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BY LEWIS BAKER.

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TO-DAY'S WEATHER.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—For Minnesota and upper Michigan: Clearing: fair; colder; northwesterly winds. For Wisconsin: Fair; clearing in eastern portion; northwesterly winds; colder. For Iowa, etc.: Colder; fair; northwesterly winds. For Dakota and Nebraska: Fair; southerly winds; slight changes in temperature.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Place of Obs'vation	Height of Barometer	Exposed Thermometer	Place of Obs'vation	Height of Barometer	Exposed Thermometer
St. Paul....	30.38	16	Helena	30.24	34
Duluth...	30.32	14	Ft. Totten.	.....	....
La Crosse..	30.38	16	Ft. Sully ..	30.28	32
Huron.....	30.34	26	Minnedosa	30.02	14
Moorhead.	30.30	10	Calgary ...	....	....
St. Vincent	30.18	10	Edmonton	....	....
Bismarck..	30.22	44	Q'Appelle.	29.94	24
Ft. Buford.	30.10	28	Med'e Hat.	.....	....
Ft. Custer.	30.12	40	Winnipeg	30.14	10

LOCAL FORECAST.

For St. Paul, Minneapolis and vicinity: Fair weather: warmer.

P. F. LYONS, Observer.

THE STORY OF A DAY.

The roller mill at Howard Lake is destroyed by fire.

A St. Paul pedestrian is killed by an electric car.

The missing Fargo editor turns up at Salem, Or.

August Belmont's big string of running horses is sold.

Consuls fleece the government for over a million dollars.

Mr. Scully will contest the election in North Kilkenny.

"Sockless" Simpson is a candidate for senator from Kansas.

President Stevens, of the Sanford county bank, Woonsocket, S. D., becomes insane.

Louis Sommers, of Hastings, is sentenced to state prison for life for the murder of Miss Mary A. Dietzen.

A Cincinnati sausage mill explodes, killing two persons, injuring many others and wrecking seven dwellings.

A POOR MODEL.

Tinkering at the city charter seems to possess a wonderful attraction for several members of the Ramsey county delegation to the coming session of the legislature; but as there are so many diverse ideas as to how much doctoring shall be done, it seems more than likely that, with the addition of a few much-needed amendments, it will be left nearly as it is. One member would substitute an entirely new scheme of government for the city, modeled after the BULLIT bill, under which the government of Philadelphia has been conducted for a number of years.

This law has never been satisfactory to the citizens of Philadelphia, and it would be more than distasteful to the people of St. Paul. Under the baleful influences of corrupt government, fostered in a measure by the BULLIT bill, Philadelphia has not kept pace with her rivals, and is to-day, by confession of the leading papers of both parties in that city, the worst-governed municipality in the United States. The main features of this scheme of municipal government are the formation of a host of departments, whose heads are appointed by the mayor, judges of the district court, or even the governor of the state. In this way offices of all kinds, save, perhaps, those of comptroller and treasurer, would be appointive, and removed as far as possible from the people. The board of education would be supplanted by a director of the department of education; the board of public works by a director of public works; the fire board by a director of the department of public safety.

In Philadelphia these heads of the departments have invariably, with the single exception of the administration of Mayor SAMUEL KING, been powerful ward or division politicians, whose influence has nearly always been able to control primaries and elections. The present director of public works, WAGNER, has been so notoriously corrupt that he has not a single defender in the long list of party papers in Philadelphia. Even now papers of the Quaker city, regardless of politics, are vigorously calling for a "new Philadelphia," and demanding that the people elect, at the coming February election, a mayor who will change the heads of many of these departments. In commenting on the situation of affairs a short time ago, a leading paper of the city said:

> Philadelphia has the poorest gas, the poorest water, the poorest streets, the poorest sewerage and the poorest street car facilities of any city of importance in the country.

And yet, in spite of the fact that this city, to which some of the Ramsey delegation would go for its rules of municipal law, has few public improvements, its debt mounts up to the colossal figure of $56,777,370, and is only outclassed in this respect by New York. At the time of the passage of the BULLIT bill a vigorous fight was made against it by the leading men of the city, who feared that the politicians would elect a mayor after their own mind, and in this way pave the way to plunder the city, and this is exactly what has been done a number of times since this new charter became law. It has only been a short time since "the dandy mayor" resigned to escape impeachment. This scandal was eclipsed by the gas trust robberies, and now the present administration, through its departments, is trying to unload the expensive and worthless Schuylkill water works on the city, in spite of the protests of every prominent and well informed taxpayer.

If the Ramsey county delegation must doctor the city charter, it should select a better model than the corrupt city of Philadelphia.

The citizens of St. Paul want their city government brought nearer to them instead of being further removed. The notorious BULLIT bill will not be satisfactory.

A PROPER CUSTOM.

An Iowa clergyman the other day refused to read the burial service or take any part in the exercises at the funeral of a man who was suspected to have hastened his death by alcoholic indulgence. The minister was a temperence worker, and he said he wanted to impress upon others his abhorrence of liquor and all who use it. There was no occasion for his making a saint of the defunct, and perhaps perversely weak party; but it is a high role for even one who wears the sacred robes to stand in judgment upon the erring. If only those who had led spotless lives had the rites of burial, there would be light work for the preachers on such occasions. It is understood that the respect paid the remains of a dead person does not suppose an indorsement of his life. There may not even be any occasion for much regret at the departure, but custom has establised usages, and by common consent the evil is left for private mention only. Disrespect to the dead but disgusts the living.

