The Evening Times

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1900.

Publication Office,
THE HUTCHINS BUILDING
PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE

Subscription by Mail—One Year:

MORNING, EVENING, AND SUNDAY	$6.00
MORNING AND SUNDAY	4.00
EVENING AND SUNDAY	4.00
SUNDAY ONLY	1.00

Monthly by Carrier:

MORNING, EVENING, AND SUNDAY	*Fifty cents*
MORNING AND SUNDAY	*Thirty-five cents*
EVENING AND SUNDAY	*Thirty-five cents*

Telephone Numbers: Editorial Rooms 486; Business Office 1640; Circulation Department 263

THE TIMES COMPANY,
WALTER STILSON HUTCHINS, *President.*

Circulation Statement.

The circulation of The Times for the week ended December 15, 1900, was as follows:

Sunday, December 9	19,603
Monday, December 10	39,118
Tuesday, December 11	39,386
Wednesday, December 12	39,892
Thursday, December 13	39,681
Friday, December 14	39,108
Saturday, December 15	39,274
Total	256,035
Daily average (Sunday, 19,603, excepted)	39,405

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Hay-Pauncefote Week.

Beginning with the executive session today, it is expected that the Senate will spend as much of the week as may be necessary—perhaps all of it—in wrestling with the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty. What the ultimate fate of the eviscerated, patched, and bettered convention may be in the end, it would be premature to say. But the chances seem to be that, after it has been amended substantially in accordance with the Foraker and Teller propositions, it will be ratified.

By that time it will look as much like the original draft which was hauled about the Cabinets of Europe for their approval before any member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations ever heard of its existence, as the Hon. John Hay resembles a bald-headed American eagle. Perhaps this will be well enough, although we are not convinced that simple rejection, immediately followed by passage of the Hepburn-Morgan Canal bill, and a joint resolution denouncing and abrogating the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty, would not be the more direct, prudent, and dignified way to attain the result demanded by the country. However, if the Hay-Pauncefote Convention shall be so changed that it will provide for a strictly and safely exclusive American waterway, to be constructed, owned, operated, and defended by the United States without the partnership, assistance, or interference of any European power, possibly it may serve a good purpose in the notice of our intentions and determination it will convey to Great Britain. That it will be accepted, in the form the Senate will return it to the "High Contracting Parties," by Lord Salisbury there is not the smallest reason for expecting; and the course which might now be taken alternatively, will have to be taken any way. The delay involved might be avoided. We may be reasonably sure that the British Government will not be overanxious to make it a short one.

John Bull in the China Shop.

A few days ago everything was peace and pleasantness in Pekin. The ministers were all agreed upon a final and positively last farewell protocol, the Chinese envoys were reported as willing to accept the terms proposed in the document, and nothing important remained to be done, but to await British instructions to Sir Ernest Satow to sign. But Lord Salisbury, just at the point where it was thought he would do the expected, did the other thing, and, like the elder Mr. Weller, objected to the expression "circumscribed" in the agreement and cabled that "circumvented" would be a better word. In short the noble marquis, who has been in a hurry when other people were dilatory, has suddenly decided that he wants time to look around. Accordingly he finds fault with the phraseology of the protocol, in matters not specially vital, but in a way which will necessitate correspondence, fresh instructions on all hands, and probably weeks of delay at best.

Perhaps we do not do the British Premier an injustice in suspecting that he is not so particular about minor details of the Chinese settlement as he is not to permit any settlement at present, while he is again uncomfortably preoccupied in South Africa. The preliminaries at Pekin once agreed to by the Powers and China, questions would be apt to spring up in regard to occupation, indemnity guarantees, revenue, and administration which Great Britain would not care to meet with hands tied as they are at present. Moreover, it is possible that Lord Salisbury may think he holds a card or two to play for or against America in the Far East, and desires to hold them pending the Hay-Pauncefote issue. In any case, he is the obstructing element in the Chinese situation today, and is as likely as not to become more so before the end of things.

The latest attitude and tendencies of the British Government toward matters in which this country is deeply concerned would seem to justify an inference that the McKinley-Salisbury secret alliance has received a severe jolt. Not that we suppose the personal relations of the High Contracting Parties have undergone any change for the worse; but that, politically speaking, they find that their careful work of four years has been rendered futile by the temper of our Senate, and the irresistible force of American public sentiment.

Recognizing these facts, it naturally occurs to both of the allied Foreign Offices that the project to give Great Britain control of the proposed American interoceanic canal, to cut the throat of the Monroe Doctrine, and to divide the coast and interior of Alaska with Canada, is liable to go by the board. Therefore, with mutual respect and affection surviving in an undiminished degree, the partnership is practically off for the time being, because of the American partner's inability to furnish an agreed part of the firm capital.

