livered at the mines and to better disguise the tranaction an agreement was also provided that the profits made on the coal should be divided one-half to the coal company, one-sixth to the Northern Pacific company for itself, and the remaining two-sixths to the Northern Pacific company, to be applied to the purchase of trust certificates at par, so that in addition to the enormous profit made, and which railroad has never paid expenses of its operation, to say nothing of interest on its cost, and in addition to one-half of its profits arising out of the coal contract, the syndicate will eventually get $2,000,000 from the Northern Pacific company for the puchase of their trust certificates representing the coal mine, and which cost them not to exceed $200,000.

The Manitoba Branch.

In respect to the Northern Pacific and Manitoba railroad, the petition avers that that company was organized by a syndicate composed of members of the board of directors of the Northern Pacific Company, which purchased a line of railroad, which had been partly constructed, running from Winnipeg south to a point of connection with the Duluth and Manitoba railroad, one of the branch lines of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, and which syndicate then completed the same and added a lot of branches thereto at a cost, including the original purchase price, of not exceeding $12,000 a mile, and that this road they then, as directors of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, caused that company to buy for bonds at the rate of $20,000 a mile and thereby realized a profit to themselves of upwards of $2,000,000, and in addition the Northern Pacific Railroad Company assumed the interest on $750,000 of terminal bonds, secured upon the terminal property of the company at Winnipeg, and which was at least 25 per cent in excess of the cost or value of that property.

The petition shows that this property has never paid the mere cost of operation, and that the interest charges which the Northern Pacific have had to pay, amounting to upward of $900,000 a year, arising out of this transaction had been a dead loss to it, and the petitioners charge that the whole scheme of acquiring this line of railroad "was without any business necessity or reason whatever except only that thereby such members of the board of directors of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company as were interested therein could, as they, in fact, did, realize an enormous profit therefrom."

In addition to the above-mentioned branch lines which were acquired by the issue of the consolidated mortgage bonds, and which together about exhausted all of these bonds which could be issued under the mortgage for such purpose, the Oakes-Rolston board of directors of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company guaranteed the interest by indorsement on the bonds, or by a lease of some $38,000,000 additional bonds of other railroads as branches of its system, "in no single instance of which have been, or are, the earnings of the property nearly equivalent to the interest so guaranteed."

Instances are given in the petition of cases where Directors Abbott, Colby and Hoyt secured and sold to the Northern Pacific, at large prices, properties which were unprofitable.

The petition criticises the receivers appointed at the instigation of the directors for consenting to the dismemberment of the system and its jurisdiction vested in twenty-three different sets of receivers.

Cause for Action.

The petition avers that the stockholders, represented by the board of directors, have a cause of action against the late directors of the company, including Oakes and Rolston, for the various transactions set forth, because of their individual fraud and negligence or mismanagement in the different instances cited; and also avers that it is necessary for the new board to have free access to the books and accounts of the railroad, which they cannot expect to have while Mr. Oakes is one of the receivers, and that furthermore, inasmuch as the actions for restitution must be brought in the names of the receivers, and it is not competent for Oakes, as receiver, to sue himself as an individual, that therefore it is absolutely necessary that he at least should be removed and another receiver appointed in his place.

An order has been issued by Judge Jenkins to show cause why the petition should not be granted.

THE MIANTONOMOH.

She is Ordered to Hampton Roads Instead of Brazil.

Another mysterious naval movement has been made. The double turreted monitor Miantonomoh, which has been fitting out at New York for sea service, presumably in Brazil, has been ordered to proceed at once to Hampton Roads. She will leave New York this evening or tomorrow.

One explanation for the change is that her officers have the navy yard fever, and that the vessel can be better prepared for sea service in the Roads than at New York, inasmuch as there are better facilities for the exercise of her crew at the former place. Inasmuch as the Miantonomoh is a coast defense vessel, and was not designed for cruising, it is not regarded here as likely that she will be sent so far away as Brazil except in an extreme emergency, notwithstanding the statements telegraphed from New York today.

Mrs. Talmage Denies.

In the divorce case of Frank P. Talmage, filed on the 23d instant, against Ella F. Talmage, in which the respondent is charged with adultery in 1892 and subsequently, Mrs. Talmage today, by Mr. E. B. Hay, filed answer. She denies the charge or that the knowledge of any allegations affecting her chastity caused him to separate himself from her, and charges that on May 15, 1883, he deserted and abandoned her and her child, which he last saw one month after its birth. She states that not having heard of him till May, 1893, she assumed that he was dead and she was a widow, especially when she saw a newspaper clipping that Frank B. Talmage had committed suicide, and his mother also believed him dead.

Grip Among the Firemen.

The fire department is just now seriously crippled by the prevalence of the grip among its members.

