GREAT SOCIAL PROBLEMS.

THE GREAT LECTURE OF WENDELL PHILLIPS LAST NIGHT.

A CROWDED AUDIENCE GREET THE FAMED OLD AGITATOR—HOW HE DISCUSSED THE TRINITY OF LIVE TOPICS—THE RELATIONS OF CAPITAL AND LABOR—FEMALE SUFFRAGE THE ONLY SALVATION FOR THE REPUBLIC.

Last night the Congregational church was crowded by the appreciative public of the national metropolis, assembled to greet the illustrious Wendell Phillips and his great lecture on "Temperance, Labor and Women."

As was evidenced by the large concourse, the distinguished lecturer was more than fortunate in having chosen a theme for the occasion so peculiarly calculated to arouse the already active interest being manifested on every hand by the association of the now talisman words, rum and women. The words which fell with so much feeling from the eloquent lips of Mr. Phillips will do much to sustain and strengthen the courage already gathered by the sex in its crusade against rum, as it will temper the efforts of the good with a large degree of intelligence, begetting a healthy though hearty warfare rather than a mere crusade in a good cause.

About fifteen minutes after the hour announced for the lecture, Mr. Phillips was introduced by Mr. Bigelow amid great applause, and said that he was about to speak to the audience on three burning subjects—angry subjects, which marshal the communities in antagonism and stir up feelings to their depths.

If asked why he brought such questions forward, he would reply that the first thought of every American should be education; this is the first element of free institutions. Congress, colleges, commerce, and all institutions, politically viewed, are only to put a sincere, pure, intelligent man at the ballot-box. Of course, therefore, all these questions are thrown by God upon a generation to stir a sluggish, hostile people, and these will, within fifteen years, decide politics, make and unmake parties. Every man should seize the chance to lift the popular mind, therefore, to grasp such questions.

Republics, like everything human, must have a defect. The beauty of aristocracy is that it makes strong individuals. But this individual importance is exaggerated by its severe etiquette. In the commonest Englishmen will be found that strong pride of name which Scott has immortalized in his parting of Marmion and Douglas. The Englishman is like a block of granite, sharp at one corner, so that every one who rubs against him gets cut. The Yankee is like a cobble stone, which you can't put your foot on firmly at all. [Laughter.]

Somewhere there must be a platform to raise the educational interest of the masses. These questions

STAND KNOCKING AT THE DOOR,

and an audience will be given ere long, or they will provoke strife and shipwreck parties and politics.

Our Government has changed from its English prototype, and our language must change to suit it. Force is what keeps the English Government up, but we have no bayonets behind to make law succumb. The reserve and habitual *character* of the millions is the only independence of our Government against mob violence.

If you will examine the census you will find that cities are in advance of counties in population. "A great city is the symbol of the country." The statesmanship that would satisfy the nineteenth century must be one that can grapple with a great city. The French and English from across the waters cry, "We can govern a great city, you cannot." This is scarcely true, for I can walk half a mile up and down London at night with my person covered with diamonds and, seven chances out of ten, be safe, while no man will dare go a quarter of a mile, then unpoliced, on Broadway at midnight without making his will. What is the explanation of this difference between New York and London? What is New York? Why, it has been owned and run for a score of years by about one hundred men. These rule the low class, and thus run the machine. This is the joint product of money and power. The instrument in this is the corner grocery, where the nod of a dozen is drilled for its work, and this brings me to first thought.

INTEMPERANCE.

Intemperance is not the cause, but the ever-ready and ample opportunity for this work of vice. In every great city two classes are found—the ignorant and the rich: but between these is ever found the solid square like that formed by the bayonets of Wellington at Waterloo, who battle the effort to coin gold out of weakness. How shall we change this arrangement of forces? Men say let the teetotalers take up the cry of temperance; it is a crusade against a mere ghost that don't exist. I say that the South would have conquered us in a year if her major generals hadn't been drunk; and we would have conquered her in two years if our major generals hadn't been drunk. [Laughter and applause.]

A man can get drunk here for a week on the earnings of a day. Suppose the teetotalers are bogus, and we grant it, what do you propose to do? The Maine liquor law may be a sham; but do you suppose the Yankee intrepidity which has led the world up to what is seen in this country will give up its prohibition fails? No; it will try something else. Rum must go to the wall. Intemperance is the

DEVIL-BOT OF GREAT CITIES,

and these cities are the hearts, hands and eyes of all our States. You can trace a line from you marble Capitol to Five Points in New York as direct as that of the telegraph wires from here to that city. You can't give your friend the iron resolution which will enable him to pass that open grog-shop door, but law and society demand that you shut that door forever.

But I must pass to a question of

LABOR.

There has been a cry of conflict raised between capital and labor which does not exist. Wealth and want are connected by a chain in which there is a link which came not from God, but from hell, and the sooner it is found the better. An aristocracy in a community of classes. Whenever you see lines drawn dark and black between the classes our republic has gone.

