ITS WORK IS BEFORE IT.

CONGRESS IS NOW IN SHAPE FOR THE SESSION.

In Their Seats, but They Demand a Digilled Man for Spenker—The President's

[Special Correspondence.]
WARHINGTON, Dec. 5.—Three days ago WARHINGTON, Dec. 5.—Three days ago I came up here to the press gallery of the house of representatives, where I am now sitting, and found not one vacant seat. Correspondents were standing all about, peering engerly at the busy scene on the floor below. Many had notebooks in hand and were jotting down their im-pressions of the moment, fixing upon



NEW MEMBERS ON THE PIRST DAY. nemory's sensitive plate the picture presented by the opening day of congress. Now I am the only man in the gallery, and I am yawning. Somehow or other, the people on the floor seem to be sleepy, Three days ago they were as lively as crickets. Congress opened with every man sitting bolt upright in his seat, dig-nified, alert, statesmanlike. Now look

The house on Monday was like the boys in the country picture it in their mind's eye. Congress is respected in the country. Its manners are there thought to be good enough to take to church, The new member comes down here with the same notion. He walks to his sent on the opening day with as much dig-nity as he knows how to employ. He buttons up his coat—a long Prince Al-bert, which he has had made for this very occasion-in order to gain impressiveness of person. Once seated, his de-portment is such as would do credit to the deacon who never nods.

Can it be possible that we are now looking at the same man? Has the lapse of three days effected such a transformation in his manners? His feet are resting calmly on top of his desk; or he has his arms upstretched in the awkward gesture which is the trademark of a yawn; or he is snuggled down in his chair, as careless as he can be, and surreptitiously smoking a cigar, though that indulgence is forbidden by the rules of the house. Yes, it is the same man.

Still these same careless congressmen demand that their speaker shall be a person of dignity. At least one of the late candidates for speaker would have made more headway in his canvass had



he been a man of better manners. He did not lack popularity, and men liked to call him by his first name, but they did not want him for speaker. There is after all, a strong sense of the proper in our American legislators, little as you would think so to look at them, as I do at this minute, sprawling and straddling and chewing and laughing on the floor below. On "big" days, on the opening days of sessions, or occasions which bring out large audiences, the members of the house behave well enough, and probably their general deportment would improve if we had more pomp and form in our legislative formula. Old members tell me they like the practice of voting by tellers, in which two men, named by the speaker, stand in front of the chair and count the members as they pass through -first those in the affirmative, and then those in the negative. There is move ment, action, form in this method of voting, and it is popular.

Probably some of the ceremonials of

the English house of commons could be employed here with good effect. As the new speaker was escorted to the chair on Monday by his defeated rivals I could not help contrasting the simple manner in which he ascended the throne-for a throne of wonderful power it is-with the entree of the presiding officer of the house of commons as it has been described to me. The British speaker files into the hall at the head of a long, solemp, dignified, impressive procession composed of all the members of the body, each with his hat in his hand. No other than the tall silk hat, commonly known as "stovepipe," is permitted, and as soon as the speaker has reached his chair and all the others have found places along the benches, at a signal all place their hats upon their heads and sit down. Possibly the hat feature of the English custom would not suit here-there are western members who never wore a stovepipe hat, and who would resign their seats before donning one-but I am sure some such a feature as the grand entry of the speaker at the head of the house would add to the self respect and

dignity of both presiding officer and member. There are many ways of distinguishing the new member of congress. He takes keen interest in the proceedings for a day or two, carefully reads The Congressional Record every morning. studies the rules a good deal and is near ly always present at prayers. But his zeal is short lived. In two or three days he learns to loaf about the cloak rooms and swap stories and have a good time. Yet, with all its democratic tendencies, the house gives better attention to prayers than does the old and highly respect able senate. One morning during the last session only one senator appeared in his seat as the presiding officer took his chair at high noon. The chaplain, however, was at his post, and President pro tempore Ingalls rapped his desk with the gavel and with admirable gravity said:

"The senator from - will come to order." Then the chaplain offered a prayer.

