OFFICE: 71 and 73 West Market Street.

CHICAGO.

A Budget From the Great Metropolis on the Lake.

Description and Incidents of the Great Charity Ball-Quaint, Curious and Criminal Happenings-The Boy Prescher-The Chicago

Socialists.

[Special Sentinel Letter.] with gayety. Last night there were clouds twixt us and the stars, but none to dim the refulgence of the brilliancy of the grand | the "boy preacher," is here holding revival "charity ball," which was given in the armories of the First Regiment (cavalry) and Battery D. I. N. G. Charity should always begin at home, and so the leading ladies of the city, under the direction of Mrs. George L. Dunlap, inaugurated the first of a hoped-to-be series of like occasions, similar to the famous charity balls given annually at the Academy of Music in New York. The managers of the affair are leading society ladies, and among the gentlemen we noticed the names of prominent business men, who lent their assistance to the furtherance of an good an object.

men, who lent their assistance to the furtherance of so good an object.

Single tickets were \$5; one admitting a lady and gentleman was only \$10. But that included every other usual charge, and then the "ball" was getten up for the benefit of the St. Luke's Hospital and the Illinois Training School for Nurses, and every body knew that the price was placed high enough to realize a good profit.

For days the most elaborate preparations have been going on. The thump and buzz

have been going on. The thump and buzz and click of the mechanical manipulations have been neard from morn to night. The cavalry officers took charge of the whole work, and the result was a brilliantly magnificent scene.

As the door swung in, a vista of flags caught the eye and not a vestige of wall could be seen. Men in blue and white gloves and great brass buttons over the swelling-bosomed coats were passing hither and thither. Cavalrymen were guarding the series of meetings he had ever held. The and great brass buttons over the swelling-bosomed coats were passing hither and thither. Cavalrymen were guarding the fair and the affair in all parts of the build-ing. Policemen and private detectives were numerous; but mostly incog, in civilian

ELECTRICITY ILLUMED THE WAY from street to entrance, from entrance to a port of vestibule, and from there into the Arrangements were replete in their com-

Arrangements were replete in their completeness. The air was mellow and warm, but the grates full of glowing anthracite in the dressing-rooms seemed to extend a warmer welcome than the lengthening pipes of steam suggested: The great armory was so decorated that the first sight suggested the idea of a huge star-crowned rotunds. The bending canopy of bright hued bunting, the hundreds of flags and starry standards that were hung from the rafter and roof, the fantastic Japanese decorations encircled by Chinese lanterns, the shimmering of silken banners bearing inscriptions of military import, all floated in wave like propertions over a sandy colored floor, while over and amidst it all there peured a brilliancy too bright for sunlight, too white for daytime, as the burning wires reflected through the roseate globes, and a thousand tiny flames and taper tips shot their rays from from fanciful devices.

At the right and left of the entrance there

above—around; but, when the bugle corps of the First Cavalry sounded the assembly-call at Po'clock, and the members of the orchestra, fifty strong, took their places upon the platform, and the march took up, and hundreds of merry feet measured the tuneful time, and handsome men in evening dress, and gleamy, shimmering, silken costumes of the ladies, the sparkle of gems and scintillation of jewels, the smiles of beautiful faces and flush of happy excitation—all were added, then the scene became a shifting, undulating, indescribable living panorama. Like the rays of a beautiful support, one can attempt their partiful sunset, one can attempt their por-trayal, but the wonderful blending of life and color baffles the artist's pen or pencil. More than 2,000 were on the floor at once

More than 2,000 were on the floor at once some of the time.

More than \$10,000 was realized. The expenses will not exceed \$3,000. Elkins, the man who makes so many people gastronomically happy, was the caterer for the occasion. Supper was served continuously through the night, and was laid in the armory of Battery D. The arrangements were unique. The floor presented the appearance of a huge grassy lawn, laid out into plots and walks and winding paths. Within the plots were real trees, and tropical plants and foliaged shrubbery, while around the edge of the lawn were eight fancy tents, large enough to spread a table around which twenty could be seated.

The lawn was represented by the spread-

The lawn was represented by the spreading of stage grass, and the winding paths were ministured with white canyas.

A grand promenade concert was given Wednesday afternoon by the First Regiment of Cavalry, under the auspices of the ladies on the committee, sixty-eight in number, the proceeds of which were donated to the regiment in recognition of their kindness in donating the use of the armories for the ball and for services rendered. Notwithstanding the great events of the week, Chicago is as full of QUAINT, CURIOUS AND CRIMINAL QUAINT, CURIOUS AND CRIMINAL

got so chilled that it had a fit of "ager," it was supposede and shook one of its cornice from time to time, such as "Powder has proven it."