BRAINS HAVE MARRIED WEALTH,

and no longer serve the people. The best men no longer go to Congress; not that there are not able men in Congress, but that the great mass drags down the average, and brains have gone out in search of other channels of operation. Men have grown to be afraid of the power of wealth where it has become omnipotent. We have survived the curse of ancient Athens, Venice of money, the curse of Athens and Florence, peeps over the horizon and yet threatens us with its shadow. Can we afford to let the sturdy, strong, self-reliant spirit of Massachusetts die out? I think not. The speaker here said that in addressing a large crowd of laboring men lately the committee of arrangements, consisting of five workingmen, each and all feared to go with him on the stage because some of their employers were in the audience, and might deem them ostentatious, and prejudice their standing with them. Labor grows upward instinctive but not conscious as it feels this weary yoke which comes down on its shoulders. We ought to encourage and help it, so that the rolls of that Capitol (Congress) shall no longer be a mere register of the names of the rich over the land.

But now a word on

WOMAN.

I train in the regiment that claims her right to vote. I demand it of her, as her duty, that she vote.

You will find in all history that where one sex has tried to do anything alone it has failed, and the sex making the endeavor has been deteriorated. The successes of the world have been the combined efforts of both sexes. In literature many of the richest works were written only for men. Writing for the tastes of women expurgated literature. So in art. Many of its finest works can't be seen by the eyes of women. But the taste of woman has changed all this now. Take society. It is only three hundred years old. It is the scene where men and women meet together; it is the finest thing we have—far ahead of the Church, and ahead of law. Woman redeemed civilization. Look at this as illustrated in the growth of California. Women cleansed it fit for people to live in. Woman is an unconscious check to profanity and vice. Woman will do for politics all that she has done for literature, art and society; and if there is a chance that our gallant old ship of state shall outride the storm of the night, this chance is bettered twenty-five per cent. with her crew largely interspersed with women.

THE SOCIAL TEMPLE OF HONOR.

A DELIGHTFUL FESTIVAL.

The festival now in progress at Odeon hall, corner of Pennsylvania avenue and Four-and-a-half street, commenced on Thursday evening, was continued last night, and will be concluded this evening. It is really a delightful affair, gotten up under the auspices of the ladies of the Social Temple of Honor, a flourishing temperance organization of this city.

Last night there was a large attendance of ladies and gentlemen well known as earnest workers in the temperance cause, besides many well-wishers of the movement.

The hall was elegantly and tastefully festooned with American flags, and presented a very handsome appearance. The tables were well supplied with delicacies and richly adorned with flowers.

The following named ladies and gentlemen were in charge of the several tables: Confectionery No. 1, Mrs. Minnie Heed, assisted by Miss Fannie O'Loughlin, Miss Lou Barker and Mr. J. H. Knapp. This table was the centre of attraction, on account of the galaxy of beauty that surrounded it during the evening. Confectionery table No. 2, Misses Allie and Lillie Van Vleck. Fancy table, (loaded with a variety of useful and ornamental articles,) Mrs. Col. Hawks and Miss Mary Ellis. Supper table, Mrs. Darnell, Mrs. Lowry and Mrs. Lusby. Lunch table, Mrs. Alma Platt and Mr. James Van Vleck.

During the evening, in addition to the pleasant conversations and delightful promenades, sweet singing, with melodeon accompaniment, enlivened the happy scene.

Considerable competition prevailed at the ballot-box, the prizes being a valuable gold ring to be presented to the lady and a handsome cane to be presented to the gentleman receiving the largest number of votes.

From the post office, in charge of Miss Rosa Brainard, assisted by Mr. Benedict, love missives were liberally dispensed to anxious expectants.

Mrs. Minnie Heed was, during the evening, the recipient of a beautiful bouquet as a token of her earnest and praiseworthy labors in the interest of the festival.

Our friends who desire to pass a pleasant evening are advised to visit Odeon hall this evening.

COMPLIMENT TO A PASTOR.

A meeting of the congregation of Ebenezer M. E. church took place on Thursday night to express their friendship towards their pastor, the Rev. Thomas A. Davis, who left yesterday to attend the conference at Winchester, Va., held by Bishop Ames. Speeches were made by Sheriff Ruffin, of Va.; Rev. James H. Muse, of Washington; Lawyer Bradley, of Ga.; Professor Storrs, of Wayland Seminary; the Hon. Isaac Gary and others. The meeting was one of the most agreeable ever held in the church.

TEMPERANCE SERMON.

The Rev. G. G. Baker, pastor of Hamline Methodist Episcopal church, corner of Ninth and P streets northwest, has kindly consented to deliver a temperance sermon for the Sons of Jonadab, on Sunday evening, March 1. The members of the order will assemble in full regalia at the hall of Liberty Council No. 2, and proceed in a body to the church, where seats will be reserved for them.

A VEXED QUESTION DECIDED.

THE AUTHORITY OF A COURT AUDITOR TO CONSTRUE PROVISIONS OF A WILL.