Even at the price of some annoyance in China, and of a possible necessity for expelling by force the Canadian squatters now occupying the American Porcupine district in Alaska, the people of this country would be glad if these differences were sufficiently serious to break the secret entente seen lately to subsist between the Administration and the British Ministry. If the United States ought to avoid entangling alliances with European states, of a defined and acknowledged character, much more should our Government resent and punish any attempt on the part of its executive branch to establish and maintain such alliances, on its own account and in contempt of precedent, national opinion, and of the rights of the Legislature.

Christian Science in Chicago.

Chicago may perhaps claim the distinction of being worse afflicted with Christian Scientists than any other place in the United States. There seems to be something in the air of Lake Michigan which agrees with them. At any rate, they are continually arising and making some point which has to be broken short off as soon as possible, for fear of its doing serious damage.

Their latest manifestation of foolishness is an organized opposition to vaccination. The Chicago authorities have ordered that all children in the public schools shall be vaccinated. The Christian Scientists, of course, argue that since belief in smallpox is merely a delusion, it is wrong to take any but mental precautions against it. Their neighbors, it is needless to say, do not agree with them.

There are several texts in the Bible which the Christian Scientist, in his zeal for pure truth, seems wholly to ignore, and one of them is that which commands the true Christian to love his neighbor as himself. While the healers are quite ready to exact obedience to this commandment from other people, they seem to have little inclination to obey it themselves. It is certainly not self-denying to cause anxiety and possible danger to a whole community by disobeying a perfectly reasonable ordinance. Even from the point of view of the Christian Scientist himself, belief in smallpox is just as bad as the disease itself, and unquestionably, by refusing to take ordinary precautions against contagion, the would-be reformer helps to spread this belief.

Another text important in this connection is that remark of the Apostle Paul that if meat causes his brother to offend, he will eat no meat while the world stands. This may be construed into a declaration that it is right to refrain from some pleasant and agreeable things "for the sake of the example." In other words, one should regard the feelings of others, and try not to do anything which will make them sin. There is no question that the behavior of the Christian Scientists of Chicago is causing a good many worthy and reputable citizens to swear, and if that is not sin, according to the ideas of the orthodox, what is?

If a miracle is really necessary to convince the unbeliever that pain and disease are myths, it does seem as if some other means than this might be taken of requiring one. Some of the followers of Mrs. Eddy might go into the lion-taming business, or do some tight-rope walking, and see if their belief will save them from being devoured or having their bones broken. If an audience in a big circus tent could see a Christian Scientist tumble from a tight-rope stretched somewhere near the dome, and then get up and walk out of the ring, it would certainly convince them that there was something in the new revelation; but thus far nobody has done anything of the kind. The believer seldom risks his own health and safety, only other people's. In non-contagious diseases neglect affects only the sufferer, but in such maladies as smallpox, scarlet fever, and diphtheria it is different, and the faith which teaches that these are innocuous is as dangerous to the public welfare as the worship of poisonous snakes let loose in a crowded street. In fact, it is rather worse, for the germs of disease are not as easy to kill as a snake.

Philadelphia Funerals.

It is reported that Philadelphia has a fashionable undertaking establishment, whose proprietors recently gave an "At Home" to the public, to celebrate its opening. The building was brilliantly illuminated, there was music, there were refreshments, and the happy owners of this most up-to-date concern stood decorously smiling to welcome the guests of the unique function.

All who went to the "At Home" can testify that the establishment is gorgeously fitted up. There is a museum. There are reception rooms. There is on the top floor a suite of rooms in which out-of-town mourners may repose if they cannot get other lodgings. Sensitive people may reflect that this is rather like the experience of the little apprentice in Dickens' novel, who was obliged to sleep in a coffin, but probably the patrons of this undertaker will not be sensitive.

There was an English traveler once who declared that he would prefer being cremated in a railway accident to being put into the grave by a certain Omaha undertaker. That solemn individual used to furnish to his "subjects" suits of evening clothes without any backs to them—for what would a dead man want with a back to his coat?—and with a nondescript flap of black cloth in place of trousers. The body thus arrayed was deposited in a coffin with a plate-glass window in it, so that all the mourners could see whether it looked natural.

One feels moved to enquire whether that Omaha man has moved to Philadelphia. There surely cannot be two such men in the United States. Yet, after all, there must be people who like that way of doing things, or even one such establishment could not live. There must be persons who consider it the height of elegance to patronize an undertaker who gives musicales and pink teas in his establishment to celebrate his advent into the business world as the owner of a big and handsome building; and they must think it the proper thing to send their friends to sleep in a coffin shop and hotel combined. But who are they, and where do they keep themselves when not in use?

