PRESIDENT AND MRS. HAYES.

Celebrating the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of Their Marriage.

GAYETY IN THE WHITE HOUSE.

Sketch of the Early Life of the National Chief Executive.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29, 1877.

The domestic life of most of the Presidents has been so far removed from public gaze as to create the impression generally that there are no fireside scenes in the Executive Mansion which are not connected inseparably with affairs of State. Diplomatic dinners, official receptions and similar matters are supposed to consume the daily life of the nation's Executive. His family, too, seem to be merged in one way or another in the business routine of the mansion, and the majority of visitors to the White House would, from their notion of public life, find it difficult to determine at what particular point of time on any day Presidential duties were laid aside, and especially when the relations of husband and father could be assumed without offending statesmen of greater or lesser fame.

Yet it is true that there is a portion of the Executive Mansion which curious eyes are never permitted to see—a small part, to be sure, but amply large to accommodate the President's family. Where this portion lies is a mystery to many strangers who think they are shown into every part of the building, and who on the outside of the central object of every ambitious public man look in vain for the back yard of the President's mansion. Such reflections might have forced themselves easily upon the attention of the President and Mrs. Hayes a few weeks ago when the fact presented itself that at the close of the year 1877 would occur the twenty-fifth anniversary of their marriage, which event was celebrated on the 30th of December, 1852, at three o'clock in the afternoon, in an unpretending dwelling on Race, near Eighth street, Cincinnati, or, less definitely, near the classic precincts of "Rhineland." According to custom the present anniversary must be a silver wedding, and should it become generally known there would be no telling what the silver advocates throughout the country might not make it a pretext for doing or saying. It was the President's intention to pass it by as a matter exclusively within the secrets of the household, but somehow it became known that he was entitled to celebrate his silver wedding, and a few of the friends of the family insisted that it ought to be done differently from the President's notion. Those who know Mr. Hayes will remember that he is not a pliable man, and notably the swaying minds in his own party are by this time convinced of this fact. Progress, however, was made in suggestions to the extent that if he would not dignify it by a formal celebration it should at least be the occasion of a reunion of old friends. So what at one time threatened to be passed over in silence now takes rank with the interesting special events which have from time to time marked the history of the domestic relations of former Presidents.

HISTORICAL REMINISCENCES.

It is remembered by many of the oldest inhabitants of Washington when the child of President Jackson's private secretary and son-in-law was born in the White House a half century ago, and now at a later period the venerable Father Matthew, of old St. Patrick's parish, stood in one of the parlors of the mansion, and turning to the President as sponser for the child, asked, "Andrew Jackson, do you renounce the devil and all his works?" and how Old Hickory replied with much warmth, "I do, most emphatically." And from the dreadful days of the rebellion and the din of war who does not recall the most melancholy event in the history of the mansion—the death within its walls of the martyred President's baby boy? Or again during the administration of President Johnson, when with his invalid wife they stood in the centre of the great East Room and blessed their grandchildren and the thousand little guests who had been invited to prattle and dance on the velvety carpets of the Executive Mansion? That was, indeed, a happy event, and one that a privileged few will never forget. As the *years* fly on a daughter is given away there in marriage. The only daughter of President Grant stands beneath the wedding canopy in the same East Room, and the father sees his darling child go from under its roof the wife of an English gentleman.

THE SILVER WEDDING.

And so it comes at last, as orderly as the march of time, that in the same East Room a President is to gladden its walls with the jubilee of his marriage a quarter of a century ago. Birth, baptism, childhood, marriage! The series is to have completion in this silver wedding!

It is nearly forty years since Rutherford B. Hayes, a mere lad, visiting the town of Chillicothe, Ohio, met his future wife, then a little girl eight or ten years of age. It was a boyish fancy on his part, but attraction is so characteristic of the Webb family that those who knew her mother and were intimate with the family say that the charm which beguiled young Rutherford has clung to all her kindred. Dr. Webb died about 1843, leaving the widow with two boys and a girl to educate. A devoted mother at once laid aside all thought of herself, and resolved to spend the remainder of her days in the development of her children. Joseph and James were placed at school at the Wesleyan College in the town of Delaware, Ohio, and thither Mrs. Webb removed with her daughter. Delaware was at that time the home also of Mr. Hayes. The boyish fancy had not lost any of its charms, and, though young, Hayes was now man grown. He still clung with affectionate regard to the sweet face which met him in childhood's simplicity as he walked through the streets of his native town. The Webb boys finished their collegiate course, and now the daughter, budding into womanhood, must have her share of the polish and refinement of the education of the gentler sex. Rev. Dr. McCabe, the President of the college at Delaware, pointed out the Wesleyan Female College at Cincinnati as the most admirable of the female institutions of learning in the West, and so the mother and sons removed to that city, the latter studying for the medical profession, while the mother and her daughter made their home at the college. While she was here young Hayes, who had entered the Bar, also removed to Cincinnati to practice his profession.

AN ACQUAINTANCE RENEWED.

General R. B. Mitchell and Congressman S. S. Cox both relate their recollections of the buoyant and modest young man who boarded at the same residence, a large house, kept by a Mrs. Folsom, and how he was then striving to build up a business and gain professional fame. He had been in the city but a short time when it seemed to him equally to be his duty to look after a partner in life, and the one thought emboldened him to call upon Miss Lucy Webb at the college. His card was handed to Miss Webb, who had forgotten she ever knew such a person as R. B. Hayes, and was still further convinced that there must be a mistake on his part in sending for her. As she came into the parlor, on the ground floor of the building, and saw Mr. Hayes, she protested that he had made a mistake; that she did not know him, and it was not necessary to further explain why he had intruded himself. A lawyer was not to be put down with any such special pleading, and recalling events of twelve years past, he convinced the young lady that if she did not remember the visitor, at least he had the advantage of a multitude of facts to prove that he had known her from her very childhood. And *so the spell* which had led him captive so many years took them both back to the beginning, and she, recognizing in his fidelity the creation of her own charms, received his devotion and with it the affection which had nurtured it.

AT THE BAR.