In the case of Lewis J. Davis et al. vs. Georgiana R. Davis et al., exceptions to auditor's report were taken, and argued before Judge Wylie. In this case certain valuable property belonging to the estate of the late Lewis Johnson, the well-known banker, of this city, and which was disposed of by his will, was sold under a decree of the court. The cause was referred to the auditor to make distribution of the proceeds arising from the sale to the parties entitled thereto. In doing this it became necessary for him to pass upon certain provisions of the will. Exceptions were filed to his rulings, which were argued in the Equity Court yesterday by Wm. John Miller, esq., in support thereof, and by Eugene Carusi, esq., in opposition to the same. Judge Wylie overruled the exceptions, and ratified the auditor's report.

As the questions involved are of interest, at least to the legal profession, we copy so much of the report of Auditor Leech as relates to the same. He says:

The property sold under the decree passed in this cause is a portion of the real estate devised by the will of Lewis Johnson, late of the city of Washington, deceased. And a question is raised upon the construction of certain clauses of said will, respecting this piece of real estate, on which the necessary for the auditor to pass in making distribution of the proceeds arising from the sale. This question will now be presented.

The third item in the will of the said testator is as follows:

"I give, devise and bequeath unto my dearly beloved wife, Matilda, for and during the term of her natural life, the dwelling-house and premises which we now occupy as our residence, in said city. I also give to my said wife all my household goods and furniture, and the sum of ten thousand dollars absolutely for her own use, in lieu of the provision contained in our marriage contract, dated on the thirteenth day of December, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, in her favor, in the event of her surviving me; or, at her option, in lieu of the said house and premises, the sum of ten thousand dollars in cash, on the probation of my will."

Item eighteen of the will is in the following words:

"The remainder, in fee simple, of the house and premises herein before devised, to my said wife for and during her life, I give and devise unto Lewis Johnson Davis, Alexander Duport Davis, William A. Davis and Anna J. Davis, the children of the late aforesaid George M. Davis and Georgiana, his wife, as tenants in common, in equal shares."

And in the twenty-fourth item of his will the testator makes the following residuary devises and bequests:

"All the rest and residue of my estate, real, personal and mixed, I give, devise and bequeath unto the said Georgiana Davis and my two sisters, Mary Leach and Juliet Chunn, in equal shares or portions; and their heirs and assigns forever."

On the probate of the will, Matilda Johnson, widow of the testator, in pursuance of the option given to her, elected to take the sum of ten thousand dollars in cash, in lieu of the life estate devised to her in the third item.

The residuary devisees and legatees named in the twenty-fourth item of the will are made parties defendant to the amended bill filed in this cause. In their answer it is claimed that, upon the election of the widow to take the ten thousand dollars, in lieu of the life estate on the property, the real estate did not become immediately vested in the persons to whom the remainder is devised in the eighteenth item, as alleged in the amended bill, but passed to the heard defendants as residuary devisees. And since the case was argued and taken under advisement, the points have been presented by the counsel for the residuary devisees and legatees: First. That, as to the life estate, the testator died intestate, and the widow and next of kin, inherited it. To this construction of the will we do not agree. Then the residuary devisees and legatees are entitled to the benefit of the life estate during the life of the widow, and not before.

It is submitted that neither of the positions assumed on behalf of the residuary devisees and legatees can be entertained. The remainder devised in the third item of the testator, and, on the election of the widow to take under the residuary clause of the will, they sustain a serious loss and should be compensated, as far as may be, from the life estate.

That these parties sustain loss by the selection of the widow of the word "but," to use the language of the Court of Appeals of Maryland, in Darrington vs. Rogers, (1 Gill, 410,) "it is a loss resulting by operation of law, and against which the testator could have provided an indemnity. For the event of her doing so he has provided no change or substitution in the testamentary disposition of his property, and having failed to do it, we cannot do it for him."

The auditor then proceeds to direct distribution of the fund, in accordance with the foregoing views.

GEORGETOWN AND WASHINGTON.

To the Editor of the National Republican:

SIR: In discussing the question of the annexation of Georgetown to Washington, (it now being all one city in fact,) or the change of name to that of West Washington, the latter being what will satisfactory to nearly all of our citizens, one important point should not be overlooked—that is, bringing within the corporate limits of the town a large amount of valuable property now out in the county. As has been stated by one correspondent on the subject, nearly all the property north of Road street and west of Fayette street is without the limits of the present corporation. Such property now enjoys all the benefits of the improved streets even more than that in the centre of the town, for to reach such property the whole length of such streets have to be traversed, and no good reason can be adduced why it should not pay its just proportion of the expense of such improvements. The reservoir on the heights gives an ample supply of water to all, and all the advantages of well-lighted streets are furnished at the expense of the property on the other side of the way, which appears to be a one-sided affair. They also have the advantages of the police system, for which they pay only a nominal tax. Change the name to West Washington and enlarge the corporate limits, starting at the northern line on Rock creek; thence up Rock creek to the road that runs from the creek up to the Rockville road, north of St. Alban's church; thence westward to what is known as the John H. King road; thence southward to the river—that would bring the line a short distance eastward of Drovers' Rest.

