NEWS OF THE BAY CITIES — OAKLAND — ALAMEDA COUNTY — BERKELEY — NEWS OF THE BAY CITIES

LOCAL TRAIN WRECKED AND TRAVEL TIED UP

Switch on the Mole Fails to Work.

ENGINEER STICKS TO HIS CAB

AMBROSE'S ACTION PREVENTS SERIOUS DAMAGE.

His Prompt Move Saves Cars From Being Demolished and Possible Injury to the Passengers on the Train.

Oakland Office San Francisco Call, 908 Broadway, Dec. 21.

The failure of a switch on the Oakland mole to close properly derailed the 1 o'clock westbound local train to-day at the entrance to the depot and tied up travel over the mole for nearly an hour.

Only the engine was derailed, and beyond a severe shaking up the passengers escaped injury. Engineer Ambrose stuck to his post and saved his train from a serious wreck.

The cold weather loosened a bolt on one of the fishplates, and when the towerman in Tower No. 1 threw the lever, the switch failed to respond and did not close. The signals were all set for a clear track, but the loose bolt prevented the tongues of the switch from coming together.

Engineer Ambrose thought everything clear before him and went ahead with his train. Suddenly he found his engine bumping over the ties, in danger every moment of cutting into the soft earth at the side and toppling over. Instead of jumping Ambrose stuck to his engine and reversed, throwing all the steam into the reversal. This brought the train to a standstill before any serious damage was done, and before anything had left the track but the engine itself.

The engine had both pilots smashed and had to be sent to the roundhouse for repairs when it was finally got on the track. The cars behind it were not injured, owing to the prompt action of the engineer. Traffic was delayed for nearly an hour before the derailed engine could be replaced on the track, and the rails, which were torn up, could be reset.

Superintendent Agler attaches no blame to any one.

DAMAGE SUIT RESULTS FROM A CAT CONCERT

OAKLAND, Dec. 21.—A Fruitvale cat, a brickbat and a broken window are the basic causes that culminated in a $5000 damage suit brought by Mrs. Christina Tobler against Charles Kuhn, whose trial commenced before Superior Judge Ogden this afternoon.

The Kuhns and the Toblers were next-door neighbors and the cat belonged to the neighborhood. One night last August the feline's excruciating voice broke the stillness and immediately afterward a brickbat broke Kuhn's window. He claimed Mrs. Tobler hurled the brick, and had her arrested, but she was acquitted; hence the damage suit for malicious prosecution.

Mrs. Tobler declared on the stand that she was not present at the feline concert nor had she seen or heard the brick and broken window. She said her arrest had broken down her health. While she was testifying her Bray avenue neighbors sat listening and once she broke down, crying: "Those people are making faces at me. I can't stand it. I am all broken down with nervous prostration."

A wordy war followed between the opposing attorneys and hostilities were narrowly averted among the witnesses, notwithstanding Mrs. Tobler claims "there's been peace among the neighbors since Kuhn moved."

The trial will be resumed next Wednesday, when the defense proposes to introduce witnesses who claim they witnessed the brick throwing by Mrs. Tobler. The defense also proposes to show that Mr. Tobler, after asking Kuhn not to prosecute his wife, had pleaded guilty in her stead and paid a fine of $8.

HIS NOCTURNAL ABSENCE LED TO A DIVORCE SUIT

Judge Ogden's Rule Not Followed.

MUNRO STAYED OUT NIGHTS

DISCOVERIES MADE BY HIS INQUISITIVE WIFE.

She Found He Made Appointments With Laura E. Gray and Also Received Letters From Another Young Woman.

Oakland Office San Francisco Call, 908 Broadway, Dec. 21.

Judge Ogden and his "last boat" decision "cut no ice" with Mrs. Matilda Munro. That his Honor absolved Alameda County husbands from saying anything about it when they are making breakfast-table explanations next morning is a fact which she to-day utterly ignored while filing a complaint for divorce from her husband, James Munro, on the ground of infidelity. Mrs. Munro's investigations were going on before Judge Ogden had begun figuring on his opinion, and, now that the Judge has come to the front, she is determined that his vote-getting views on "How to Live in Oakland Though Married" are not to upset a work that has consumed three years of her time.