In the meantime the young lawyer persisted in digesting the law and Mrs. Folsom's diet, hoping that he should one day get into practice that would enable him to be the man and husband he aimed to be. He was now getting along toward thirty, and with manly age was more ambitious than ever to acquire a reputation and a competence. The long desired opportunity at last presented itself. In the order of events a man stole a horse in Indiana and brought him to Cincinnati and sold him. The culprit was a drayman and his employers said he should be defended. A clerk in the store was authorized to give a young lawyer $25 to act as counsel, and the case was tried before Judge R. B. Warden, at present residing in Washington and a member of its Board of Health. The accused was convicted, but that did not hinder Lawyer Hayes from urging his suit with the lithe and beautiful maiden who was closing her school days at the college on Vine street. Another event helped the aspirant for her hand to press his suit with greater zeal than ever. A man named Simmons had killed a man and he was indicted for murder. The lawyers engaged were the most skilful in criminal practice at the Bar of Hamilton county, but it was necessary that a third lawyer should be employed to assist the seniors in taking notes. This duty was assigned to Mr. R. B. Hayes, "attorney and counsellor-at-law," for which he was to receive $100. That and his other prospects were enough to warrant him in becoming a married man, and his proposal was accepted, and the 30th day of December, 1852, fixed as the time for the marriage. The Judges who sat on the bench of the Superior Court, before which Simmons was tried, were Allen B. Thurman, Senator from Ohio, and Donn Piatt. During the trial some important question arose about the correctness of one of Judge Thurman's rulings, and the voluminous notes of Mr. Hayes being referred to, were found correct and entirely satisfactory to Judge Thurman. Toward the close of the case the Court was anxious to bring the arguments before the jury, and, as the counsel could not agree, the Court assumed to decide the order in which the arguments should be presented. It was here that Judge Piatt claims to have discovered Rutherford B. Hayes. Attracted by the correctness of the notes taken by Mr. Hayes and his modesty in addressing the Court, he suggested to Judge Thurman that Mr. Hayes should open in a speech of an hour in behalf of the accused. The case was finally given to the jury and the verdict being "guilty," the senior counsel, disgusted at their efforts, went off to celebrate the ending of the case. Mr. Hayes, however, did not desert his client. He had noted some forty exceptions to the rulings of the Court and gave notice that he would ask for a new trial. Judge Thurman ordered the exceptions noted and upon hearing the argument of Mr. Hayes granted the appeal to the State Supreme Court.

A SUCCESSFUL SUIT.

In the meantime preparations for the great event were progressing. Mrs. Webb was making arrangements for her daughter's marriage, and how quiet the affair was can best be judged by the few who were invited to be present. Of the relatives of Mr. Hayes there were his only sister, Mrs. Fanny Platt and her daughter Laura, now Mrs. J. G. Mitchell, of Columbus, Ohio, who stood with Miss Webb, clasping her left hand. Of the bride's relatives there were her mother, Mrs. Maria Webb, who died in 1866; her brother, Joseph T. Webb, still living, and James D. Webb, who died in 1873, and Aunt Lucy Cook, now Mrs. John Boggs, of Chillicothe. These were the only relatives present. Of friends of the family there were Mr. and Mrs. Herron and Dr. and Mrs. John Davis; the President's private secretary, Mr. Rogers; Mrs. Wilber, the wife of the President of the Wesleyan Female College, and the Rev. Dr. L. D. McCabe. These completed the party. Mrs. Hayes wore the fashionable bride's dress of that day—white satin—and its ample folds have been found abundant to admit of its being refitted, and she will wear it anew on Monday evening next. At the conclusion of the marriage ceremony the couple received the congratulations of their friends, and the Supreme Court being in session at Columbus Mr. Hayes decided to make his bridal tour to that city, as he must be present the following day to argue the Simmons case before it. Thither they went, making the house of Mr. Hayes' sister their residence during their stay in that city. The legal case was attended to. Soon after Mr. Hayes had the satisfaction of hearing that his argument had been rewarded with a compliment from the Hon. Thomas Ewing. Still later he was rejoiced to learn that the ruling of the Superior Court in the Simmons case had been reversed and a new trial ordered.

THE CELEBRATION.

The invitations for next Monday have been limited to about one hundred. They are written on note paper, and read:—

Mrs. Hayes and I celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of our wedding December 31, 1877, at nine o'clock.

This much was penned by one of the cle[illegible] afterward the President personally addres[illegible] invitation, adding:—

I hope you will be present. Sincerely yours,
R. B. HAYES.

First this plain invitation was mailed to the living guests present at the marriage twenty-five years ago. As the anniversary would occur on Sunday, the following day was chosen for its observance. After the wedding guests the President has invited those of his college mates at Kenyon who are residing in Washington, also members of the Cincinnati Literary Club, Judges of the Ohio courts before which Mr. Hayes practised and members of the Cincinnati Bar resident in Washington; next, members of his regiment, the Twenty-third Ohio, a few old army friends, and lastly, his intimate Ohio friends now in Washington. As before stated, these invitations do not exceed one hundred, and include the wives of the guests. The members of the Cabinet and Vice President Wheeler are the only parties invited from official life. Chief Justice Waite and Justice Swaine, of the Supreme Court; Chief Justice D. K. Cartter, of the District Supreme Court; ex-Judge R. B. Warden, the first judge before whom Mr. Hayes ever tried a case, are all Ohioans. Senator Thurman will also be present as well as lawyers James and Shellabarger, B. W. Rodes, B. L. Lang, General LeDuc, the Commissioner of Agriculture; General T. C. H. Smith, the appointment clerk in the Treasury; ex-Governor Denison and wife, and Mrs. Dahlgren, at whose marriage with her first husband, Mr. Goddard, Mr. Hayes was present.

THE FAMILY.

The marriage has been blessed with eight children—seven boys and a girl. Five of the children are living. The eldest, Burchard A. Hayes, is aged twenty-four; Webb C. Hayes is twenty-one; Rutherford P. Hayes, nineteen; Miss Fannie Hayes, ten years, and the baby, Scott Hayes, is six years old. With the exception of Scott the others living were born in Cincinnati.

The President is now in his fifty-sixth year and Mrs. Hayes in her forty-seventh year. Other than the floral decorations supplied by the greenhouse attached to the mansion there will be no attempt at display. Letters have been received from many prominent people extending felicitations on the anniversary of their marriage, and what is remarkable is the large number of offers to unite sentimentally with the President on the 30th and 31st inst. in celebrating silver weddings which happen to fall upon those same days.

WALKING FOR THE CAKE.

FUN IN GILMORE'S GARDEN—A CROWDED HOUSE APPLAUDING THE GRACE AND DEPORTMENT OF COLORED COUPLES.