"Shots will tell." the payement on the Clark street side. No one was under it after it struck, but lets were made to reflect on the mystery of the law of gravitation and the uncertainty of of life. Well, Saturday night another great stone and a mass of cement and plaster came tumbling down to the portico and from thence to the steps on the sidewalk below. Commissioner Klehm says the cornices on Randolph and Clark streets' sides are several inches out of plumb and they are bound to fall if not taken down. He thinks they were too heavy for cornices, and should not have been used. A committee of architects have been appointed to investigate the cause of the defect, and if they can not devise any better way of remedying the evil, how would it do to employ some of the expert base ball catchers to stand around and catch the stones as

services at the West Ada Street M. E. Church. Crowds of people attend. The "boy preacher" is rightly named. He preaches in a rambling, haphazard manner, and yet not entirely devoid of solemnity to one who is disposed to look upon the matter in a serious light. He reads a portion of scripture, offers a simple prayer, utters a short, crisp "amen," so short that the final elements of "amen," so short that the final elements of the word have scarcely fallen upon the ear ere be announces a hymn of plaintive, pleading or joyous sentiment, as the feeling prompts. He selects a text, but one would scarcely know it afterward. He pauses frequently, and sometimes so long we felt a chill of apprehension lest he had entirely lost the point to be gained. We hoped not, because the audience was breathlessly waiting for its appearance. At times he seems to be watching for some At times he seems to be watching for some particular person, at another, judging from the scowl upon his face, as though he were "seeking whom he might devour," and then the sweetest smiles flit up the restless, nervous face and his eyes rove over and along the galleries; and during this, while he dus-courses in his illogical yet original and fas-cinating manner, emphasizing his words by quick, queer, quaint attitudes and commanding the atten-Far slong the take front, out upon the water, over to the south and west and north the reflection of an unusual light glimmered and shaded. The streets and avenues leading to the armories were fully lighted. The Rush street steamer draw-bridge bad all of its complement of electric lights ablaze. Adjacent to the armory the avenue was bright as day with electric and calcium lampings. An awning was stretched over a carpeted pavement in front of the long building and from the sidewalk to the awinging entrance, and this was lighted by happing lamps.

As the door awning in a vista of flags pastor and members of the church seem much gratified at the result of his labors.

of the People's International Associa-tion, viz., the Socialists of Chicago, vited "capitalists, editors of capitalistic pepers, clergymen," and the public generally to meet the advocates of communistic theories in open debate, and show why the State, private property and class should not be abolished, and social co-operative production of the general correspondence by the Prition established.

Your correspondent found the way to the West Twelfth Street Turner Hall on Sunday afternoon, the place and time of meeting, and after some crowding secured a front seat

FORCE WAS ADVOCATED because it was better to sacrifice a million of lives at once and break the power of capital than to escrifice a million of starving men, women and children every year. Three times the Chairman, C. L. Grifyear. Three times the Chairman, C. L. Griffin, invited opponents forward to speak, but none accepted the invitation until the third call, when two young men stepped upon the stage, and upon declaring themselves as the representatives of capital, were met with a perfect storm of hisses and jeers and epithets. The first speaker as the opponent of socialism held the floor for fifteen minutes, but was interrupted at every sentence with hisses. What he might have said, I do not know. He finally turned to leave and gave them the following parting shot: "So far as I can see, all you Socialists are good for anyway is to him—him."

The second speaker was an older man with greater volume of voice, more self-assertion, and he stepped to the feot-lights and fisted his way—sticulatingly—over the heads of the yelling way.

He said he was in Paris during the Commune, and all the Socialists did was to drink,

kill people and destroy property; and, after a few minutes rambling talk, he said those who were urging others to be ready for a crisis "would be in the back-ground when

the time came." A resolution was adopted, whereasing that the editors of papers and other capitalists had failed to meet the Socialists in debate, and because they had directly misrepresented their movement and would not allow an opportunity of reply through the city press and otherwise, they had therefore admitted their inability to meet them on "equal terms," and thereby acknowledged themselves to be the adherents and defenders of

A CAPITALISTIC SYSTEM-

"a system the near future must see overthrown and destroyed." I sat close by the good-natured member to get the Preside wife of A. R. Parsons, the editor of the and Cabinet officers' signatures for us."

"We'll see who controls the Government when the crisis comes," etc. We learned that the organization is divided into "groups," according to their na-

It is currently reported that companies are drilling for future belligerent action. The only reply that I could get to querries concerning their meetings was that "capitalistic papers said there were companies of armed men being drilled."