All of the property embraced within those limits is very valuable, very much of it being highly improved at present.

But a short time must elapse till Massachusetts avenue will be continued through Kalorama, across Rock creek, and out to the Rockville road, just north of St. Alban's church, and in time, no doubt, will be continued on to the river, at or near the Chain bridge. Then we shall have the most magnificent boulevard in the world, almost a straight line from the Eastern branch, the farthest limits of the city on the east, to the picturesque scenery of the Virginia heights and little falls of the Potomac on the west. The heights, extending as far out as St. Alban's, will, in the next decade, become the fashionable West End of the Capital; therefore, in making any change now, all this property should be included in the corporate limits, following the line around the river, as proposed, or going even to the Chain bridge. West Washington would be the proper name, as it would enable us to retain our post office and custom-house, with all our present rights and privileges, for the convenience of those residing west of Rock creek, and yet to the world at large we are all Washington city in name, just the same as the dozen or more towns and cities form the great city of London, yet preserve their clearly defined limits, their separate post offices and other internal regulations.

AN OLD FOGY.

GEORGETOWN, February 27, 1874.

CLEANING AND SWEEPING ALLEYS.

The sealed proposals for cleaning and sweeping the alleys in the cities of Washington and Georgetown for one year from March 10, 1874, were opened yesterday at the Board of Public Works in presence of the bidders, twenty-one in number. The bids will be scheduled and the award announced in a few days. The area of alleys to be cleaned approximates 560,000 square yards. Of this amount 327,000 square yards are paved alleys, to be swept and cleaned once in two weeks, and the balance, about 233,000 square yards, improved alleys, to be cleaned once in three weeks. The emptying are to be deposited at some point designated by the board, and to be the property of the parties doing the work.

THE COURTS.

CIRCUIT COURT—CHIEF JUSTICE CARTTER.

This court was engaged as follows yesterday:

Knecel vs. Naller. Verdict for plaintiff for $130 with interest.

Dodge vs. Green et al. Judgment of justice of the peace affirmed on new motion of appellee.

Day vs. Lacouet. Verdict for defendant.

Notcomb vs. Dudley. Judgment for $300 by consent.

Shannon and wife vs. Walsh and wife. Discontinued.

Huberman Bank vs. Peterson & Harvey. Case opened and jury required until Monday.

LOCAL POLICE SKETCHES.

WORK OF THE POLICE COURT MAGISTRATE YESTERDAY.

HOW A DOG CAUSED TROUBLE TO OUR REPORTER—A KISS AND A MAKE UP—AN OLD SHOE FIGHT—EMBEZZLEMENT, FORGERY AND OTHER CRIMES—A F LL C LENDAR PROMPTLY DISPOSED OF.

What possessed young Jones to steal Barbara Claxton's poodle-dog is a mystery. Not one in a hundred would steal such a dog, even under the most favorable circumstances, and if they did it would be the immediate cause of a sad reflection. Five women and Charley Jones were deeply interested in this shaggy little pup, and all were at court for the purpose of manifesting that interest. After Officer Brelisford had produced the defendant and witnesses Mr. Closs examined them privately, and came to the conclusion that a *nolle prosequi* should be entered. He did this, and then stepped below, where the defendant and his friends were gathered about the shivering and frightened pup. He drew a pocket-knife, cut the string, which was attached to a red ribbon around the animal's neck for the purpose of having it find its own master, and the cur followed him, looking neither to the right nor to the left until he got half way up the stairs, and here he curled his tail, dropped his ears and baulked. At this juncture the reporter of THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN entered the dingy hall of the court-house and was scaling the stairs with unusual vivacity when he was suddenly reminded of the uncertainties of life. He had the dog *solely* by the tail, and the pup was returning the compliment with yells and rome teeth. It was a momentary affair, however, and the reporter suddenly went down stairs to get a new start. This time he approached the beast cautiously and endeavored to persuade him of his friendly intentions, regretting all the while that he hadn't a club. But the animal apparently had but little confidence in what he said. Perhaps the wild, arid, shabby appearance of the building confused him; perhaps he mistook the reporter for a sausage-maker, or energetic houndmaster, or something of that nature. Whatever were his thoughts, he certainly acted in a very strange and unbecoming manner. He would jump about with wonderful vigor, vibrating his shaggy noddle, and talking at the top of his voice, all the time snapping his teeth in an uninviting way. It was while the reporter was thus engaged trying to put him on his back, making confidential remarks to him, attempting to seize him by the nape of the neck or kick his ribs in, that Barbara Claxton started down to his relief. Whether she tripped and fell, or the pup got her ankle twisted in going down stairs, the reporter didn't stop to inquire. He merely sat down on the pup, and then lodged on the bottom step at the first lunge with a velocity that indicated his abandonment as a scribe. A dozen policemen stood around, and never once offered to kill either the woman or the dog. Barbara snatched the yelping beast by the belt, pressed it to her bosom, folded him tightly in her embrace, and shrieked, "Oh, Harry, Harry, my darling little poodle, don't you know your own mistress? You dear little thing." This transpired amid the sobs and moans of Barbara's friends, who were posted at the top of the stairs. Then she rushed up and darted into Mr. Closs' office room, followed closely by three female friends. Barbara kissed the pup and then passed him around, (the reporter who on quadrupedal all fours at the foot of the stairs, had suggested that if he got an opportunity he would kick the brute's skull in for an experiment, stood in the office door for this purpose,) Each kissed and hugged him (not the reporter) in turn, until he had gone the rounds; then Barbara took and quite smothered him with sobs, amid the moans and ejaculations of her sympathizers. Mr. Closs, evidently interested in this, for his furniture, told the parties that they had better go, and they went, amid the half suppressed laughter of the court and yells of the struggling pup.