Hon. George Gorham, who was for

some years secretary or the senate, tens me the following story to illustrate the backwardness of senators at prayer time: During the presidency pro tempore of Ben Wade, a new and bashful senator told the bluff old statesman from Ohio that he had a bill which he wanted to that he had a bill which he wanted to pass, and as there was nothing in it any one could object to, he intended saking unanimous consent. "When would you advise me to bring my bill forward" asked the new senator. "Oh, bring it up right after prayers," said the old man, "splendid chance to pass your bill when no senators are about."

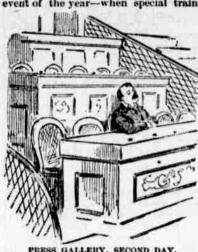
There was one decided innovation this year. Usually the oversion of congress.

There was one decided innovation this year. Usually, the opening of congress brings the president's message to the floor of house and senate in a perfect shower of printed pamphlets. But this year the president declined to follow the usual custom, which is to have the message printed at the government printing of-



PRESS GALLERY, OPENING DAY. fice. Mr. Pauden as usual carried the message to the capitol in the White House buggy, as usual he was met at the door of the senate by the ancient and patriarchal Bassett, who on yesterday, by the way, completed fifty-eight years of continuous service on the floor of the American house of lords, and as usual there was the announcement, delivered in a voice shrill with age: "A message from the president of the United States." But the beaten track was no farther followed. Ordinarily at this point a very pretty scene is to be witnessed. As the tall, gray old man walks down the central aisle and places the written scroll upon the desk of the presiding officer, seals are broken, bun-dles of printed copies of the message come flying forth, and in the arms of nimble pages are scattered almost as by magic throughout the hall. In a twinkling every senator-and here, in the house, every member-has a copy before his eyes. The leathern lunged reading clerks read the great state paper before an audience which does not hear. Each individual prefers the use of his own eyes in perusing the executive's communication. On such occasions the floor of the house looks like nothing so much as a big school, in which every pupil is industriously scanning his spell-

Thanks to the president's caution, we had no such scene this year with the message. There were but three copies of it in existence, and these not printed. The message! What memories that word must bring to some of the veteran correspondents whom I saw in this gallery a day or two ago! Recollections of the days in which the precious document was the subject of more scheming, ingenuity and enterprise than any other event of the year-when special trains



PRESS GALLERY, SECOND DAY. were chartered, and even when relays of post-horses were engaged to carry the news to New York. Later comers in the newspaper field tell of the epoch in which managing editors instructed their correspondents to buy or steal the message, if possible, in order to print it in advance of its presentation to congress.
As one looks down from this gallery apon the 330 members of the house he sees a body of men whose average age is under 40. Fully one-third of these chaps, who appear to think their fame and fortunes won, and who are already swelling up a good deal in their swaddling clothes, will disappear two years hence. Joe Cannon said the other day that in his fourteen years of service in congress he had seen more than a thousand men come and go. Three or four of these have gone over to the senate, a few have died; the large majority would answer to the roll of ex-congressmen, every one of them representing a disappointed ambition. Such is life.

WALTER WELLMAN.

AMERICANIZED BLACKS.

How the Old African Songs Were Naturalized and Modified. [Special Correspondence.]

NEW YORK, Dec. 5.-The least known and most rarely witnessed pastime of the plantation darkey is perhaps the 'bran dance." The season for it is when the corn has been gathered, and new meal is in the bin; but it is often danced during the holidays when the weather permits.

I once walked up on such a dance which was suspended as soon as I was observed. A group patted and chanted the steps of the dance, which was being described by about half a dozen young bucks. There would be a lull and ther a burst of wild harmony. Bran, which gave its name to the dance, was conspicuous by its absence from the ceremony. Although I knew several of those present very intimately, the dancing was not re sumed. When interrupted the dancers were swaving themselves backward and forward with regular movements of the hands, then this would cease and they would jump up as if suddenly the earth had become heated to an unbearable degree. The only reason I could gather for the dance was that they always danced it. Inquiry failed to elicit further information, and I fancy that it was originally an African dance, the motive of which has been lost, and the music and movements remaining to them have been dedicated to the harvesting of the corn

A favorite entertainment on every plantation is the hot supper. It has as warm a place in the affections of the tenants in the "quarters" as has the raffle on the east side of New York or the 'pink tea" in the Murray Hill district.