In her complaint Mrs. Munro does not make late hours and sparse explanations her sole charge against her better half. She alleges that she was married to Munro, who is an engineer, thirty years ago, and lived happily with him until three years ago, when he became addicted to the late-hour habit. According to Mrs. Munro, it grew on him like a bunch of San Leandro alfalfa until his absences from the home roof became unbearable.

At one time, the complaint alleges, Munro left her and went to Fresno, but a reconciliation was effected subsequently. Then Munro was taken sick and went to a hospital, and while there, his spouse alleges, she opened a letter addressed to him by a young woman, which was of a sensationally compromising character.

After his release from the hospital, Mrs. Munro further alleges, her husband was much in the company of a woman named Laura E. Gray, and she is named in her complaint as co-respondent. The name of a Miss Curley is also mentioned in connection with the case, and in the evidence which was brought out to-day it was discovered that Mrs. Munro had become so incensed at her husband that she had not maintained marital relations with him for three years past. Upon this showing the defendant's attorney asked a continuance until Monday, in order that he might so amend the defendant's answer as to include a charge of desertion. The court granted the continuance.

GRAND JURY INDICTS SERVERRA FOR PERJURY

OAKLAND, Dec. 21.—John Serverra, proprietor of the Universal restaurant, who on several occasions escaped conviction on charges of selling liquors without a license, was to-day indicted by the Grand Jury for perjury. According to the indictment Serverra while on trial in the Police Court on December 7 falsely testified under oath that he did not on October 24 last sell to Henry Maloon any intoxicating liquors in violation of the city ordinance requiring a liquor license. The jury on that occasion stood six to six, and therefore Maloon, who is License Inspector, called the attention of the Grand Jury to the case. The inquisitorial body has been investigating the matter for nearly a week, with the result that the indictment was filed to-day. Later Deputy Sheriff Holland arrested Serverra. He will probably be released on bonds.

Putnam Griswold to Go to London.

OAKLAND, Dec. 21.—Putnam Griswold, who has been one of the leaders in the musical world of Oakland, leaves shortly after Christmas for London to take a musical course in that city.

WAS ROBBERY OR UNREQUITED LOVE THE CAUSE OF ASSAULT?

Lost Memory, a Wounded Head and a Torn Dress Are the Only Clews to the Attack Upon Miss Lennie Green.

WHERE AND HOW THE GIRL WAS FOUND.

Miss Lennie Green posed for a Call artist with the same hat and dress worn upon the night of the attack upon her, showing how she was found by her brother on Monday evening.

Oakland Office San Francisco Call, 908 Broadway, Dec. 21.

THE mystery of the assault upon Miss Lennie Green at the corner of Eighteenth and Linden streets on Monday evening is to-day more a mystery than ever. The police are completely at fault. The young lady's memory is still uncertain owing to the seevre blow she received on the head, and there is nothing but theories as to her assailant.

The police still hold to the jilted lover theory, and the members of the family are very indignant over this. They are inclined to the robbery theory. Some suggest that the young lady might have fainted and struck her head on the sidewalk, but the character of the wound disposed of this possibility. Everything points to an assault by some mysterious person, but as to who that person is there is not the slightest clew.

"It is ridiculous that any one should say that there was any jilted lover about this attack," said Miss Green this afternoon. "In the first place nothing has occurred that would make such a thing possible. I know but few gentlemen, and I have never accepted attentions from any one. I have never been out with one gentleman more than two or three times, and have never given any one occasion to be jealous.

"As to having fallen upon the sidewalk and struck my head, I don't think that is possible. I am not given to fainting spells and don't think I ever fainted in my life. In the second place, I had my hair up in a knot on the back of my head that day, and had I fallen my hair and my hat would have prevented injury to my head. Dr. Pratt had to take three stitches in a cut in my scalp, and every hairpin in the back of my head was broken. You know that I wear rubber hairpins. I first thought that the cut might have been caused by the hairpins cutting into my head, but the doctor does not think that rubber hairpins would have made such a cut as he found.