MECHANICS' LIEN LAW.

Our new mechanics' lien law is so young it has hardly begun to walk as yet, but it seems as though the coming legislature might spend part of its session to good purpose if it should amputate one of its limbs. The law had a good deal of trouble ever since we undertook to amend the old statute on this subject. In a growing country like ours, where there is so much building and where it is so hard to get reliable information about the personal responsibility of many contractors and builders, a satisfactory lien law is very much to be desired. Every man who builds or expects to build a homestead is interested. The old law had been in force for a great many years—had been fought over by the best lawyers in the state, and its meaning had been settled by a long line of decisions of the court of last resort. The LUCAS law of 1887 threw everything into the greatest confusion until it was pronounced unconstitutional. The law of 1889 was drawn with great elaborateness and a wealth of detail which is really quite without a precedent in this state. It reads with the greatest clearness, and there is evident the most serious effort after completeness and exactness. It has been in operation, however, only a little over a year, and its constitutionality is so gravely questioned that we understand most careful lawyers file their liens under both the old and the new laws, lest it should prove that the old one has never been repealed.

A very curious complication has arisen under efforts to apply it, which shows how difficult it is to anticipate after what manner attempted legislative reforms will really work. Under the old law each lien was forclosed separately, and each lien holder bought in the property sold, subject to such prior liens as were on it as would successive mortgagees in the event of the foreclosure of their mortgages. The new law, after the spirit of our recent statutes, aims to do away with all priority among the lien claimants, forecloses all liens against any one piece of property in one equitable action, in which all persons interested are made parties, and directs that the proceeds of the sale shall be divided pro rata among the lienors. This is all very beautiful in theory, and breathes the highest spirit of fairness. But, in point of fact, everybody knows that in this state the sale which takes place under a foreclorure is not a real sale. It is only a fiction. The fee owner has the right to redeem at any time within twelve months after it has been made, and no real purchaser ever appears at the auction. The creditor bids in the property for enough to protect himself, and awaits his year. At the end of this he may get the property, but is more likely to get his money with the year's interest. But, under the new lien law, somebody has got to make an actual cash purchase, and of course this person must be one of the lien claimants. He has, moreover, to make his bid large enough to cover all the liens filed, and in actual money pay off his fellow lienors, He then has to wait a year, not only for the collection of his debt for which he filed his lien, but also for the return of the large amount of cash which he has had to advance for the protection of his interests. He cannot purchase the property at less than the aggregate amount of the liens without reducing the security for his own claim in the same relative proportion. Some one of the lienors has, then, in practice, for his own protection, to pay off his fellows and take what amounts to an assignment of their claims against the property, to be held for a year. At the end of this time he may be repaid with 7 per cent interest, or he may become the owner of the property, which, in the meanwhile, has been at the tender mercies of the debtor.

There is a good deal of hardship in such a law. We do not venture to suggest how it should be amended, but we think this and a good many other points about which we may speak are deserving of the legislature's early attention. The constitutionality of whatever mechanic's lien law we have should surely be put beyond question.

THE USES OF SUNDAY.

The sky in these our last few days has been overcast, and the season now is a little drear, like a belated fall. But for three months we have had a succession of bright and balmy noons and brilliant, luminous nights which have made life well worth living to every one in whose heart is any responsiveness to Nature's joyous moods. There is nothing better for the happiness of a community than to have the sun shining gaily when Sunday comes. Our bookkeeping and scheming for six days in the week goes on quite bravely, even though it rains or the wind blows, or the snow falls so thick and fast that we rub our spectacles and turn on the electric light. But when Sunday's dawn breaks, it seems a little out of touch with what there is then in store for us, if the face of Nature is crossed with angry gusts or wrinkled with doubt or darkness.

We do not know whether or not our readers have noticed it, but there has been hardly a Sabbath in the three months of which we have spoken which has not invited us to the open air and which has not been full of suggestions to the effect that God has been good in casting our lines in pleasant places, however else they may fare. EMERSON, that fount of wisdom undefiled, has called Sunday the corner stone of our civilization, consecrated to high thoughts and meditation. We are not all of us capable of the same high thinking and living. The summits to which we severally can reach vary with our characters and our opportunities and the use which we have made of them. But what chance we have of getting the most out of our lives depends on our capacity to think earnestly, to feel deeply and to catch the poetry which colors our every experience if we only have the eyes to see it. All philosophers have agreed that the greatest joy in the world is the joy of real intellectual exertion. In this there is absolutely no alloy. But there is only one here and there who ever knows it. After this come the joys of the emotions, like the pure love of men for women and of women for men, the appreciation of the mature for the simplicity and helplessness of children, the power to understand and answer the tale which Nature tells, the capacity to carry in our souls the image of an ideal outside of ourselves which the preachers call God. These last are the common heritage of all men.