The following letter from Chief Parris was received by the Commissioners today:

"I have the honor to state that the epidemic known as the grip has so seriously crippled the efficiency of this department as to render it almost useless. In engine company No. 1, alone, four men are off duty sick, and the attending physician is prescribing for five more in the same company who are not fit for duty. This leaves but one well man at the engine house. In the majority of companies men are off with the same disease. I would recommend that six men be employed at present, and should the necessity of the situation require, I will recommend that the number be increased as wanted, and they will receive as compensation $2 per day, payable from the emergency fund."

The Commissioners have ordered that six men be employed as substitutes for the members unfit for duty at $2 per day, payable from the emergency fund, as recommended by Chief Parris.

Trinity Commandery.

Trinity Commandery, United Order Golden Cross, met at Golden Cross Hall, Capitol Hill, Tuesday evening, December 26, and elected the following officers for the ensuing term: E. J. Pattee, noble commander; Miss Susan A. Langley, vice noble commander; Mrs. Emma S. G. Pattee, worthy prelate; E. L. Phillips, keeper of records; R. J. Flood, financial keeper of records; Carl S. Orleman, worthy herald; Mrs. Jas. T. Harvey, warder inner gate; James T. Harvey, warder outer gate; Sacket Duryee, Frederick R. Sparks and James T. Harvey, trustees. The retiring noble commander, Dr. George W. N. Custis, was elected representative to the Grand Commandery, and Deputy Grand Commander William T. Kent, alternate.

Knights of Pythias Election.

Capital Lodge, No. 24, Knights of Pythias, has elected the following officers for the ensuing term: C.C., S. W. Gillingham; V.C., E. L. Phillips; prelate, E. Edmonston; M. of W., S.L.Gardiner; M. of E., Julius Viedt, jr.; M. of F., W. A. Sword; K. of R. and S., G. W. Baumann; M. at A., J. H. Mills; I. G., A. A. Rock; O.G., J. A. Douglass, jr.; representatives, G. W. Baumann, C. W. Steers, J. W. Carter, J. F. Skidmore, W. L. Phillips, sr.; lodge trustees, J. F. Skidmore, E. L. Phillips, W. L. Phillips; orphans' trustees, J. W. Carter, B. Heidenheimer, W. A. Sword.

Ticket Brokers' Election.

At the meeting of the Washington Ticket Brokers' Association held at the Metropolitan Hotel last Friday evening the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: W. W. Marmaduke, chairman; M. M. Beekman, secretary, and J. Spleidt, treasurer.

LATE NEWS BY WIRE.

Dispute Over Attachment of the New England Road's Property.

SHERIFF REFUSES TO GIVE POSSESSION.

Contest Over Receivership in Rhode Island.

A RACE TO THE COURT ROOM.

HARTFORD, Conn., Dec. 28.—Doubt is expressed in legal circles as to whether the large attachment put upon the property of the New York and New England railroad last night in the suit of the Philadelphia and Reading road will hold. Judge Townsend's order appointing W. T. Hart of Boston receiver of the New England road for Connecticut was issued in New Haven at 8:30 o'clock p.m., and after that hour attachments could not be legally made on the property of the road. It was nearly 9 o'clock before the sheriff presented the writ to Division Superintendent Quigg and began to tie up the rolling stock.

Arthur Perkins of Perkins & Perkins, counsel for Receiver Hart, served the receivership papers on Division Supt. Quigg this morning and demanded of Sheriff Preston possession of the property attached. The sheriff declined to yield possession.

It is understood that he next step will be to obtain from Judge Townsend a peremptory order demanding that the sheriff recognize the receiver, as he was appointed before the sheriff made any attachments.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Dec. 28.—It is expected that there will be a contest over the appointment of a New York and New England receiver before Judge Colt today. One side wants W. T. Hart and it is understood that others want Mr. Platt. Both parties are now en route from Boston. It is understood there was something of a race to get the first train, but representatives of both sides are on the same train.

BOSTON, Dec. 28.—Counsel for the New York and New England road will ask the court for the appointment, as receiver of the road in Massachusetts, of Mr. Wm. T. Hart, who was yesterday made receiver in Connecticut by Judge Townsend. There will be no opposition to the appointment.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—Shortly after noon today papers for the appointment of a receiver for the New England Terminal Railroad Company were filed with United States Commissioner Shields.

FOUND DEAD IN BED.

William T. Williams, a Member of the New York Stock Exchange.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—William T. Williams, fifty-seven years old, a member of the New York stock exchange, was found dead in bed this morning in his room at No. 68 West 29th street. It is supposed he died from a hemorrhage of the lungs. Last night he was apparently in good health, and spent the evening until 11 o'clock at the Union League Club, of which he was a member. Mr. Williams was a specialist in Chicago, Burlington and Quincy stock.