The announcement that another exhibition of the Ole Virginny cake walk would form a feature of the performance at the London Circus drew a crowded house to Gilmore's Garden last night. The circus performance was but a secondary consideration in the estimation of the expectant audience, who were mainly interested in the exhibition of feminine grace and masculine deportment which were to compete for the coveted prizes and the fame which was to be bestowed on the successful contestants. The prizes in themselves were sufficiently attractive and valuable to put the competitors on their mettle, but when the applause of an enthusiastic multitude was to be superadded a more powerful stimulus was given to heighten the ambition of the professional walkers at this unique tournament. During the preliminary circus performance the dusky damsels and their gallant chaperons occupied prominent seats in the vicinity of the band. As a matter of course they attracted general attention and took great pride in the sensation they were creating. Admiring glances were thrown at this ebony coterie by a colony of colored folks who occupied a neighboring position. "Fo' the Lord, honney," said one old enthusiastic auntie, who wore a striped yellow fez, "they do look too nice for anything."

About half-past ten o'clock the circus drew to an end. A buzz of impatience swelled into demonstrations of applause as the veteran master of ceremonies old "Pop" Whitaker made his appearance. In stentorian tones, which rang out like a bugle blast, he announced the formal opening of the tournament. "Ladies and gentlemen, the competitors for the prizes will now make a circuit twice around the ring, with that majestic skill and grace—(approbation)—that we positively know they possess. (Great applause.) "They will now begin their great pedestrian feat," said Pop Whitaker, rapturously. Then filed into the outer circuit the rival champions who were to challenge public favor in their deportment and win applause in what had been felicitously termed "a great pedestrian feat."

THE OPENING.

They marched in the following order:—Francis Griggs and Mme. Ray, George Ray and Mrs. Hyatt, Charles Ray and Mary Ray, Simon Thompson and Susan Gatewood, Charles Murray and Mrs. Murray, Miles Butler and Jonah Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Bowzer bringing up the rear. Charles Ray and Miss Mary Ray then took the track, and glided around to the inspiriting strains of "The Skidmore Guards." "Strike loud the tocsin now and let the sports begin!" thundered Pop Whitaker, with a majestic sweep of his arm in the direction of the band. Mr. and Miss Ray are a well shaped, good looking couple, of copper colored complexion. Miss Ray was becomingly attired in a mauve colored overskirt and satin bodice, cut décolleté; she wore a bead necklace and white kid gloves. Her gait was floating and undulating, and was meant to be very graceful. Her dusky chaperon held himself well in hand. He was gotten up gorgeously in full dress, and carried on his right arm his companion's opera cloak. He bore himself like a knight who had the honor of his lady love at heart, and his gallant mien and lofty but measured tread drew forth generous and frequent applause.

George Ray and Mrs. Hyatt next floated into popular favor. "Mr. Ray," vociferated the master of ceremonies, "all eyes are upon you now and your lady. Now do your utmost to please everybody." Mr. Ray did not need further urging to display his manly figure, while his graceful partner carried all hearts by her buoyant and graceful tread. "She minced along in fashion's tide" with a hauteur that bespoke a self-conscious confidence in her own charms, while Mr. Ray seemed to be unalterably impressed with his own killing airs. Mrs. Hyatt was gorgeous in a white tarletan overskirt en train, looped with knots of cardinal ribbons, while a resplendent crimson sash zoned her delicate waist. Her raven locks were adorned with roses. George was resplendent in a swallowtailed coat and white kids. He held his right arm across his back and did full justice to the momentous occasion. On their retiring from the ring they bowed with great sweeps of the arms, as if to embrace all sections of the audience. They were recalled with thunders of applause. They evidently had produced a profound impression, and Mrs. Hyatt looked triumphant as she slowly withdrew.

Mr. Francis Griggs and another budding scion of the feminine Ray family next loomed into public notice. His swarthy face was radiant with happiness. Miss Ray has a *petite* figure, which was shown to good advantage in her neat fitting bodice. Their walking was the poetry of motion. They glided along with great elaborateness of deportment and received a full quantum of applause. But, after all, it was reserved for Mr. Miles Butler and Mme. Ray to develop the latent excitement and enthusiasm of the house. Mr. Butler appeared under certain disadvantages. His lady had disappointed him, and, sooner than to forego the luxury of airing his manly proportions, he pleaded with Mme. Ray to do him the honor of acting as his partner. As he stepped forth his ebony features beamed with intense satisfaction. The ambition of a *lifetime* was realized. He was the admired of all admirers. Pride was in his port, defiance in his lustrous eyes as he jauntily stepped forth, resolute in his effort to be numbered among the successful competitors.

OTHER CONTESTANTS.

To enumerate the grace and dignity of all the contestants would be impossible. Mr. Peter Banks and Miss Hattie Beans evidently concluded that their strong point lay in the elaborateness and profuseness of their salaams. George Anderson and Miss Carter did full justice to themselves, and stepped around the course with great precision and solemnity. At last the crowning glory of the performance was reached when James Bowser and Mrs. Bowser strolled with an air of abandon into the ring. Mr. Bowser and his

faithful partner requires training and coaching. James is of a lofty, ambitious nature, but, not to mince the matter, James' pedal extremities are fearfully and wonderfully made. He sidled along the course with lumbering gravity arousing a very simoon of dust in his wake as his pondrous brogans swept along the path. His bronzed spouse simpered and ogled the lumbering James, as if to warm him up to his work. James carried with great dignity a white hat of the stove pipe species in his outstretched hand, as if it were a pillar of light to guide him in the path of victory. Mrs. Bowser, in consideration of her unflagging energy in coaching the old man was presented with a huge bouquet of flowers, "from the attachés of the Garden, wishing you a happy New Year," was the neat way Pop Whitaker put it. Mr. Bowser was rewarded with a large package done up in brown paper, presumably a model of his unique goloshes, which he received tenderly and with proper and becoming reverence. Mr. Bowser was called to respond to the compliment in a speech, but he declined the honor with profuse bows.

Mr. George Ray and Mrs. Hyatt were accorded the first prize—a twenty dollar gold piece and the traditional cake. Mr. Gregg and Mme. Ray were the second on the calendar, and they were awarded the next prize—namely, a silver watch, gold mounted, while Mr. Butler was fortunate enough to secure the last prize, a handsome gold-headed cane, which honor he acknowledged in an impromptu speech, which was cheered to the echo. "Ladies and gentlemen and umpires," said the happy Butler, "I thank you for this gift I have received at your hands here below and I hope I will receive a greater reward above." The proceedings then terminated.

AMUSEMENTS.

STEINWAY HALL—TENTH SYMPHONY MATINEE.