Christmas had only two days before gladdened every Christian fireside, when, on advice of "Cupid," and under his guidance, we started out one evening to witness such an occasion. The air was sharp and bracing, with a suggestion of

frost. Within the cation reveiry was at its height, and the crevices between the cation logs were free from "chinking." The night winds that came through these were disregarded by the assembled guests, who, inside and out, numbered probably 160. By assiduous crowding, which interfered with the dancers, about half this number could get in.

The picture was a striking one. Several children frolicked about with their Santa Claus toys that had stood the wear and tear of two days. Toy balloons, stick candy, canned fruits and

loons, stick candy, canned fruits and tin horns were conspicuous. The nature of holiday investments by the old folks vas evidenced in the display of bras-lnger rings, ear bobs, brooches and watchchains, which were already tarwatchchains, which were already tarnishing. The younger members of the gathering could be found within, where a violin was delefully squeaking "sugar in de gourd," and all hands seemed energetically vying with each other as to agility and staying qualities. The hon ors of the dance went to the most vigorous. When a contest was spirited the others would gather around, appland, join in the patting—on the knees, chest or two hands—and urge the dancers to further efforts. further efforts.

In one corner, on a rude pine table, which was the buffet, stood the viands which gave the name to the occasion which gave the name to the occasion—
the hot supper. The good things were
as savory as though Delmonico's chel
had presided at the spit. Liquids and
substantials were retailed by the hostes
to the guests present, and the manner or
distinction in her prices might give a cua
to some of our enterprising bonifaces.
On the payment of twenty-five cents
the whilom diner was allowed to help
himself. For fifteen cents he was served
and not allowed further replenishment. and not allowed further replenishment. Refreshments were taken standing. the black bottles that contained liquid refreshments, a wag remarked or there being only two kinds: "Plair drunk" and "drunk and disorderly."

The cooking was done outdoors over a huge fire, which had been lighted in the front yard. About this, sitting on logs. were the older folks, smoking and study-ing the blaze, or talking in subdued voices, as if afraid of disturbing the fur THOMAS P. HENRY.

A NEW GUN.

Is Will Doubtless Set the Experts by the

A new gun, called the Brown wire gun, invented by Mr. John Hamilton Brown, is proposed, which will undoubt-edly set the experts at loggerheads. The gun consists of an inner tube of longitudinal steel segments, wound about with wire under such a strong pressure that the expansive power of gunpowder will not force them apart. Outside of



CROSS SECTION. resisting a pressure of 125,000 pounds to the square inch The circumferential strain is all thrown on to the wire, which has an elastic limit of 125,000 and a tensile strength of 267,000 pounds to the square inch.

The wire is wound by the aid of an electric tension regulator, which governs the tension at which it is wound to onetenth of an ounce of uniformity throughout the entire mass.

The steel segments are made six inches wide and a quarter of an inch thick at the inner edge, and less than half an inch thick at the outer edge.

The lining tube will be inserted in two pieces, the joint being slightly in advance of where the base of the projectile rests at the moment of greatest pr It will readily appear to any one that, if

the gun can be constructed practically, as the plan is conceived theoretically, it ought to be a very tough arm. The rigidity of a gun cast all together renders it liable to a number of defects But can the gun be practically constructed? The great difficulty seems to be uni formity. Can the wire be wound by means of an electric regulator uniformly? And even if a uniform tension is obtained it is claimed that it will not answer, as in that case the outer layers would have a tendency to loosen the inner layers. It is also asserted that there will be a difficulty in tempering so long a piece of steel as that required for the segments. As to the wire, experts fear that it will be found impossible to get wire men to furnish large quantities up to stand-

ard. Mr. L'rown, Longitudinal Section, confident as to the practicability of constructing the gun and its availability, and thinks that it will be proof against longitudinal wearing of furrows because of the give to the gun. Lieut. G. N. Whistler, of the Fifth United States artillery, has spent much time with Mr. Brown in making the mathematical calculations incident to the

Built to Sell.