BOUGHT BY THE N. Y. C.

Purchase of the New York and Northern Railroad at Auction.

YONKERS, N. Y., Dec. 28.—The New York and Northern railroad was sold at auction today to J. Pierpont Morgan, representing the New York Central railroad, for $1,000,000.

AGAINST THE WILSON BILL.

Lumber Interests in Maine Begin to Organize.

ST. JOHN, N. B., Dec. 28.—J. P. Bassant and Mr. Asa Warren of Bangor, representing the lumber interests of Maine, are in St. John to organize opposition to the Wilson bill among the American lumbermen doing business from this city.

They seek especially to prevent spruce from going on the free list at once, though they are willing that some arrangement should be made, say on the sliding scale principle, whereby the spruce would gradually enter into the free list.

WILL ATTACK MONTENEGRO.

Albanians Preparing to Assault the Little Principality of the East.

CETTINJE, Montenegro, Dec. 28.—The Albanians have severed all communication with Montenegro and are preparing to make an organized attack upon the principality. Montenegro has demanded of the porte that it take measures to control its subjects in Albania and has declared that Montenegro will hold Turkey responsible for any overt act made against her by the Albanians.

FIGHTING IN HONDURAS.

The Military in Central America Not Allowing Themselves to Grow Rusty.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—A special from San Salvador says a battle is reported to have been fought between Hondurian troops and the rebels. The latter are said to have been compelled to retreat on Somotilla.

Another report has been received of a battle between Nicaragua and Hondurian troops, in which it is stated thirty-one were killed on both sides, an army under Bonilla having invaded Honduras.

BECOMES A PATRON OF LETTERS.

The Sultan of Turkey Professes a Desire to Encourage Authorship.

LONDON, Dec. 28.—The Vienna correspondent of the Central News says: The Sultan of Turkey has decreed that three copies of every book and pamphlet published in the empire during his majesty's reign shall be sent to the palace library and one copy to the porte library. This is nominally to encourage native writers, but is likelier to aid the government censorship. Many of the works are out of print and must be reprinted. Several authors of outspoken works have quitted Turkey.

Shot His Father-in-Law.

HARTINGTON, Neb., Dec. 28.—Porter Johnson, an aged farmer living about twelve miles west of here, was fatally injured by a shot fired by C. E. Elliott, his son-in-law, yesterday. Elliott was in a buggy on his way to his mother's house, intending to bring her to town with him, when he met Johnson, who picked a quarrel with him and threatened to kill him, and reached for a gun. Elliott drew his revolver and fired first, the bullet entering the old man's stomach. Elliott surrendered to the authorities. A preliminary hearing will be held today.

The London Market.

LONDON, Dec. 28, 4 p. m.—Consols, 98 3-16 for money and 98 5-16 for the account. New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio, 1sts, 17 3-4. Canadian Pacific, 73 1-4. Erie, 14 3-4. Erie, 2ds, 76 3-4. Illinois Central, 92 1-4. Mexican ordinary, 14 3-4. St. Paul common, 60. New York Central, 101 1-4. Pennsylvania, 49 1-4. Reading, 22. Mexican Central, new 4s, 53 1-2. Atchison common, 13 3-4.

Against the Water Company.

Mr. Roberts, proprietor of the Cameron mill race, which supplies the Alexandria water works, obtained this morning a temporary injunction to restrain the Alexandria Water Company from supplying the village of West End, outside of city limits, with water. He alleges that the grant of water is for the city only.

Consul General Jones Buried.

Special Dispatch to The Evening Star.

RALEIGH, N. C., Dec. 28.—The remains of Consul General Alfred D. Jones arrived at Cary this morning and were received by many citizens. A special train carried a large party there from Raleigh, among whom were Secretary of State Coke, Mayor Badger and all the county officials. The funeral was held at Cary Methodist Church, and the burial took place at the Jones home, White Plains, two miles from there, the Masons being in charge.

The subtreasury at New York shipped to New Orleans yesterday $100,000 in notes of small denomination.

HOW MISS PETTY WAS KILLED.

The Newark Miser Murdered With an Old Door Knob She Carried.

NEWARK, N. J., Dec. 28.—The police have found the weapon with which the wounds on Elizabeth Petty's head were inflicted. Like everything else, however, in connection with the case which has been discovered, it affords no assistance in running down the murderers, for it belonged to the furnishings of Miss Petty's household.

The weapon was simply an old door knob. It is now in the possession of the police. It is about six inches long. On one end of the shank is a small brass knob. This is covered with spots of blood. The shank itself is about four inches long. The half to which the knob is attached has four edges. The other half is round and at the very end tapers down into a slender spiral screw. The point is rather sharp and it is supposed that this point was driven into the woman's head.