"I can't talk much about how I got hurt, for I don't remember. I have no recollection of even being struck. When I recovered consciousness and found the doctor here I asked what he was doing and was told that he had come to attend me. That surprised me, for I did not know that I had been hurt. I have had no feeling except a headache from the blow."

The way in which Miss Green was found by her brother Walter is most important in considering the way in which the assault might have been made. When found she was leaning against the stone coping that surrounds the vacant lot. This coping is about three feet high—sufficiently high to have supported her were she to have leaned against it. She was erect at the time when found, and though she spoke to her brother and called him by name she has no recollection of having seen him. Her recognition of her brother under these circumstances is the more remarkable from the fact that Walter Green says that it was so dark that he did not recognize his sister until she spoke to him.

The assault must have occurred within a very few moments before she was found, for Mrs. Green says that her daughter was only three or four minutes late in getting home.

There was a great tear found in the front of Miss Green's dress when she got home. The police tried to explain this tear by saying that the young lady fainted, and that in trying to get up she put her knee or foot on her dress and tore it. This is not likely, for the dress is torn from the outside, while the lining on the inside is whole. This torn dress gives some evidence of a struggle, but if any there was it followed the blow upon the head that destroyed Miss Green's memory, for she says that she is sure that there was no assault before she lost consciousness from the blow.

Dr. A. H. Pratt, who attended the young lady, says that the blow was delivered by some blunt instrument, and not by a knife or an ax. The hair is not cut, but the scalp is, and had a sharp instrument been used the hair would have been severed.

The Green family bears the highest reputation for honesty and integrity. The father died some time ago, and all the children who are old enough work at the Pacific Press. This alone is a guarantee of their character, for it is a church institution whose members are all Adventists, and most strict upon character and morals.

JOAQUIN ESLABE MUST NOW HANG FOR HIS CRIME

Death Sentence Has Been Sustained.

SUPREME COURT SO RULED

THE ATROCIOUS MURDER OF CHARLES GATES RECALLED.

Condemned Man Declares Now He Did Not Have a Fair Trial and Threatens Suicide to Cheat the Gallows.

Oakland Office San Francisco Call, 908 Broadway, Dec 21.

Joaquin Eslabe must now expiate the atrocious murder of Charles E. Gates, committed on March 27, 1898, and for which he was convicted on June 13 of the same year by a jury in Judge Ogden's court. The Supreme Court to-day sustained the judgment and sentence of death passed upon him by Judge Ogden, and the condemned man was this afternoon removed to a cell which he will occupy until he is transferred to the scene of execution. A guard has also been placed over him, for he has repeatedly vowed that he would commit suicide when all hope of escape from the gallows should leave him.

Thomas Downing, a "trusty" serving six months for assault with a deadly weapon, will guard him during the day, and Tim Holland will keep watch during the night.

The atrocious murder of Gates was committed on a Sunday night in the latter's tamale parlors, then located at the corner of Thirteenth street and Broadway. The object was robbery, the testimony showing that Eslabe took $25 from the dead man's purse, a watch and $1 75 from the till. Gates was a cripple, and the weapon used was a piece of gaspipe. Eslabe had been befriended by the tamale man, to whom he owed a small loan. He waited until late at night, when he found Gates alone, and tying a cord about his neck to stifle any outcry he smashed his victim's skull with the piece of pipe.

The next morning Eslabe was arrested at the Oakland mole while he was about to board the first boat from this side. His trial resulted in a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree, and in November of last year the case was appealed to the Supreme Court. Eslabe's attorneys were ex-Judge A. L. Frick and William White.

"My lawyers didn't represent my case as they should have," said Eslabe this afternoon, "and that's why I lost. I have now engaged T. J. Crowley, who will see that I get justice. I have not had a fair trial. When I was half drunk I was asked by Deputy District Attorney Melvin to confess the murder. I said, 'I did it if you say so.' Melvin went on the stand and so testified to the confession. My lawyers let the confession go before the jury."

Eslabe is 33 years of age. He has a wife and a daughter, who since the murder have disclaimed him.