A railroad is a railroad, isn't it? The public thinks so. But under the surface, railroads are sometimes built to sell. For instance, there is a piece of road I recently saw that is laid with rails of thirty pounds to the yard-105,600 pounds of iron to the mile of trade. Now, a local street car company will put seventyeight pound steel rails down-274,560 pounds to the mile, or 137 tons and 566 pounds. A great many trunk lines are laying ninety-six pound steel rails-337,920 pounds, or 168 tons and 1,920 pounds to the mile. At \$30 a ton to iron the first would cost \$1,690 a mile, the last \$5,070. So it will be seen how railroads are built to sell. But this is not all the saving. Sometimes it is cheaper to build two miles of track around a hill than half a mile straight through; and the miles count in selling, especially western roads. Then, I have seen rails spiked at quarters and centers, or, at most, half the ties skipped. There is also a difference between eight inch clear white oak ties without sap, sixteen inches between centers, and "culled" or soft wood ties two feet apart. In short, it takes a man a long time to learn the difference that can be made in the expense of constructing a railroad.—Interview in St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

OF PUTTING OUT FIRES.

QUESTIONS TO BE DISCUSSED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

The Making of Fireproof Buildings and the Matter of Adequate Fire Escaped Are Also Interesting -The Recent Fires in Lyon, Boston and Minneapolis.

The occurrence of three such fires as that at Lynn, Boston and Minneapolis; the fact that at one time the firemen lost control and the flames threatened to sweep Boston and repeat the conflagra-tion of 1878, and that there was appalling loss of life at Minneapolis, will do lead to redoubled vigilance in the matter of fire extinguishing systems, fire escapes and fireproof buildings. At such times

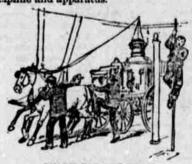


MINNEAPOLIS TRIBUNE BUILDING BEFORE THE FIRE.

Do new conditions need new adapts tions? The character of material used, the height of buildings, the exposure of frame districts, which, when aflame, act as kindlers to more substantial structures—these and many similar matters entering into the problem of fighting fire in great cities, come up to excite a new

The growth of fire departments in the older cities where modern systems have been perfected has been very slow. London during the Eighteenth century was far ahead of New York in fire apparatus, but during the haleyon days of the American volunteer system, and during the early days of steam fire engines, New York shot far ahead of her old mother across the ocean. While London had the primitive fire engines, which, it is true, were worked by people who were con-sidered too old for any other purpose, their principal operators being old wo-men, lines of New Yorkers were passing buckets filled with water from the North and East rivers.

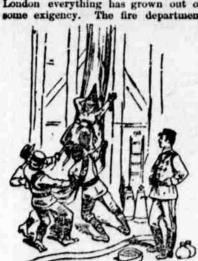
After relying on these for more than half a century, they sent to London and secured some engines such as were then in use there. These engines were the beginning of the New York fire department. Out of those who were accustomed to take them to fires grew the volunteer system, which attained its greatest perfection and prominence in the "fifties." Then hand engines were superseded by steam, and since there has been a steady improvement in discipline and apparatus.



The late Capt. Ericsson bears such re-

fires as Harvey, the discoverer of the blood, bears to the modern practice of medicine. Ericsson was a pioneer, but he was not a practical developer of the present system. John Braithwaite and John Ericsson built a steam engine in London sixty years ago, but they had to fight a prejudice against innovation which then existed in England; besides, none of the earlier steam fire engines were available on account of the time required for getting up steam. The difficulty was overcome when A. B. Latta, of Cincinnati, introduced tubular boilers. Since then the steam fire engine has been the only method of throwing water on fires in large cities.