The most interesting thing about the object is the fact that just below the knob a piece of black cloth string, about a foot and a half long, is attached to the shank. The significance of this will be understood when it is stated that Miss Petty was wont to carry about with her for self-protection a door knob, to which a long black string was invariably attached.

In other words, the old maid was killed, not by a knob which the murderers had wrenched from some door in the house, but with the very knob which Miss Petty carried in her pocket when she went out for her last walk.

HELD UP BY TRAMPS.

Passers Over a Bridge at Ottumwa, Iowa, Made to Pay Toll.

OTTUMWA, Iowa, Dec. 28.—A gang of tramps armed themselves yesterday with stones and clubs, and taking their stand on the south end of the Market street bridge across the Des Moines river, in broad daylight demanded of every citizen who passed that he stand up and deliver. Six persons were robbed of all they had. One farmer was pulled from his wagon, and, after being brutally beaten, was robbed of all his money. A boy named Phil. Armstrong resisted them, when they laid hold of him and he was severely beaten by the ruffians.

His life was saved by the timely arrival of the police. They rescued him from the brutes after a hard fight. Three of the tramps were arrested. The rest escaped, but are being pursued.

PURSUING THE ANARCHISTS.

Important Revelations to the Spanish Authorities.

BARCELONA, Spain, Dec. 28.—Antonio Rinaldi, the anarchist who was arrested at Perpignan, France, on the charge of complicity in the Lyceum Theater bomb outrage here, and who was turned over to the Spanish authorities here to answer the charge against him, was examined before a judge in the prison yesterday. It is believed that he made a statement of the highest importance to the authorities.

The judge before whom the examination took place has demanded from the Madrid authorities that four of the anarchists now under arrest in that city be transferred to Barcelona.

The police have information showing that they were concerned in the recent plots and outrages here.

PRAGUE, Dec. 28.—In searching the lodgings of Dragoun and Dalezal, two of the men accused of complicity in the assassination of Mrva, designs for bombs and a socialist pamphlet were found. Both Dragoun and Dalezal were members of the Omladina Society, the socialist organization which was founded by Mrva for, as many of its members now claim, the sole purpose of leading them into making demonstrations and then betraying them to the authorities.

The Official Gazette, in an article on the recent assassination of Mrva, whom the young Czechs claim was an agent of the police, says that the indirect connection between the speeches made by young Czech members of the Reichsrath, and the murder of Mrva, condemns the party in the eyes of everybody at home and abroad. It adds that the Bohemian people regard with anguish the seduction of their young men by fanatic agitators.

PARIS, Dec. 28.—A Belgian named Demouchy was arrested here yesterday for expressing approval of the outrage committed by Auguste Vaillant in the chamber of deputies on the 9th instant, and declaring that the example set by Vaillant would be followed by others.

It is probable that Vaillant will appeal from his committal, which will delay his trial, which was yesterday fixed for the 5th of January, until the end of that month.

THREW OUT THE BABY.

Exciting Fire at a Road House Near Lakewood, N. J.

LAKEWOOD, N. J., Dec. 28.—A fatal accident occurred this morning during a fire at South Lakewood Park, about four miles from here. The Casino, a road house, controlled by a New York syndicate, caught fire, and during the fire the infant daughter of Henry Alexander, the manager, was thrown from an upper window, and received fatal injuries.

The fire spread rapidly, and there were a number of narrow escapes from death, the occupants of the house saving nothing but the clothes in which they had been sleeping. One man was seriously injured by the jump from a window. The building was burned to the ground, and was worth about $50,000.

The fire is thought to have started from an open fireplace.

HAD A STORMY PASSAGE.

Arrival of the Berlin From Southampton After a Thrilling Trip.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—The steamer Berlin, Capt. Watkins, which arrived from Southampton last night, had a very stormy passage, and although no actual damage was done to the ship, she was so battered by the sea that many of her passengers feared they would never see port. From 6 p. m., December 18, to midnight of the 23d, the ship experienced a succession of gales from northwest to southwest, the wind never remaining long in one direction. The sea was, consequently, very confused and high, and the stanch Berlin was buffeted about like a tennis ball. The Berlin was due to sail yesterday, but it will not be possible for her to get away before Saturday.

SAILED FOR RIO JANEIRO.

Miantonomoh Will Join the American Fleet in Brazilian Waters.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—The monitor Miantonomoh completed her preparations for sea this forenoon and sailed to join Uncle Sam's fleet at Rio Janeiro.

Capt. Wallace has orders to go to Hampton Roads, and to await further orders there. He has on board 240 tons of coal, all that the monitor's bunkers will hold, and provisions to last two months. He also has a good supply of ammunition. He declined to say how many shells for the big 10-inch guns he carried.