The spectre of commercialism hovers over American life as a whole—that we have been told by the critics of art and literature—but hitherto it has been supposed that the dead were safe. Is it to be anticipated that in the future all undertakers will be obliged to have big, handsome offices, with restaurants and sleeping apartments attached, and that the quiet citizen cannot be taken to his last home without such a blatant brass-band flourish as this? Cannot even his obsequies be free from the taint of advertising, push, and so-called enterprise? The average funeral is a ghastly pagan thing at best, but hitherto it has had an aspect of sincerity that saved it. If it is any comfort to a mourning woman to shroud herself in crepe, and to see that long lines of carriages are required to convey the mourners of her loved ones to the cemetery, no one will wish that she should be deprived of that consolation. But a funeral is about the last place in which to exhibit cheap, shoddy, unsensitive business ambition.

Mexico, after an unruffled period of great business activity and prosperity under the silver standard, is threatened with a financial crisis not because of too much but of too little silver. Mexican dollars have been in unusual demand during the past year and have been exported in large quantities to the Orient and probably largely, also, to the white metal countries of South America. The available volume of legal-tender money available for circulation in the country according to the Mexican Finance Minister, has been reduced by exportation to approximately ninety million dollars. This is an annoying, but not perhaps a serious condition. The credit of the Republic is excellent, and its public finances are on a sound basis. It could probably get all the bullion it needs from the United States and coin it as fast as possible, in the meantime arranging for the assistance of private mints in Central America and places nearer home, which heretofore have devoted their attention more particularly to the production of American silver.

The brilliant and startling success of our "splendid diplomacy" in inducing the Sultan of Turky to enter into the Cramp-Hamid convention, has not only interested but excited the less ingenious statesmanship of England, and we are told that she, too, will now attempt to wake up the sick man who "at midnight in his guarded tent" has been dreaming of the hour when, by dodging behind the purchase of a probably mythical cruiser, he might rid himself of the everlasting Yankees, without bringing all the duns of Europe down on him. But the Cramp-Hamid convention has not accomplished that for him. It has only shown his creditors a roundabout way to make him pay up. We do not suppose that he will have to buy a cruiser from England in order to settle with her; but no doubt he will be compelled to buy a great deal of sherry, cigars, second-hand furniture, Oriental curios from Birmingham, and other things for which he has no use, inside of another year. That, we believe, is the process by which British debtors are made to feed the rapacity of those they owe.

The famous corps of irregulars, "Brabant's Horse," have taken their turn in helping along Britain's mortification. They have not done as badly as the Northumberland Fusiliers, having lost only one hundred and twenty of their men to the Boer bag; but even that is not the pleasantest kind of news for the people at home, who begin to feel quite like killing the geese for Christmas who humbugged them into an unnecessary and, apparently, endless war.

It is a pleasure to read in our despatches today that the Emperor Kwang Hsu has sent a note to the Czar heartily thanking him for turning over the civil government of Manchuria to the Chinese. The deep interest of this transaction lies in the facts that Kwang Hsu never heard of the matter; that the letter was written by Li Hung Chang in the Emperor's name at the suggestion of the Russian Minister; that the military occupation of Manchuria is continued, and that the whole business would be farcical if it were not conventionally diplomatic. It reminds us of some of our own country's achievements in a similar line.

MR. BRYAN'S NEW VENTURE.

Congratulated on All Sides Upon Entering Journalism.

LINCOLN, Neb., Dec. 17.—All the newspapers of the city make kindly mention of William J. Bryan's proposed newspaper venture, predicting that "The Commoner" will be a financial success and an excellent vehicle in which its editor may advance his political and economic ideas. Mr. Bryan himself is enthusiastic over the enterprise and he talks with the utmost freedom and pleasurable anticipation of the publication.

Mr. Bryan will be the sole proprietor, or very nearly so, and the leading spirit in all departments except the purely mechanical. The outlay of capital in the absence of printing plant need not be large at the outset, and Mr. Bryan will foot all the bills.

"The Commoner" will be issued first from the office of a friendly newspaper or a job printing establishment. Mr. Bryan will not discuss the make-up of the staff further than to say that he has already arranged for such editorial assistance as he will need. He has received telegrams from friends over the country congratulating him on the venture, asking to be listed as subscribers of "The Commoner," and predicting its success.

PATRONAGE IN FLORIDA.

Republican Factions Likely to Fight for Federal Offices.

TALLAHASSEE, Dec. 17.—Much activity is noticeable in Florida Republican circles since the re-election of President McKinley. A fight is on between the "outs" and the "ins" for the distribution of Federal appointments in this State. Col. Matt Macfarlane, of Tampa, the recent Republican candidate for Governor, received only 6,438 votes in the whole State in the recent election; still he led the State ticket as a vote-getter. Mr. McKinley received 7,499 votes, against 11,288 in 1896. It is said that the decreased Republican vote this year does not mean so much that there are fewer Republicans in the States as it means general apathy in the rank and file of the party owing to the close corporation nature of the State organization.

