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SPORTS IN GENERAL.

What is Going On in Turf, Base Ball and Pugilistic Circles.

ALMOST TIME FOR "PLAY BALL."

A Week From Today the Washington Nine Will Report.

A week from today the members of the Washington Base Ball Club are expected to report here for preliminary practice. The first game scheduled is to take place two days later, when the new team plays the Georgetown University nine. Jim O'Rourke, the new captain-manager of the team, is expected the latter part of this week. The Washington club is not in the best possible condition. In fact, few of the clubs are as far advanced as is usual at this time of the year. The decision of the board of control that reserved minor league players must be returned or an equivalent given hits Washington hard. We have Inks, Gray and the two Sullivans, besides Wise, who was reserved by the Eastern League. Claim to Wise has been given up, but not to the other players. The terms of Jack Milligan have been accepted, but Baltimore claims him, and he has gone south to practice with the Orioles. President Young is reported as saying that Baltimore's claim to him is equally as good as Washington's. McGuire, who is expected to catch, has not signed. Neither has Killen, who is not satisfied with the terms offered. He is represented as saying: "It's an outrage to offer me but $1,800 per year and tell me that it is the limit paid to first-class men in the league. Why, I told Wagner that there were seven men in the Pittsburg club who got $2,400. Besides, I feel certain that there are men in the Washington team who get more than $1,800. Wagner in his second letter said that if I could play in the field like Stivetts I would be worth more money. Well, that is funny. I will not play for a cent less than the terms I sent in; not a nickel less. I am not afraid of any threats. I pitched fifty-three games last season, won thirty, and with the team as it was made up several times. I think that is a pretty good record. I went in whenever asked, and this is what I get for it."

Killen must have been misquoted. The records show that he pitched in sixty-four games last season, and that only one man, Hutchinson of Chicago, pitched more—seventy-five—and only one other, Rusie, pitched as many. Killen was always ready to work. Every one will admit that. Joyce, Mulvey and Hoy have not signed and there is no telling when they will. Larkin, Wise and Radford have. There will have to be some lively work for the next week to get the team here by Monday. It is hardly likely that Brooklyn will let Washington have Joyce unless it gets Dan Richardson, and yet Mr. Byrne doesn't want to give Dan the $4,500 his contract calls for. He says that that is a matter for Washington to settle. It is, therefore, not among the impossibilities that Richardson will play here.

Those who have been rejoicing so wildly over Joyce's replacing Richardson do not seem to be aware that Richardson equaled Joyce at the bat last season. Dan's percentage was .239, having played in 143 games. Joyce had the same percentage, playing in ninety-seven games. As a third baseman Joyce ranked below even Yank Robinson, whom the local management released because he wasn't good enough.

As to the other clubs, Pittsburg and St. Louis are already playing games in the south, and Baltimore on Saturday left for Charleston, where they will unpack their grips and loosen the buckles on their bat bags for the first time since the cold weather set in last fall.

New York, Cincinnati and Cleveland are ready to put nearly their entire team on the field at twenty-four hours' notice. Boston, Louisville and Chicago have some of their players under contract, but several of the men still persist in holding out, to the disgust of the managers of the clubs.

Brooklyn will have to do some tall hustling to get all into line before the bell taps on April 27. Nearly all are in a better condition than the Phillies, although some of them have not signed more than half their players.

What the Philadelphia Base Ball Club is doing is a mystery, says the Philadelphia *Times*. As yet the fruits of their labors have not begun to appear themselves. Less than a fortnight remains before the team will take the field to begin their practice games, so the players have but a few days remaining before the last bugle sounds. Meantime Messrs. Reach, Rogers, Wright and Shettsline will have to bestir themselves or they will be left in the rear of the league procession before the first month of the season has passed into history.

Manager Ward said yesterday that he expected to have the New York team complete before the end of this week. A contract has been sent to McMahon, and it is expected to be returned signed Tuesday.

Rusie, who has been holding off for more money, has informed the New York club that he will sign at the figures offered him.

Mike Kelly has agreed to the terms offered. Kelly wanted to report for duty after April 12, claiming that he had a theatrical engagement in Chicago which would not close until that date. He was informed, however, that he would have to be ready to start practice on April 1, and will doubtless cancel his theatrical engagement.