Although the monitor was designed for home defence she can weather rough weather and will be a valuable acquisition to our fleet in Rio harbor in case of trouble. She is of light draught and sailed without a pilot. It will take her from 25 to 28 days to reach Rio, as stops will be made at Trinidad and other points for coal.

How Gen. Campos Was Killed.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—The story of the assassination of Gen. Joaquin Campos, in San Domingo, reached this city today by the steamer George W. Clyde. Instead of being assassinated at the instance of the government, it is believed that he was murdered by a rebel. Gen. Campos was walking in the streets of Azua on December 1, when a man sneaked up behind him and shot him in the back. He died soon afterward. The assassin escaped and is now believed to be in Costa Rica.

Lynched by His Own Race.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—The Sun's special from New Orleans says: Tilman Green, the trusted colored driver for a prominent family living ten miles from Columbia, in this state, was lynched Tuesday for an attempted assault on his employer's wife. He broke into her room at night while her husband was absent at a Christmas party. She escaped by the rear of the house, gave the alarm and Green was arrested. He confessed his design and was lynched by a mob, among whom were many negroes of the neighborhood.

The formal opening of the midwinter exposition at San Francisco has been postponed, but the gates will be open to visitors on New Year day.

STAR READERS AND THE POOR.

Let All Subscribe Something, No Matter How Little.

Subscribers of The Star who desire to take part in the general movement to relieve destitution in the city can send their contributions to the general committee through the collectors of The Star when they call to make their monthly collections. It is desired that all who can shall make a contribution every month for three months. Let every one give something if it is only a dime. The contribution should be placed in an envelope with the accompanying coupon, properly filled, and handed to The Star's collector.

Those who desire to do so may send the envelopes directly to The Star office instead of waiting for the collector.

COUPON.

THE STAR SUBSCRIBERS' FUND.

NAME _____

RESIDENCE _____

AMOUNT TO BE GIVEN EACH MONTH FOR THREE MONTHS _____

Cut out this coupon, fill up the blanks and place it together with the amount of your monthly subscription in an envelope to be handed to The Evening Star collector, when he calls.

FOR THE RELIEF OF THE POOR.

FOR HEALTHY MEAT.

The Health Department to Consider Undrawn Poultry.

Health Officer Hammett is soon to begin a crusade against the dealers who handle undrawn fowls, as the doctor says they are not suitable for table use, and, he thinks, injurious to health. An attempt was made some time ago to get an act passed by Congress prohibiting the shipment of such fowls, but commission merchants and shippers fought the bill and defeated it. In conversation with a Star reporter today Dr. Hammett stated that it was the habit of poultry raisers to feed turkeys and give them plenty of water a short time before killing the fowls, so that when they are killed and ready for shipment they weigh a pound or more heavier than they would have weighed without the feeding.

The corn and water in the craw, the doctor says, is bound to foment if left any length of time and the noxious gases permeate every particle of the flesh, rendering the fowl unhealthy. When the fowl is cooked the doctor says it is easy to distinguish the drawn from the undrawn turkey.

An undrawn turkey is to be purchased in market and Prof. Hird, the health department chemist, will make an analysis of the juices in order to determine the real effect upon the fowl and if the result justifies it a case will be taken in court.

It is claimed by some of the commission men that the enactment of a law preventing the shipment of undrawn turkeys would seriously cripple the trade here.

HELPING THE POOR.

The Police Busy on Account of the Cold Snap.

This morning's wintry weather caused an increase in the number of poor persons appealing to the police for assistance, although the number of callers at headquarters and the several precincts yesterday were numerous. It is thought that the average number of callers at the various police stations is about twenty-five, while those who called at headquarters yesterday numbered about half that many. Most of those who call and ask for assistance are women and children. Many of them bring baskets with them, expecting to get them filled with provisions, but no provisions are kept in stock except when they are sent by citizens to the various stations.

Mr. Sylvester, chief clerk of the police department, said today that he had received a number of letters from persons asking for assistance in the shape of shoes and house rent.

Speaking of the charity being done, an officer told a reporter this morning that while the applicants were numerous now, he expected that next month would bring a larger number of them, for he said he thought one or two cold spells would cause a great amount of suffering.

Charles Schneider, the baker, sent to the police 400 loaves of bread today. Yesterday 100 loaves were received from Schneider & Berens.

DISTRICT GOVERNMENT.

Today's Orders.

The Commisioners today ordered that—

The trap and grate of hydrant at southwest corner of 6th street and Pennsylvania avenue be moved to gutter; estimated cost, $15.

The requisition of the superintendent of sewers for $1,000 from appropriations for permit work for quarter ending December 31, 1893, is approved.