Judge John G. Long, of St. Augustine and Washington, D. C., is in control of the Republican organization in Florida, and Joseph E. Lee, the colored Collector of Internal Revenue, is his assistant. Judge Long is United States Consul General at Cairo, Egypt, and is now at his post. He writes his Florida friends that he will be with them some time next summer, which they interpret as meaning that he is then coming home to fix up a new slate for the Federal offices in Florida to present to the President. Until that is done present officials will all probably hold on. Only a few important changes are expected during the next four years.

The Booz Tragedy.

(From the Portland Argus.)

The charge that hazing was the cause of the death of Cadet Booz of West Point, is to be thoroughly investigated by a Congressional committee, and this is the proper course to take in justice to the Academy as well as to the friends of young Booz. Whether the charge be true or not, the agitation over the case will do much to bring this idiotic and brutal hazing practice still further into disrepute.

Out of Memory.

(From the Philadelphia Record.)

Every day brings accounts of missing people who suddenly disappear and leave no trace of their whereabouts. There are Neely and Rathbone (late of Cuba), for example, who are not only missing, but seem to have been forgotten by a friendly Government.

The Cuban Puzzle.

(From the Chicago Chronicle.)

With friendliness on the part of influential Cubans who cannot fail to see the advantages of annexation, and with kindness and patience on the part of Americans, the question ought to settle itself in the course of a few years.

Distributions of Seeds.

(From the Philadelphia Times.)

We sincerely hope that Congress will not provide one dollar for the free distribution of seeds, but will confine that feature of the Agricultural Department to the careful experiments which are of value to the country.

John Bull's War Chest.

(From the Chicago News.)

By a vote of 284 to 8 the House of Commons has put $80,000,000 more in John Bull's war chest. And from indications John will need it all before he gets through with the Boers, and possibly an additional sum for plasters in consequence of his efforts at harmonizing.

CLAIM BILLS IN THE SENATE.

Favorable Reports Made on Measures Aggregating $25,000,000.

Senators and Representatives interested in keeping the expenses of the Government down, have discovered that claim bills aggregating $25,000,000 have been favorably reported in the Senate. These bills are principally for property alleged to have been taken or destroyed by the armies of the United States during the civil war. There is some merit, it is said, in a few of them, but the great majority have been knocking about Congress for many years, and it is believed they are pushed simply on account of the large contingent fees which will go to lobbyists if they become laws.

The Senate is the favorite body in which to start these bills, partly for the reason that it is comparatively small, and it is easier to work up combinations of enough men interested in different measures to carry through a whole swarm and partly because of a peculiar rule in the Senate Committee on Claims by which any bill that has ever been reported favorably from that committee can be reported in a subsequent Senate by a single member without consultation with his colleagues.

The first open effort to press one of these bills ahead of the pending business of the Senate was made on Friday last, when Senator Money of Mississippi moved to take up what is known as the Cotton Claim bill, which, it is estimated, would cost the Government about $9,000,000. He was at once antagonized by Senator Lodge with a motion that the Senate go into secret session to consider the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty. Senator Money protested, but did not force the fight at that time, contenting himself with serving notice that he would call up the claim bill at the first opportunity, and would continue to press its passage.

The evident intention of Senators behind these claim bills to hold up the business of the session if they are not allowed to come to a vote was the subject of a conference between several Senate and House leaders. It was concluded that it would not be wise to let them slide through the Senate and trust to the House to hold them up, for it might be possible to make a similar combination in the House, and their mere passage through the Senate would give them additional prestige in future Congresses.

It was decided that the bills should be opposed to the uttermost in the Senate, even if their supporters carried out their threat to force an extra session, as the expense of an extra session and the inconvenience it would impose on Senators and Representatives would be preferable to allowing a wholesale raid to be made upon the Treasury.

ILLINOIS SENATORIAL FIGHT.

Politics at Fever Heat in the Capital of the State.

The members of the Illinois delegation in the House are deeply interested in the Senatorial contest which is to be settled when the State Legislature meets in Springfield next month. For the first time in many years Senator Cullom, who wants to succeed himself, will have decided opposition.

"The entries for the Senatorial sweepstakes," remarked H. H. Lawrence, a prominent lawyer from Kansas City, Mo., at the Capitol this morning, "embraces some of the best known men in Illinois politics. I have just arrived from Springfield, the State Capital, where I've been on legal business and I found the political pot at the boiling point. The announcement the other day of Representative Hitt's candidacy has stirred things up and has increased the activity of the Cullom and the Tanner forces.

"Representative Cannon, I heard, is to be in Springfield just after Christmas and will open up headquarters. Cannon has quite a few friends in the Legislature who have promised to stand by him as long as he is in the race, and they say the statesman from Danville is no quitter. Then there is in the field Representatives Vespasian Warner and Albert J. Hopkins. They are spoken of as receptive candidates. Occasionally I heard some talk of Representative George W. Smith. He was spoken of as the unhandicapped candidate who, when the mix-up came, would receive the support of the Cullom and the Tanner forces. Smith, I was told, comes from the far southern section of the State and his friends are in control down there, and it is said that part of the State claims the Senatorship this time. He is the diplomat in the race and stands well with all the candidates. A member of the Illinois delegation said to me last night that nothing had occurred in recent years to so interest the delegation as the Senatorial fight which is now on and growing in intensity every day. The impression prevails among them that the Administration will be drawn into the contest before the Legislature can agree on whom it will bestow the Senatorial toga."