This also promises to be a lively week in the affairs of the Brooklyn club. The Brooklyn men have not accepted the club's terms so rapidly as was expected, but C. H. Byrne, the president of the club, when seen at Eastern Park yesterday said that he expected most of his players to report this week. Only four men are under contract at present, Foutz, O'Brien, Burns and Haddock. The report that the club would make no further effort to secure Corcoran is ridiculous. As Brouthers has not accepted the club's salary proposition it is uncertain yet whether Foutz will cover first base or take his regular turn with the pitchers.

Fred Pfeffer has permanently retired from base ball. He said the other afternoon that he would dispose of his interests at Louisville the first of the month and go to Chicago, where he and Col. Jack Chinn, the Kentucky turfman, will engage in the restaurant business. Since Pfeffer is to retire from the team, it is probable that Whistler will be played at second base. Manager Barnie telegraphed that he would reach Louisville today and would remain until the opening of the season.

The Chicago team, under the direction of the excitable veteran, Anson, will leave Chicago for the south today. Anson is said to be feeling his age and the chances are that he may not play regularly at first base this season.

Followers of the game in Brooklyn are anxiously awaiting the closing of the deal between Boston and Brooklyn for the exchange of Lovett and Stivetts. Lovett does not want to play in Brooklyn. Stivetts is a remarkable pitcher and also a clever fielder and is the best batting pitcher in the country.

SOME GOOD SPARRING.

The Athletic Exhibition at the C. A. C. Gymnasium Saturday Night.

The special sparring contests given at the Columbia Athletic Club on Saturday were admitted by all present to be the best exhibition that has ever taken place in that gymnasium. The arrangements were well made, except the accommodation for the press, and an audience of some 900 persons were witnesses of the bouts. Slugging was barred, but that did not hinder some very fast and lively fighting. This was especially due to the fact that most of the contestant were in the light-weight classes. The contests were under the rules of the A. A. U. Mr. Arthur Moore of the New York Athletic Club acted efficiently as referee. Capt. Mooney acted as announcer and filled the bill most acceptably, while Messrs. Dash and Coleman of New York acted as judges. Mr. W. B. Hibbs was timekeeper. The principal fight of a local nature was the victory of Bateman of the C. A. C. in the 118-pound class, a victory that caused great rejoicing in the gymnasium.

But one incident occurred to mar the evening. Mr. John C. Lane of the Warrens was acting as the second for Lynch of his club in his contest with Bateman. Kane claimed a foul, which Referee Moore refused to allow and ordered Kane off the stage. A little wrangling occurred, but after the bout had been closed Mr. Kane appeared on the platform and offered his apology for his hasty action.

In the 118-pound class Bateman, the Georgetown boy, appeared for the first time in the colors of the C. A. C., and right nobly did he uphold them. As he came on the stage he was loudly cheered, and his work more than satisfied his most ardent admirers. He simply had his man at his mercy, and at the end of the first round Lynch was quite willing to stop. In Bateman the Columbias have a winner.

The bouts were won as follows:

105 pounds. McCall of the Warren was given the verdict over Oswald of the Wynnewood.

112 pounds. The Wynnewood man, Fanness, had an easy thing and won from Sullivan of the Neptunes. In the same class the go between Montrey of Roxborough and Corrigan of the Warrens was one of the best of the evening. It took four rounds to decide it, the judges finally giving it to Montrey.

118 pounds. Conlin of the Manayunk was disqualified as not being an amateur and the round went to Fleming of Roxborough.

125 pounds. Wesley Cook of the C. A. C. backed out of his match with Lynch and the contest went to the latter.

120 pounds. Holland of Wynnewood and Skelly of Warren gave a highly interesting and scientific exhibition. The judges disagreed on the result and Referee Moore gave the bout to Holland.

138 pounds. Heinold of Wynnewood obtained a decision easily over Meany, unattached, of this city. There was plenty of ginger in the rounds, but Heinold had all the science.

Catch weights. Bolger and Burrows had a fine windmill affair, but the latter was the better fighter and got the decision.

THE BENNING RACE MEETING.

Entries for the Washington Jockey Club Stakes Close Today.

