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THE TAX ON INCOMES.

The effort made by the bankers of New York to have the income tax declared unconstitutional will be watched with considerable interest by all persons whom the law affects. The suit brought by Banker Moore is the beginning of a serious and complicated litigation, and as there is to be an organized refusal among wealthy New Yorkers to pay the tax, its collection may involve perplexing consequences.

Just why men of wealth should object so obstinately to the income tax is a question not easy to answer. Not one of them would feel its burden, nor would he be the less thrifty because of its imposition. It is a tax on prosperity and is intended to reach our money-makers, and were there a possibility of permanent injury to those who guide the wheels of industry, the levying of the income tax would be wild and reckless legislation. But both condition and convenience caused it to be levied. Justice and right made it a necessity, and when once it becomes established as a means of collecting revenue, none but selfish hand clippers will demand its repeal.

The fight to fix the income tax in our statute books may be long and expensive. The men who have begun the contest against the tax are not easily discouraged. They have friends in Congress, in the courts, and in all circles where laws are made, executed and judicially considered. But they are opposed by the masses of the people, and it is to their decision that the cause must be finally appealed.

THE SURPLUS CURRENCY PROBLEM.

The great trouble with our monetary system is the ease with which gold speculators can plunder our Treasury. The $65,000,000 of legal tender and Treasury notes, which the administration believes necessary to redeem in gold, offered excellent opportunities for a continuous drain upon our gold reserve, for no sooner are these notes once redeemed than they are again paid out and made the means of other and repeated raids upon our Treasury.

If a way could be found to cancel these notes and withdraw them from circulation without actually diminishing the volume of currency, the problem would be solved. It has been suggested that a small tax might be placed on gold exports, and in this way protect our gold reserve with as little delay as possible. The greater evil is the frequent sale of long-time, high-interest bonds. Already one hundred millions have been sold and the time is near at hand when another sale must be ordered. The lesser evil is the sale of short-time, low-interest bonds to take up the notes that cause the sale of high-interest bonds. I time, as all financiers agree, that the legal-tender and currency notes are the cause of all our business troubles, there ought to be no hesitancy as to which of those evils to choose.

CORPORATIONS WITH SOULS.

While it may be true as a general rule that corporations have no souls, yet now and then some one of them gives evidence that it does not lack generous impulses. An exhibition of this sort was made by the Washington and Georgetown Railroad Company in giving all its employes an extra day's pay as a Christmas present. Perhaps the amount in each case was not a great deal; perchance the sum total did not make much of a hole in the quarterly dividend, but the act gave the men assurance of kindly feelings for them on the part of their employers.

It would be well if the example set by this corporation were to find frequent imitators, and the spirit that prompted the act prevailed more generally. Unfortunately, men or corporations who employ a considerable number of persons are generally entirely indifferent to the comfort of their employes, and yet more rare is an appreciation of those amenities that serve to establish pleasant relations between master and man.

All men are interdependent. No corporation is so wealthy but it has to rely upon the intelligence, honesty and diligence of those whom it employs. No association of workingmen is so powerful but its interests lie in the direction of the prosperity of the work-giver. A proper recognition of this fact by both will work to their mutual advantage and will remove many of those asperities that keep employers and employes estranged and apart.

REPRESENTATIVE SPRINGER'S enthusiastic assertion that the currency bill will pass induces the belief that were he up in a balloon, and the balloon should collapse, Mr. Springer would venture the prediction that he would reach the ground in safety.

IT might be well to remind both Croker and Cockran that there is considerably less danger when the floor is properly padded. Also that the kinetoscope people are looking for talent.

IT would be base ingratitude for Supt. Byrnes to go before the Lexow confessional and neglect to return the little compliment paid him by Capt. Schmittberger.

WILL somebody please whisper in the ear of Gov. Flower that he is overdoing the acquittal business?

HETTY GREEN may be a little slow about adopting bicycle bloomers, but she is "way up" in securing newspaper interviews.

THE Oriental unpleasantness should be designated in history as "the war of races."

HAD the cigarette trust tried the influence of its products on the minds of the Chicago council there would have been no necessity for the offer of a $25,000 bribe.

EMPEZZLER SELLY will make a great mistake in not appealing his sentence to Gov. Flower.

AND now comes the startling intelligence that the Chinese are adepts in the art of lying. But they will have to chase around pretty lively to get away from their record at running.

AT last Carnegie has succeeded in getting his working people under such perfect subjection that they now submit to a reduction of wages without striking. Starvation is a great persuader, and it beats anything but death in conquering either man or beast.