A SERGEANT OF THE MARINES

entered the court-room while the court was in session in full dress uniform. He had evidently drunk to the bottom of a glass about three times, and was just boozy enough to forget to take his hat off. Mr. Revels, the manager, was at his post, and politely directed the sergeant to remove his hat. He looked sharply at Revels, but seeing no stripes, indicating superiority, he shook his head and passed in. Revels ordered him again but the sergeant turned upon him, and at this point the sonorous voice of Judge Snell cried out "We have that man take his hat off, or he will be fined for contempt of court." In less than the second an observing person might have seen two striped coat tails following the red and marine up C street towards the National hotel.

JAMES BOYLE.

Clerk of the Court, James Boyle, you are charged with having made an assault upon your wife, with an intent to kill. Are you guilty or not guilty?

Boyle. Not guilty.

The testimony of Detective Sargent was then heard, who testified that, in reply to a question asked Boyle, he said that he did not know whether or not he had killed his wife or not, but that he intended to blow her head off.

Judge. Mr. Boyle, according to the evidence, you will have to be sent to the grand jury for trial.

PATRICK DOYLE

owed David Tolan a small amount of money. Tolan had sued him and obtained judgment. He failed to find anything in Doyle's house to satisfy the judgment, and went to Father Lloyd's to ascertain what amount of property, if any, Doyle possessed. Doyle heard of this, and intercepted him while he was returning from his mission. The interrogatories were short and right to the point. After the interrogatories, both struck an attitude for fight, but Doyle was the quickest. He squared and cut loose at Tolan before the old gentleman was aware of the situation. Doyle struck him twice before he fell, and then went home to tell his children tales of savage war and Romish daring. It cost him $10.

ANNIE BROOKS.

Yesterday was Annie's day to come into court and pay her usual fine. This time it was about an old pair of shoes, which Julia Dorsey claimed from immemorial usage. Both claimed the shoes and were willing to fight for them. They were taken into the office of Officer McGraw, with his usual alertness, told them to put on their dry goods (they were quarreling in bed) and accompany him to the station-house. They were fined $5 each.

SCHNEIDER VS. BROWN.

Henry C. Brown was brought into court charged with the embezzlement of $4,500, the property of L. H. Schneider, the hardware merchant. An examination was waived, and the defendant was held to $5,000 bonds for his appearance at the Criminal Court. Mr. Brown was arrested on this same charge some time since, but the case was not proved. Subsequently Mr. Brown instituted a suit against Schneider, laying the damages at $25,000. The development of new testimony is the cause of the new trial.

N. OSCAR BOND,

charged with having obtained $250 under false pretences, was tried yesterday. It appears that the defendant has had some dealings with O. P. Chappel, and during the course of the business transactions Chappel claims Bond signed his (Chappel's) name fraudulently to an order for $250 on a Mr. Palmer, of Georgetown. Bond presented the order to Palmer, he refused to honor it until he had seen Chappel. They both went to Chappel's house for the purpose of having him acknowledge the order, but did not find him at home. Palmer deemed the circumstances so go with him there sufficient evidence that the order was valid, and accepted it. During the trial evidence was introduced, which cast a shadow over the reputation of Chappel as a man of veracity and truth. The judgment of the court was suspended.

MINOR CRIMES.

Albert Butler, assault on Walter Dade, $5; Robt. Ricketts, threats to Margaret Brown, $10 and costs; Wm. Gordon was fined $2 for urging two dogs to assault each other on the street.

PRISON REFORM.

MEETING OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION TO BE HELD.

Among the many philanthropic organizations which exist in the United States none holds a more prominent position than the National Prison Association, which owes its existence to the national prison reform congress of Cincinnati, in 1870. It has organized a network, which promises the most auspicious results—a work which, as shown in the international prison reform congress of London, has united the interest and effort of the whole civilized world. The association, already, though still in its infancy, impressed itself profoundly on the public opinion of christendom. It has one aim—the prevention and repression of crime. This comprehends such topics as reforms in criminal law; reforms in police organization and action, reforms in prison discipline, reforms in the modes of dealing with discharged convicts, and reforms, or rather more extended action, in the departments of prison work.