The permit clerk is authorized to issue permit to the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company to replace the following poles with new and stronger poles: East and west poles in alley, square 377; east pole in alley, square 486; pole in alley, square 586; west pole in alley, square 571; guy pole on west side of 1st between G and H streets northeast; east pole and west pole in alley, square 190.

That a plank sidewalk be laid on east side of Central avenue from Crescent to Erie streets, Meridian Hill, under the provisions of the compulsory permit system.

That a brick sidewalk be laid on both sides of Jefferson street from Taylor street to east end of lot 57, block 2, Green's subdivision of Anacostia, under the provisions of the compulsory permit system.

Mr. Kernan's License.

Today in Judge Kimball's court James L. Kernan, one of the owners of Kernan's Theater, was charged with conducting an unlicensed variety theater.

He was represented by Mr. Hazelton, ex-attorney for the District, who demanded a jury trial, and the case went over.

The theater pays the liquor license fee and the proprietors claim that they should not be required to take out any other license.

It is for the purpose of getting a decision of the court that the case is to be contested.

Both Sue.

Mary Ann Tunston and her husband, John T. Tunston, have, by Messrs. A. A. Hoehling and Simon Lyon, filed a suit against the Georgetown and Tenleytown Railroad Company and Washington and Georgetown railroad to recover $15,000 damages by reason of injuries received by the first named on August 28, when a grip car of the latter company was run into by a car of the former at M and High streets, West Washington, and she being in a delicate condition, was badly injured. The husband also sues for $5,000 damages by reason of the expense he was put to, and the loss of his wife's services while under treatment for her injuries.

To Investigate Its Sanitary Condition.

The Secretary of the Navy has appointed a board, composed of Medical Inspector A. C. Gargas, Surgeon A. H. Griffith and Civil Engineer M. T. Endicott, to investigate the sanitary condition of the Navy Department. No complaints have been made against the healthfulness of the building. The inquiry is merely to determine the cubic space per capita of the rooms occupied by the officials and employes of the department, with a view to a rearrangement of the force if necessary from a hygienic standpoint.

THE GRAND JURY AGAIN.

The Ford's Theater Disaster Evidence to Be Presented Once More.

Speaking to a Star reporter this afternoon District Attorney Birney stated that as soon as practicable after the assembling of the next grand jury, which would be called together Tuesday next, he would lay before it the testimony in the matter of the Ford's Theater disaster of the 9th of June last, for the purpose of securing a new indictment in the place of the two recently quashed by direction of the Court of Appeals.

The same witnesses examined by the grand jury returning the defective indictments, explained Mr. Birney, would probably be examined by the incoming grand jury, and, perhaps, some additional ones.

Whether a new indictment would follow or whether the presentment to the grand jury would result in that body ignoring it, the district attorney could not, of course, state, that being a matter for the determination of the grand jurors alone. He believed, however, that one or more indictments would be returned.

Mr. Birney would not, of course, say just what names he would present to the grand jury, but it is believed that the names of Messrs. Ainsworth, Dant, Covert and Sasse, will at least be again presented. But whether the indictment of these men or others will be asked for by him jointly or separately the district attorney declined to state.

John Wesley Church.

The Christmas tree shaking at John Wesley Church Tuesday evening was an enjoyable affair, under the management of Mr. C. H. Browne, the superintendent. The program was rendered by the members of the school and consisted of songs and recitations. The address of the evening was made by Master R. F. Fisher to the Sunday school. Miss Anna Brodie presided at the organ. Miss Bougy led the little ones in song, and Mrs. Alice Goodrich, assisted by Misses Mabel Ingham and Brown, shook the tree.

Small Fires.

About 5:30 o'clock yesterday a slight fire took place at 205 Pennsylvania avenue northwest from lace curtains catching from the gas jet. The house was occupied by Mrs. L. Russell, and the damage about $50.

A defective flue at 1019 P street northwest caused a slight blaze yesterday.

A telephone alarm was sent out at 10:10 this morning for fire in a rear room at No. 1327 F street. No. 2 responded. The damage was very slight, and fully covered by insurance.

High School Reunions.

Tonight the class of '85 will spread its tables at the residence of Miss Jochum, 920 S street northwest, and the class of '93 will entertain its friends and sweethearts at National Rifles' Armory.

PUGILIST MITCHELL ARRESTED.

The Case, However, is a Friendly One—Corbett Not Touched.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Dec. 28.—Charles Mitchell, the pugilist, was arrested this morning and taken before County Judge Baker.

He gave bail to appear before the criminal court next Tuesday.

Corbett is at Mayport and is not yet arrested.

The suit is a friendly one instigated by the supporters and backers of the Duval Athletic Club.

Perry, the Train Robber, Insane.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—A special dispatch from Poughkeepsie, N. Y., to the Mail and Express says: "Oliver Curtis Perry, the noted train robber and desperado, was today transferred from Auburn state prison to the criminal insane asylum at Matteawan. He is insane."