The fire department of London is called the Metropolitan Fire brigade, and exists by virtue of a parliamentary act. The chief is an autocrat during a fire; he may pull down houses, shut the water off the mains of any district, and, if necessary, would doubtless not hesitate to blow up one-quarter of the city if he could find dynamite enough. In London everything has grown out of some exigency. The fire department



A TUBE FIRE ESCAPE.

there is no exception to the general rule. During the first half of the Eighteenth century the insurance companies began by keeping fire engines for the purpose of protecting property on which they held insurances, and in 1733 seven offices combined under the title of the London Fire Engine establishment. Others were gradually added till all the principal offices were members, and the establishment became the city fire department. Even to this day the insurance companies constitute one of the principal sources of income to the bri-

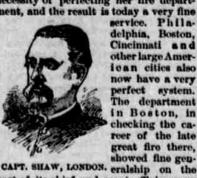
In London they have 53 steam fire engines and 95 hand engines. There are 32 miles of hose carried on 75 hose carts. Besides these there are 7 steam vessels and 11 rafts. Of fire escapes there are 146, besides 9 long wire ladders. The firemen number 591, including all ranks, 16 pilots and 67 coachmen. They have some ingenious contrivances of seving life in London, one of the most useful of which is a canvas shute, in which a person may come down and be received by the firemen without injury. Capt. Eyre M. Shaw is chief of the brigade.

The New York department, when steam to engines were adopted, was built entirely anew. The management was placed in the hands of commissionthe command being given to a chief. In New York there are nearly double the number of firemen employed in London. being about 1,000 in all. The steamers number 85, and the fact that there are no hand engines, as in London, indicate that the people of the United States are far more ready to throw e old than

the people of England. But in New York there are 3 water towers, 33 hook and ladder trucks, 10 chemical fire engines, 130 chemical extinguishers, with 35 miles of hose and 54 hose tenders.

Charles O. Shay is chief, This force and apparatus protect the aboutes and the goods of less than 2,000,000 of people, while the London fire brigade is supposed to protect a city of some 4,500,000. It will appear that the New York apparatus is more modern from the excess of steamers and the "chemicals." Indeed, a comparison of the number of men and apparatu seems to indicate a far more effective service in New York than in London, though, perhaps, the buildings are more substantial in the Old World.

In efficiency, doubtless, the Chicago department comes next to New York. After her great fire her citizens saw the necessity of perfecting her fire depart-ment, and the result is today a very fine



part of its chief and great efficiency on the part of the men. A great feature nowadays in fire fight-

ing is the telegraph system. To know of a fire the instant it occurs, and to get to it with apparatus for its extinguishment without delay, are of the utmost importance, especially in windy and dry weather. The large cities now all have a fire department telegraph, with numerous signal stations. The horses are so placed that they can be harnessed in the quickest possible time, and learn, when they hear the gong which is struck by electricity, that they are going to race to a fire, and are eager to be off.

The appurtenances for use at fires have been increasing in ingenuity till there are now water towers, telescope ladders. life saving hooks with cross pieces for climbing and tools for extinguishing in profusion. But of late years a new problem has been staring the firemen in

the face: that is, the height of the town buildings such as are being put up in New York, Chicago and other large cities, No fire apparatus has yet been devised for reaching these buildings from

the outside. They CHIEF SHAY, NEW YORK are usually considered fire proof, but many of them are not, and there is enough combustible material in any of them to cause no inconsiderable fire, especially when they are exposed to one beside and beneath. This, taken in connection with general conflagrations, such as have swept Portland, Boston and Chicago, becomes an important subject for speculation. Al-ready in Chicago there is a district composed almost exclusively of these tower buildings. They are exposed to the west by other bricks, and then a forest of frames. Let a great fire occur among them. How can the firemen work at so great an elevation? And what is true of Chicago will become so of all other large American cities.

NEW YORK'S NEW MUSIC HALL.