Sunday is most of all the day for the cultivation of these things of the heart, and he does not get to the full what it has to offer who does not use it to this end. The exchange of familiar confidences among friends is easier now than in the hurry of the week. In our bright climate, on such mornings as we have had of late, the brisk Sunday air nerves those who drink it in, whether they walk smartly, after the manner of the athlete, or loiter by the way, as do lovers, hoping to lengthen their path by pacing it slowly. The churches, too, are open, with their contributions to the pleasures of the emotions, which one of us will get by going inside; and another, perhaps in a greater measure, from the muffled music which he hears as he passes by. There is a great deal of the poetry of life in the coldest church service, even to the unbeliever, and a great deal even for us who do not go within its doors. We all remember how THACKERAY, in his wantonness of the good things, makes PENDENNIS dash off his half-dozen verses on "The Church Porch," that he may turn a nimble guinea while he is living in chambers with WARRINGTON in London. They are thrown in as a trifle; but, like all art, they are only the expression in a luminous way of the thoughts of common men. THACKERAY himself probably had felt simply, as all of us have, the pleasant exhilaration, as standing without he watched the comfortable-looking people come slowly forth into the street, the service over, while behind them the organ notes were pealing. His was the art of expression; but the art of feeling belongs to us as completely as to him.

There is a danger that we will not see how much there is in these trifles, and, standing in the hope of great and unusual gratifications, find ourselves grown old with the sweetness of life untasted. We think that even those who have achieved the most and have the greatest fund of experience on which to draw for reflection and review will admit that it is not the memory of their greatest victories on which their minds dwell with greatest pleasure. We remember that once upon a time, in the sunny summer, we met on a country roadside in the East a man who had won fame and gold as a war correspondent for one of the great newspapers of the world. He had spent many years of his life in the society of those who had made and unmade kings, and war's alarums and the carnage of battles had been to him a daily experience, as our simple tasks are to us. He had painted with his pen in Russian colors of red and yellow the scenes through which he had gone so vigorously and so bravely that all men everywhere who could read had looked for his chronicle as it appeared and had applauded his work. And yet he told us that quiet afternoon that the memory of all those brilliant days had faded from his mind, and that as he read what he had written he sometimes wondered whether it was true, although he knew that it was. Uneventful hours with his children, little rowing parties as an undergraduate on the Isis, evenings passed with his friends lived brightly in his mind. But although he was young and his powers were unfaded and strong, the succession of catastrophy and pageant he had witnessed had been so bewildering in its brilliancy that their memory had tarried with him for only a little while and then had gone. He said that the abiding things of life were its little things, and that the little things of life were really its great things. We believe that this is so.

TO FILL BRAINS.

It has been charged that the medical fraternity have been following in the ruts essentially since HIPPOCRATES and the other early lights established systematic modes. However much or little this may have been the case in the past, the record being made of late is not of the mossy order. Dr. KOCH, Prof. PASTEUR and others here and there have been finding out several things likely to be of much interest. Inquiries and investigations are as varied as the elements of the human anatomy. One of the most interesting lines of experiment has been that of gratting in of lost fractions of the physical structure. Pieces of flesh have been transposed and so altered to the new relations as to do service like the originals. It is expected that the period will be reached when the bones and elements of the animals that approach nearest the human family may be utilized in patching up defects and making a complete human being out of fragments. A broken leg or arm may be repaired by bones from animals. It is found now that there is a possibility that shortage in the brain work may eventually be remedied. Success is claimed in transferring and interchanging the brains of a dog and cat. No derangement of the system ensues, as alleged. It is presumed that this may open the way to adding to or invigorating the gray matter in a man's head. When this is fully worked out it is impossible to conjecture the field to be possessed. The dog, the monkey, horse, and other of the less brainy creations might be made to contribute of their little, and their qualities in some measure imparted to the possessor. There might be inconveniences in having peculiar qualities; but the processes are not so far advanced as to require present solicitude.

A SILVER ANNIVERSARY.

It is proposed to hold the silver anniversary of the G. A. R. on the 6th of the coming April, the date of the organization of the first post in 1866. This was at the capital of Illinois, and the first state organization was perfected the same year, with Gen. PALMER commander. The order has since extended over the entire country, and has in its membership probably a majority of the living veterans. In its objects and aims it has been in the highest degree commendable, and has the respect and hearty sympathy of the country, although at times hotheads or partisans have seemed to divert it a little from the non-partisan path. As its membership falls away by death, and the survivors take on the silvery sheen of honored age, more and more interest will attach to the organization. The heroes of the Revolution in their later years were the conspicuous attraction at Independence day celebrations. So it will be with the veterans of the Rebellion in coming times.

A THEATER SERMON.

It is becoming very rare, at least in the larger churches, for pulpits now to turn their assaults upon the practices countenanced by the current disposition of society, such as card playing, dancing and attending the theater. There is perhaps a growing impression that less sympathy is had on these lines than in the sterner lines, and that attempts to interpose authority would be disastrous. There are few even of the most orthodox schools in which rigid rules on these lines would not drive out a great portion of the younger membership. Prudence and some of the spirit of the pews may furnish the explanation. There is little advertising of theaters from the pulpit in any form of late. As one of the signs of the change going on considerable attention is given to the recent delivery by Rev. L. W. BACON, a son of the great theologian, Dr. LEONARD BACON, in a Congregational church in one of the old Puritan towns of Connecticut. The first theater ever erected in the town was lately opened, and the eloquent preacher made it the occasion for a sermon in commendation. He held that the stage had been growing better, and did not now merit the indiscriminate denunciation that was so common in other towns. The character of the plays had been improved, and the reputation of the stage people had been changing. It was conceded that immorality was not a necessary, or even common, adjunct of the popular theaters. He would have the church recognize the theater and aid to make it a moral force in the age. Mr. BACON is a little in advance of his cloth, but, perhaps, not much.