CATHOLICS STUDENTS ORGANIZE A CLUB

BERKELEY, Dec. 21.—With the opening of the next semester of the University of California in January there will be in existence a society composed of the Catholic students in college. The object of the organization is to bring all the Catholic students in the university together. The club will be named the Newman Club, after the late Cardinal Newman. Officers have been elected as follows: President, Dr. Martin A. Center; first vice president, Miss Mary Gallagher; second vice president, Miss Lunny; secretary, John Moriarity; treasurer, Miss Nagle.

IS TREMBLING ON THE BRINK.

Imperial Disaster Confronts England, Says Rev. William Rader.

God of our fathers, known of old—
Lord of our far-flung battle line—
Beneath whose awful hand we hold
Dominion over palm and pine—
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget—lest we forget!

"England is trembling on the brink of imperial disaster," said Rev. William Rader at the Congregational Club banquet last evening, "and it will topple into the brink beyond unless the spirit of John Milton, of Cromwell or of Gladstone rises to again fill the hearts of the people with righteousness—with the spirit of Puritanism."

A banquet in commemoration of our forefathers, a feast in memory of those who laid the path for religious freedom, held in the California Hotel, called together over eighty of the most prominent members of the church to discuss and hear discussed the results of the labor of the Puritans in behalf of their religion and the good that has resulted from the spirit of righteousness and freedom they implanted in the hearts of the American people. Rev. William Rader, president of the club, officiated at the banquet, Rev. S. D. Hutsinpillar of the Central Methodist Church being the guest of honor.

The members of the club and their guests were seated at the banquet board at 6 o'clock and it was late in the evening before the responses to the various toasts were made. In the absence of Howard M. Ticknor of Boston, Rev. F. B. Cherington responded to the toast "The Puritan Spirit in New England Letters." Senator Frederick S. Stratton, who was to give his views of the "Puritan Spirit in Civic Life," and John P. Irish, who was to address the gathering on the "Puritan Spirit and Conquest of the World" were absent. Mrs. Susie Hert-Mark rendered a vocal solo and was followed by Rev. S. D. Hutsinpillar, who responded to the toast, "The Pilgrim and Wesleyan—Their Mutual Obligations." After classifying Puritanism as "representing the progress of the spirit of resistance to tyranny," Rev. Mr. Hutsinpillar continued for some minutes, concluding his address with a blessing upon the assembled guests.

At the conclusion of this toast Dr. Rader called upon Rev. C. R. Brown of Oakland to lead the gathering in prayer, after which the guests returned to their homes, happy after the prayers and devotion to the memory of the Puritan forefathers.

STREETCAR BLOWN UP BY STRIKERS

Third Offense of the Sort Committed in Springfield Since the Present Trouble.

SPRINGFIELD, Dec. 21.—For the third time since the strike was declared against the Springfield Consolidated Railway, November 10, a streetcar was dynamited at 11:30 o'clock to-night. The car was blown off the track and completely wrecked. No passengers were aboard and the motorman and conductor were not injured. The explosion happened in the heart of the city at Eighth street and Capitol avenue and caused great excitement.

claims have been assigned, and the own-

Retired Officer Dead.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Surgeon General Sternberg received a telegram to-day saying that Lieutenant Colonel Davis L. Huntingdon, a retired officer of the medical department, died at Rome yesterday.

BRAVE HOWARD AVERY ILL FROM NERVOUS SHOCK

News of His Mother's Death the Cause.

HIS FRIENDS DECEIVED HIM

DID NOT KNOW SHE WAS DANGEROUSLY SICK.

Sad Condition of a Brilliant Berkeley Graduate Who Won Promotion and Distinction in the Philippines.

OAKLAND, Dec. 21.—Lieutenant Howard Avery, the University of California student who went to the Philippines as an enlisted private in the Fourteenth United States regulars and came back as a lieutenant in the regular service, with a recommendation to Congress from his commanders that he be given a medal for unusual bravery, is critically ill at his home in Sausalito, caused by the shock of his mother's death.

Mrs. Avery was stricken with apoplexy on Saturday last, and Lieutenant Avery, who was up in the mining districts, was summoned by telegraph to return home. The telegram said only that she was very sick and did not give him the idea that her illness was very serious. He responded at once and was on his way home on Tuesday when his mother died. He knew nothing of her death until he got on the boat to Sausalito, when a friend approached to extend to the young soldier his sympathy at the death of his mother. The shock was so great that it brought on an attack of nervous paralysis and he was taken home in a very bad condition.