ART OF PLANTING TREES.

Study of Great Importance to the Western Farmer.

George B. Ludworth, Dendrologist in the Division of Forestry of the Agricultural Department, in speaking of "The Forest Nursery," says: "The art of raising forest tree seedlings and planting trees is but little known among farmers, for whom it has very great economic interest.

"For the farmer of the Eastern wooded country, the study of how to grow trees has not yet reached, nor is it likely to reach, the same degree of importance as for the Western farmer. The Eastern farmer has often to consider only what trees shall be allowed to grow up and what shall be introduced, while the Western farmer has to consider what may be grown and how. The greater interest centres about the Western planter because of his great need for wood material, and also because the growth of trees under his conditions is most difficult.

"The importance of establishing wood lots or shelter belts on farms that lack them is no less obvious than the necessity of raising the staple crops. The provident farmer cannot afford to buy firewood, fence posts, or building timber any more than he can afford to buy corn and wheat. A part, if not all, of the wood material used on the farm can and should be grown there. The profit on this timber rightly belongs to the farmer, and it is therefore one which economic agriculture cannot neglect.

"The relative value of wood lots in the prairie region and the wooded East is, of course, different. To the prairie farmer the possession of a wood lot affording posts, rails, poles, and firewood is of very great importance, since, being in a treeless region and distant from the sources of wood supply, he would otherwise be compelled to pay high prices for such material. The Eastern farmer is less dependent, even though his wood lot has been cut off, for he lives in a wooded country where posts, fuel, and lumber are comparatively cheap.

"The efforts under the Timber Culture act to establish forest growth in the plains region of the West can hardly be said to have been a successful beginning in forest planting; they were, however, attempts to meet the great necessity for timber in that region. Their failure has not demonstrated that trees cannot be grown there, but rather that there is need of a better system and a more intimate knowledge of the special requirements of trees under trying conditions. For, however little evidence there is now that forests once existed to any extent on the Western plains, it is believed that trees can be made to grow in that region."

Ignoring the Small Fry.

(From the Buffalo Express.)

It is an unwise public policy, however, which pays subsidy in such form that only a few fast passenger vessels owned by great corporations can obtain any of it.

NO LOOTING BY YANKEES.

Chinese in Pekin Protected by Americans Against Other Troops.

CLEVELAND, Dec. 17.—Ex-President Hayes' son, Col. Webb C. Hayes, home from the China war, talks interestingly of the wholesale looting of Pekin by the allied armies of Europe, in which the American soldiers had no part. He says an order of the War Department kept the Americans from getting their share of the spoils.

"In 1864," says Colonel Hayes, "General Order No. 100 was issued by the War Department at Washington, ordering that United States soldiers must have nothing in their possession not issued to them by the Government or for which they could not show a receipt. This order was read in Pekin. Captain Tilson, as soon as he was in command, issued an order to the merchants that they should take down the brick barricades from their places of business and resume trade, and this was the only place in the entire city where this was permitted.

"The policy of the English Government is, you know, to loot everything in sight. A squad was sent out by the commanding officer, in charge of a lieutenant or a captain, to take everything available and bring it into their compound. Then an auction is held at 4 o'clock each afternoon, and the spoils money is distributed much after the fashion of the prize money system which used to prevail in the United States Navy. German squads did the same thing, as did the French.

"When the Germans came in they insisted on having a share of the city over which they should have supervision, and, while some thought that only those who had done fighting ought to be allowed to govern, some territory was allotted to them. They had a strip just north of the American preserves, with the division line in the centre of a street. One afternoon I took a number of officers down there to see what a model government Captain Tilson had created. As we came up a flock of Chinese came running to meet Captain Tilson, who was with us, with their arms extended. It seemed to me like a lot of children running to meet their father. They implored him to help them. Captain Tilson saw a German soldier who had been patrolling the opposite side of the street helping himself to some fruit and other small articles, and took him by the ear and put him where he belonged.

"The American soldiers were the best shots in the field. The other soldiers could not hit the side of a barn. The Chinese have no warlike instincts. They are not a nation of warriors, but if they should ever be trained they would make the finest soldiers in the world. They do not know what fear means, and they absolutely disregard death. Our cavalry made an attack upon a mob of Chinese one day, and they quietly laid down upon the ground and waited the advance of the column. They knew they would all be killed, but did not seem to care. They struck at the horses with pikes and something that looked like forks. The idea of trying to disembowel horses and fighting cavalry by sitting upon the ground was something new for modern soldiers to face."

COAL MINERS ON STRIKE.