Briefly, the ameliorations proposed to be sought are: To secure such reforms in our penal codes as will make the administration of criminal justice more prompt, humane and certain; and such improvements in our police systems as will make the commission of crime more difficult, its detection more certain, and its punishment more speedy; to give stability and permanence to the administration of our prisons by eliminating partisan politics as a controlling force from their government; to impress a reformatory character upon the prison discipline of the whole country; to organize, in such manner as to render effective, the work of saving discharged convicts; to multiply preventive agencies in the form both of industrial and reformatory schools; to educate and strengthen public opinion, so that it shall act efficiently in the direction of needed reforms; and to collect, arrange, publish and circulate the most complete penitentiary and reformatory statistics and other information relating to the penitentiary question that can be obtained from all parts of the country and the world.

The officers are as follows: President, Hon. Horatio Seymour, Utica, N. Y.; vice-presidents, Hon. James G. Blaine, (Maine,) Hon. Charles Sumner, (Massachusetts,) Theodore D. Woolsey, D. D., LL.D., (Connecticut,) Henry W. Bellows, D. D., (New York,) Hon. Samuel S. Cox, (New Jersey,) and Hon. Conrad Baker, (Indiana;) treasurer, Hon. Salem M. Wales, 120 Fifth avenue, New York; secretary, E. C. Wines, D. D., LL.D., 220 Broadway, New York.

A meeting of the most interesting character will be held to-morrow afternoon at 3:30 o'clock at Lincoln hall. Dr. Wines will briefly review the work: General Garfield will preside, and Governor Stevenson, Speaker Blaine and Caroline Talbot will make short addresses. All who attend will be richly remunerated.

CARD FROM DR. VERDI.

THE SWIMMING SCHOOL.

Sorry for the disappointment of the "reporter of THE REPUBLICAN," but the meeting in behalf of the swimming school was adjourned not from discouragement, but from the fact that the change is in a state of agitation, the professors consulting, the committees preparing plans, etc. Instead of discouragement, we meet encouragement everywhere, and on Wednesday night the committee will meet for final action. The great and well-known benefactors who make their purse respond to the generous impulse of their heart are with us. Hence success in this humane effort is reasonably anticipated. T. S. V.

THE CATTLE MARKET.

The offerings at Drovers' Rest Thursday were 400 beef cattle, 800 sheep and 50 cows and calves. Thursday were 300 cattle to butchers at 5¾ to 6¼ cents per pound; 10 to farmers at 4 to 4½ cents per pound; 50 were left over. Four hundred and forty sheep were sold to butchers at 5 to 7 cents per pound; 120 were left over; and 30 cows and calves at $20 to $60 per head.

LOCAL MISCELLANY.

The Board of Health failed to hold a meeting last evening for the want of a quorum.

The tug-boat Standish arrived at the navy yard yesterday from Norfolk with a load of lead.

The Danbury *News* man is about transplanting dunberries in European soil. He leaves in April, and will be gone about two months.

The alarm of fire at 1:30 o'clock yesterday, from box 46, was caused by a chimney burning at the corner of Nineteenth and L streets.

Thomas E. Waggaman sold, yesterday, part of lot 16, in square 250, improved by a three-story brick house, to N. P. Callan, for $10,000.

Three hundred and fifty bushels of corn sold yesterday in Georgetown at 70 cents per bushel, and 100 bushels of wheat at $1.75 per bushel.

Mr. Wm. Marbury, of the firm of I. Thomas Davis & Co., Georgetown, died yesterday morning at his residence, on West street, of consumption.

Prof. J. M. Langston, acting president of the Howard University, last night gave a reception and entertainment to the graduating class of that institution.

Messrs. Latimer & Cleary sold, yesterday afternoon, lots 86, 87, 88 and 89, in Fay, Dorment and Barrett's subdivision of square 150, situated on Rings street, between Seventeenth and Boundary streets, and improved by four two-story brick houses, to Margaret C. Wallach, for $4,125 each—$6,900.

The following students of the National Medical College passed successful examinations of that institution on Thursday evening last: W. H. Faulkner, Md.; J. J. Brown, Del.; H. O. Paulding, N. Y.; L. T. Bremerman, D. C.; W. P. Lawyer, Ill.; R. A. Foster, D. C.; R. Ravenburg, Wis.; E. A. Sellhausen, D. C.; G. W. Acker, D. C.; Dr. T. C. Rich, Ind.

A moot court was held at the Columbian Law college last evening, Prof. Tyler presiding. Able arguments were made on the liability of an indorser of a promissory note after the original parties have mutually agreed to continue the note for a certain time after it is due, and for a stipulated sum. Messrs. Larner and Bowen acted as counsel for the plaintiff, and Messrs. Farrell and Hay for defendant.