Shot His Father's Opponent.

SELBYVILLE, Ind., Dec. 28.—A fatal shooting took place Tuesday evenig at Moscow, a little town east of here. Lafe Barlow, thirty-five years old, who has been a terror to the citizens for years, and John Jones, whose character is unsavory, became involved over a game of cards, and while fighting Joseph Jones, a son, placed a 38-calibre Smith & Wesson to Barlow's back and fired. Barlow will die. The boy is only seventeen, and claims he shot in self-defense.

Foot Caught in the Stirrup.

DANVILLE, Ill., Dec. 28.—Yesterday afternoon Miss Katy Milmore, a well-known school teacher of this county, was thrown from her horse while returning from school. Her foot got fast in the stirrup, and she was dragged to death by the frightened horse. She was aged twenty.

Arrival of Ocean Steamers.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—Arrived Rotterdam, Roterdam.

GIBRALTAR, Dec. 28.—Arrived Kronprinz Fredrich Wilhelm, New York, and proceeded for Genoa.

Deadly Dispute Between Farmers.

PINE BLUFF, Ark., Dec. 28.—A murder was committed Tuesday night at Cornerville, thirty miles south of here. In a dispute about rents, Wm. Thompson first cut and afterwards shot to death a man named Thomas Stout. Both were farmers. Stout died immediately after the second shot. It is said that the controversy also had some reference to a woman. Thompson is in prison.

The Kaiser Resents a Satire.

MUNICH, Dec. 28.—The Neueste Nachrichten says the emperor has refused to confirm the award of the Schiller prize committee, who voted unanimously in favor of Ludwig Fulda's drama, "The Talisman." The chief character in the drama is a young sovereign. Fulda is said to have made the part a satire on the emperor.

Czech Press Condems Mrva's Murder.

LONDON, Dec. 28.— The Vienna correspondent of the Daily News says: ::The Czech newspapers in Prague condemn the murder of Mrva, despite the fact that they helped spread the suspicion against him. The Hlas Naroda laments that the event will make it difficult for the Czech deputies in future to oppose coercion and easy for the government to defend it."

The Russo-German Treaty.

BERLIN, Dec. 28.—The Vossische Zeitung says Germany has required that the commercial treaty with Russia shall be operative until January, 1904.

Pennoyer's Statements Repudiated.

SALEM, Ore., Dec. 28.—At a meeting of the board of trade last night resolutions were adopted characterizing Gov. Pennoyer's statement in the letter to President Cleveland as grossly false. Representatives in Congress are requested to publicly deny the statements.

Murderers Escape From Jail.

SAVANNAH, Ga., Dec. 28.—A special from Arcadia, Fla., states that C. Quin Bass and James North broke jail last night. Both were convicted of murder.

Sentenced to Twenty-Five Years.

THREE RIVERS, Mich., Dec. 28.—Yesterday afternoon at Centerville, Frank Cole, charged with having criminally assaulted little Julia Whitmore, pladed guilty and was sentenced to twenty-five years imprisonment in Jackson prison.

A Soldier Probably Fatally Injured.

LEAVENWORTH, Kan., Dec. 28.—A row occurred yesterday evening between several soldiers, during which Trumpeter Wilson of company F, thirteenth infantry, received injuries which may prove fatal.

To Keep Up Patent Medicine Prices.

BOSTON, Mass., Dec. 28.—The National Druggists' Association has made its first move towards putting in operation the Detroit plan, the object of which is to keep up the prices of proprietary medicines and shut out the cut-rate firms.

Clausen, the Brewer, Dead.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—Henry Clausen, jr., the well-known brewer, died this morning at 5 o'clock. He had been suffering from liver trouble.

Personal Mention.

Dr. S. J. Radcliffe is still at his residence on L street northwest with the grip.

Range of the Thermometer.

The following were the readings of the thermometer at the weather bureau today: 8 a. m. 32; 2 p.m., 51; maximum, 51; minimum, 26.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

Covering of "Shorts" Caused a Rally in Stocks.

HOLIDAY DULLNESS IN WALL STREET.

Prices Affected Easily by Rumor.

GENERAL MARKET REPORTS.

Special Dispatch to The Evening Star.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—The opening of today's stock market was irregular and without distinctive feature beyond the usual holiday dullness. London was a trifle improved on early trading, but sold off subsequently from 1-4 to 1-2 per cent below our closing. Boston came in as a seller of Atchison, and London bought Nashville, leaving the balance of the trading to the professional element on the floor. The market developed considerable strength during the morning from the continual covering of short contracts, and proved the entire absence of more substantial grounds for improvement by yielding to every fresh attack of the bear party.