A CAREFUL reading of President Cleveland's speech at Georgetown, S. C., gives the impression that it was either not properly edited by Secretary Thurber, or that his mind was unduly influenced.

ANOTHER conspiracy to restore Queen Lili has been discovered. There is danger of wearing that poor old girl out trying to seat here on the throne.

CHAUNCEY MRS. LANGTRY says she married that she might go yachting—the other times it was nothing but "soul love."

THANK HEAVEN the income tax will work hardship to but few of our defeated statesmen.

IF Croker and Cockran continue their published interviews the Lexow confessional will be superfluous.

THE use of a phonograph would save Corbett a tremendous amount of nerve energy.

BLOW, Gabriel, blow, and we'll not wait for the death scene. Coxey says he will be President, and we might as well wear wings now as any time.

FROM a slugging standpoint yesterday's football game was a failure. Only two men were retired for injury, and no call was made for the Emergency ambulance. Pshaw!

No tears will be shed because the Sultan refuses to allow Consul Jewitt to go with the American commission. We are used to it.

GOV. MITCHELL dealt a serious blow at the prosperity of Florida when he honored Gov. Hogg's requisition for the arrest of one of the millionaire directors of the Standard Oil Trust. Besides depriving members of trusts of a delightfully pleasant winter residence, Gov. Mitchell establishes a precedent that may be the means of subjecting most of them to the rigors of a Canadian winter.

BROWNING A MYSTIC.

He Confessed as Much, but Disclaimed a Belief in Spiritualism.

Edward Maitland, the mystical writer, contributes the following letter to the Unknown World: "In a conversation with the late Robert Browning two or three years before his death, I remarked to him: 'When you made Abt Vogler say, "'Tis we musicians know," you meant "We mystics."'

"He seemed surprised at my having detected his secret, for I believe he thought that I was 'only a spiritualist.'

"'But presently he exclaimed with much emphasis, 'Of course I did; I am a Mystic.' He added some remarks in disavowal of being a spiritualist, in reply to which I said that, though the two things are different, the one referring to spirit and the other to spirits, they are not incompatible; and I knew by my own experience the possibility of being both; and, so, to have experimental demonstration of the reality of the region of which mysticism represents the mental apprehension. His rejoinder to which was a significant 'Ah!'"

A Fifteen-Column Speaker.

Senator John W. Daniel's oration on Gen. Jubal A. Early fills fifteen columns of fine print in the Richmond Dispatch, a fact that may remind some people of the old story of two men who had been listening to a preacher who had the gift of long continuance. "What a finished sermon," exclaimed one. "Yes," replied the other, "but I thought it never would be." If, as reported, Senator Daniel is going into the ministry, he will have to boil things down a little.

A $150,000 Blaze.

BURLINGTON, Vt., Dec. 25.—A fire started last night in the lath shed connected with a big lumber yard owned by J. R. Booth and and was not put under control until 4 o'clock this morning, and after it had done damage estimated at $150,000.

CLOAK ROOM AND GALLERY.

Will Representative Reed become Speaker of the next House? This is a question which a good many congressmen and politicians are asking now.

"If he is the wise man that I think he is," said one of the brightest Republicans in the House, "he will decline the Speakership. He has got all the reputation out of it he can, and if he takes the Speakership next time he will put himself in position to offend about one-half the Republican members, as there will not be committee chairmanships to go round. They are, of course, the men who shape up the delegations to the national conventions, and he cannot afford to offend them."

Some people don't seem to care whose toes they tred on. Somebody was asking Restaurateur Murray, the head of the House restaurant, the other day, what sort of food the average Congressman eats.

"That depends," said Murray, "upon who is paying for it."

And yet he is still permitted to retain his restaurant privileges in the Capitol.

The oft told tale of the sign in the mining saloon "don't shoot the pianist" is pretty nearly discounted by the tale told by some of the statesman, who have traveled in Yucatan. They find on the doors of the hotel rooms there requests to the guests as follows: First, not to emerge from their rooms in negligee attire; second, to keep the doors locked when scantily dressed; third, not to make a noise in walking about the hotel after 10:30 p. m.; fourth, to speak in a low voice after the hour for retiring.