WHAT IT EFFECTS.

Few, perhaps, are aware that in a majority of the states women have some recognition at the ballot box. It is usually limited to questions pertaining to schools, and is much broader in some states than others. In a number of them all school offices, including the state superintendent, are open to women, but they have in few cases been elected to any more lucrative station than the county control of schools. They have seldom shown much disposition to avail themselves of the opportunities afforded for the use of the ballot, and the suffrage cause as a whole is not progressing in a way to invigorate the hopes of its champions. Washington territory tried woman suffrage for five years—that is, full-orbed voting—but discarded it when the state was to be formed. It does not appear that the women made any considerable effort to retain the rigth. In Utah the women all voted for some time, and polygamy did not have any very serious disasters that were encouraged by them. In Kansas women have been given the ballot at municipal elections, in the expectation that they would eliminate all liquor drinking. The government records show that the consumption has not been curtailed by their efforts. Wyoming ought to be a model state on this theory. It has for twenty years had no question of sex in voting. Yet all the vices of modern civilization are sanctioned by law there. Gambling, dance houses and their usual adjuncts are licensed. In the only state in which women have the full ballot there is greater laxity in the moral dispensations than in perhaps any other state. This is not due to woman suffrage, but that has little conserving and purifying influence. It is an object lesson to those who think that voting and operating in politics will benefit either women or the state.

IN BEGINNING the new year and passing personal resolves, some young ladies may recall the statement of Mme. MODJESKA that she could not afford the luxury of getting out of temper. It spoils the countenance and makes one look old. Those who would look fresh and sweet, with no wrinkles, should cultivate amiability and not chew gum.

THE impression that competition elsewhere has reduced the divorce business of Chicago does not seem to be warranted. There have been recently four mills grinding out divorces, and in one day recently eighty-one cases were under way. The cost, however, has not been materially reduced.

IS SOUTH DAKOTA trying to steal a march on her sister on the north and take away business from Chicago? A Boston paper announces, apparently by authority, that "South Dakota is now offering the cheapest and most expeditious divorces to be found anywhere in the Union."

LADIES and others who carry money and valuables in purses should always have their cards in them. Pickpockets who are inclined to be obliging and return such things as they cannot use are often unable to do so. Then, if one is drowned or run over, friends are saved trouble.

IF PARNELL has contributed $8,000 a year to the purse of Mrs. O'SHEA, and left that of his mother empty, some explanation may be had of why he will not stand aside, even to save the cause of his people.

IF EDISON succeeds in inventing a patent appliance in place of the "hello" girl in the telephone office, what satisfaction will there be in swearing at a machine when the patience is exhausted?

THE cigarmakers East have been trying to arrange for a rise in prices on the 1st of January. Perhaps they want to encourage those who always swear off from smoking on that day.

A CITY down the river blows over the use of electricity to pump the organ. Some organs in this city have the playing done by steam, treadle or any easy process.

THE postman has been entitled to sympathy the past week. His burden has not been light or his yoke easy. But he has had glimpses of many good things.

A CHICAGO paper notes the fact, which is not local or sporadic, that there "is hardly an instance of failure among the regular and large advertisers."

IF A Kansas congressman has no use for stockings sent him, that is his business. But he may be deceiving the eye with tights.

IT IS proposed to tender a banquet in New York city to the senator who said, "Gen. GRANT needs no monument."

SATISFIED.

Harry Holland some ten years ago was asked by his mother to remember a text that occurred to her after death had invaded the home. He revolved it in his mind many times thereafter, and has written the following poem, which will be sung by his wife at the People's church to-day. The music is by Hans Meltke. The title of the poem is "Satisfied," and the text mentioned is Psalm xvii., 15:

When time shall end, and I go home
To mansions bright and fair,
O'er earth's bleak waste no more to roam,
I'll seek rest "over there."
This fainting heart, this tearful eye
Shall rest in some "Sweet bye-and-bye,"
If in God's likeness waking: I
Shall then be satisfied, quite satisfied.

God's love in all around I see;
In verdant grass and flow'rs
Whose sweet perfumes lend charms to me,
E'en in life's darkest hours.
Ye merry birds whose songs I know,
O babbling brooks, your murm'rings low
Do fill my heart; its ebb and flow
Glides peaceful, satisfied, quite satisfied.

When I am borne to my last rest—
The heat of pain subdued—
I'll seek the ransomed and the blest,
And be with peace imbued.
Take back thy gift, dear Mother Earth,
Which thou didst offer at my birth;
My soul to God! He'll judge its worth!
And I'll rest satisfied, quite satisfied.

If death be life, I die to live;
'Twere death, I live to die.
From trials here may heaven give
A rest, at last for aye.
Thro' death's dark night I'll safely glide
O'er Jordan's cold and stormy tide;
But with my loved ones, side by side,
I shall wake satisfied, quite satisfied.

A COLUMN OF GOSSIP.

