at Edinburgh on the 4th inst., in his sixty-first year. He was born at Greenlaw in 1818, became a merchant at Edinburgh in 1843, published one or two volumes of verse, and in 1845 issued his "Modern Chronicles of the Canongate," a work revealing the seamy side of life in Edinburgh, which had a powerful influence in stimulating the efforts for social reform made by Dr. Guthrie and Dr. W. Chambers and led up to the enactment of the Forbes-Mackenzie act against the Sunday liquor traffic. For many years Mr. Knox was president of the Edinburgh Total Abstinence Society and prominent in all efforts for the social improvement of the Scottish metropolis. He was an eloquent lecturer and an enthusiastic friend of popular technical education, acting as master of the Merchant Company, a trustee of many charities and a founder of the training ship and of the Watt Institution. He was an ardent liberal and was on the platform at Mr. Gladstone's reception at Edinburgh.

NATHANIEL H. OSGOOD.

Nathaniel H. Osgood, one of the oldest employés of the Appraiser's Department in the Custom House, died very suddenly on the 26th inst., aged seventy years. He was born in Massachusetts, but came to this city many years ago and went into business. In 1862 he was appointed a clerk in the Custom House, but was very soon transfered to the Public Store as cashier. There it became his duty to disburse all moneys for cartages and collect all dues for sample packages. During his entire seventeen years of service Mr. Osgood never missed but one business day, and that was to attend his wife's funeral. At a meeting of the employés of the Eighth division yesterday, presided over by Colonel George M. Dusenbury, resolutions laudatory of the character of the deceased were passed and a committee was appointed to attend the funeral.

LADY MARGARET L. SINCLAIR.

Lady Margaret Learmonth Sinclair, one of the most distinguished representatives of the past century in Scotland, died at Edinburgh on the 7th inst., aged eighty-five years. She was born in Edinburgh in January, 1794, and married about 1814 Sir John Sinclair, of Dunbeath, a member of a family well known in Scottish history and literature. For fifty years she resided at Barrock House, Caithness, but for some years past had lived at Edinburgh. She had several sons who attained distinction, but they all died before her. She was a stanch liberal politician, but was one of the few who still remembered the Jacobite legends of 1745. She was buried in Holyrood Chapel, being probably the last person to be buried there.

JOHN CAMPBELL MACKENZIE.

John Campbell Mackenzie, for forty years connected with the editorial department of *Galignani's Messenger*, the chief English periodical in continental Europe, died at Paris December 6, aged seventy-four years. He was born at Galway, Ireland, in 1804, graduated at Trinity College, Dublin, studied theology, and settled in Paris as a tutor in 1830, acting also as correspondent for the *Morning Chronicle*, and became in 1840 an editor of *Galignani's Messenger*. For several years he was one of its proprietors and its chief editor, but relinquished most of his duties some months ago on account of his health. He was well known to and very popular with the numerous American colony in Paris.

JUAN BANTISTA ALONSO, SPANISH STATESMAN.

Señor Juan Bautista Alonso, formerly President of the Spanish Cabinet, and a distinguished member of the Madrid Bar and of the Spanish Cortes, died at Madrid early in the present month, aged about fifty-five years.

BENJAMIN RAMPAL, FRENCH SOCIALIST.

M. Benjamin Rampal, a leading French organizer of co-operative societies and translator into French of the works of Schultze-Delitsch and of Henry C. Carey, died recently in Paris, aged sixty-five years.

WEST SIDE PROPERTY OWNERS.

TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS DISCUSSED BY MEN WHO PAY THEM—NEW LAWS NEEDED.

A large and important meeting of the West Side Association was held last night at the rooms of the society, No. 64 West Thirty-fourth street. Mr. Dwight H. Olmstead occupied the chair, and announced that he had invited a number of gentlemen well versed in city affairs to address the association, the subject of the evening being "Taxation and Local Assessments." Of the gentlemen invited the Chairman said he observed that one of them, who was particularly well informed on those subjects, Mr. George H. Andrews, was present. Our tax laws, the Chairman continued, should be repealed and new ones enacted. An important question is as to the extent to which unimproved property should be taxed. Heretofore there has been no distinction in the tax laws, and unimproved lots have been made to pay part of the assessments for the improvement of downtown streets. There are other questions as to whether improved property ought to be taxed at all. Whether foreign residents are to be taxed is a matter of importance. On these points the Chairman was not prepared to express an opinion, but of one thing he was certain—that the tax laws as they now stand are absurd.

At the close of Mr. Olmstead's remarks the following gentlemen were elected members of the association:—Isaias Meyer, General J. W. De Peyster, John E. Parsons, John J. Clancey, J. M. Hartshorne, Lewis J. Phillips, William A. Cauldwell, Miss Susan A. King, J. Romaine Brown, H. W. T. Mali, Emil Oelbermann, J. R. Dillon, George Bliss, Ellwood E. Thorne, J. W. Feeter, Matthew Bird, Abraham Dowdney, A. Gibbins, William H. Hays and Jacob Hays.

MR. ANDREWS' ADDRESS.

Mr. George H. Andrews said that while holding public office in this city some years ago he submitted a scheme of taxation which he thought was thoroughly equitable. For the purposes of taxation property was to be divided into three classes and the taxes graduated accordingly. Strictly improved property was the highest class and ought to pay the highest rate of tax—say at the rate of 100 per cent. The next class was suburban property—property not improved, but susceptible to improvement, to be taxed at the rate, say of sixty-six per cent. The third class was farm property, which he thought should pay the lowest rate, say thirty-three per cent. He was opposed to exempting unimproved property altogether. The result would be a blight on the city's growth if a premium were offered to the miser to abstain from improvements for the purpose of escaping taxation. The great grief of the ages has been taxation. If taxation is equal, however, it is just and equitable. The trouble is that often it is unequal. In our own case more money is wrung from the people of the city than from those of the other parts of the State. The tax laws are in the worst possible condition. They threaten everything and reach almost nothing. Too few people come under their operation. There is only one way to remedy the evil, and that is to place in the hands of every person in the State a list of property of every kind and require it to be filled up by each person with what he actually owns. On the west side the requisites are men and money. These are of more consequence than the rate of taxation. There are two ways to get these—one is to tax everything and the other to tax nothing. The true policy for the city of New York is to charge the emigrant who is willing to come here nothing for his money, whether he brings $1,000 or $10,000,000. He will soon be taxed on everything that he requires; and this the speaker illustrated by numerous instances of persons who left the city and went elsewhere to live simply because they were taxed directly on all they owned. Our tax laws, he said, are useless for revenue but powerful for evil. Speaking of corporations he said he would impose a tax upon them to be collected directly by the State. There must be a change in our