This attack of nervous paralysis was largely due to the bad physical condition of the young soldier, who had been wounded in the Philippines and was home on sick leave. He was shot in the famous charge at Zapota bridge, when General Lawton made his attack upon the insurgents south of Manila. Lieutenant Avery was hit in the thigh, and malarial fever set in, making his condition so bad that he secured a leave of absence and returned to his California home. This sick leave had almost expired, and he was making efforts to have it renewed when this attack came.

Howard Avery was one of the most popular students in the State University. When the war with Spain broke out he enlisted in the Fourteenth United States regulars as a private, and before he reached Manila he was made a corporal. Though a university graduate, he did not hesitate to serve his country as a common soldier. In Manila he displayed the greatest bravery. He was one of the small party that, under Captain Miles, captured Block House 14 in a charge that will go down in history. The party was nearly all killed, but Avery reached the block house with a few others. For this he was recommended for promotion to a lieutenancy. While in the trenches and on the firing line he studied for his examination and was finally passed and secured his commission.

Before his departure for the Philippine Islands Lieutenant Avery became engaged to Miss Caroline Coit of Oakland. No date has been set for the wedding, but it might have occurred before his return to the Philippines had it not been for this unusual and unhappy turn that events have taken.

IN OFFICE FOR A YEAR.

Public Installation of the Chosen Ones of King Solomon's Chapter.

In the beautifully decorated chapter-room of King Solomon Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, in Franklin Hall, on Fillmore street, last night, there were many members of the order to witness the installation of the elected and appointed officers of the chapter for the current year. The installing officer was Grand Patron George Louis Darling, who was assisted by Mrs. Sarah Isabelle Hubbard, ex-grand treasurer, who was acting grand marshal. The elected officers who were placed in their several stations with the very impressive ceremonies of the order are: Martha Elizabeth Blade, worthy matron; Arthur Macdonald Blade, worthy patron; N. Annette Wood, associate matron; Alma Elizabeth Bottomley, secretary; Louise Metzler, treasurer; Linea Lincoln Baehr, conductress; Sophie Athearn, associate conductress.

The appointed officers are: Harry Baehr, chaplain; Jane Dawson, marshal; Virginia Isabelle Bottomley, warder; George Charles Denison, sentinel; Martha Lucille Wrenn, Adah; Charlotte Gladys Morris, Ruth; Villa Abrahams, Esther; Mae Frank O'Keefe, Martha; Fannie M. Franklin, Electa; Anna Estelle Hutchinson, organist. The work of the grand patron was, as usual, grand, and one who won much praise and many congratulations for the perfectness of her portion of the ceremony was the acting grand marshal. A feature of the ceremonies was the singing. Mrs. George L. Darling sang "Just as My God Leads Me" and "God's Acre"; E. C. Boysen rendered "Hills of God" and "The Postilion"; Miss Florence Perkins sang "Noel"; Mrs. Henry Owens gave "A Dream of Paradise" and "Oh Lord Remember Me," and Master Ned Blade of St. Luke's choir, son of the worthy matron and patron, sang with fine effect "Home Blessed," after his father had been conducted to his station. At the conclusion of the installation there were short addresses by the grand patron, Grand Secretary Mrs. Willats, Florin L. Jones, John H. Gray and others, after which there was a general reception to the new officers.

Assignments of Army Officers.

Captain Alfred Bjornstad, Forty-second Infantry, reported for duty at the Presidio yesterday. He was assigned to the casual detachment pending his assignment to Manila.

The contract of Acting Assistant Surgeon Gilbert L. Pray has been annulled and he has been ordered to proceed to his home, Webster City, Iowa.

Acting Assistant Surgeon F. A. Titus has been assigned to duty at the general hospital at the Presidio. He will eventually be assigned to duty at Manila.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Pearl, who was with the detachment of the Third Artillery at Sequoia Park, has been assigned to temporary duty at the general hospital.

Fire at San Jose.