Western Union advanced 7-8 per cent to 83 3-8 on moderate buying. Northwest declined 1 3-4 per cent to 97 3-4 on probable decrease in earnings. Lake Shore gained 1 1-4 per cent to 124 1-4 on limited transactions. Louisville and Nashville sold off 2 1-8 per cent on selling by the room. St. Paul gained 1 per cent to 58 3-8, and Burlington gained 3-4 to 75 1-4.

The balance of the railroad, while dull, continued steady throughout the day.

General Electric was irregular, selling down 2 per cent to 31 3-4 on liquidation by friends of the company, who loaded up with the stock on the published reports of renewed prosperity, and then rallying 1 3-4 per cent to 34 1-2. Traders contributed to the early decline by a liberal supply of short selling, the covering of which was directly responsible for the advance later in the day.

Sugar was advanced 7-8 per cent to 82 7-8 and Distillers gained 1 1-8 per cent to 23 1-4.

The market for sterling and continental bills was dull and firm. The inquiry from remitters has increased slightly and the offerings of bills continue in fair supply. Arbitrage houses are doing nothing of importance in the market, so that stock transactions for European account have no effect on the exchange market.

Money rates are unchanged at yesterday's rates and borrowers show no disposition to increase their obligations in this direction.

The clearing house statement reports exchanges, $83,028,723; balances, $5,510,909, and the subtreasury's debit balance, $412,058.

Canadian Pacific earnings for the third week this month decreased $76,000, and Norfolk and Western for the same period decreased $38,649. St. Paul's net decrease for the month of November was reported today at $125,000. Leaders renewed their attacks on Nashville and Western Union during the afternoon, resulting in a general reaction throughout the list.

The day's bidding resolved itself into a series of rallies and reactions, due entirely to the alternate selling and covering of professional operators.

The lowest prices of the day were recorded during the last hour in a majority of cases, but final figures were slightly improved. The day closed without any indication of improvement in the monotonous character of speculation.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

The following are the opening, the highest and the lowest and the closing prices of the New York stock market today, as reported by Corson & Macartney, members New York stock exchange. Correspondents Messrs. Moore & Schley, No. 80 Broadway:

Stocks.	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.
American Sugar	82	82¾	81⅝	81⅝
American Sugar, pfd.	84	84	84	84
American Tobacco	.....	72⅞	72⅝	72⅞
American Cotton Oil	.....	27⅝	27	27
Atchison	13⅝	13⅝	12	12¼
Canada Southern	49¾	49¾	49	49⅛
Canada Pacific	.....	70⅝	70⅝	70⅝
Ches. & Ohio	16¾	16¾	16¼	16¾
C. C. C. & St. L.	35⅛	35⅛	34⅝	34⅝
Chicago, B. & Q.	74⅝	75⅛	74⅝	75
Chic. & Northwestern	96⅝	97⅛	97⅛	97⅛
Chicago Gas	61⅝	62⅛	60	60⅛
C. M. & St. Paul	57⅝	58⅝	56⅞	57
C. M. & St. Paul pfd.	.....	.....	.....	.....
*Chic. R. I. & Pacific	63¾	63⅝	62⅝	63¾
Del., Lack. & W.	.....	163	163	163
Delaware & Hudson	.....	129¾	129¾	129¾
Den. & Rio Grande	.....	.....	.....	.....
Dis. & Cattle Feed'g	23¾	23¾	21⅛	22⅛
General Electric	33⅝	34⅛	31⅞	32⅞
Illinois Central	.....	.....	.....	.....
Lake Shore	123	124¼	123	123⅞
Erie	14¼	14¼	13⅝	13⅝
Louis. & Nashville	43⅝	43¾	39⅞	40
Long Island	.....	.....	.....	.....
L. N. A. & Chicago	.....	.....	.....	.....
Manhattan Elevated	123	123¾	122	122
Michigan Central	.....	.....	.....	.....
Missouri Pacific	21⅝	21⅝	23⅝	23⅝
National Lead Co.	23¾	23¾	22¾	23⅝
Nat. Cordage Co.	19⅝	19¾	19	19¼
Nat. Cordage pfd.	.....	.....	.....	.....
N. Jersey Central	.....	115⅞	112	112
New York Central	98¾	98⅞	98⅛	98⅛
N. Y. & N. England	13¾	13⅝	12⅞	13
N. Y. C. & St. Louis	.....	.....	.....	.....
Northern Pacific	4¾	4¾	4	4
Northern Pacific pfd.	19	19	18¾	18¾
North American	3⅞	3⅞	3⅝	3⅝
Ont. & Western	14⅝	14⅝	14¼	14⅜
Pacific Mail	14	14	13¾	13⅞
Phila. & Reading	17⅞	17¾	17¼	17⅛