If anybody doubts the charge that has been made as to the favoritism toward everything English, which pervades this administration, he should run his eagle-eye over the expense account of the treasury. Here are a few items therefrom: July 10th, one Victoria chair; January 29th, one Victoria chair; February 15, one Victoria chair; March 4th, one Victoria chair; April 14th, one Victoria chair; April 26th, one Victoria chair; May 4th, one Victoria chair; May 14th, one Victoria chair; June 16th, one Victoria chair; June 25th, one Victoria chair; June 28th, one Victoria chair; May 24th, two Victoria chairs; March 1st, two Victoria chairs; August 3d, two Victoria chairs; July 22th, two Victoria chairs; January 17th, four Victoria chairs; March 13th, four Victoria chairs; March 22d, six Victoria chairs; May 9th, nine Victoria chairs.

Your average statesman is not altogether too well posted on geography and other facts pertaining to other countries than his own. Two of them were discussing their prospects on retiring from Congress, the other day.

"I hear," said one, "that the mission to Ecuador is vacant. I think I'll strike for that."

"Better not," said the other, "miserable place, way up on top of a mountain, have to ride up there on donkeys; hot country; nobody there, and all that. Don't think you'd like the city at all."

"See," said the other thoughtfully, "what's the name of the capital, anyway?"

"Quito," answered his companion.

"Veto?" said the first. "Never heard of it."

"If it was Veto," responded the other, "you could depend on the President to hold on to it. He has use for everything of that name in his possession."

"There is one task that the book-writing statesmen have not yet accomplished or even undertaken," said one of the most distinguished ex-officials of the city the other day. "That is to bridge over the history of the years between the period covered by Benton and Blaine. Benton's "Thirty Years in the Senate" covers events in the political world from 1820 to 1850, and Blaine's "Twenty Years in Congress" covers from 1860 to 1880. But there is that ten years stretch in which treason was hatched that nobody has properly covered. John Sherman is the man to do it. He could give us a story of say "A Half Century of Political Life," for he has been in national politics forty years and a close observer of that same time ever since he entered the practice of law just fifty years ago."

A CONVENIENT DISEASE.

"General Debility" a Kansas Epidemic—Whisky the Remedy.

In the prohibition State of Kansas all the drug stores which have permits to sell intoxicating liquors are obliged by law to fill out certain printed applications stating the amount and kind of liquor purchased by each customer and also the particular malady for which the liquor is bought, says the Youth's Companion. In many cities the drug stores have taken advantage of their permits to sell to the public for drinking purposes, practically turning the stores into saloons.

A recent temperance crusade has resulted in the conviction of several druggists who had violated the law. Several witnesses were called upon to testify as to the circumstances attending the sale of intoxicants. The county attorney put the following questions:

"You say you bought this liquor for medicinal purposes?"

"I did."

"You bought three bottles of beer on such a date?"

"Yes, sir."

"State to the court and jury the particular disease that required three bottles of beer as a medicine."

"General debility."

The next witness testified to having bought half a pint of whisky at the same store.

"And what was your disease?" asked the attorney.

"General debility."

A third witness swore that he bought at the same place a pint of brandy.

"State to the court the particular malady that required the taking of a pint of brandy," said the prosecuting attorney.

"General debility," replied the witness.

A titter went around the courtroom, and the county attorney, facing the jury, said, gravely: "Gentlemen of the jury, this is the first time I ever knew that 'general debility' was an epidemic and that either beer, whisky, or brandy was an infallible remedy."

The jury brought in a verdict of guilty without leaving their seats.

JAPAN NOT READY TO TREAT.

Delay in Appointment of Commissioners to Adjust Terms of Peace.

No information has yet reached the Japanese legation here of the appointment of peace commissioners to treat with the two Chinese ambassadors recently appointed. The suggestion is advanced that the Japanese government is probably awaiting the arrival of the Chinese ambassadors before making the appointment.

The Japanese commissioners need not, in fact, be appointed until some formal propositions are made by the Chinese envoys. Owing to the fact that communication from Pekin to a Chinese port is somewhat difficult, because of the frozen condition of the rivers and canals, the arrival of the Chinese envoys in Japan may be delayed for some time.

Nothing concerning the report that Shao, one of the Chinese ambassadors, will be persona non grata to the Japanese on account of his action as governor of Formosa has been received at the legation.

A cablegram received at the legation yesterday announced the convening of parliament Monday at Tokio.

BROKE GLASS AND LAW.

Device of a Homeless Man to Get Himself Into the Jail.

A rough looking white man was seen loitering about Schedler & Stevens' drug store, corner of Ninth street and Pennsylvania avenue northwest, for nearly an hour last night. He was apparently trying to shield himself from the biting north wind and trembled with cold.