A Splendid Structure Which Will Cost New York is to have a great concert hall, The plans for this gigantic building were filed recently in the building bureau, and the pre-liminary work has been commenced under direction of the architects. The contract calls for the completion of the building by Dec. 1, 1890. It is the intention of those interested to make this concert hall one of the finest in the world. If the present plans are carried out it will certainly fulfill the expec-



THE MUSIC HALL, tations of the builders. This building is not to be a concert hall with stage appliances of a theatre. It will not have a drop curtain The stage will be a permanent architectural feature, just as much as the walls or ceiling. The whole interior will be so arranged as to be a sort of immense sounding board. The acoustic properties of the building will be as nearly perfect as can be made. The decora-tions will be simple, yet elaborate. The elec-tric lighting will be so arranged as to give

equal distribution in all parts of the house.

The boxes in the interior are to be arranged in a novel way. The first tier will be entirely open, each having a separate antoroom with a private entrance. This tier will extend all around the house. The second tier will be partially closed, with small partition toward the front. It will go only partially around, receding slightly from the first tier. The two balconies beyond recede in the same way. The effect is to give the whole an open, roomy appearance, in contrast with the stuff's effect of boxes piled directly on top of one

another.

The corridor, which will run entirely around the house, will have eleven exita. The staircases will be made to slope, so as to make ascent an easy matter. Cloak rooms and toilet rooms will be in all parts of the house. A large banquet hall, capable of seat-ing one thousand people, will be situated under the auditorium

In the upper part of the building will be several large rooms for choruses, soloists and conductors, and over the hall a chapter room. Directly over the stage will be a gym nasium, and artists' studios will occupy the space under the roof.

The building will cost something over \$1,-000,000. The materials used on the exterior will be Aberdeen granite, terra cotta brick and iron. It will be absolutely fireproct. The building will be situated at Fifty-seventh arrest and Seventh avenue, and will have a frontage of 150 feet and will extend 175 feet in the rear. There will be entrances on Seventh avenue, Fifty-sixth street and Fifty seventh street.

Patsy Donovan.

Patsy Donovan has been signed to play is the Boston outfield during the season of 1800. He was born in Lawrence, Mass., in 1865, and when old

E marie enough took to ball playing as a In 1886 he played with several local teams and with the Comets of South Lawrence, making an excellent showing both at the bat and in the field. and in the field.
His work came to
the notice of Frank
P. Hart, then a director in the Law
rence club, and Mr.
Hart decided at
FATSY DONOVAR.

Hart decided at FATST BONOVAR. conce to give young Bonovan a trial. On Memorial day, 1886, Denovan played with the Lawrences in Haverhill, and the Shoe city ball cranks immediately went wild over Lawrence's new acquisition. Parsy is a great favorite in South Lawrine, and has many friends who are configured by the shift of the Boston's gar a vedge is a quiet, genial young man, and he will be the shift of t

CAPITAL SIGHTSEERS.

THEY ARE NUMEROUS NOW THAT CONGRESS IS IN SESSION.

It Is Easier to Visit Washington Now Than it Once Was-The Potunds of the Capitol and Its Paintings-John Trumbull-The United States Senate.

Time was when Washington was the most disagreeable city in the country. Now it is, perhaps, the most agreeable— thanks to the much abused Boss Shepherd and other "blessings in disguise." Perhaps it is a misnomer to call the Washington of 1800 and previously a city; it was rather a great, sprawling congress of villages. Around each pub-lic building and on each favored hill



SIGHTSEERS IN THE ROTUNDA. muddy in wet weather, very dusty in dry weather, and not at all attractive in any weather. Now Washington is the Mecca of bridal couples, the delight of the tourist, and a place sought by men

of means and leisure.
In the good old times Davis, of Indiana, and Marshall, of Kentucky, and Browning, of Illinois, and their colleagues from all the central west made up little parties for the journey to Wash-ington, for it was rather a tedious affair by stage or canal to the river, up the Ohio by steamer as far as they could go, and then by stage over the mountain and down to Washington, and it was important to have good company. Nor did they fear the loss of much time in a session entertaining their callers front home. Now the constituents of their successors come by thousands during the year; the excursion to Washington is as common as the little trip by steam-er was in 1830-'40, and many roads sell tickets from New York to the west with a "via Washington" if desired. And the middle, western or southern man in Washington still "calls on his member"