The audiences that assemble at Steinway Hall to listen to the symphonies and other classical music performed by Dr. Damrosch and his orchestra attest by their magnitude the growing interest among musical circles in the works of the masters the interpretation of which is attempted by our modern leaders. Yesterday, for instance, we had J. Raff's well known symphony, "Freuhlingslaenge," which, freely translated, means "Sounds of Spring." The music is not unfamiliar to the concert going public, and comprises (a) the return of spring; (b) in Walpurge's night; (c) first blossoms of spring, and (d) joys of wandering. Each of these movements was given with a delicacy and grace becoming a well trained orchestra, although here and there were shades of imperfection that made themselves apparent. These were so slight, however, that they were forgotten in the subsequent features of the programme, which embraced an old German war song by Dietz, rendered by the Arion chorus and orchestra; a solo for the violoncello by Mr. D. Popper, and the "Kaiser March," also with chorus, by the Arion Society and orchestra—one of Wagner's curious compositions, heavy, brassy and replete with the wild, metaphysical effects which require something more than ordinary explanation before they can be understood, and which once understood are unsatisfactory. An aria from "Jessonda," by Spohr, was sung by Mr. Jacob Graf, but there was a lack of voice in the rendition and an absence of effect which forbids the compliment that ought to attach to a first class artist who sings in the presence of such an appreciative audience.

STEINWAY HALL—"THE MESSIAH."

Seldom has Steinway Hall held such a large audience as that assembled there last evening to hear Handel's "Messiah" sung by the Oratorio Society of New York. The performance of the "Messiah" is looked for every year as a regular holiday entertainment, and there are a vast number of our citizens to whom this is almost as important an event as Christmas itself. The soloists last evening were Miss Emma C. Thursby, soprano; Miss Anna Drasdil, contralto; Mr. George Simpson, tenor, and Mr. Franz Remmertz, baritone. Mr. S. P. Warren presided at the organ. The orchestral part of the programme was performed by Dr. Damrosch's orchestra, Dr. Damrosch leading both chorus and orchestra in his usual nervous and vigorous style. It is seldom that a chorus does better work than that of last evening. It was conspicuous for unity as well as strength. The chorus "For unto us a child is born," was sung with great spirit and received an encore—a compliment not often paid to a chorus. Miss Thursby sang the music of her part with taste, and displayed an excellent style and good execution, but her voice lacks the power necessary for oratorio music. Altogether the oratorio was well sung.

BOOTH'S THEATRE—MISS DAVENPORT'S BENEFIT.

Miss Davenport took a benefit at Booth's Theatre last evening, on which occasion she appeared in two *rôles*, with both of which she had been to some extent identified. These were Lady Gay Spanker, in "London Assurance," and Lady Teazle in the well known screen scene in Sheridan's "School for Scandal." A version of "London Assurance" was presented which was announced to be a new arrangement recently acted at the Prince of Wales Theatre, London. It is a condensation of this familiar comedy with a few trivial excrescences tacked on here and there which are intended to provoke the merriment of the audience, but which cannot be accepted as bettering the work. Miss Davenport acted the dashing part of Lady Gay Spanker with becoming spirit and elasticity. She was creditably supported, the result being an even though not brilliant performance. There was quite a good house on the occasion, and Miss Davenport was twice called before the curtain at the conclusion of the first part of the programme.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC NOTES.

"The Duke's Motto" is the feature of the week at Niblo's Garden.

The attractions at Tony Pastor's are always changing and generally good.

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Florence play "The Mighty Dollar" in Washington to-morrow night.

Popular music will be rendered this evening at the Grand Opera House by Downing's band.

The Cat Show at the American Museum is to be continued another week. Prizes are to be announced on New Year's Day.

At the Theatre Comique the variety sensations presented by Messrs. Harrigan & Hart are among the most attractive features of their kind.

To-morrow Dion Boucicault appears at the Grand Opera House in his beautiful play, the "Shaughraun." It is announced that every scene and effect will be entirely new.

Charles Fechter as Edmund Dantes, in "Monte Cristo," at the Broadway Theatre, is illustrating one of the most powerful and realistic dramatizations now on the stage.

"The Babes in the Wood; or, Who Killed Cock Robin," with its pantomime and grand transformation scenes, is attracting large audiences of little people, and they come away delighted.

The San Francisco Minstrels, under the administration of Backus, Birch and Wambold, always seem able to command a full share of the public patronage. They are giving excellent performances.

The largest audiences that now attend theatrical performances in the metropolis are those which assemble at the Park to witness Sothern's performance of "David Garrick" and the concluding farce "In a Regular Fix." His engagement terminates on the 7th of January.

"Won at Last," at Wallack's, in which Messrs. Gilbert, Montague, Floyd, Plympton, Holland, Mmes. John Sefton, Ponisi and others contribute to a strong cast, is still advertised for presentation during the coming week.

Robert Heller and his sister at their Wonder Hall, on Twenty-fourth street and Broadway, are lucky enough to keep the people continually amused, which is saying a great deal in these days, when the dollar of our daddies is a subject of such serious contemplation.

At the Union Square "The Man of Success" has been revamped, the dialogue boiled down, the best features preserved, and it is now an admirably acted play, full of bright thoughts and unclouded by what may be described as French nonsense. It will be continued until further notice.

Modjeska, in her rendition of Adrienne Lecouvrier, at the Fifth Avenue Theatre, has elicited much favorable criticism, and the audiences during her engagement have steadily increased in size. On New Year's Day seats are to be reserved for all of the "professionals." It will be an "at home" matinée.

What was formerly known as the Globe Theatre, opposite the New York Hotel, is now under the direction of Mr. Henry Willard, a veteran manager, whose business experience runs back to 1835. It is now called the National, and to-morrow night Mr. and Mrs. Watkins will reproduce there the familiar play "Trodden Down; or, Under Two Flags."

"Sula," the new spectacular play which is to be given at Booth's Theatre to-morrow night, was first produced in Philadelphia about a month ago. It was played two weeks to a large audience, and met their popular approval. The plot of "Sula" and its dialogue are said to be better than those pieces generally boast, and it is spoken of as being a very amusing play.

Several important additions have been recently made to the collections in the tanks at the Aquarium, especially in the fresh water section. A new feature has also just been added by the introduction of deep sea mosses in the salt water tanks. These mosses are remarkable both for delicacy in form and diversity of color, and are alone worth a visit. The pond and river plants are also surprises, for, as seen in the water, they have a beautiful effect. The collections of monkeys and foreign birds are considered unique, several of the specimens having never been exhibited before. The usual concert will be given to day.