SAN JOSE, Dec. 21.—The residence of T. W. Barstow, the well-known horseman, on the alameda, near race street, was destroyed by fire this evening. The loss is $4000, with $2500 insurance. There was no one at home at the time of the fire, and the blaze is believed to have been set by some jubilee celebrator. The place was formerly the home of Senator Shortridge.

General Lewis Passes Away.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 21.—General James Lewis, a well-known attorney, ex-vice president of the Board of Police Commissioners and former Adjutant General of the State of Missouri, died at his home in this city to-night of peritonitis, aged 41 years. General Lewis had been ill only a few days.

Lineman Killed.

SEATTLE, Dec. 21.—Theodore Meyers, a lineman in the employ of the Grant-street Electric Railway Company, met death this afternoon from the combined effects of an electric shock and a twenty-foot fall from a pole, the fall being caused by the shock. He was formerly a resident of Los Angeles.

A PRETTY YULETIDE WEDDING

OAKLAND, Dec. 21.—A very pretty wedding was celebrated at the Dalziel residence this evening at 8 o'clock, when Miss Margaret Dalziel, daughter of Robert Dalziel of the firm of Dalziel & Moller, became the bride of Harry G. Williams. Rev. Robert Coyle of the First Presbyterian Church officiated.

The Dalziel home was beautifully decorated for the event with holly and evergreen, presenting a holiday picture that made a delightful background for the wedding party.

The bride, who is one of Oakland's prettiest young ladies, was gowned in white organdie over white silk and carried roses. She wore a veil. Her bridesmaid, Miss Florence Smith of Sacramento, wore pink organdie over pink silk and carried bridesmaid's roses. The groom was attended by A. Dalziel, a brother of the bride.

After the ceremony and congratulations a wedding supper was served. Later the bride and groom left for a short wedding trip. On their return they will take up their residence at 464 Twenty-third street.

Mr. and Mrs. Williams are very popular young people and have a host of friends. They are both natives of California and have spent the major part of their lives here. The groom is a well known young business man, a member of the firm of Davie & Williams, wholesale and retail coal and grain dealers. He is a son of E. H. Williams, who was long a resident of Sacramento.

JEFFRIES' TRAINER BACK FROM THE EAST

BILLY DELANEY TALKS OF THE CHAMPION'S PROSPECTS.

Will Use His Influence to Have the Coming Big Fight Pulled Off in San Francisco.

OAKLAND, Dec. 21.—Billy Delaney, who trained Jim Jeffries for his victory over Sharkey, arrived at his Oakland home today from New York. He was accompanied by his wife and they were met at the Sixteenth-street station by Eugene Van Court and Charles Koerner of Oakland. Delaney looks better than at the time he left here with Jeffries some months ago. He expects to remain here at least a month, though he intimated that matters he has on hand in the East may call him back sooner than he expects at present. Speaking of his recent difficulties with Jeffries, Mr. Delaney said:

"The rumpus between Jeffries and myself was all over a new system of training that I didn't approve of. It is not necessary for me to go into details, but I will simply say that his system of diet and violent working did not agree with my ideas. It was merely a disagreement over his training, which he carried out contrary to my wishes. There's no bitter feeling, only we stand now just as we stood when I picked him up a few years ago, when he was in his infancy in pugilism.

"Jeffries' prospects, I can predict, are of the brightest hue. He has youth, health and everything in his favor. Nature has been kinder to him than any other individual who graces the ring, and knowing as I do the care he is taking of himself at present I will venture to say that there is nobody in my estimation who can stop his progress. Jeffries is popular. He is not getting the swelled head because of his recently won laurels, and, as he told me shortly before I left him, when he comes back to California he will find supreme pleasure in acknowledging the kindnesses shown him in his infancy at the Reliance Club, where he made his maiden effort.

"As to the prospects of another meeting between Jeffries and Sharkey, the chances are very remote. You must remember Jeff is now matched to meet Corbett, and it is not professional to run Sharkey in at this time. As to the Jeffries-Corbett mill, I would merely say that Brady is the manager and I am in the dark, but on general principles I think Jeffries ought to and will win. I believe also that the fight will draw as big a crowd in San Francisco as any place on the globe, and I shall exert every effort to secure the match for this coast.