Thanksgiving Day they made quite a display, and it gave rise to exaggerated ideas concerning their strength. Men and boys who joined in the parade then, and who attend the meetings new, who march and appland for fun, would not join in a riot

It has been ascertained that their numbers are few, who hold weekly secret meetthey fall? It might save the county suits | ings; and furthermore, there are fewer Sopassed a law prohibiting the parading of any or United States troops. This was contested by Prokop Hudek, the Captain of a company of Bohemian sharpshooters, who paraded his company shortly after the law was enacted. He was arrested on a warrant, and he got out a writ of habeas corpus, and Judge Barnum, who tried the case, decided it in the Captain's favor. Encourant military company except the State militia cided it in the Captain's favor. By consent, the case was taken before the Supreme Court, and the law was sustained. The penalty for violating this statute is a fine of \$10 and imprisonment for not less than six months or both, and until these demonstrations assume a different aspect. it would seem that there is no immediate danger.

The opening of manufactories, and the starting up of the rolling mills, and other branches of the workingman's interests will materially lessen the socialistic farce, and quelithe excitement among the ignorant followers of the designing leaders.

WASHINGTON.

A Budget of Gossip From the National

All About Autographs-The Demand for Distinguished Names-The Rush on the President for His Name-Other Autographs.

Washington, Jan. 16 -The autograph hunters are hard at work again. It is a curious place, is Washington, Everybody who comes here must carry away, he thinks something with him to remind him of his visit and to show his friends that he has rubbed against greatness somewhere. If he can get a chip of the Washington monument he is content, or if he does not get this he sets about securing somebody's autograph. In this he is quite successful, for sourcely anybody in political life will refuse his autograph to any respectable looking person except at the bottom a check or official decument of vate Secretary, who attends to the reception, thrown aside in a heap, each marked on the envelope "Auto," to indicate that it is a request for an autograph. When the day's opening and arranging of his mail, and

The interest of the entrance there are a state of the patient with paragraphs the patient was a state of the patient was a state were, judging from the noise. Applause resounded to the echo.

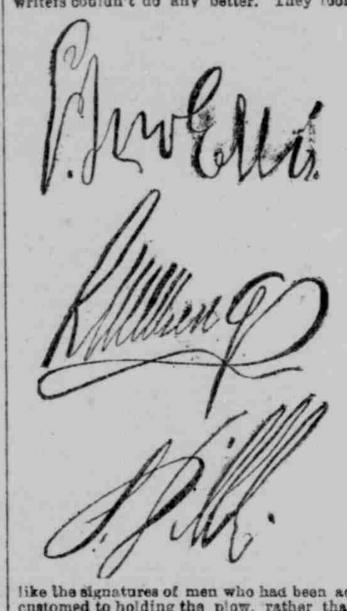
Reference was made to the early history of the country, and used as illustrative of the they fall into a way of making the signa
some of the autographs are, as intimated above, quite illegible, and would be above, quite intricate as a Chinese puzzle, but that the writer usually follows the question of autographs. Those are regarded as not the sort that may be delegat-

It is at the Capitol, however, that the autograph collector is in his glory. There are great men to be met at every turn, and autographs may be had for the asking. The custemary method of obtaining them is through the services of the pages in the House and Senate. These little fellows are bright and quite ready for the opportunity to make a few dollars by this process.

"We get from \$5 to \$10 or \$15

for getting an album filled in the House, eaid one of the pages of that body, who, by
the way, is the grandson of a noted member
of the Confederate Cabinet. "The Senate
pages get about the same for getting the
autographs of the members over there. If
an album is to have the autographs of the
President, Cabinet officers, Supreme Court
Justices, Senators and Representatives complete, we usually get \$25 for cetting it filled plete, we usually get \$25 for getting it filled. How do we get them? Go to the members when they are in their seats and ask them for their autographs. They seldom refuse. Sometimes, if they are busy, they won't do it, but a fellow with tact won't go to a member when he sees that he is busy. There are some who don't like it much. There's Mr. Belmont, for instance; he doesn't faucy it very much, but he usually signs, though. Then when we get the House we get some page in the Senate to get the Senators' names, and then get the riding page or some good-natured member to get the President's

down. Some of them are not only passed, but repassed and passed again, until they contain the autographs of two or three generation of statesmen. It seems when one gets this disease he never frecovers from it. and whenever there comes in a new lot of stateemen the old album is brought to the surface and trotted around for more sign manuals. Soit sometimes happens that one of these albums has the autographs of two or more Presidents, of a dozen or so Cabinet officers, of a hundred Senators and ex-senators, and of perhaps 500 members and ex-members of the House. The perusal of one of these well-filled books is really interesting. If a man's autograph is a key to his character, as is somtimes claimed, then some statesmen must have very crooked characters. If bad penmanship is a sign of greatness, then it is in evidence that we have many great men, for they are, many of them, painfully bad. A few are "artistical-ly" bad, evidently written badly with mal-Onicago, Jan. 14 .- Chicago is all awhirl for damaged heads and other irreparable cialists, as a body, in this city than in pre- that are readable seem to be so bevious years. They had their largest force in cause the writer can't do any better, or Chicago in 1878. In '79 the Legislature else hasn't time to. Take the signatures of those two great tariff agitators, for instance, Mr. Kelly, of Pennsylvania, and Mr. Mor-