Thomas M. Draney, secretary of the Washington Jockey Club, says that the spring meeting at the Benning track will be one of the most interesting in the history of the club. Ivy City failed to attract the residents of the capital, and after losing some $30,000 the management decided to close. Ivy City is, therefore, out of the way of Benning, and the meeting at the latter track will begin on April 24 and continue two weeks. The stakes offered by the club close today with Mr. Draney. Owners have till midnight to mail entries or to telegraph them. The stakes are only six in number, but they are worthy of the attention of those who have early horses, or who have horses that they want to get in condition for the spring handicaps at Gravesend and Morris Park.

Green Morris attributes his success early in the season to the fact that he takes his horses to Washington to get them hardened and thoroughly trained. Wyndham Walden never fails to have a lot of the Morris two-year-olds at Washington, and the result is that the "all scarlet" is oftener in the front at Brooklyn and Morris Park than the youngsters of any other stable. They are less green than colts and fillies that have not raced. Old "Father Bill" Daly himself knows a thing or two, and he is always found at Washington in the spring, and later, at Gravesend, he is one of the big winners.

MITCHELL AND THE 'SQUIRE.

How the Latter Came to Give the Pugilist $10,000.

Charley Mitchell, who is in New York, read carefully the biography of his deceased friend and backer, 'Squire Abingdon Baird, yesterday. To many of the published statements Mitchell took decided exception, particularly that which represented the 'squire as a sort of person about whom prize fighters were wont to hang and the inference that might be deduced concerning his own connection with the deceased millionaire sportsman.

"'Squire' Abingdon and I," he said, "have been friends, I might say 'pals,' for seven years, but never in my life have I been under any obligations to him either financially or otherwise. He accompanied me to this country at his own solicitation.

"Now, I want to make clear the way in which the 'squire came to present me with $10,000 to back myself in this fight with Corbett. On arriving at New York we were met with the exorbitant demand of Corbett that I should put up $10,000 at once and in one deposit to secure a match, or else shut up. Of course that was rough on me, but the 'squire at once came to my assistance and said: 'I will give you the money and as much more as they want to bet.' I thanked him and replied that $10,000 would be sufficient, adding that I knew we would get odds for the remainder at the ringside. He put the $10,000 in my hands and remarked in the presence of forty people: 'Here is the money; make your own match; I want nothing to do with it. If you win take it all.' The money was therefore a wholly voluntary gift, which I all the more appreciated as I was not in a condition to refuse it."

DIXON TO FIGHT SIDDONS.

The Feather-weight Champion Will Train Within Forty-eight Hours.

Champion feather-weight George Dixon has agreed to take the place left vacant by Jack Skelly and will meet George Siddons before the Coney Island Athletic Club tonight. Arrangements to this end were consummated yesterday afternoon by the officials of the Coney Island Club and both Siddons and Dixon, after a long and vexing discussion, signed articles of agreement to battle twelve rounds for the original purse—$2,500. Dixon is in pretty fair condition to put up a hurricane contest for twelve rounds.

In order to meet Siddons Dixon has cancelled his theatrical engagement for tonight, and will train arduously for the contest during the very brief space of time he is allowed in which to get himself in condition. Despite the advantage which Siddons will have over the sable boxer as regards condition Dixon is very confident that he will have little trouble in lowering the colors of the New Orleans pugilist.

In agreeing to meet Siddons in so short a time Dixon has earned the good will of the sporting public. He has conceded everything to the managers of Siddons, in order not to disappoint the patrons of the Coney Island Club.

They are nearly of the same height, weight, reach and strength. Both are very clever and clean, effective hitters.

The winner of this tilt will receive $2,000 and the loser $500.

The preliminary bout of the evening will be between the Australian, Billy McCarthy, and Jack McGee of Boston, who has, up to the present, successfully met all comers. The boys will fight at the middle-weight limit—158 pounds.

St. Paul Sports Want the Big Fight.

The Phœnix Athletic Club of St. Paul wants the Corbett-Mitchell fight and will send a communication to the chamber of commerce asking for the sanction of that body to the offering of a $100,000 purse for the fight. They also ask aid in securing the passage of a law allowing boxing contests before incorporated athletic clubs. In view of the prevention of the Fitzsimmons-Hall fight two years ago not much stock is taken in this proposition.

Choynski Challenges Fitzsimmons.