MURPHY.

The Absconding Commissioner Expected in Toronto, Canada.

OWEN'S CHECKS

How He Tried to Get that "Extra Ten Thousand."

WHO WILL SUCCEED HIM?

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

TORONTO, Dec. 29, 1877.

Early this morning it was announced that the absconding New York Excise Commissioner, Owen Murphy, had arrived in this city. After the most diligent inquiries your correspondent ascertained to-night that Murphy was expected here by certain friends, but up to this hour, half-past twelve A. M., he has not arrived. The description of the man is so well known to the police here that he will be recognized the instant he comes to town.

RETURN OF THE TEN THOUSAND DOLLAR CHECK PROTESTED—THE MAYOR WANTS TO APPOINT MURPHY'S SUCCESSOR.

The Merchants' Bank in Wall street yesterday morning received from Buffalo the $10,000 check drawn by Murphy upon the Pacific Bank on Broadway, which had been sent by the St. Catherine's Consolidated Bank to the Buffalo Farmers and Mechanics' Bank. Mr. Hinsdale, the notary of the Merchants' Bank, took the check to the Pacific, whose President (Mr. Campbell) refused to honor it on the ground that the Board of Excise had "enjoined him from paying it," and the check was then mailed back to Buffalo as having been protested. There were some curious features about the check. It was written on one of the small, yellow strips of paper printed by the Pacific Bank for check purposes, and dated New York, the 22d, which is the very date of Murphy's disappearance from this city—namely, a week ago yesterday. How was it, then, that the check was not dated from Canada? was a question which naturally arose. Mr. Campbell, the President of the Pacific, explained this circumstance by saying that he supposed Murphy wrote out the check in this city before he fled, but finding that the bank was distrustful and might not cash it so readily he took it with him to Canada, where he felt sure that his friends would get it cashed for him. A more probable presumption is that Murphy wrote the check in Canada and dated it from New York, in order that he might not betray his hiding place. He knew that the check would find its way to the notice of the police or the press, and even though he was safe from pursuit, it yet might be unpleasant for him to have his retreat known. The check is written in Murphy's usual plain business hand, and if he was nervous when he signed it the only mark that betrays it is that the first two letters of "Owen" are half blotted out, as though he had smeared them over with his coat sleeve. The following is a literal copy of the check:—

No. 5. NEW YORK, December 22 1877.
U. S. C. 60.
Pacific Bank,
Pay to the order of myself ten thousand dollars.
$10,000. OWEN MURPHY, Treasurer.

On the back of the check is first the indorsement of "Owen Murphy, Treasurer," and then of "N. Connolly" as the first indorser. Next comes:—"Pay to the order of Farmers and Mechanics' National Bank, Buffalo, for collection on account of the Consolidated Bank of Canada, St. Catherine's. W. T. Benson, Manager." Then follows:—"Pay Merchants' National Bank, New York, or order, for account of the Farmers and Mechanics' National Bank of Buffalo, N. Y. F. Sidway, Cashier."

THE MYSTERIES OF THE CHECK.

Who is N. Connolly? was another question which was asked. Superintendent Walling gave it as a supposition that this mysterious individual might be the brother-in-law of Murphy, who was reported to have considerable contracts for the Welland Canal, and who might have naturally indorsed the check for him. None of the bank officials could tell from the appearance of the check whether Murphy had obtained the money for it through the indorsement of the unknown N. Connolly. Mr. Vermilye, President of the Merchant's Bank, thought that the check was only taken for collection, as an indication of which he pointed at a small ticket pinned to the check on which was printed in red letters, "Please advise payment," underlined with three heavy strokes of the pen. This, Mr. Vermilye said, was usually considered a sign that a check was considered doubtful by the bank that sent it, and indicated to his mind that the bank knew all about it. The various bank officials were unanimous in considering that if Murphy got the check cashed in Canada he could not be prosecuted for false pretences, for the reason that $10,000 were actually in the Pacific Bank here for "Owen Murphy, Treasurer." Moreover, on the 22d Murphy was actually Treasurer of the Board of Excise; he was not deposed by his colleagues until the 24th. Murphy would therefore seem to be equally safe from the clutches of the law in Canada, whether he obtained the $10,000 on the check or not.

DARK THREATS.

Commissioner Morton yesterday said that he had had no communication whatever with his former colleague. He darkly hinted that the case "was in the right legal hands," and "would be properly disposed of," and, in answer to a remark that Murphy could not be reached by the law, he mysteriously returned, "I don't know about that." This was about the most definite statement of any legal proceedings impending against Murphy to which Mr. Morton could be induced to commit himself, while the Superintendent of Police has openly declared that no attempt could be made to capture the fugitive as long as he remained in Canada.

Very little progress has been made by the police thus far in gathering the amounts paid by the saloon keepers. Superintendent Walling said yesterday that it was a work attended with considerable difficulty. The amounts had to be ascertained from the proprietors themselves, and an officer might call at a place two or three or even four times before he would find any one beside the bartender. Owing to this difficulty the Commissioners of Accounts are progressing but slowly in their investigation, which Mr. Howe yesterday again pronounced an exceedingly tedious one.

Among the very few tavern licenses granted last week—only seven in number—was one to ex-Senator Michael Norton and Bernard French. Yesterday no new licenses were granted and only a few old ones renewed. The number of people crowding round the excise office has dwindled down from 500 to about a dozen.

OWEN MURPHY'S SUCCESSOR.

The following opinion was yesterday sent to the Mayor by Corporation Counsel Whitney relative to the method of appointing an Excise Commissioner in place of Owen Murphy:—

OFFICE OF THE COUNSEL TO THE CORPORATION,
NEW YORK, Dec. 29, 1877.

Hon. SMITH ELY, Jr., Mayor:—

SIR—In reply to your inquiry whether the power to appoint an Excise Commissioner to fill the office recently held by Mr. Owen Murphy is vested in the Mayor alone, or whether it is necessary that the Mayor should nominate a person for that office to the Board of Aldermen and that such nomination should be confirmed by that Board, I have to advise you as follows:—

The act, chapter 175 of the Laws of 1870, provided that there should be a Board of Commissioners of Excise in each of the cities and incorporated villages and towns in this State, composed of three members. It was provided in said law that the Mayor of this city should nominate three good and responsible citizens to the Board of Aldermen, who should confirm or reject such nominations. In case of a rejection of such nominees, or any of them, that the Mayor should nominate other persons as aforesaid, and should continue so to nominate until the nomination should be confirmed. The term of office of such commissioners was to be three years, and the law required that a new board of three commissioners should be appointed, in the manner aforesaid, on the first Monday of April in every third year after the passage of the law. These provisions have never been expressly repealed, but the suggestion has been made that they may have been impliedly repealed by the so-called charter of 1873. If said act of 1870 is in force a commissioner to fill the office recently held by Mr. Murphy must be nominated by the Mayor to and confirmed by the Board of Aldermen. If it is not in force under the provisions of chapter 330 of the Laws of 1874 the power to appoint Mr. Murphy's successor is vested in the Mayor alone.