E. J. Hodgson continues to whoop up the agitation for a state board of immigration. Putting aside the public advantages of such a board, and prying under the surface of Mr. Hodson's heroic efforts to create sentiment in its favor, what do we find?—that Mr. Hodgson owns or controls a vast amount of land in the state; that an influx of population can have but one effect upon that land, and that is to materially improve its financial value. Mr. Hodgson is to be commended for the interest he is taking in the welfare of the state; but, as he is to be one largely benefited by the establishment of a state board of immigration, would it not be more practicable for him, and others who own land and will be largely benefited by immigration into Minnesota, to intimate how much they are personally willing to subscribe towards its maintainance? The bulk of the taxes usually comes out of the pockets of the wage earners, and as their share of the "plunder" will be infinitesmal, it is hardly fitting that the sole source of the expenses of the state board of immigration should be the public treasury. How does this proposition strike you, Mr. Hodgson?

No one can find fault with the Ramsey county legislators, as, from the recent meetings held, every indication has been given that they are desirous of meeting the wishes of their constituents. The only fault that can be found with them—at least with a small minority—is that they are inclined to use their jaws just a little too much. Talking is all very well in its place, but if proper remedial legislation is to be obtained there must be more work and less wind. The framing of bills is no insignificant work, and past experience ought to be lesson enough to the delegation against the loose phrasing and illegal wording of proposed laws. Many thousands of dollars have been wasted by the city in contesting the constitutionality of laws, and, take the park commission as an instance, much valuable time has been lost.

Although not yet divested of its trappings, a glimpse at the statue being placed above the Minnesota entrance of the Germania Life building clearly indicates its elegance and magnificent proportions. The statute, "Germania," was designed and modeled in Florence by an American artist. Two years have been occupied in producing the work, its weight being 8,500 pounds; height from base to top of flag, twenty-one feet and six inches. The statue is of bronze, and has cost $7,000. It was made expressly for the Germania Life Insurance company's building, of which Frederick De Haas and N. Vander Velde are the well known local managers. The statute will give artistic finish to a fine building, as well as add to the many pretty things to be viewed by visitors to the city.

You occasionally come across tradesmen who complain of "hard times," "money is tight," etc., etc., to the end of the chapter. These individuals are never satisfied. They would inveigh against "the times" if their stores were crowded from early morn to late at night. In the face of this stringency in the money market, it was an interesting sight to view the windows of the most prominent stores on Christmas morning. Many of them were almost entirely depleted of the expensive and beautiful articles offered for sale the early part of the week, and all showed, more or less, the inroads made upon the stock by holiday purchasers. A gentleman who ought to know yesterday figured out that local tradesmen have taken in $313,462 within the last two weeks.

There will be something of a transformation in the capitol the beginning of the year. Many old faces will be missed. There will be a cleaning out in the auditor's department, as well as that of the secretary of state. There is some probability that a few changes will be made in the dairy commission, and it would not be surprising if the present head of the public instruction department had to go. The labor bureau is also likely to get a turning up. The fact of the matter is that if several of these expensive commissions and departments, whose officials kill time and waste the money of the state, were entirely abolished, they "never would be missed."

There is a disposition on the part of outside papers to criticise the conduct of the board of education. This is grossly unfair. The criticism might have been merited some months ago, but to-day, when a genuine effort is being made to economize, and at the same time efficiently conduct the public schools, any attempt to thwart the members in this work is decidedly reprehensible.

Within this week a unique presentation will be made by the members of the Ramsey county bar—unique so far as the State of Minnesota. After twenty-five years of honorable and faithful service on the bench Judge Wilkin is about to retire into private life. A quarter of a century means a great deal in the history of St. Paul, and as one of the earliest settlers it is fitting that the occasion of his retirement from public life should be appropriately commemorated. What Judge Wilkin does not know about St. Paul is not worth knowing. He has outlived its days of swaddling clothes, and it is to be hoped he may live long enough to see the city rise to still greater metropolitan area and grandeur.

J. J. Egan says he is not sorry to lay down the office of county attorney and take his seat upon the judicial bench. Who would be? Mr. Egan is a proverbial joker, and when he got this off before a reporter he must have been indulging in his favorite hobby.

Commendable progress has been made by the city railroad company and the electric car lines. A few more weeks will see the West side and the Arlington Hill lines in operation. There is no abatement in the traffic between the two cities, and when the big moters are put on and the journey made in forty-five minutes it will be considerably augmented. The company are also perfecting their electric plant, whereby fewer delays will be experienced in operating the cars. There is nothing more disgusting—that is to the passenger—than when the current fails and the cars are delayed an hour or two. But his disgust is nothing to the individual who is waiting for a car, particularly if it is in the morning when going to work, or in the evening when his ultimate destination is the theater.

The hotelkeepers are assuming a self-satisfied, benignant smile, and well they may. To-morrow will see the arrival of the van guard of grangers to the Alliance convention. During the week there will be upwards of a thousand delegates in the city. They will have have hardly shaken the dust of the city from their feet when the legislators, politicians and lobbyists will swoop down, and for three months the hotels will remain crowded. These are halcyon days for the hotelkeeper, and he may certainly be excused for that big, broad smile which is just now suffusing his broad, contented-looking face and disappearing down his sleek neck.

Everything comes to those who wait. The Metropolitan opens to-morrow night, thus replacing the old Grand opera house, burned down nearly two years ago. It says very little for the progressive spirit of St. Paul citizens that so long a time has elapsed before the old Grand has been replaced. However, we must not kick. The Metropolitan is worth waiting for.