"I have not given the future much thought, but notwithstanding the reports of the differences between Jeffries and myself these matters have been harmonized and I propose to let the future develop what will be the future."

Left Money in Eastern Bank.

OAKLAND, Dec. 21.—J. J. Connolly today petitioned the Superior Court for letters of administration on the estate of his brother-in-law, Patrick Flynn, who died intestate here on the 15th instant, leaving $2200 on deposit in a bank in Pennsylvania. The heirs are a sister, Mary Connolly, John Flynn, a brother, and Patrick Gannon, a nephew.

Their Graduating Party.

ALAMEDA, Dec. 21.—The graduating party of the December '99 class of the Alameda High School took place at Armory Hall this evening. The hall was tastefully decorated with greens and bunting for the occasion.

There was a large and fashionable attendance of the younger set of the city, including many of the Alumni of the High School. Laurence Rank was floor manager.

Testing Roberts' Wells.

OAKLAND, Dec. 21.—The plans for the testing of Roberts' wells at San Lorenzo in the interest of the city have been made. There are four wells. Each well is to be pumped for twenty-four hours by itself and then the four wells are to be pumped together for the same period of time. The water pumped is to be measured and they should yield 3800 gallons per minute in order to come up to the standard set.

Christmas Festival.

BERKELEY, Dec. 21.—The children of St. Joseph's Church Sunday-school on Addison street gave a very successful Christmas tree to-night in St. Joseph's Hall. The room was tastefully decorated and everything done to insure the children a good time. During the course of the evening Rev. Father Riordan delivered an address. The affair was under the charge of a committee composed of Miss Alice Cain, Mrs. Tena McClellan and Dr. Martin A. Centner.

CANNOT REGISTER IN TIME FOR ELECTIONS

OAKLAND, Dec. 21.—Alameda is going to have trouble with its freeholder election and Oakland with its bond election should one be called very soon owing to the changes in the election laws which go into effect on January 1. On that date the Smith registration law goes into effect and the very first provision of the law is that all existing registers shall at once be canceled by operation of law. It will be almost impossible to reregister the voters of Alameda in time for the freeholders' election unless a force of 200 deputies are put at work, and this force County Clerk Jordan has not at his disposal.

"I shall begin reregistering on the first of the year," said County Clerk Jordan, "but it will be impossible to get the Alameda city register ready in time for the freeholders' election, and unless they can vote on the old register I do not see how we can get ready for them. It would take 200 deputies to prepare the new register in time for that election."

Wheelwomen on tour, who naturally wish to present as neat an appearance as possible, will welcome the invention of solid alcohol. It comes put up in a tin case, which can be set on a bureau, and burns like a candle when lighted.

ARMY BUTTON CAUSES A FIRM'S DISSOLUTION

OAKLAND, Dec. 21.—The well-known law firm of McElroy & McElrath will shortly dissolve, and all on account of a G. A. R. button that for years has filled a buttonhole on Colonel McElroy's coat lapel. The colonel was an officer in the Grand Army of the Republic during "the late unpleasantness," and Major McElrath was likewise officially prominent in the Confederate army, and the firm was familiarly known among the local Justinians as "the blue and the gray." Occasionally the two attorneys would swap reminiscences, and it is understood that during the exploitation of one of these recently the major of the South said to the colonel of the North:

"If I were you I'd not wear that button in my coat lapel on all occasions."

The colonel registered a vigorous exception, and, hearing no sustaining voice, vows now that he will no longer fight in the legal arena with the Southern major as his ally.

"The major is a good attorney," said Colonel McElroy to-day, "but he kicked on my G. A. R. button, and it's all off. I don't propose to stand any more kicking about that button that I hold so dearly as a reminder of the upholding of the Union. Yes, I propose that the firm be dissolved. The big library is mine, and, though I am well along in years, I will get on very well without a partner."

So, too, does Major McElrath say:

"The colonel is a good lawyer, but we were really never partners. We simply worked together on certain cases. Oh, there's been no trouble, and we are as good friends as ever clasped hands between the North and South."