It does not seem to be necessary or desirable for me at the present time to go into a discussion of the question whether the above act of 1870 is still in force nor to attempt to pass upon that question. The view taken by your two immediate predecessors in office, and the view upon which they have acted, has been that said act of 1870 was still in force. On April 7, 1873, the late Mayor Havemeyer nominated Messrs. Stewart, Marshal and Voorhis to the Board of Aldermen under said act, and such nominees were confirmed by the Board. After the passage of the charter of 1873, April 30, 1873, those gentlemen continued in office, and no new appointments were made in their place.

In July, 1874, Mr. Voorhis was appointed to the office of Police Commissioner, and in November Mr. Stiner was nominated in his place to the Board of Aldermen by Mayor Havemeyer, and such nomination was also confirmed. Messrs. Stewart, Marshal and Stiner remained in office until May 1, 1876, when their terms expired. In April, 1876, Mayor Wickham nominated to the Board of Aldermen Messrs. Morton, Murphy and Patterson, and such nominations were thereupon confirmed. In each of the above instances the communications of Mayor Havemeyer and of Mayor Wickham, making such nominations to the Board of Aldermen, expressly stated that the nominations were made under and by virtue of said act of 1870. So far as I am aware no serious question has been raised as to the right of the several Commissioners appointed as above to hold their offices and to perform the duties thereof.

In view of the particular construction which has been placed upon the law by your predecessors for several year

I think that in appointing a successor of Mr. Murphy such appointment should be made in the manner provided in said act of 1870. I am informed that the action of Mayor Havemeyer above referred to was taken by him in accordance with advice given by my predecessor in office. I am, sir, yours respectfully, WILLIAM C. WHITNEY,
Counsel to the Corporation.

THE LAW IN THE STATE.

Michael Toohey and B. T. Hubbell, of Matteawan, Dutchess county, were brought before United States Commissioner Shields yesterday charged with selling beer, wines and spirits and tobacco without a license. They were discharged on their own recognizances to appear for examination.

THE CAUSE OF TEMPERANCE.

A meeting called by several hundred citizens to give expression of public opinion "in favor of the enforcement of law and against the punishment of public officers for the performance of their duty," was held at Chickering Hall last evening. The gallery was almost empty and the hall was scarcely half filled at eight o'clock. About six or eight gentlemen came on the platform, and Mr. Sinclair A. Tousey was nominated chairman. Mr. Salem H. Wales read a series of resolutions as follows:—

Resolved, That the citizens and taxpayers of this city here assembled have come together for no partisan purpose and in the interest of no individual, but in the spirit of the call of this meeting "for the purpose of a public expression of opinion in favor of the enforcement of law and against the punishment of public officers for the performance of their duty."

Resolved, That we heartily sustain the Police Board in its rigorous enforcement of the Excise law as interpreted by the highest judicial authority, and that Mayor Ely has shown wisdom in yielding to the best public sentiment of this city and to overwhelming proof that his charges against the Police Board were unfounded and unjust.

Resolved, That the preservation of order, the protection of life and property and the prevention and punishment of crime in this city depend more upon the courage, fidelity and efficiency of the Police Commissioners than on the efforts of any other branch of the government, and that the present Board has deserved the gratitude and support of the best citizens of both parties, by the discipline of its force, by its prevention of riots and by its fearless enforcement of laws regulating a traffic that at best is the most fertile cause of crime, pauperism and misery.

Resolved, That the successful experiment of enforcing the Excise laws, so as to give us quiet Sundays, orderly streets and a remarkable diminution of arrests, shows what can be done and what hereafter should never be left undone.

Rev. Dr. Crosby, who was called upon by the audience, said he was in favor of adjourning the meeting there and then, as their point was gained—(applause)—by the dismissal of the charges by the Mayor against the Police Commissioners. As a matter of fact, the streets were never cleaner, and as to the gravamen of the charge about licenses he congratulated the audience on the fact that it was without force. The fact was that when charges were made of violation of the law the citizens did not come up to sustain them.

Mr. William E. Dodge said he knew Mr. Ely for many years and was glad he was elected. He thought Mr. Ely conscientiously desired to discharge his duty, but in the peculiar circumstances surrounding him he has been overwhelmed with the balance of power on one side.

Mr. Chauncey Shaffer said:—"I have always respected our present Mayor; but he has learned one lesson, that those in high office should not allow themselves to be crowded by anybody, but look to the law and to God for guidance."

After some further observations from Mr. Shaffer the resolutions were adopted and the meeting terminated.

THE POLICE COMMISSIONERS.

MAYOR ELY DISMISSES THE CHARGES PREFERRED AGAINST THEM—HIS REASONS.

Shortly after four o'clock yesterday afternoon Mayor Ely formally decided the matter of the charges against Police Commissioners Erhardt, Wheeler and Nichols. The following is a copy of his statement in relation to this subject:—

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, CITY HALL,
NEW YORK, Dec. 29, 1877.

On the 18th inst., influenced by complaints made to me from various sources, and to a considerable extent by my own observation of defects in the administration of the laws, I deemed it my duty to prefer charges against D. W. C. Wheeler, S. P. Nichols, and J. B. Erhardt, three of the Commissioners of Police of the city of New York.

Since then I have given the persons charged an opportunity to be heard, as directed by the charter, and have received a large amount of oral testimony and documentary evidence offered in their behalf.

Since the hearing closed I have devoted myself to a careful consideration of the testimony, and on both charges made I am convinced that the Commissioners are in a measure derelict, but not to an extent that would justify their removal.

That our streets have been not unfrequently during the past year in a deplorably filthy condition has been apparent to every citizen, but on the hearing the Commissioners proved that they are so trammelled and embarrassed by existing laws, more particularly those controlling the disposition of the accumulated filth, that they are not sufficiently culpable on that charge as to merit so severe a punishment.