There ought to be no grumbling at the open winter we are enjoying. While in the East the people are being almost frozen to death with blizzards, and in the extreme West locomotion has been entirely prohibited by snow, the citizens of Minnesota have been enjoying delightful weather. With the exception of a few days there has been scarcely any need for furs of any description. As a consequence hundreds of prominent people have been deterred from journeying South for the winter. Their staying at home is of immeasurable benefit to tradesmen, though, by the way, it is causing the railroad officials to howl somewhat.

Labor Commissioner Lamb cannot be congratulated upon his report. It is more than passing strange that four men should have been occupied two years in producing 100 pages of statistical data, a vast proportion of which, on its very face, is absolutely unreliable. The report consists of 347 pages, and the remaining 247 pages are made up of excerpts from English factory laws and speeches by T. V. Powderly and others. The state pays about $16,000 for this kind of thing. As at present managed, the bureau of labor is a rank farce.

FOOTLIGHT AND FOYER.

To-morrow night will occur the opening of the new and elegant Metropolitan opera house, of which the public has recently heard so much praise. There will be no special programme. The house speaks for itself, and the public is expected to be on too good terms to require an introduction. "Robin Hood," the new opera to be produced by the Bostonians, will be beautifully staged, and of course admirably sung. The inaugural is expected to be a great society event, and will doubtless fill the expectation. Manager Scott expects every one to attend in full dress. As an additional attraction, S. L. Studley, of the Bostonian orchestra, assisted by the Seibert orchestra, will play the overture to "William Tell."

Patrons of the Harris theater who have been so immensely delighted with "Lights and Shadows" will have more enjoyment of the same kind the coming week, as Manager Dean has secured for New Year's week, beginning to-night, Tom Craven's popular melodrama, entitled "The Fugitive," which has been a metropolitan success for several prosperous seasons. There is nothing strikingly new in the story of the piece, but the treatment of the theme is far more satisfactory than that found in the usual melodrama. The action of the play hinges upon scenes similar to those which have made the "Lights of London," "Romany Rye" and others so popular, only there is more power in "The Fugitive," and the interest is more fully concentrated. Especial attention is paid throughout to scenic backgrounds, and many of the effects are startingly realistic. Noteworthy instances are the famous snow scene, which is as near to nature as it is possible to get; the terrible storm at sea, with tumbling billows and hurtling winds, and the wreck of the Melbourne, one of the finest scenes ever portrayed on the stage. Although the story is somber in its coloring there is plenty of comedy to enliven the gloom and specialties are freely introduced for the amusement of those who fancy a tincture of vaudeville. The usual matinees will be given Tuesday and Saturday, with an extra one Thursday, New Year's day.

The famous Ferguson and Mack company will present the above roaring farce at the Grand opera house, beginning to-night, and the remainder of the week, with the usual matinees and a special matinee New Year's day. This will be the first presentation of this popular skit in this city, and the sensations it has created in the laughing world is well known by the theater-going public. The story is simple, yet possesses strength and interest, and is merely a foundation for the funny situations and amusing incidents of the two Irishmen, McCarthy and Mulligan, who, by their ludicrous antics, hold the audience in continual merriment from the rise of the curtain to the finish. McCarthy is played by Barney Ferguson, a comedian who is inimitable, having a personality of his own which is entirely original, and, together with his make-up, which compels one to laugh, and peculiar dialect, creates laughter incessant. Mulligan is played by Charles Gorman, who is always the typical Irishman, natural and humorous. Miss Lizzie Daly as Jennie Primrose, who later becomes Mrs. McCarthy, is sure to give a pleasing performance. Miss Lizzie Conway is the Mrs. Mulligan, and is too well known for comment. Carrie Behr, an artist of prominence, plays the principal soubrette role, and others of note are in the cast. Incidental to the play a bouquet of refined specialties are introduced, including the famous acts by Ferguson and Mack, the wonderful dancing by Lizzie Daly and the child, Little Vinie, the sweet singing by Miss Carrie Behr, May Montford and the Garden City Quartette, a dance by four gaiety girls and many others.

In 1872 Mr. Stanley came to this country, after rescuing Livingstone, and began a lecture tour with the understanding that, if it were not agreeable, he could discontinue it at any time. He gave five lectures, but the American people utterly refused to believe anything he said, and he abandoned the tour. In 1886, after his second African trip, he came over here and ventured to lecture again, and found the people a little more inclined to believe him. On that occasion, after eleven lectures, he was called to London to look after Emin. Now, on this third tour on the platform, he finds the people of this country willing to believe what he says, and ready to accord to him that welcome and appreciation which his services in behalf of civilization demand. From his opening lectures in New York and other Eastern cities his progress through the country has been like a grand triumphal procession, the most distinguished, refined and cultivated people of every community vying with each other in honoring the man who is to this century what Christopher Columbus was to his. On Christmas night he spoke to an audience of 1,800 people in Omaha, which completely filled the Grand opera house, and on next Tuesday evening he will appear at the People's church. Although some of the most desirable seats are still obtainable at medium prices, still there is every reason to believe that the people of St. Paul will not be less appreciative than those of other places, and that Mr. Stanley will address an audience which will completely fill that spacious auditorium.