Parson Davies has issued the following:

"On behalf of Joe Choynski I challenge Bob Fitzsimmons to fight for a side wager of $5,000 and the largest purse obtainable, the match to be at catch weights, to take place in from three to six months from date."

Davies says he means business and that Fitzsimmons can communicate with him at Los Angeles until next Wednesday.

Indoor Athletic Records Broken.

The annual winter sports of Lehigh University were held in the college gymnasium Saturday. In the middle-weight boxing match J. M. Vancleve won over R. M. Tarleton, amateur champion of Maryland. Two records were broken. W. S. Murray, '95, scored eight feet eleven inches in the running high kick, exceeding the former record three inches; F. P. Fuller, broke the running high jump record one inch, making a record of five feet five inches.

Walbrodt Beats Ettlinger Twice.

The first game of the match between Walbrodt and Ettlinger was played yesterday at the Manhattan Chess Club in New York, when Walbrodt won after thirty-two moves. The opening was a Ruy Lopez, played by Walbrodt.

The second game between Ettlinger and Walbrodt opened with a Ruy Lopez and was won by Walbrodt after forty-one moves.

"Denver" Smith Wants to Fight Corbett.

On the arrival of James J. Corbett at Pittsburg today he will be met by a challenge from Michael Connelly, one of the backers of "Denver" Smith, for a fight to the finish for $10,000 a side and the largest purse procurable. The challenge will be made at an hour to suit Corbett's convenience, and should he demand that over $10,000 be put up at once it will be forthcoming.

Chief Justice Beasley of New Jersey has granted writs removing to the supreme court the laws recently passed providing for the licensing of race tracks in that state and permitting book making and pool selling. The licenses granted under the acts to Monmouth Park, Guttenburg and Gloucester are suspended pending decision as to the constitutionality of the laws.

Robert Blee has been nominated for mayor by the democrats of Cleveland.

The Manchester cotton spinners have offered to resume work at a reduction of 2½ per cent.

The senatorial election in Spain have resulted in a sweeping victory for the monarchists.

Cholera has obtained a foothold in several cities and villages of southwestern Russia.

E. J. W. Morse & Company's large brick cotton thread factory, at South Easton, Mass., was burned about midnight Saturday. The loss is estimated at from $175,000 to $200,000.

There is a suspicion in Rome that Dr. Ceccorelli, the pope's physician, who recently died, was poisoned.

SOCIAL MATTERS.

President Cleveland received the diplomatic corps Saturday afternoon at 3:30 and the representation of that distinguished body was very large. The reception was made as informal as possible and only occupied a half hour. Many of the ministers drove to the White House, but a great many more walked. No court uniforms were donned for the occasion, but their absence had no effect on the sincerity of the exchange of international courtesies.

The President had most of the cabinet to stand near him, though they did not have the foreigners formally introduced. With the exception of Secretary Gresham the other cabinet officers had assembled in the blue parlor when the President came in.

Secretary Gresham escorted the chief of the nation down stairs, following in this particular a custom which was allowed to lapse in the last administration. On most of the ceremonious events during that period, few of which took place without the presence of the ladies of the household, Mr. Harrison came down stairs without the escort of his Secretary of State. Secretary Gresham returns, however, to the custom always honored when he was a cabinet member before.

The diplomats gathered in the red parlor. When they went into the blue room Baron Fava was at the head of the corps. Mr. Adee made the introductions to the Secretary of the State, who in turn presented each gentleman to the President. Secretary Carlisle, Secretary Smith, Postmaster General Bissell and Attorney General Olney stood on line with the President.

The Chinese minister, his son and two secretaries were resplendent in more light and daintily colored attire than they have worn heretofore. They gave an acceptable touch of color to the gathering of gentlemen in the ordinary morning costume.

The Mexican minister, Mr. Romero, had with him Mr. Porfirio Diaz, who is a son of the president of Mexico and is now attached to the Mexican legation here.

Mrs. Cleveland has set apart two days each week when she will visitors who come by appointment. This is the same rule formerly observed by her in the White House. The hour set is from 1 to 2, and it is just possible that if these occasions were publicly announced it would be necessary to change them. Those who write and ask for the honor of an interview are immediately answered and an appointment made. This is the rule for all except those who feel they are intimate enough to call at any time, and its observance gives the wife of the President more leisure to devote to other things.

Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett's reading for charity will take place Wednesday afternoon at 4 o'clock.

A fair for the benefit of the building fund of St. John's Chapel will be held by Miss Kate Roy's Sunday school class at her residence, 721 19th street, on Thursday from 2 till 6 o'clock.

The Japanese minister and Mrs. Tateno gave a dinner party on Saturday night in honor of General and Mrs. Schofield. Among the guests were Mr. Jno. W. Thompson, Miss Ida Thompson, Miss Maury and Mr. Porfirio Diaz of the Mexican legation.

Prince Cantacuzene, the Russian minister, has received his furniture from Vienna, but is yet undecided whether or not he will retain the present home of his legation.

Miss Gertrude Davis, 435 O street northwest, gave a luncheon last Saturday at 2 o'clock to a few young lady friends. The table was prettily decorated. In the center were different colored hyacinths banked in ivy, and the favor for each young lady was a buttonhole bouquet of lilies of the valley. Those present were Misses Mabel Donn, Edythe and Minnie Compton, Catherine Newton, Nellie Yisburne, Miss Bagart, Grace Hills, Bessie Parke, Bessie Reid, Miss Lyman.

Mr. Edward Schloemann of Bremen, Germany, celebrated his eightieth birthday on Saturday last at the residence of his son-in-law, Mr. E. F. Droop, in this city, in the midst of his children and grandchildren. As there are but few who arrive at this golden age great care had been taken to make the occasion a most noteworthy one. An elaborate dinner was given Saturday afternoon and in the evening one act of Mr. Schloemann's favorite opera, "Czar and Carpenter," was performed at Mr. Droop's house. This was followed by a burlesque on the "tower scene" from "Trovatore," which was greatly enjoyed by those present. Dancing and supper followed.

The Pinta Club met at the Elsmere on Saturday night. A sketch of travels, "From Brindisi to Athens," read by the author, Mrs. Patty Miller-Stocking, was followed by readings by Mrs. Lippincott (Grace Greenwood), Mr. John Tweedale and Miss Anna Marshall Key. A song by Mr. Augustus Francis, accompanied by Mrs. E. A. Balloch, and several piano solos by Prof. Arthur Mayo made a program of rare excellence.

Among those present were Commander and Mrs. Rewinger, Prof. C. W. Parks, Mrs. Judge Lynch, Miss Lynch, Mrs. Maj. Powell, Miss Powell, Lieut. and Mrs. Blount, Dr. and Mrs. George, Prof. and Mrs. McGee, Mrs. and Miss Bynum, Mrs. J. De Witt Warner, Gov. Boutwell, Mr. Edward Spaulding, Mrs. James Spaulding, Mr. Stilson Hutchins, Mr. Cleveland Moffat, Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Troubee, Miss A. C. Hurd, Mrs. Camden, Mr. Rollo Camden, Mr. and Mrs. Hempstone, Mr. and Mrs. Farmington, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Atwater, Miss Atwater, Mrs. Perley Putnam, Mrs. H. E. Chamberlin, Dr. Stuart Muncaster, Dr. Magruder Muncaster, Mrs. Siegel and Miss Siegel, Mrs. Doyle and the Misses Doyle, Mr. Hiram A. Burt, Mr. E. Trenchard Price, Miss Clubbee, Miss Van Zant, Miss Cochran, Miss Hildreth, Mrs. Fairbanks, Miss E. Scott, Miss Atkins, Mrs. Henry B. Taylor, Mrs. A. K. Taylor, Mrs. H. F. Chase, Mrs. E. D. Thorndike, Mrs. H. N. Ralston, Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Cottrell, Dr. Morris, Mr. Howard Corning, Mrs. C. H. Corning, Mrs. Jesse Palmer Webber, Mrs. and Miss Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Stitt, Mrs. B. Richmond Keith and Miss Keith, Mrs. F. S. Osborn, Mr. and Mrs. Gwynn, Mrs. Boviliers, Mrs. and Miss Williams, Mrs. Crabbe, Miss Harriet Crabbe, Miss Matthews, Miss Hinman, Mrs. H. M. Chapin, Mrs. Ogden, Miss Mayo, Miss Hallowell, Mr. Perry Allen, Mrs. J. S. Charleson, Mr. Robert Morris and Mr. A. D. Marshall.