Suddenly he was seen to pick up a brick and throw it with great force through one of the large show-windows on the Ninth street side of the store, making a big hole in the glass, which was also badly splintered.

After throwing the brick the man did not appear to be very anxious to get away, and was arrested by Policeman Goss, who heard the crash of glass, and came running to the spot. At the Twelfth street station the man gave his name as "Yank" Conway, and said he was a boilermaker by trade. He claimed to be homeless and friendless, and the police believe he shied the brick through the glass in order to be arrested and sent to jail. The broken glass is valued at about $50.

SOCIAL SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

The President and the members of his cabinet celebrated Christmas in the old-fashioned way—making it essentially a family affair. At the White House it was a genuine children's day, everything being subordinated to the pleasure of the little ones. There was a Christmas tree set in the library, the first that the Cleveland children have called their own, and Mrs. Cleveland herself added the finishing touches to the tree, which, while not of great proportions, was very beautifully trimmed and decorated with tiny parti-colored electric lamps in place of the old time wax candles.

Gifts for the little ones, were numerous and almost until noon express wagons and messengers came laden to the White House. As usual the President remembered all of the employes in the house. Every one got a fat turkey and to his personal servants the President gave substantial gifts of money, an example which was followed by Private Secretary Thurber with his own household and attendants.

Mrs. Cleveland also had a pretty little present for each of the employes. She herself received very many Christmas presents, the President's token being very beautiful.

The only guest stopping at the White House was Mrs. Cleveland's mother, Mrs. Perrine, and the dinner was strictly limited to the family. Preceding it, however, there was a pretty little luncheon set out for the children of the Cabinet, who came to the White House to see the Christmas tree.

All the members of the Cabinet ate their Christmas dinners at home in the bosom of their families, and perhaps the largest gathering was at the Carlisle home, where the Secretary and Mrs. Carlisle entertained their children and grandchildren.

WHEN GREEK MEETS GREEK.

Prominent College Fraternities Convene at the Ebbitt House To-day.

The fourteenth national biennial congress of Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity will open at the Ebbitt House in this city this morning.

The Washington Alumni Association has prepared a programme which includes an address of welcome by Hon. John W. Ross, president of the Board of District Commissioners, with response by W. R. Bass, of Ohio; a reception by President Cleveland at some convenient hour during the sitting; a biennial poem by J. C. Smith, of Michigan, and biennial oration by Frank L. Young, of New York. A grand banquet will be given on the evening of the last day of the congress, Friday, the 28th instant.

The several committees in charge are: Reception, E. M. Gadsden, H. P. Simpson, H. Pechin, W. E. Faison, G. L. Johnson, D. P. Mentze, J. H. Davis, Charles Harris, J. F. Renfro; entertainment, G. H. Norton; F. E. Porter, E. L. Benick, E. J. Russell, Henry Pugh, J. Colt, V. W. Henry, G. L. Booth, O. S. Woolf; banquet, Dr. L. W. Glazebrook, Dr. Sterling Ruffin, Thomas Ruffin, W. H. Lamar, G. D. Ellsworth, H. B. Stewart, J. B. Fitzgerald, A. J. Stofer, William Husson.

At the same place the twenty-ninth annual convention of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity will be held, commencing this morning at 10:30 o'clock.

Assistant Attorney General Charles B. Howry will deliver the welcoming address, which is to be responded to by J. Washington Moore, of Nashville, the eminent supreme archon of the fraternity. After this, committees will be appointed and all the business of the fraternity will be transacted as completely as possible in the three days' session, a complete account of which may be found in THE TIMES from day to day.

The social features of the present convention include a banquet Thursday night, at which Secretary Carlisle responds to the toast, "The hope of our country is in her young men," and Congressman Wilson to "Brains vs. brawn in the college curriculum."

Mrs. Secretary Carlisle will give the fraternity a reception during the week.

Over 100 delegates have arrived, and the corridors of the Ebbitt House are continually ringing with the fraternity's yells.

EXILED WITH KOSSUTH.

Death of Gen. Henry K. Kalusowski, a Prominent Polish Patriot.

Gen. Henry Korwin Kalusowski, aged 88 years, who died last Sunday at the home of his son, Dr. H. E. Kalusowski, No. 911 L street northwest, was one of the most prominent leaders of the Polish rebellion of 1830 and the Austrian insurrection of 1848. It was during the latter outbreak that he was, with Louis Kossuth, exiled by the Austrian government for his sympathies with the insurrectionists. He has been a resident of this country for about fifty years, was twice married, and a married daughter and son survive him.