The Olympic is on hand with a New Year's attraction that is a prime favorite with all patrons—the May Howard Burlesque company. The programme is as follows: Original first part entitled "The Isle of Red," introducing a bewildering scene of female loveliness. The Sheroons, James and Lydia; a beautiful picture, "The Arrival of Minotaur;" J. C. Harrington in remarks, singing and dancing; another picture, "The Temptation of St. Anthony;" Miss Lizzie Raymond, in songs and dancing; picture, "Return of the Prodigal;" Johnson and Gentry in "The Street Fakirs;" picture, "Cleopatra;" Julia Kelley in a bone solo, in which she stands at the head of the profession; picture, "Intemperance;" Max Pettingill and his wonderful dog. The whole concludes with a laughable burlesque arranged by Harry Morris and Fred Solomon entitled "The O County Fair." Special matinee on New Year's day.

REALM OF MUSIC.

The fourth concert of the Seibert orchestra takes place this afternoon at the Germania Turner hall. The special features of the programme consist of a trio for piano, violin and cello, in which Miss Louise Seibert, Prof. Muehlenbruch and Aug. Triebel will participate; a flute solo by C. K. North and a violin solo by Max Dick. The full programme is as follows:

Amazon March....................Chr. Bach
Overture—"Heimkehr aus der Fremde"....................Mendelssohn
Trio for piano, violin and cello, op. 85....................Reissiger
Miss Louise Seibert, Prof. Muehlenbruch and Aug Triebel.
Descriptive Fantaisie—"Christmas at Home"....................Langey
Flute Solo—"Du, Du liegst mir am Herzen"....................Boehm
C. K. North.
Strings { a, Flirtation....................Steck
{ b, "Serenade Enfantine"..Bounand
Violin Solo—"Polonaise," op 21..Wieniawski
Max Dick.
Divertissement on Swedish and Norwegian National Melodies for three cornets....................Butenuth
Fackeltanz....................Meyerbeer

The Christmas music will be repeated at Christ church this morning, and in the evening a Christmas carol service will be held, assisted by the choir. Programme of music:

Processional Hymn....................No. 17
Magnificat }
Nunc Dimittis }..........Cruickshank in G
Christmas Carols..........James Blaikie
Children of the Sunday School and Choirster Boys.
Anthem—"The Lord Is My Light"...H. Hiles
Recessional Hymn..........No. 24

Master George Nichols will sing "The Christmas Song" as an offertory solo during the morning service.

A sacred concert is to be given to-morrow evening at St. Luke's church, corner Summit avenue and Victoria street, the programme of which reads:

Magnificat—St. Luke's Choir..........Eck
Piano—Fifth Nocturne..........Leybach
Miss Margaret Franklin.
Ave Maria—Miss Francis Smith.....Weigand
Jesu Dei Vivi—Trio..........Verdi
Miss Aggie Gay, Messrs. J. H. Donohue and J. F. Gehan.
Angel's Serenade..........Praga
Violin Obligato by Gustave von Goetzen.
Mrs. Arthur Rogers.
Cantique de Noel—Christmas Song.....Adam
Miss Emily Haggerty.
Violin Largo..........Handel
Gustave von Goetzen.
Almighty God—Solo and Chorus......Mozart
Eugene Kaeuffer and Choir.
Ave Marie..........Gounod
Violin obligato by Mr. Von Goetzen.
Miss Aggie Gay.
Pro Peccates ("Stabat Mater")........Rossini
J. F. Gehan.
Gaudeamus..........Diabelli
Miss Rogers, Messrs. Donohue, Gehan and Kaeuffer.
Good Night (Laaslett)..........Pinsuti
Misses Gay and Smith, Messrs. Donohue and Gehan, Mrs. J. H. Donohue, and Prof. E. E. Kaeuffer, accompanist.
J. H. Donohue..........Director

SCULLY TO CONTEST.

Kilkenny's Verdict Will Be Questioned on Account of Priestly Influence.

Leaders of Both Great Parties Deeply Interested in the Result.

Recent Discouraging Events Are Making Their Mark on Gladstone.

The Scottish Strikers Are Gaining--Germany's Emigration Policy.

LONDON, Dec. 27.—The election in North Kilkenny is evidently not to pass without a severe contest, and leading men of both the great English parties seem to be in doubt as to how the contest may result. Vincent Scully, Mr. Parnell's defeated candidate, has been active ever since election day gathering facts as to clerical pressure used in behalf of Hennessy, and he is reported as saying that the evidence when presented will astonish parliament and the British public. He claims to have proof that even the confessional was used for the purpose of coercing penitents into the support of Hennessy; that the maledictions of the church were held out as a menance to the ignorant peasantry, and that in one instance at least a priest used physical violence toward a parshioner who dared to speak a word for Parnell. These matters will seem much more serious to the British people than they do in Ireland, where the parish priest is looked on and obeyed as a care-taker not only of the conscience, but of the daily walk and conduct of his flock. He makes his evening rounds to see if any of them are out at unseemly hours; he has no hesitation about breaking up a gathering that, in his opinion, has gone beyond the proper bounds of good-fellowship, and he rebukes them openly whether it be day or night, when he detects them in wrong. This would not be tolerated in England, but in rural Ireland it is accepted as a matter of course. No one pretends to doubt that in their opposition to Parnell the Catholic clergy have been actuated by the best of motives, and those motives not purely political. They regarded Mr. Parnell's continued leadership as imperiling the sanctity with which they had taught their flocks to look upon the marriage tie, and they were sincerely indignant that a man guilty of his acknowledged offenses should dare to face the people for whose rectitude of principle they held themselves responsible. This is the clerical explanation of clerical influence in the Kilkenny election. It remains to be seen whether it will satisfy a committee of the British parliament. The weight of opinion is that it will not, and that Sir John Pope Hennessy will be compelled to vacate his seat.