Fourteen Men Leave Their Employment at Wilkesbarre.

WILESBARRE, Pa., Dec. 17.—Fourteen hundred of the nineteen hundred miners of the Kingston Coal Company went on strike this morning. This is the biggest strike in the regions since the general strike of September and October, and it is liable to be followed by others at nearby collieries. Four of the five collieries of the company are idle.

A meeting was held last night at which the men agreed to strike at all of the collieries except the Gaylord, and their men will go out next Saturday unless the strike is settled by that time. The demands of the men were submitted to Manager Edwards, but were all refused except that granting semi-monthly pay. The other demands are the discharge of Foreman Thomas Morgan, against whom the men make several charges, a new topping rule requiring only six inches at the breaker instead of nine, and the privilege of having their own check weigh boss.

SHIP ABANDONED AT SEA.

Italian Steamer Sights the Wreck of a British Brig.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—The Italian steamer Vincenzo Florio, which arrived today from Naples and Gibraltar, reports that on Thursday last, December 13, in latitude 37:08, longitude 55:55, a wrecked and dismasted vessel was sighted, which, on approaching, was found to be named Electric Light, with hailing port as Georgetown, British Columbia, on the stern. The rudder was gone, the bowsprit snapped off close to the bow, the formast was broken off at the deck, the main topmast gone, and the mainsail set, which kept the vessel on the starboard tack. After making every effort to attract attention without success, Captain Montano, of the Vincenzo Florio, sent a boat alongside, and found the wreck deserted. The vessel was loaded with petroleum.

The British brig Electric Light sailed from New York, November 30, for Cape Coast and Acra, Africa. The Electric Light was built at Shulee, Nova Scotia, in 1899, and was 293 tons burden. She was commanded by Captain Edwards.

TOO COLD FOR FRENCH MONKS.

Dominicans Close Their Monastery in New York.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—Because they were not able to endure the severity of the climate of Westchester county, the French Dominion monks who have had a church and monastery at Sherman Park for the lasts six years have returned to France. They have taken their students for the priesthood with them.

The community at Sherman Park, including priests and novices, numbered about fifty. Now there are only half a dozen of the Fathers left, and they are engaged in parish work only. The Dominican novitiate is closed. It is the intention of the Fathers to sell the institution to some religious order of men or women who would like to have a community house near New York.

The French Dominicans and their students were accustomed to a warm climate before they came here in 1894, and the change was particularly trying to them. This was especially so in the case of the novices who were studying for the priesthood. They had to arise at midnight and in the early morning hours to participate in religious exercises, and, according to the rules of the order, they had to fast a great deal.

A PREACHER AS AN EDITOR.

Dr. Parker to Conduct the Evening Sun for Six Days.

LONDON, Dec. 17.—The Rev. Dr. Joseph Parker, the venerable pastor of the City Temple, took possession of the editorial chair of the "Evening Sun" this morning, and for a period of six days will try to show what the Rev. Mr. Sheldon, of Topeka, Kan., might have done, according to the Parkerian idea. Dr. Parker says:

"I intend to make the 'Sun' a newspaper for all time and not a tract. My leading articles will be editorials, not sermons. My office will be a workshop, not a house of prayer. My men may smoke if they like and pray if they must. The only order which I am going to enforce with an iron hand is to get news and to tell it fully, courageously, and truthfully."

Office Rooms—Low Rent.

Some first-class office rooms for rent in Hutchins Building, corner Tenth and D streets northwest. Elevator, steam heat, electricity, and very low rent.

IN THE HOTEL CORRIDORS.

J. Wilson Hendricks, of Manchester, England, is registered at the Arlington. "In what are our people most interested at this time?" he said this morning. "I will tell you. It is beer. Beer is the only thing in which we are interested. We have good cause to be worked up over this proposition. Two thousand cases of arsenical poisoning from drinking beer have been reported to the health office. An investigation showed that the beer of six breweries in Manchester contained arsenic. Nearly all the poisonous beer has been withdrawn and run away into sewers or otherwise destroyed, and the brewers are now busying themselves to have their duty money repaid by the excise aucise authorities. The local officials of the inland revenue have laid the matter before the London authorities. Whether the brewers will get their money back is an open question. The beer poured into the sewers alone amounted to about £50,000 in money value. There is no way of learning how the beer became poisoned, but it has resulted in a more careful inspection by the authorities. The Manchester Brewers' Association has taken hold of the matter and intends to make an examination of all the breweries and a thorough inspection of all beers sent out by the brewers in our city."

* * *

"There was a time when St. Louis would talk of nothing but her hardware trade," said John T. Harrison, of that city, at the Arlington, this morning, "but that day has passed. Now the city will talk of nothing but her exposition. The hardware trade was a good proposition, and it is a fact that we do more wholesale and jobbing in hardware than is done in any other Western State, but our exposition will knock everything else into a cocked hat. Buffalo won't be in it with us. Our people have started out to make the exposition one of the greatest this country has witnessed, and we will do it, too."