Gen. Kalusowski was born in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, in Poland, in 1806. When the Polish revolution broke out in 1830, Mr. Kalusowski resigned his position under the Russian government to take an active part in the insurrection. So bravely did this patriot fight for the liberty of his countrymen that he was soon commissioned a general.

When the Polish troops were defeated Gen. Kalusowski went to Prussia, but returned a few years later and was made minister of finance of Poland. He continued to discharge the duties of this office until the fall of Warsaw. Then he went into Austria and with several other Polish leaders attempted to start an insurrection in that country. This resulted in failure.

In 1838 Gen. Kalusowski came to the United States. Ten years later, in 1848, he returned to Europe and took quite an active part in the Austrian revolution, especially in the Grand Duchy of Posen. In company with Louis Kossuth he was expelled by the Austrian government. He soon returned to the United States.

After serving the Union bravely in the civil war Mr. Kalusowski was employed by the State Department to translate the Russian documents in connection with the purchase of Alaska. Later he was appointed clerk in the Treasury Department, which position he resigned in 1882, being then seventy-six years old. Since that time he has been living with his only son, Dr. H. E. Kalusowski.

LOOKS LIKE A MURDER.

Walter Johnson Is in a Critical Condition at the Emergency Hospital.

It was found necessary yesterday to perform a delicate surgical operation on Walter Johnson, the young colored man, who was almost disemboweled shortly after midnight Christmas morning during an altercation at Twenty-second and L streets northwest, as stated in yesterday's TIMES.

The operation was accordingly performed at the Emergency Hospital by Dr. Parker and the hospital staff. Johnson's wound consisted of a deep cut fully three inches in length in the abdomen, and the operation of colliotomy was necessary to prevent the intestines from protruding.

The patient's condition is critical, and there may be a turn for the worse, followed by the patient's death, at any moment.

The affray is still shrouded in mystery and the Third precinct police have five men locked up on suspicion of being the one who did the cutting. Johnson himself and the others profess the greatest ignorance of the matter, but the police have an important clue and expect to land the guilty party to-day. The cutting took place at the above corner after the saloons had closed and another colored man named William Lee was also painfully cut about the head and face during the melee.

He "Got His Man."

ST. JOSEPH, MO., Dec. 25.—This afternoon William Menzel went into Bloom Bros.' saloon and borrowed a revolver, saying that he wanted to "get a man." He was given a 44-caliber pistol and walked out on the street. A few moments later he met a young man named Frank Tracey, and, without a word, drew the pistol and shot the latter through the bowels. Tracey died in five minutes. Menzel was locked up. He claims that he did not intend to shoot Tracey, and says that it was an accident.

Electric Railroad in California.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 25.—William H. Mills, land agent of the Southern Pacific Company, says that the construction of the electric railroad from Mercedes to the Yosemite valley is an assured fact. The power is to be established at three points, and will serve the mining districts of the vicinity with power. The Central Pacific Company will take the contract for the construction of the line.

MRS. WHELESS' ANSWER.

She Did Not Condone Her Husband's Alleged Infidelity.

Attorneys Shellabarger and Wilson, representing Mrs. Maud Wheless in her suit for absolute divorce from her husband, Malone Wheless, and possession of their only child, will immediately file an answer to the demurrer of Mr. Wheless, entered by his lawyers J. Coleman and E. B. Hay, who propose to make an argument upon the point that Mrs. Wheless does not assert in her petition that her husband's infidelity with Mrs. Hay, wife of Dr. Hay, of the Weather Bureau, was without the consent and condonation of the wronged wife.

"How could the infidelity of my husband with Mrs. Hay been with my consent and condonation, when it was carried on for a long while without my immediate knowledge?" asked Mrs. Wheless when seen yesterday in regard to that feature of Mr. Wheless' demurrer.

She had but shortly before returned from services at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, of which parish she is a regular attendant, and spoke with much emotion. She had broken down and wept, she said during the services as they recalled to her mind many circumstances in connection with her spiritual relations with the church.

"When the choristers arose to chant the processional hymn," she said, "I could not stand on my feet, and fell prostrate over the rail of the pew, where I wept as the thoughts came to my mind of my two little children buried from the church, my little daughter ill at home and the joyous character of the day. It seemed to me the singing, the prayers and sermon were all for my special benefit, and I felt better when the services were ended."