A reception was given by Col. and Mrs. William H. Slater at their home, 1327 11th street northwest, Saturday evening, to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage. Col. and Mrs. J. W. McKnight of New York and Mrs. Horace G. Jacobs of Orange, Cal., and her daughter, Miss Fannie, Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Slater, Capt. and Mrs. G. W. E. Slater and Mr. Milton T. Slater and daughter, Miss Emma, with Miss Eva Slater, assisted in receiving. The parlors were thronged with guests, while the Rev. Dr. Greene of Calvary Baptist Church spoke fitting words for the occasion before supper was served. Col. and Mrs. Slater were the recipients of many elegant and costly presents.

Among those present were: Rev. S. H. Greene and wife, Col. and Mrs. A. G. M. Prevost, Mr. George A. Prevost, M. W. Bartlett, wife and daughter, Miss Mattie, L. M. Saunders and wife, Mrs. Edwin Green, Mr. A. M. Clapp and wife, Mr. Ellis Clapp, Mr. Harry Clapp, Mr. Parks and wife, William S. Parks, Mr. Buswell, Mr. S. W. Woodward and wife, Dr. and Mrs. William Merrill, Mr. W. H. Houghton, Capt. Daniel Houghton, Capt. George L. Lillebridge, George S. Prindle and wife, Mr. James G. Hill and wife, Mr. Isaac S. Lyon, wife and daughter, Capt. H. L. and Mrs. Sherwood, Gen. E. W. Whitaker and wife, Mr. E. R. Waters, Miss Fronie Waters, Dr. Charles Osman and Mrs. Osman, Mr. George W. Gray and Mrs. Gray, W. W. Burdette, Thomas I. Gardner and wife, Col. S. I. Waters, Capt. A. A. Thomas, Col. J. J. Brooks and Mrs. Brooks, Mrs. Wm. A. Cook, Albert F. Marsh and Mrs. Marsh, Mrs. W. B. Moses, Rev. and Mrs. Geddings, Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Lowry, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. J. Reese, Mr. David Haynes, Mr. and Mrs. McGeorge, Mr. John Loyd, Mr. Geo. Boyd, Mr. Horace D. J. Drake, wife and daughter, Mrs. M. Waters, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Pierce, Mr. E. Howard Mosher and Mrs. Mosher of New York, Mr. and Mrs. Frank H. Pelouze, Mr. George W. Rowzer, Mr. Theodore Slater and wife, Capt. G. W. E. Slater, Mrs. Alverda Slater, Mrs. John Drake of Elizabeth, N. J.; Col. and Mrs. J. H. Whittaker, Mrs. Woodward of Richmond, Va.; Mrs. Risher of New Jersey, Dr. and Mrs. S. B. Hood, Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Marsh and Capt. and Mrs. Kavanaugh.

A circular issued by the Hamburg-American line directs agents to book Russian and Austrian passengers by the Canadian line as from Antwerp, as the borders are closed to emigrants from Hamburg and Bremen, but not to those from Antwerp. Chicago agents deem this an attempt to wave the quarantine restrictions.

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WAITED ON THE OLD FOLKS.

Society People Attend the Dinner at the Little Sisters' Home.