In reference to the charge of irregular and capricious enforcement of laws, the instance to which my attention was more particularly directed was the sudden and unannounced enforcement of the long neglected Excise law on the afternoon and evening of the 7th day of December inst.

This action, which inflicted misery and disgrace upon many citizens who supposed they had obeyed all the requirements of law, appears to me to have been unnecessarily severe and harsh, but the Commissioners have shown that they acted within the letter of the law, which was so presented to them by a judicial tribunal that they were compelled to immediately enforce it.

The manner of its enforcement, I think, was reprehensible, but not to a degree that calls upon me to inflict the extreme penalty of removal from office.

In view of these considerations, I do hereby decide that there is not sufficient cause for the removal of the above named Commissioners, and in so doing would express the hope that in future the duties devolved upon them as Commissioners of Police will be so faithfully executed as to disarm criticism, and that the laws will be equally, regularly and impartially executed by them. SMITH ELY, JR., Mayor.

LIQUOR SELLERS SENTENCED.

MIDDLETOWN, N. Y., Dec. 29, 1877.

At the Orange County Sessions this week, Patrick Meehan and William Ray, Middletown saloon keepers, selling liquor without a license, were fined $125 respectively and the latter was sent to jail for fifteen days in default of payment.

OBITUARY.

COLONEL C. WOOD.

Colonel C. Wood, formerly of the Tenth (Prince of Wales' Own) hussars, one of the few remaining Waterloo officers, died at his residence, Carlton Lodge, near Pontefract, on December 13, after a few days' illness, having only a week ago attained his eighty-eighth year. The late Colonel Wood joined in 1809 the Fifty-second regiment as ensign, and was engaged in the principal battles of the Peninsular war. He was severely wounded in the shoulder at the battle of Busaco, when carrying the King's colors of this noted regiment. In 1810 he joined the Tenth hussars, with which regiment he was present at Waterloo. In a note to the "Duke of Wellington's Despatches," vol. viii., page 148, occurs the following note by Colonel Gurdon, in reference to the deceased Colonel:—"Captain C. Wood, on picket duty with Major Hon. F. Howard, squadron of the Tenth hussars, patrolled at daybreak along the road leading to Sombref. The morning's vidette fell back as the patrol advanced. Captain Wood having ascertained that the Prussian army had quitted the field of battle on the preceding day, hastened to report the circumstance to the Duke of Wellington at Quatre Bras. On the road he met Lieutenant Colonel Hon. Sir Alexander Gordon, with another half squadron of the Tenth hussars, sent by His Grace to communicate with Marshal Blucher that the British army would proceed to take up the position in front of Waterloo, and co-operate, according to previous arrangement, with the Prussian army. Captain Wood afterward was badly wounded at Waterloo."

J. S. JONES, M. D.

The death of Dr. J. S. Jones, a well known surgeon and playwright, occurred yesterday at Boston, after a long illness. He was the author of many local pieces of merit, the "Silver Spoon" being among the most popular. He was also manager of the old Tremont Theatre for several years.

A THIEF SHOT.

Scudder Hunt, a farmer in the township of Ewing, N. J., had a valuable set of harness stolen from his stable some two weeks since and placed the matter in the hands of the Trenton police. Shortly after the property was traced to the house of one Joseph Keyser, in Lalor street, Trenton. A raid was made upon the place and traces of other stolen property were discovered. Keyser, however, had fled. Yesterday the police, acting upon information, made a descent upon the premises of one Adam Forst, on the Brunswick pike. The house had been surrounded when one of the officers attracted attention to a man who was hurrying across the fields. Chase was given and after a half hour's run the police began firing upon the fugitive just as he was escaping from the open country to the brick yards. He fell, and the officers arriving carried him to the highway, whence he was removed to Forst's house and thence to Trenton. Forst was subsequently arrested and gave information as to the whereabouts of the stolen property, which led to its recovery and the arrest of another of the gang in the person of Joseph Konakiel. It is reported that Keyser's wound is more serious than was at first supposed. He was shot in the leg, which will probably have to be amputated, and the operation may result in his death.

A SUICIDE IDENTIFIED.

The body of the man found on Friday, at Elizabeth, N. J., proves on investigation to be that of Reinhard Kretzschner. In his pocket was found a wallet containing a letter addressed to P. H. Kretzschner, M. D., corner of Fulton and Adelphi streets, Brooklyn. The letter was written in German, and reads:—

DEAR PAUL.—My eye disease is getting worse, and is already affecting the other one. When you receive this book I will be no more. I am out of work. Forgive me for what I have done to you. God will pardon me. I am too unhappy. Yours, R. KRETZSCHNER.

To this was added a postscript, "Don't let my folks know. It is better that they think I am lost." The deceased was employed until Saturday last as a bartender for Henry Emmerich.

CHURCH DEBT RAISING.

What Mr. Kimball Says of His Operations.

WHO PAYS HIS OWN SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Dr. Robinson's Views—Debt Paying a Natural Sensation.

There seems to be much curiosity among those who have heard of Mr. Kimball's success in raising enormous church debts to learn where the large sums of money come from which are pledged in his name. The fact has been published that the gentleman is employed as a travelling agent by a Chicago house and that in his business capacity he receives a comparatively small salary, much too small to enable him to give thousands of dollars to every church in which he labors. Under the circumstances rumor has been busy of late in assigning the source of his apparent wealth. A report to the effect that Mr. Kimball's pledges were all redeemed by a lady of great wealth and liberal spirit in church work found its way into one of the leading religious weeklies, and has since been widely repeated. Another paper claimed that the subscriptions in question were made merely to encourage emulation, and that no provision had been made for their payment. Indeed, there is hardly any limit to the number of ingenious guesses made without any knowledge of the facts and published as positive truth. To clear away all doubts and set the question finally at rest a HERALD reporter called upon Mr. Kimball, last evening, at the Astor House, where he has been staying for the past few weeks.

WHAT MR. KIMBALL SAYS.

The reporter stated the object of his visit and opened the interview by some general remarks on Mr. Kimball's work and the adverse criticism which it has called forth. He then alluded to the theories about his personal subscriptions and asked which was the correct one, if any.

Mr. KIMBALL—They are all wrong; there is not a single word of truth in any that I have heard about or read.

REPORTER—Dr. Robinson says that in his church your subscriptions were backed by him and that he had given his note for the full amount. His belief is that your backers are in each case wealthy members of the congregation, who authorize you to subscribe a certain amount to be paid by them. Is he right?