Returning to the subject of her husband's demurrer Mrs. Wheless said that it was simply a legal technicality which her attorneys would lose no time in remedying, and she openly charged one of the lawyers of Mr. Wheless with unprofessional conduct in attempting, under the guise of friendship and sympathy for her, to secure the evidence she had accumulated while for three months previous he had been retained by Wheless.

Mrs. Wheless insists that the demurrer is only entered to protect Mrs. Hay, and claims it will have no foundation to stand upon, as she is in possession of indisputable testimony to prove that Wheless was intimate with Mrs. Hay previous to their going together and stopping at the same hotel in Charleston, and later at the Wheless house, which the latter furnished after Mrs. Wheless went to Florida, and again at the Hay residence in November.

Mr. Wheless continues his $35 a week allowance for the maintenance of his wife and child, who are stopping with the mother of Mrs. Wheless, at No. 1004 Twenty-sixth street northwest, who maintains that Wheless is in her debt for keep, car fare, clothes and spending money supplied him during several years of idleness. These weekly contributions have been furnished since June last, and are payable at one of the banks on Monday of each week. Last week Mrs. Wheless was compelled, owing to the sickness of her child, to draw $10 in advance, and when she called at the bank Monday there was a check for $10 for her. She declined to accept it, however, and insisted upon the $10 she had previously drawn being deducted from her regular allowance.

"With the $25 I bought my little girl's Christmas toys, a collie dog for her, and paid my mother our board," she said. She also expressed indignation with her husband for offering her such a paltry Christmas gift as increasing her check to $50 and proffering it through a third party.

"I he wanted to be a man he would have sent my mother, who maintained him for three years, a Christmas gift," remarked the lady.

DISCREDITS THE RUMORS.

Charge d'Affairs Hastings Has No Fears of Revolt in Hawaii.

No concern is felt at the Hawaiian legation here from the reports of fresh plottings by the royalists to overthrow the provisional government and restore Queen Liliuokalani. Mr. Hastings, the charge d'affairs of the legation received telegraphic reports from his government, via San Francisco, after the arrival of the Australia about ten days ago, and the Arawa a week later, which says that everything is quiet.

Mr. Hastings says the natives are peaceable and willing to accept the new government as it is, and have never been inflamed nor stirred up since its formation. He fears no danger from the band of men who are now reported as having designs against the government, says there is but one full native horse on the list, and asserts that there is no fighting spirit in them.

The result of any trouble they might precipitate would be needless bloodshed and their total defeat.

The State Department gives little credence to the rumors. It is pointed out that the arrests of the conspirators were made six days before the steamer sailed that brought the news. It is held that the leaders of the republic are resolute men, and that they would never give up without a fight, which the natives would be very unwilling to meet. The idea of British interference is scouted. Secretary Gresham said last night that he had not read the story of the alleged conspiracy.

"We have no advices of such a conspiracy," said he, "and none that would even tend to show the possibility of such a thing. I should be much surprised to hear of any successful conspiracy there."

The Secretary's manner left the impression that he put absolutely no credence in the alleged dispatch.

NO WORD FROM JOHN BURNS.

He Is Still Expected But No Preparations Can Be Made.

It is still expected that John Burns, the English labor leader, will be here Saturday and Sunday next, but it is only because no word has been received revoking the appointments made at Denver for those dates and nothing from Mr. Samuel Gompers recalling the statement in his letter to Mr. James A. Power that Mr. Burns will certainly speak here.

In accordance with the directions of the meeting at Typographical Temple Sunday afternoon Mr. George A. Tracy, orleman of the Congressional Record, telegraphed to Mr. Burns at Cincinnati Sunday afternoon asking when to expect him and what preparations to make. He sent the telegram in care of the city editor of the Enquirer, with a request to deliver it, and as Mr. Burns was speaking there that day little doubt remains that he received it. Why he does not answer this and other telegrams and letters send him at Denver, New York, Indianapolis and other points is a matter of comment and doubt, but it is reasonably certain that unless he answers within forty-eight hours very little preparation for his coming will be made in labor circles.

One conjecture as to his continued silence is that he is in the hands of Samuel Gompers, ex-president of the American Federation of Labor, and Mr. Gompers holds a grudge against Washington. The local federation has never affiliated with the American, and several years ago there was a rather bitter feeling between the leaders of the two organizations. It is supposed Mr. Gompers may remember this and so refuses to pay any attention to letters from here.