* * *

"Here is a new job for the Porto Rican," said Thomas J. Tenney, of New York, at the Raleigh today. "He can be employed as a laborer in the sugar, coffee, and rice fields of Hawaii. He not only can be thus employed, but he is finding work. I have just returned from the Coast and while in San Francisco saw fully 1,500 Porto Ricans who were en route for Honolulu. I don't think this is a fair deal to the Hawaiian. The laborer in that place now receives about $35 a month. This is a better salary than he ever received before. The importation of the Porto Ricans will make a vast difference in the demand for labor, and wages will go down. The sugar planter can well afford to pay good wages, but he won't do so if he can get cheap labor. There is nothing else for the newcomer in that land. The sole export trade of Hawaii is in sugar, coffee, and rice. The time may come when other lines of business will be established, but until that time arrives the Porto Rican should remain on his own island. He will be better off if he does so."

SPECIAL CHURCH PROGRAMME.

New Century Celebration in the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 17.—Impressive services will be held in the Catholic churches of the archdiocese of Baltimore to commemorate the close of the present and the advent of the twentieth century.

By direction of Cardinal Gibbons a circular letter has been sent by Rev. Joseph T. O'Brien, chancellor of the Cathedral, to the pastors of all the churches, requesting them to honor the occasion. The letter is as follows:

Baltimore, Md., Dec. 14, 1900.

Rev. Dear Father: I beg leave to notify you that our Most Holy Father Leo XIII has graciously conceded the following privileges to be used according to the prudent judgment of the Ordinary on December 31, of the year 1900, at midnight, in churches and chapels where the Blessed Sacrament is kept.

First—The Most Holy Sacrament is to be exposed for adoration. Secondly—One mass of the Circumcision of our Lord and the Octave of the Nativity is to be read or sung at the same hour. Thirdly—The faithful may receive Holy Communion.

A sermon appropriate to the occasion would be desirable, and after the mass the benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament will be given and the Te Deum sung.

You are earnestly exhorted to leave nothing undone to make this service as solemn and impressive as possible, and when announcing it please to remind your people of the deep debt of gratitude they owe the Sovereign Pontiff for placing within their reach such extraordinary spiritual favors.

Please to read this circular at all the masses of Christmas Day and of the Sunday following.

By order of His Eminence the Cardinal.

JOSEPH T. O'BRIEN, Chancellor.

Elaborate arrangements are being made for the celebration. At the Cathedral at the close of the year 1899 and the beginning of 1900 Cardinal Gibbons gave the benediction and then said that at the end of the century he would pontificate and ask the Rev. Dr. A. L. Magnien, President of St. Mary's Seminary, and all of the seminarians to be present as officers of the mass.

Promptly at 12 o'clock (midnight) Monday, December 31, a solemn high mass will be started in the Cathedral. Cardinal Gibbons will pontificate and make an address. Rev. William T. Russell, the Cardinal's secretary, and one of the priests of the Cathedral, will preach. Rev. William A. Fletcher, the pastor, Rev. Louis O'Donovan, assistant priest, Rev. Father O'Brien, chancellor of the Cathedral, and probably some other priests will be in the sanctuary. Rev. Dr. Magnien will be assistant priest to the Cardinal and other officers of the mass will be seminarians yet to be selected. The mass will not be concluded until about 2:30 o'clock Tuesday morning, January 1.

An elaborate musical programme will be rendered by the choir with orchestral accompaniment, under direction of Mr. F. X. Hale.

CURRENT HUMOR.

Charity.

(From the Fliegende Blaetter.)

"There's a beggar at the door; shall I give him anything?"

"Give him our bath tickets that are left over. It's too cold now, anyhow."

A Likely Explanation.

(From the Chicago Tribune.)

"Why," asked the stranger who had arrived in the nether world only a short time before and was unfamiliar with its sights, "if I may take the liberty of asking, do you continue to roll that stone to the top of the hill, when it constantly rolls down again?"

"I am paying an election bet," coldly replied Sisyphus, addressing himself again to his endless task.

A Simple-Minded Person.

(From the Indianapolis Press.)

"I wish somebody would tell me," said the Cornfield Philosopher, "why the man that takes up a trade or profession that has no chances of dishonesty in it is always kinder sorter looked down on?"

Easy Methods.

(From the Chicago Record.)

"Yesterday I tried some of those 'Simple Dishes for Luncheon.'"

"How did they come out?"

"I got them done in time for dinner."

Getting to the Front.

(From the Indianapolis Journal.)

"The people who push into society nowadays illustrate a degenerate state of things."

"Oh, take a broader view of it—they only prove evolution."

No Harm in That.

(From the Philadelphia Bulletin.)

"I suppose there is lots of gossip at your boarding-house. What do you mostly talk about?"