And those of other tariff men are not much better. Mr. Carliele, for instance, signs "J. G. Carlisle, Covington, Ky.," in a hand that reminds you of that in which your butcher bills are made out. Hurd writes a fair hand, and Randall signs "Sam. J. Randall" in a ure to read. Mills, of Texas, writes as he talks when on she tariff question—very loud"—his signature looking as though it had been written with a wooden toothpick, and covering nearly half a page of the album. Hewitt's hand is as unsteady as his sleep, and his signature is anything but pretty or strong. Washburne, of Minnesota, writes a fairly legible signature, in big letters, and as it is good for a million dollars when signed to a check, it passes without criticism. McMillan, the Senator from Minnesota, writes a better hand than Washburne, but is not worth a dollar. The handsomest signature in the House is that of pearance than many others about him, writes the pretiest little feminine hand imwrites the pretiest little feminine hand imaginable, while little Sammy Cox, whose name and initials are but five letters, spreads them over twice the space that Mr. Reed's name occupies. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court signs himself in a very neat band, "M. M. R. Waite, Chief Justice of the United States." Justice Field writes a brisk looking hand, "Stephen J. Field, Associate Justice Supreme Court." Justice Harlan signs "Your Obedient Servant," and then follows with the name and position, Senator hand. O'Hara and Smalls, the colored members, write signatures up to the average.
Mr. Turner, of Kentucky, signs "Yours, Oscar Turner, Gibraltar District, Ky." Mr. Stephens, of Georgia, wrote "Alexander H. Stephens, M. C., of Ga.; 'residence, Liberty Hall, Crawfordsville, Ga." A Virginia member wrote, "John T. Harris, Harrisonburg, Va., March 3, 1881, 10:40 p. m.; House in session; snowing, and great crowd in Washington." A Tennessee member wrote, "The ington." A Tennessee member wrote, "The dear little pages, daily in hunt of autographs, will, I tear, soon become trauble-some. Yours truly, Wm. R. Moore." Mr. Moore is no longer troubled by autograph hunters, having been retired from Congress some time since. One rural member in his first assion, supposing the albems belonged to the boys themselves, wrote "A good boy will make a good man," and other Ben Franklinisms, until he got a hint in some way, and shut down on the sentiment. Some of the autographs are, as intimated his name with his residence or Congressional District, so that the curious, by wrestling the Congressinal Directory, may find out what the strange characters are intended to represent. Some of the most striking of these "artistic" autographs are those of Congressmen E. John Ellis, of Louisiana; R. M. Murray, of Ohio, and S. Dibble, of South Carolina, which three, with those of Messra. Morrison and Kelly and President Arthur, are given berewith.

STANLEY, the African explorer, is not married; he probably never will be. When he first started for Africa he was engaged to a pretty New York girl, who wept over him for six months, gave him up for dead in a year, married another man within two years, and had a child before her plighted lover returned from the dark-browed continent. This rather embittered his life.

Tuz Philadelphia Ledger records the death of ten centenarians during 1884, as follows: Rebecca Evans, aged 100; Martha Middleton, aged 103; Susanna Coyle, aged 104; and Richard Rice, aged 110; Sarah Baumgard liam Myers, aged 102; Chloe Lloyd, 105 years; Hester Smith. 109 years, and Mary Sumlling, 115 years.

WILLIAM BERRY, a young Irishman who went to London to make his fortune almost twenty years ago, is said to be the hero of Mr. Black's story, "Shandon Bells." His solitary book was a volume of sketches entitled "Moorland and Stream," in which the young author gave brilliant promise, which was tlighted by his early death.

Ir is said that Ella Wheeler has written | Elle but one peem since her marriage. It is pos-

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signs "Your Obedient Servant," and then follows with the name and position. Senator Pendleton's signature is not very handsome. It is a good deal after the style of Mr. Carliale's. Wade Hampton's is a very neat and legible one. Mr. Waite, of Connecticut, the eldest man in the House, writes. "With the regards of your old friend, John T. Waite, Norwich, Conn; "Mr. Springer, of Illinois, writes, "Yours very truly, W. M. Springer." Ochiltree, of Texas, signs "Tom Ochiltree" in a farly legible round hand. Mr. Phelps signs "Wm. Walter Phelps" in a very plain business hand. O'Hara and Smalls, the colored members, write signatures up to the average. (For Laundry and General Household Use.)

(For Laundry and General Household Use.)

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