St. Joseph's day is the great feast day of the Little Sisters of the Poor and therefore all over this country and in Europe in the houses of the order today the usual quiet gives way to the sounds of merriment. The feast for the aged inmates of these homes is attended by the rich and fortunate and the greatest contrasts which society affords are presented in those who serve and those who are served. The first two Little Sisters of the Poor were young girls of the town of St. Servan, a little hamlet of Brittany on the seacoast. These angels of charity devoted their lives to the care of the old people left destitute because those upon whom they depended for a support lost their lives at sea. That was in 1840, and it was not many years before the order had spread and was doing its work of charity all over Europe. The order has been in existence in this country about twenty-five years, and has houses in nearly every large city from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Perhaps few of those who see the sisters every day on their mission through the streets are aware on what broad lines their work is founded. In the poor people who are received into their homes no distinction is made because of religion, nationality or color. The applicants must be destitute, be of good moral character and be sixty years or over. All the housework and catdoor begging are done by the sisters. There are no servants. Every morning two of them go out on foot and beg from door to door. At the same time two others go out in a wagon and collect from the hotels broken meat, bread, vegetables, coffee grounds and tea leaves, old clothes and anything else which is offered to them. Every morning in the market houses the sisters can be seen going from stall to stall receiving from each dealer with a charity which never grows less something to add to the collection in their baskets. The sisters at home keep the house clean, prepare the food, one tends the furnace, another the cows and all nurse and care for the helpless and crippled old people of the house. The health of the inmates is generally good, and few die the victims of any disease not the result of old age. This is the ordinary routine of the house the whole year around. Today it was slightly different. The begging sisters remained at home today. During their rounds the past few weeks they have asked every one wherever they went to be present today at the annual dinner, in the capacity of a spectator, of course. The inmates were dressed in their best clothes, tidy dresses, pretty aprons and quite brightened with gaily colored ribbons. Dinner was served at 12:30, and the ordinary menu increased by the addition of extra dainties. It consisted of soup, roast meat, several vegetables, ice cream, cake, candies and oranges for dessert. Everything was a special donation from friends of the house, many of whom were there to see it partaken of. The spectators, most of whom are great lights in the world of diplomacy, fashion and society, distributed themselves as servers and assistants in the four dining rooms for the white men and women and the colored men and women. Both ladies and gentlemen put on big white aprons and went right to work. After the meal was over the grandest entertainment was to be had in the old men's refectory, where the annual song of complimentary praise and thanks to the patrons of the house was sung by the white men, accompanied by the music of the violin and accordion. The old colored men and women contributed their share to the general amusement by dancing, &c., which was alone well worth the trouble of going out there. Before the celebration of the day was over all the inmates as well as the spectators gathered in the chapel for benediction, which was given by the chaplain of the house.

Among the visitors who added interest to the occasion by waiting on the table were Father Walter, the Misses Riggs, the Misses Mullan, Col. and Mrs. R. I. Fleming and their little daughter, Mrs. Vedder, the Misses Clagett, Mr. Boeufve and other members of the French legation, Count de Chambrun, Mrs. James F. Barbour and daughter, Mrs. Chas. Gibson, Mrs. Blackburn, Mrs. W. W. Dixon, Mrs. Hinckley, Mrs. W. F. Mattingly, Miss Acosta, the Misses Patten, Miss Almy, the Misses Merrick, Mrs. Wash. McLean, Mrs. Hazen, Mrs. Denman, Mrs. John Moore, Mrs. Janin, Miss Morse, Mr. Woodbury Lowery, Miss Mildred Carlisle, Miss White, sister of Senator White, Mrs. Winthrop, Mrs. Schmidt, Miss Louise Mitchell, Miss Palms of Detroit, Mrs. R. J. Wynne, Mrs. and Miss Laingerfield, Miss Bedfern, Miss O'Toole, Mr. Hunter, Mrs. Bancroft Davis and Mrs. and Miss Hills.

Before and after the dinner all the visitors greatly enjoyed going all over the house from the kitchens to the garret. All the inmates confined to their beds had all the good cheer they could take and many visits from the young ladies.

One old colored woman, upward of ninety years, lay dying in the room adjoining the dining room, where her old friends were enjoying their dinner. The merriment did not affect her, as no earthly sounds will ever again.

Before the sun goes down this evening the sister watching near her thought the life of the old soul would be ended. She was, according to the happy calendar of the house, especially blessed in the fact that death was approaching to her on St. Joseph's day.

DISTRICT GOVERNMENT.

A SANITARY COMPLAINT.

The Swiss Steam Laundry Company has complained to the Commissioners that it has entered complaints many times to the health officer, to which it has had no response, regarding the unsanitary condition of its property, made so by the constant and continual deposits of all kinds of filth by the occupants of the shanties that border on the premises. The Commissioners have decided to look into the matter.

BUILDING PERMITS.

Building permits were issued today to the following: S. Pinn, four frame dwellings on Kennell street; $500. H. Lucke, one brick dwelling at 1755 L street northwest; $4,300. Chas. A. Langley, one brick private stable, rear of 12th street southwest; $1,000. L. Kilian, one private brick stable at 2108 I street northwest; $700.

The Sheridan-Mendota silver mine at Telluride, one of the largest in Colorado, has closed down because of the low price of silver.