"Well, we usually talk about the dining-room table."

Knew the Rules.

(From the Indianapolis Press.)

The Elderly Adviser—My child, you should always count 100 when in anger.

The Child—Ax, git out! Yo' jes' got to count 10 for a knockout.

NOTES OF THE DAY.

A needle machine turns out 1,500,000 needles a week.

A man can get shaved in the poorer quarters of London for 2 cents.

About 1,500,000 persons are employed in the coal mines of the world.

In 1835 Indian elephants fetched $225, now they run up to $4,000 apiece.

A horse eats nine times its weight in food in a year, a sheep six times.

There are nearly 200 factories in Maine in which fish and vegetables are canned.

Railways use up over 2,000,000 tons of steel a year, almost half the world's product.

Europe manufactures annually nearly 2,000,000 thousand square yards of looking glass.

In setting and distributing type a compositor's hand travels on an average eleven miles a day.

New York city owes more by $30,000,000 than all of the forty-five States in the Union together.

From an elevation of five feet above the sea level one can see three miles, from 1,000 feet forty-two miles.

The letter X only occurs once in 1,000 letters in the English language. In French it occurs five times as often.

In Illinois wages not yet earned cannot be assigned. Courts held that such assignment would be illegal and void.

A course of lectures for journeymen electrical workers has been arranged to be given at the New York Trade School.

One kangaroo is said to consume as much grass as six sheep. There are now in Australia about 900,000 of these funny animals.

The growth of the telephone system in Russia is now considerable, although it has been slow as compared with other countries.

The Empress of China is said to carry with her 3,000 dresses when she travels. These fill 600 boxes, and are taken care of by 1,200 coolies.

It is claimed by a physician of Italy that the fumes of petroleum will cure whooping cough. He says the remedy is not pleasant, but efficacious.

Melbourne, Australia, reports that a system of "electrics" are to be built, supplementing the cable railways, to act as feeders from the suburban districts.

Among the Burmese football is as popular as it is in English-speaking countries. But the Burman does not wear boots. He kicks and shoots goals with his bare feet.

Alton, Ill., has a yacht club, with a membership of 73. The club is not so particular in its definition of a yacht as they are at Newport, but anything with at least one mast will be allowed to enter.

Dr. Adam Paulsen, director of the Meteorological Institute of Copenhagen, has gone to North Finland to study the aurora, says "Science." He undertook a similar expedition last winter to North Iceland.

Miss Jennie Rogers, who during the "boom" days in Sioux City was known as the "real estate queen" of that place, and was one of the richest women in the West, died there the other day almost penniless.

It is commonly believed among the peasantry in the Ural Mountains that for a wolf to see a man before the man sees the wolf is an omen that he will be "struck dumb" and so remain as long as the wolf lives.

The Marquis of Lansdowne in 1866 succeeded to the marquisate and estates, which extend over nine counties, include close upon 140,000 acres and bring in a rent roll of between £50,000 and £60,000 per annum.

Mr. Joshua J. Axtell, of Pontiac, Mich., is not only the leading barber of the town, but he is likewise a dentist, keeps a livery stable, preaches and indulges in an occasional prizefight. He also lectures and is now writing a novel.

Efforts are being made in Beaufort, S. C., to get an appropriation for rehabilitating and preserving the "old fort," which stands on the spot where Jean Ribault landed 360 years ago. It was built by the Spaniards after they had driven out the French.

There is a quaint little fish which haunts the weed tracts of the Gulf stream and there builds its nest and lays its eggs like a bird rather than a fish. This animal—the antennarius—imitates in color the weed it lives in, and, like the chameleon, constantly changes its color.

Cripple Creek is the greatest gold camp in this country, and its production is very great. The core of the gold country there is a strip of ground, six miles long by three miles broad. Out of this comparatively small area of ground $30,000,000 in gold will be taken this year.

The Parliament building in Wellington, New Zealand, is the largest wooden structure in the world. In Wellington and some other New Zealand towns almost every house is constructed of wood. Large churches and important business premises are built of the same material.

There is a girl bootblack, whose place of business is in the Central Railway station in New York. Her name is May McCarnity, and she is probably the only girl following that business in the country. She make a fairly good living, her patrons being principally women passengers on the trains.

An experimental power garbage crematory is to be built in Chicago. The idea in mind is to ascertain whether the heat developed by burning the city's garbage can be used to make an adequate return upon the money invested. This plan is in operation in several European cities of smaller size.

"The ten best books of the century," is a subject causing considerable discussion these days. The pocket book, the check book, the race book, the bank book, the bill book, the ledger, the journal, the day book, the hymn book, and the note book comprise a list offered for consideration by the "Omaha World-Herald."

Outside of the farms and ranches there are 2,777,497 horses in the United States. The largest number is found in New York State, 302,271, Illinois being second, with 233,807; Pennsylvania, 215,977; Ohio, 185,683; Iowa, 147,275;