At the fourth quarterly conference of Gorsuch M. E. church the following officers were elected: Wm. R. Hunt, F. Ballenger, Wm. T. Tenlor, Thomas King, Chas. Ashton, Geo. Z. Collens and J. F. Hailey, trustees; Wm. R. Hunt, F. Ballenger, John K. Stahl, Joseph Humphries and J. F. Tolson stewards; Wm. R. Hunt, recording steward, and John K. Stahl, district steward. The report of the pastor, Rev. J. Huey Moore, shows the church to be in a very healthy condition. Class leaders are Rev. J. Duey Moore, A. B. H. Lacey and Wm. R. Hunt.

BISHOP PINCKNEY ON CONFESSION.

To the Editor of the National Republican:

SIR: It was not my privilege to hear Bishop Pinckney's sermon on "The Forgiveness of Sins" on Sunday last, but I find a short abstract of it in the *Evening Star* of Monday last, which contains several statements tending to obscure the truth and confuse the mind of the reader.

In the first place, the article states that Dr. Pinckney denied that "the priest had power to forgive sins." This presupposes that such a doctrine is held in the Church. If the Doctor thinks so, he is under a misapprehension. No one in the Protestant Episcopal Church holds that the priest alone has power to forgive sins. It is God who forgives sins, the priest being simply the instrument made use of by the Almighty for conveying it. The difference between this and the doctrine of the sermon as reported is surely broad and plain enough to be understood by any one. Very confused ideas are held upon this subject. But the doctrine itself is extremely simple. If the penitent has truly and honestly confessed, the accepting assertion uttered by the priest is of the priest for that purpose. The latter has no power, save as he acts in the name of the Lord, and by the authority delegated to him.

2. In the next place, it is said that confession is "contrary to the Christian liberty." But the point is left unproven. Now, common sense would say that Christian liberty is not curtailed but enlarged by allowing persons to come to confession. I doubt very much if any one ever thought so, as a parish priest, and he refuses to hear them, it is he who transgresses against the liberty of the laity. They have the right to receive the benefit of private absolution if they prefer it to communion, when denies this right he tramples upon their privileges after the spirit of the Papal tyranny.

3. It is further said that the Prayer Book of the English Church "does not authorize confessions." How can such a statement be reconciled with the two passages from that excellent book?

"1. Here shall the sick person be moved to make a special confession of his sins, if he feel his conscience troubled with any matter of grief, after which confession the priest shall absolve him, if he humbly and heartily desire it." (This is from the English office for the visitation of the sick.)

"2. You must not think that you are bound by this means quiet his own conscience herein, but requireth further comfort or counsel, let him come to me or to some other discreet and learned minister of God's word and open his grief, that by the ministry of God's word he may receive the benefit of absolution, together with ghostly counsel and advice, to the quieting of his conscience and the removing of all scruple and doubtfulness." (From Exhortation in Communion Office.)

These expressions are somewhat watered down in our American Prayer Book; but there is no prohibition of confession. Far from it. On the contrary confession, or what amounts to the same thing, is strictly recommended in these words of our communion office: "Let him come to me or to some other minister of God's word and open his grief;" and to this charge in the ordination service, "Ye shall the minister exhorting *whenever he repent* him truly of his sins," &c. There can be no real "examination" unless the sick man repents and confesses his sins to God's minister; and if he further desires that his pardon may be pronounced in God's name, the priest is at perfect liberty (if, indeed, he is not absolutely bound by the law of charity) to give him this comfort, confession or no confession. Such absolution are thought to be a special help. But the idea is nowhere discouraged that they may be of benefit in other cases. The Church does not restrict her priests in this exercise of that power to pronounce God's absolution in his name, which was given to them at his ordination. Therefore, as faithful stewards of a divine trust, they ought always to stand ready to execute this office wherever and whenever needed.

4. One more statement requires notice: "Not a line can be found in the Book of Common Prayer to sustain the doctrine of auricular confession and priestly absolution." This is a surprising assertion. It is plain that somebody has badly blundered. Turn to the "form for the visitation of prisoners," and you will find these words, (omitting irrelevant terms:) "Then shall the minister exhort the sick person to make a confession of the sin for which he is condemned, &c. After his confession the priest shall declare to him the pardoning mercy of God," &c. This effectually refutes the sweeping assertion mentioned above.

This is not the place, Mr. Editor, to enlarge upon the benefits of confession in special cases, and the abundant authority for it in Holy Scripture, in the writings of the fathers, and in the works of standard English divines. But the subject surely needs ventilation, and with all due respect to the views of the assistant bishop of Maryland, one cannot but believe that there is great deal to be said on the other side. And if the writer of this may presume to advise his brethren, he would say: Seek the benefit of confession whenever you really need it. The Church exhorts you to do it as a preparation for communion, when you cannot otherwise quiet your conscience, and she in nowise prohibits it at other times.

A CHURCHMAN.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 25, 1874.

AMUSEMENTS.

THE NATIONAL.