In the United States circuit court at Boston the grand jury has returned two indictments against Joseph W. Work, late cashier of the Maverick Bank, accused of making false entries in the books amounting to $1,780,345.

The Diamond State Iron Company of Delaware has sued the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad Company for $100,000 damages for breach of contract.

A premature explosion of dynamite during blasting operations at Scarsdale, Westchester county, N. Y., Saturday resulted in the killing of John Nicholas and Joseph Bartiono.

Lord Salisbury is confined to his bed and has been forbidden by his physicians from attending to business.

YOU GET STRONG, if you're a tired-out or "run-down" woman, with Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. And, if you suffer from any "female complaint" or disorder, you get well. For these two things—to build up women's strength, and to cure women's ailments—this is the only medicine that's *guaranteed*. If it doesn't benefit or cure, in every case, your money is returned. On these terms, what else can be "just as good" for you to buy?
The "Prescription" regulates and promotes all the natural functions, never conflicts with them, and is perfectly harmless in any condition of the female system. It improves digestion, enriches the blood, brings refreshing sleep, and restores health and vigor.
For ulcerations, displacements, bearing-down sensations, periodical pains, and every chronic weakness or irregularity, it's a remedy that safely, and permanently cures.

"Best Shirts."
We are willing to have you scrutinize our 85c. "Invincible" most *thoroughly*. It's unlaundered, and you could easily see the imperfections—*if there were any*. Find them if you can! We'll guarantee it to be the best 85c. Shirt *in the world* today.
"The Two Old Timers,"
ELLERY & IRELAND, MANAGERS.
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THE BATHING BEACH.

Its Present Condition and Needs Stated by Mr. Stevens.

The Commissioners today received the following report from Superintendent Stevens of the bathing beach:

I have the honor to report upon the present condition and the absolute needs of the bathing beach in order that it may be kept open for the season, as follows: Since the last bathing season two doors have been stolen from the colored house and some other damages done which will cost about $5 for repairs. The colored wharf has been badly damaged by the ice. The outer end of the wharf is raised and now stands, piles and all, about two feet above the level of the main line. A midway section of the wharf was broken up and entirely carried away, so that the outer section with the spring-board on it stands isolated. It will require thirty new boards and eight pieces of scantling to repair this wharf, leaving the outer end raised as it now is. It could not be restored to its original level without tearing the boards all off and redriving or sawing off the piles and rebuilding at a considerable expense. The north wharf is considerably crooked and it will require fifteen new boards to replace those which are so broken as to be unsafe and those entirely gone.

The fence which was placed along the front of the beach was entirely pulled up by the ice and one-half of it floated off and is lost. The other half was saved at high tide by some kind hands pulling it ashore while floating. To repair the wharves and houses will cost $50 at the lowest estimate, leaving the frames of the wharves as they now stand. The remaining fence lumber would be sufficient to replace the end fences of the beach which have been stolen and carried away.

I would call your attention to the fact that no damage by ice ever could occur in a pool or basin such as I have repeatedly recommended, because there would be no rise or fall of the tide to lift the ice when frozen around the wharves, and there could be no possibility of anything floating away which was left within such a basin.

Bathing usually commences here as early as May 1.

I have had the life boat calked up so that it is ready for use and our last year's experience speaks very highly for this life boat service in having rendered saving aid to seven persons and not having one drowning after it was put in service. The fence placed along the front as an experiment interfered greatly with the enjoyment of the beach by bathers and was of no service whatever. During the heated term the river is usually low, and in the hours suitable for bathing there was hardly ever water inside of the fence deep enough to swim in, and it was much oftener not a foot deep anywhere within the fence, so that all the bathing was done outside of the fence and the fence interfered with the bathers coming ashore. It also interferes with making a rush from shore to any one in danger in order to throw a line or shove a plank for his assistance. In past seasons it was so common to render such aid that no record was kept of it. I have never heard any one who used the beach say the fence was of any use, and there were over 10,000 bathers registered after the fence was put up. There were a number of instances where boys got hung in or under the fence under water and were pulled out by others. I do not recommend the replacing of the fence along the beach front. It is a source of more danger than safety. Twice every day the tide rises and falls four feet, and in the season of high tides this range is three feet higher than in the season of low tides, so that a fixed fence cannot possibly mark a line of safety.

A Home for In