Mr. KIMBALL—With regard to his own church, yes; with regard to others, no; or, at all events, only partially so. That is, my pledges are made upon different security in almost every case. The "wealthy lady" theory, which appeared in the *Christian at Work*, was utterly false, and was not the only falsehood in the article. It was invented by the editor, who acknowledged it to me. In *Frank Leslie's* there was a statement to the effect that my subscriptions were made upon no security whatever, in the hope that means would eventually be found for their payment. That is the worst untruth of them all. I would not have the insincerity, nor would the pastor of a church allow me, to stand up in his pulpit and make a false pledge. That would be swindling. No, sir; every subscription that is made in my name is made upon perfect security and will hold good when it comes to be paid.

REPORTER—Have you any objection to telling what your security generally is?

Mr. KIMBALL—Yes, I have; I shall never tell. As I said before, it varies, according to circumstances, what it is in each particular case. I refuse to tell, for the reason that it is nobody's business. My pledges are good and are always paid. That is enough for the minister and that must satisfy the public.

REPORTER—Does the minister always know upon what security your pledges are made?

Mr. KIMBALL—No, not in every case. Sometimes not a soul in the church besides myself has any idea where the money comes from. But it's right where I can put my hand upon it and it never fails.

HOW MR. KIMBALL BEGAN.

REPORTER—Will you tell me, Mr. Kimball, how you came to undertake the work of raising church debts?

Mr. KIMBALL—It was in this way. About two years ago I was thrown into personal relations with a small church in San Francisco. There I carried on evangelical work for some time. The church had a good building, but nothing else, not even a pastor. I went there and preached twice a day. At first there were no services in the evening, and the largest congregation in the morning numbered only eighteen or twenty souls. Soon a revival began, which has continued ever since with precious results. The congregation grew rapidly; evening services were held and a pastor secured. I remained a year in California, and again a year ago aided in building up another church in the same way. Before leaving San Francisco I desired to do something more for those two churches. They seemed to be well off in everything except the burden of debt. I had no money to help them myself, but decided at last to use my personal influence and knowledge of men and things to persuade them to pay off their indebtedness themselves. The first of the two churches—that in which I had labored the previous year—I went to work at once. The pastor went away so as not to witness my failure, and the trustees besought me not to undertake the work. At twenty-five minutes after twelve I had raised a debt of $4,000 or $5,000, which had stood for nine years. The following Sunday I did the same in the other church, raising a larger amount. The next week again I spent in the Rev. Dr. A. L. Stone's Congregation church, burying a debt of $75,000 under subscriptions to the amount of $78,000. I have a letter still which I afterward received from Dr. Stone thanking me for the help I had rendered him in the hour of his need. It is as strong a letter as man ever wrote to man, yet it was Dr. Stone's brother, who walked out of Dr. Scudder's church last Sunday, when my presence was announced. Seeing that I possessed ability in the work which I had undertaken it seemed to me that if I did not continue it I should have deliberately and knowingly abandoned a sacred duty. Therefore, I have persevered, though for a long time with the greatest reluctance. I have been at work now for ten months and will remain faithful as long as my services are needed. The misstatements and misinterpretations by some newspapers and of the enemies of the cause I shall expect, and I cannot avoid them and I shall not answer them. I have no desire for notoriety, and wish that my name might have remained unknown. I have many applications from the religious papers for articles on my work, but I have declined to write a word. An illustrated paper even asked me to write a sketch of my life, to be published with my portrait.

Mr. Kimball had been busy all day long attending to his secular business and expressed a wish to retire in order to gain strength for his work in a Brooklyn church to-day.

INTERVIEW WITH DR. ROBINSON.

The Rev. Dr. Charles S. Robinson, pastor of the Memorial Presbyterian Church, corner of Madison avenue and Fifty-third street, in which Mr. Kimball began his work in this city, said that his opinion had been expressed so repeatedly and so fully in public that it was hardly necessary to state it again. His church cost $316,000; $100,000 was paid down and twenty months ago $108,000 more was paid. Of this latter amount Dr. Robinson contributed $19,000 himself. It took a month or six weeks to raise the remainder. The debt a month ago was $110,000; now it is nothing. Dr. Robinson said that he did not believe it would have been in his power or that of any member of his congregation to clear off the last $100,000 by ordinary or extraordinary means. The services of Mr. Kimball were secured, and the work was accomplished in two weeks.

When asked if he did not think the work of money raising was a desecration of God's day and house, Dr. Robinson replied:—"Certainly not. The Bible tells us that offerings were made on the first day of the week. It was the old apostolic rule."

DEBT-PAYING SENSATIONAL.

REPORTER—Were not the means employed rather sensational?

Dr. ROBINSON—Yes, to a certain extent. The mere paying of a debt in these times is enough to create a sensation. It would be impossible to raise $100,000 in so short a time without more or less excitement. If any one supposes there is a general hankering to pay church debts, or any other kind, he's much mistaken. Unusual means have got to be resorted to. Some skill has to be exercised in getting the people together without letting them know what is to be done; for they are generally shy of a meeting where a big collection is to be taken up.

REPORTER—Do you not think that such an exciting meeting is apt to have a bad effect upon a congregation?

Dr. ROBINSON—On the contrary. I never held a more deeply religious and spiritual service than that at which Mr. Kimball began his work. Its effect I believe to have been altogether good. For a long time the newspapers and periodicals have been investigating the financial condition of the churches and making a great outcry at the immense debts by which they are burdened. Now a gigantic and successful effort is made to get rid of these debts and the press is in arms at once to condemn the means employed.

REPORTER—Have you any fear that the subscriptions will not be paid when the time comes?

Dr. ROBINSON—None whatever. Two weeks ago $80,000 of the whole amount pledged had been put in form of legal promises to pay. I believe that by this time notes have been given for over $100,000 of the $112,000 pledged.

REPORTER—Who is responsible for the $20,000 subscribed for by Mr. Kimball?

Dr. ROBINSON—I myself. I have given my note for that amount, and I have no fear of being unable to pay it. Twenty months ago I gave my note for $19,000 and have since paid it in full. It will be the same in this case.

THE EIGHTH REGIMENT ARMORY.

The officers of the Eighth regiment have addressed a protest to the Mayor, Comptroller and Board of Aldermen against assigning their organization to the hall and rooms on the upper story of the building situated on the southwest corner of Ninth avenue and Twenty-seventh street. They contend that the premises are unfit and unsafe for occupation, being situated over stables of a stage line, accommodating hundreds of horses, the stench arising therefrom being intolerable.