Another suggestion is that Mr. Gompers relies upon Mr. Burns' high reputation to gather as great a crowd as can be reached by announcing the day before where and what hour he will speak. Mr. Burns led the great successful strike of the freight handlers at Liverpool two years ago, and in a short time came to the front rank among labor agitators. Since then his fame has grown steadily, and now he is greeted by great crowds wherever he speaks.

The Memphis Dog Got the Best of It.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Dec. 25.—A fight took place to-day between "Jack," a thirty-five pound bulldog of Denver, and a Memphis dog named "Bob," weighing twenty-five pounds. The match was for $150 a side.

The Denver dog had everything his own way in the first part of the fight, but near the close the Memphis dog got a neck hold on "Jack" that came near finishing the contest, and so weakened the Denver dog that the best he could do was to make a draw in one hour and forty minutes. A second meeting has been arranged to come off in five weeks.

PRETTY FAST TRAVELING.

Elevated Electric Road to New York Promises Two Miles a Minute.

Two miles a minute is pretty fast traveling, but that is what the projectors of the elevated electric road promise between Washington and New York, according to their bill now before Congress.

And when such men as Hamilton Disston, Samuel M. Bryan, Noah L. Jeffries, Benjamin Butterworth, William L. Brown, and Lewis A. Grant, take hold of an enterprise of this sort and ask Congress to charter a road, which they agree shall run its trains at not less than 120 miles per hour, it seems as though they really believed two miles a minute speed not only possible but practicable. So it may be that the residents of New York who want to look in on Congress for an hour or two, the people of Washington who want to go shopping in New York, will find the round trip and the day's outing easily accomplished within business hours, or between breakfast and dinner.

The proposed road is to be, according to the bill introduced, an elevated track, sufficiently high that it may not interfere with traffic on the surface, may pass towns and cities either overhead or underground at the proposed lightning speed and make the entire trip at the rate of not less than 120 miles per hour.

The bill incorporating the National Rapid Transit Railway Company was introduced by Mr. Catchings, of Mississippi. Mr. Catchings knows a good thing when he sees it, and is not given to advocating crank schemes. It may therefore be accepted that the bill is drawn in good faith and with the belief on the part of the persons urging it that its propositions can be carried out.

The preamble which accompanies the bill is interesting in its argument in favor of the plan, and reasons why it can and should be carried out. It begins by the assertion that it is evident that the steam locomotive has reached its limit of speed and has not made an average of one mile per minute, yet that at its present speed the carrying of passengers on the same road with freight is the cause of much loss of life. In view of this assertion, the whereas proceeds to relate that certain persons propose to construct an elevated road to connect the capital of the nation with its commercial metropolis at a running rate of 120 miles per hour or more.

The bill authorizes the company to organize with $15,000,000 worth of stock, to be increased to $50,000,000 if desired. The company is to lay out, build and equip the road from Washington to a point on the Hudson River, opposite New York, with one or more tracks; to build it upon what is known as the Brott plan. The road, according to the provisions of the bill, is to be elevated above the ground and provided with one or more side rails so as to prevent derailment. When it passes a city or village it shall be sufficiently elevated to permit the passage of teams and traffic beneath it, or else shall run under the ground so as not to interfere with traffic. The conduit for the electric wires is to be so arranged as to insure the safety of persons coming in contact therewith. The road is to carry passengers and mails, and may also carry freight if the promoters and managers desire.

They are quite a distinguished lot of people who are thus setting about revolutionizing the rate of travel. Hamilton Disston, as everybody knows, is the Philadelphia millionaire who is interested in railroads, manufactures, Florida products, and everything else that makes money. Gen. Jeffries, of Washington, and his son-in-law, "Bill" Brown, of New York, are the owners of that wonderful newspaper success, the New York News. Gen. Grant was former Assistant Secretary of War. Samuel M. Bryan, the head of the telephone company of this city, and Messrs. Butterworth, Shelley, Stockbridge, Bliss, and Hemphill are ex-Congressmen.

"THE TABLES TURNED."

Fine Entertainment Provided by Young Folks of First Congregational Church.

Quite a large crowd attended the presentation of the cantata "The Tables Turned" at the First Congregational Church, at the corner of Tenth and H streets last night. The cantata is of a highly pleasing character and was sung by fifty young ladies and gentlemen, scholars of the Sunday-school representing frost sprites and snow flakes. Twenty-four of the chorus were dressed to represent as many different nationalities.

Those who took the principal parts were: Dr. J. P. Lewis as Santa Claus, Miss Hattie Hoover as Dorothy, Ralph Clark as Norman, Miss Miriam Stoddard as Erminia, and Ralph Johnson as Jack Frost, all of whom sang and acted their parts remarkably well.