There will be a grand matinee this afternoon, and those who have not seen "Undine" should improve the remaining opportunities offered. On Monday Boucicault commences a brief engagement in one of his own plays.

FORD'S OPERA HOUSE.

Mr. Wybert Reeve appears in the "Woman in White" this afternoon. In the evening he will present "Not So Bad After All." Chanfrau commences an engagement in "Kit" on Monday evening.

ANOTHER LECTURE BY WENDELL PHILLIPS.

Wendell Phillips, having concluded to remain in the city for a few days, has consented to deliver on Monday night, at the Congregational church, his great lecture, "The Lost Arts." This is spoken of as one of his greatest efforts, and will certainly attract a large audience.

TABLEAUX.

RECEPTION BY THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

The third grand reception of the Young Men's Christian Association was held last night at Lincoln hall. The exercises were begun by a short lecture by Rev. Dr. Rawson, of New York, followed by a series of seven tableaux in the life of Moses. The tableaux were arranged with costumes, many of which were brought from the East. At 7:30 o'clock the following programme was introduced: Tableau No. 1—The Finding of Moses. Tableau No. 2—Moses Killing the Egyptian. Tableau No. 3—Moses in Midian. Tableau No. 4—Moses Before Pharaoh. Tableau No. 5—Moses at the Red Sea. Tableau No. 6—Moses at Mount Sinai. Tableau No. 7—Moses at Mount Nebo.

During the intervals of the tableaux the audience promenaded in the parlors of the association, partook of refreshments and listened to instrumental and vocal music, recitations, &c.

The attendance was large. A number of Sunday-school teachers were present, and the series of Sunday-school lessons introduced by Dr. Rawson were enjoyed to good advantage by them.

At the conclusion of the programme of tableaux the audience met in the parlor and dismissed the evening's entertainment, and expressed themselves highly pleased therewith.

HARD HITS AT CIVIL SERVICE.

In accordance with the request of D. B. Eaton, chairman of the Civil Service Commission, the Commissioner of Customs has given the commission his views of the present mode of conducting examinations. He says: "I have always regarded it is as exclusive in its character, giving to the richer portion of the community, who are able to acquire an excellent education, advantages over those who had only the means to acquire an education sufficient to transact clerical duty faithfully and intelligently, but not sufficient to compete with the graduates of colleges." And, in regard to promotion, he says: "It has always been a mystery to me how, leaving nothing of these duties, the committee could ascertain, by a three-hours' examination, better than myself, who among my clerks had performed these duties required. I am satisfied that these examinations are expensive, useless, cumbersome, and of no possible advantage."

PIGEON SHOOTING.

Yesterday afternoon Messrs. C. S. Wheeler and F. A. Simond had a friendly match at pigeon shooting on Kalorama heights. The match was fifteen single birds, twenty-one yards rise, eighty yards fall. After the birds were exhausted, it was discovered that Mr. Simond was the winner by one bird.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES TO-MORROW.

Sabbath afternoon services at Lincoln Hall, Sabbatic: "Patent Religion."

Union Reformed church, corner Sixth and D streets northwest, Rev. Dr. [illegible] Hinckley preacher.

Rev. G. W. Fox will preach in Mazzini Temple, Church of the Strangers' chapel, F. M. C. A., Sermon to men of Masonic, Hamline church, in the evening.

Discourse by Rev. Walter Q. Scott, in Dr. Sunderland's church.

Preaching by the pastor, Rev. H. A. Cleveland, in Foundry church.

CAPITOL AND DEPARTMENT.

THE NEW ARMY REGISTER.

The official "Army Register" for January 1, 1874, with an addenda giving the changes that have occurred from that date to the time the "Register" went to press, is ready for distribution, and officers of the army will receive it forthwith. The only new feature is that under the caption of "brevet and volunteer commissions," the dates of all commissions held by officers, with the dates of muster out, vacation, &c., are inserted. The number of officers of foreign birth holding commissions in the army is 244, of whom 77 are in the staff departments, 54 in the cavalry, 59 in the artillery and 121 in the infantry. This does not include one born in Asia, one in East India and three who were born when their mothers happened to be at sea. The countries having the honor to supply so many officers for our army are: Ireland, 98; Germany, 45; England, 38; Canada, 22; Scotland, 15; France, 6; Sweden, 4; Switzerland, 3; South America, 3; Nova Scotia, Italy and Poland, 2 each; Prince Edward Island, Austria, Malta, Corfu, Madeira, Norway and the Netherlands, 1 each.

One hundred and ninety-six of our officers rose from the ranks, thus showing that if every corporal's knapsack does not contain a marshal's baton a good many of them contain shoulder-straps. The nationality of these officers is worthy of particular notice, as it proves that, contrary to the generally received opinion, the majority of our officers who entered the service as enlisted men are natives of the United States, and not "foreigners," as they are. The list of civilians is credited with 108 promotions from the army; Ireland, 44; Germany, 23; England, 7; Scotland, 1; Canada, 3