-often feels it a social duty to do so. The visitor is usually an early riser, and when he has paid his respects to his member, he hastens away first to the ro-tunda of the Capitol and gazes long and earnestly up through 180 feet of mel-lowed light to that wonderful concave where Freedom, Victory and other goddesses are playing ring around the rosy about the head of the immortal George. If he is stalwart and enterprising, he wants to go up there, and, after a wearisome climb, reaches the little gallery, which is invisible from below. Once there, his first feeling is apt to be dis-gust—at the figures which looked so lovely from below. Close at hand they look like coarse smears of tallow and ocher. Brumidi painted "The Apotheosis of Washington" to look well overhead and 180 feet or so away.

In a few minutes, however, the visitor finds that he is repaid for the climb by the view of the floor below. A comical effect of the vertical sight is the distortion of figures; a man walking directly under the observer looks as astronom tell us a man would look on the face of the moon if we had telescopes sufficient to materialize him—and there was a man there. The observer sees but the top of the man's head and his shoulders. His while his legs, swinging to front and rear, and therefore presenting a lateral view, appear as long in proportion as those of a spider. The great painting of Brumidi is on a canopy 65 feet in diame ter and 205 feet in circumference, covering, therefore, an area of 4,664 feet. Its execution at such a height involved several years of arduous labor.

The paintings below, ranging around the walls of the rotunda, are not yet complete, but they are interesting, in structive, and to some people amusing. Critics have had much to say about the coloring in some of those pictures, and



SIGHTSEERS IN THE SENATE GALLERY. ist designed in the "Surrender at Yorktown, Oct. 19, 1781," to show how the autumnal sun of Virginia had affected the contestants-French, English and Americans-from commanding general to drummer boy, being of a "rich, dark red complexion." But no sarcasm can lessen the patriot's interest in the productions of John Trumbull; and the more he knows about the artist the more will he study the pictures, for the painter's life was itself a truly American epic, and he has wrought his character into the paintings.

John Trumbull was a son of the famous Jonathan Trumbull, Revolutionary governor of Connecticut and staff officer of Washington; the son, born in 1756, lived till 1843, and thus saw, and, as one may say, felt the evolution of the United States. He was present at the "surrender of Gen. Burgoyne, Oct. 17, 1777, and made a sketch of it in pencil-a sketch he amplified into this painting. And to add to the interest the figures are nearly all actual likenesses, for which the subjects sat to the artist. From Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and several others tise artist received the most minute details of the position of the members while the "signing of the Declaration of Independence" was in progress—all these details brought out in the picture. So the so called "Trumbull Series" in the rotunda have a never failing interest; he was America's patriot painter, and the visitor should study the series with his history in hand.

From the gallery of the senate the visitor may look down upon the greatest law making body in the world-and the most powerful-for that is what the United States senate now is. No other senate wields the power of so many people, none other has such extensive functions. The British house of lords is a mere group of figureheads. Only the Roman senate in its best days, before the coming of the Casars, can be compared with the American. In its hands are the inauguration of war and making of peace; the incarnate force of fortytwo states, and the acceptance or rejectic 1 of all federal officials. Let the vis-

itor gaze long at these men, for they represent many a hard struggle and success in every walk of life. The venerable Edmunds, of Vermont, who helps to represent a third of a million Americans, and the sturdy Hiscock, of New York, who has nearer six millions behind him, are here but the equals of Jones and Stewart, whose entire state has fewer people than one ward of New York city, while the genial Cullom, who won honor in the war for the Union, is but the colleague of Louisiana's Gibson, who is, as paragraphers say, "pockmarked with bullet wounds" received for the south-ern Confederacy—their co-operation here a sublime monument to a reunited coun-

These look like the workmanship of heaven;
This is the porcelain clay of human kind,
And therefore cast into such noble molds.
Many days might profitably be spend
in the galleries of the two houses, but for in the galleries of the two houses, but for the short time visitor there is too much to see in Washington. Aside from the public buildings, which are perfection of their kind, these places demand special attention: the Smithsonian Institute, the Corcoran Art Gallery and the Patent Office. The first two are largely the fruit of private benefactor; the last embodies the genius of a nation and the liberal statesmanship of congress. But, aside from all these, Washington itself, as a city, is well worth seeing. Every American should embrace the earliest opportunity to see the beautiful capital of his country.