A most striking feature of the last scene was the grand march by the children representing the different nationalities. They had been drilled for several weeks by Prof. J. H. Vermilya, and they performed the many intricate evolutions most entertainingly and perfectly.

Among those characters there may be specially mentioned Uncle Sam, represented by Walter E. Allen; Columbia Miss Daisy, Misses Mabel Chadin and Frankie Marsh as Indian girls, and the Misses Gates as Hindoo maidens. There were also Turkish, French, Spanish, Japanese and Chinese characters.

The entertainment closed with the tableaux entitled "The Christmas Star" and "The Christmas Stocking," which was found to contain a beautiful child, Ruth McManus, as "Christmas Joy." These were followed by a quartet and grand chorus entitled "The Christmas Star."

The cantata was preceded by a motion exercise by the primary department, under the superintendence of Miss Mabel Coleman, and was followed by nine emotional studies by Miss Walsh, under calcium light, managed by Dr. Claflin.

The Congregational Sunday-school is one of the largest in the city, and is under the direction of Mr. Jerome F. Johnson, to whose untiring efforts the success of last night's entertainment largely belongs.

CHILDREN IN A CANTATA.

One Hundred and Twenty-five Little Folks Made Merry at Church.

Fairies, brownies, and angels delighted the children, and old folks, too, last night at the Calvary Baptist Church. A Christmas cantata was given by 125 young people of the Sunday school, and it was a real children's treat. The best seats had been reserved for them and they laughed and talked and applauded at their own sweet will.

A varied programme was given, and not one scene of it was dull. The cantata contained all the elements of the fairy Christmas of childhood, with its shepherds, angels, the star of Bethlehem, a home, with mother and six little tots all tucked safely to sleep in a great big bed, and then a genuine fire-place upon which stockings were hung, and, best of all, a real Santa Claus.

One hundred voices were in the chorus, and the accompaniments were played by Miss Mattie Bartlett. The Christmas bedroom scene, the song and dance of the fairies and the brownies, and the drilling of the boys' brigade all received and deserved the hearty applause of the children.

A Christmas tree was exhibited after the cantata and the little ones found the old Santa Claus had not forgotten one of them. The entire programme will be repeated tonight.

Among those who took part were Miss Ethel Foster, Mr. J. S. Thomas, Misses Bertha Bristow, Rosemont Stickney, Helen McKeever, Gertrude Johnstone, Elizabeth Tabler and Selina Hopper, Mrs. J. D. Bridges, Misses Grace Adams, Mabel Vaughn, Anna Goddard, Susie King, Mamie Moran, Florence Buckingham and Blanche Allen.

Death of Home Run Duffee.

MOBILE, Ala., Dec. 25.—Edward Duffee, the famous base ball player of the St. Louis Browns, died last night at 12 o'clock.

Duffee was a member of the Washington base ball team collected by Manager Barnie in 1892, and which finished the first season, under Arthur Irwin's management in seventh place. He came here from the Columbus club, where he was known as "Home Run Duffee."

Turning Tables in the South.

BATON ROUGE, La., Dec. 25.—Jonas Weill, a store-keeper at La Place, was killed there today by a negro. Details of the killing could not be obtained.

$13.50

is our price for a FINE BLUE KERSEY OVERCOAT—that's up to 'high water mark' in cut, fit, and finish. Has a broad velvet collar and satin lining in the sleeves. 'Twill cost you $18 or more elsewhere.

Your money back if not satisfactory.

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14K. SOLID GOLD LADIES' HUNTING-Case watch, handsomely engraved, with Swiss movement, only $15. KALBER, The Watchmaker, 1327 F st. nw. se23-6od

EXPLAINED BY THE AUTHOR.

How "Ships That Pass in the Night" Came to End as It Does.

The ending of the story has been much criticised, and Bernardine's unexpected death favorably and unfavorably commented upon. I felt at the time that she had to die, and that it was in keeping with the irony of life that she, the stronger of the two, should be suddenly swept away. I felt, too, that she would never have got back to any real touch with life, and I was not sorry that she should be at rest. I do not at all claim that my own ending was the best or the most artistic, but of the many suggestions which have been made on the subject, I have not found one which would have helped me out satisfactorily. I can only say about my own ending, that it came so, whether for better or for worse.

An incident in connection with the description of Bernardine's last moments is perhaps worth mentioning. I had made her send one more message to the Disagreeable Man; and when the proof