Mr. Gladstone will spend Monday, his eighty-first birthday, at Hawarden, in the quiet of his family circle, and it is understood that he desires not to be the object of any special and wearisome demonstration. Age is making its mark on the great leader, and the least events of the past few months have told on him worse than advancing years. Mr. Morley, who had visited Mr. Gladstone since the adjournment for the holidays, has made statements privately that there is no little anxiety in Liberal circles, not that Mr. Gladstone is actually ill, but that he is dazed and overcome by the terrible spectacle of Irish disunion and strife, and that, while still as devoted as ever to home rule, he sees that obstacles have been raised that only the utmost courage and determination can surmount. As for the Tories, they are perhaps pardonably merciless in the taunts which they are continually flinging in at the grand old man on the Irish question. They are especially careful to make prominent the risks incurred by the constabulary in keeping the Irish factions from taking each other up, and to paint in vivid colors the possibilities of an Irish parliament composed of the materials tnat figured on Kilkenny platforms. Mr. Gladstone may have a reply to these taunts; but Mr. Burt, the English Liberal member of parliament, who feels them as deeply as if it meant himself, says it will be a difficult task to frame an effective answer.

The Scottish railway strike is in a fair way of settlement. The companies find it hard enough to contend with the weather at this season of the year without carrying on a prolonged struggle with their employes, and the traffic of North Britain is at a standstill until a settlement shall be arrived at. The companies expected that the unemployed would flock in to take the strikers' places, but they were disappointed. The railway unions of Great Britain are thoroughly organized, and keep well in hand even those of their members who are out of work, and the strikers, with Caledonian prudence, had laid by means beforehand for a struggle of six weeks before having to ask aid of anybody. The contest being resolved to an issue of endurance, the companies could less afford than the strikers to lie idle for the coming six weeks, and besides the British public would not stand it. The strikers chose a time when travel by water is almost unendurable in the stormy billows of the North and the Irish seas and when travellers must go by rail or not at all. Consultations are now being held which, it is hoped, will result in a compromise honorable to all parties. The English trades unions have been officially informed that the Scottish strikers have means for their present needs, and the principal aid desired is in the way of preventing the Scotch companies from obtaining men to take the strikers' place. A party of men engaged by a free labor office at Wigan were to have left for Scotland to-day, but threats and persuasion at this moment have prevented them from starting. The Scottish companies have retained the free labor offices in the principal cities of England to obtain men for the work that the strikers have abandoned, but so far, though many thousands are out of work, there is no eagerness to accept the company's offer. In Cardiff the attempts at recruiting had to be stopped, owing to the hostile attitude of the Welsh railway men and the union seamen and firemen. The English railway men are generally of opinion that Scottish railway fight is their own, and that English companies are waiting to see the result.

The strike has now seriously affected another branch of business. Following upon the announcement that the mills, factories and docks were closing their gates owing to lack of fuel comes the statement that the shipping trade of this port will soon be at a standstill, as the supply of coal available for the steamers is almost entirely exhausted. Should this state of affairs continue much longer, considerable suffering must fall to the lot of the poorer classes of people, especially upon those who depend wholly upon the actual day's wages for their daily bread. Should the steam shipping trade come to a standstill here, many other trades directly or indirectly depending upon this shipping must also suffer. The steamship companies, it is understood, have ordered coal to be sent here by water, but several days at least must elapse before it can reach this port.

The German imperial government is considering the enactment of the laws restricting and regulating emigration. The recent disclosures of the deception and bad treatment practiced on emigrants to Brazil are made the pretext for the proposed action; but the real motive is to prevent the loss to the empire of males whom military service would at some time be due. The kaiser is said to have himself suggested the necessity of retaining all sound and healthy males until they have performed the legal term of military service. The kaiser has also ordered an inquiry into the methods and objects of the International Socialist league, which now takes in nearly all of continental Europe, except Russia, and to which the Hungarian Socialists have just given their adhesion. While going farther than Bismarck in striving to appease the popular discontent, and to improve popular conditions, the emperor sternly sets his face against international agitation, and will not tolerate the amalgamation of Germany with foreign organizations.

Instead of the new grand duke of Luxemburg being afraid of German aggression, he is himself taking the initiative in seeking a military convention with the empire, being apparently more apprehensive of French than of Prussian encroachment on the independence of his little state. It is probable that a convention will be agreed upon, thus virtually adding Luxemburg to the German empire.

OUR MORAL GUARDIANS.

Roster of the Patriots Drawn for the Grand Jury.

The following persons have been summoned to serve as grand jurors at the term of the district court commencing Jan. 1, 1891. Charles Nichols, Chandler W. Kiffee, Joseph J. McCardy, Daniel M. Robbins, Charles P. Noyes, Henry M. Rice, Albert H. Lindeke, Andrew R. Kiefer, Henry S. Ogden, E. W. Peet, Edward Richards, Tim Reardon, W. T. Reynolds, Gilpin Pyle and Theodore B. Myers.

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