TWO FOREIGN SINGERS.

lamagno, the Italian Tener, and Frauloin Huhe, the German Roprane.

From the number of actresses, actors and singers whose names one sees on the sailing lists of outgoing vessels and among the "distinguished arrivals," one might almost decide that a good share of the "professionals" spent the best part of their time on the sea. Among the latest visitors to America are Francesco-Tamagno, first of Itelian tenors, and Fri. Charlotte Huhn, a German songstrem, whe will sine during the present season at the Huhn, the German Soprano. will sing during the present season

Metropolitan opers house.
Francesco Tamagno will sing the class tenor parts with Mme. Patti, under Mr. Abbey's management, during ber American



ing to The New York Herald, were in "Don Carlos," "Aida" and "The Prophet." He created the tenor parts in "The Prodical Bon" and in "Marion Delorme." For four years in succession Tamag in South America, receiving no end of ovations in Montevideo and Rio. He

The great event in Tamagno's artis-tic career was the in Verdi's latest 4 opera. He achieved a triumph, which the European press echoed for months.

Last summer Tamagno sang i venture was not a success financially, but there was nothing but praise for the tenorie

ine impersonation.

Fri, Charlotte Huhn is a soprano, heard on the first night of the season in New York as Senta, in "The Flying Dutchman." and studied at the Conservatory of Colors where she carried off prizes in piano playls as well as in singing Since 1887 Fri. Hab has been singing with success at Kroli's the

A Theatre for the Elite Only. The clite of New York are at last to have a playhouse of their own. The pinns, if carried out accordingly, will artistically make the other theatres of the world appear like unto Cairo bazars. As I am to understand, says a writer in Theatre, the theatre is to be on Fifth avenue. There will be a semi-circular drive in front, by which the vehicles will enter on one side and leave on the other. The architecture is to be in the style of the Byzantine houses of worship. The examped convict chairs of our modern orchestra are to be done away with entirely. An auditor wishing to witness a performance may be a little surprised to find no seats in the house at 10 o'clock in the morning, but he is requested by The elite of New York are at last to have a o'clock in the morning, but he is requested by the transurer to choose his "circle" on the floor and to mention the kind of chair that

floor and to mention the kind of chair that its prefers.

At night the audience are scated comfortably in their favorite chairs, with a plenty of akimbo room. No tickets will be sold after half-past 6 in the evening. The patrons are requested with much force to appear full dressed; consequently the gallery deities will be denied their regular privileges, for not only will the small boy have to put on his hired sparrow tail coat, but may have to find consolation in a stare outside, as there is to be no gallery in the sacred temple. There will, however, be a balcony of boxes—one balcony, an orchestra and parquet. The tickets, to be handsomely gotten up, will cost our cousins from the Hub \$5 each. The plays will represent the universal status of the drewill represent the universal status of the dra-ma, chiefly, as I am told, to be translations m the Oriental. Several of the works of Calderon are to be produced, the "Magico Prodigioso" and others. Ibsen, too, will be represented by his "Ghosts," which, it is hoped, will visit the actors regularly.

The Empress of Germany



AUGUSTA VICTORIA. Here is a picture, from a recent photograph, of Augusta Victoria, empress of Germany. She is, it will be seen, a weman of truly regal presence.

Considered the Fitness of Things.
"How could you tell the medium che

ed you?" "Because the spirit spoke in Engli He should have used a dead language he's been dead ten years."—Beston