FOR GOD OR CÆSAR.

Rev. G. Hodges on Combining Common and Religious Duties.

ALL GOOD WORK IS WORK FOR GOD.

The Christian Should be a Loyal Citizen and a Voter.

FAITHFULNESS IN WORK AND PRAYER

[WRITTEN FOR THE DISPATCH.]

THERE are two kinds of questions which are kept out, by common consent, and very prudently, from the discussions of all well-conducted debating societies: Questions about politics and questions about religion. These questions are barred out, not because they are not interesting, but because they are altogether too interesting. They are subjects concerning which most men who think at all have such decided and alert convictions that they do not readily lend themselves to the purposes of social gatherings.

Our Lord was once confronted with both these questions at the same moment. There appeared before Him a company, strangely consorted, of ecclesiastics and politicians. And they said, "Whose side are you on?" Are you on our side? or are you on our side? Do you believe in the State, or do you believe in the Church—which?"

The question was the more difficult, because it was asked—as we would say to-day—in the heat of a political campaign. The future of the Jewish nation waited upon the issue. One of two courses must be speedily adopted, one of two parties must win. There must be a sharp, and definite religious rebellion, throwing off this Roman and heathen yoke; or there must be a definite and final political submission, a shifting of the yoke into the easiest place upon the national back and shoulders. The question turned upon a payment of taxes. Shall we resist the tax and rebel? or shall we pay the tax and submit? That was what they asked Christ.

A DELICATE QUESTION.

And Christ took that petty, local question of provincial politics, and answered it by the statement of a principle as wide as the world and as lasting as time. He refused to descend into the partisan arena. You are both right, He answered, and both wrong. "Render unto Cæsar the things which be Cæsar's, and unto God the things which be God's."

This is by no means contradictory to that other word of Christ: "Ye cannot serve God and Mammon." Mammon, among the Jews, meant the world. The saying world indeed seems to mean that one or the other, God or Mammon, the church or the world, must be given up. But Christ is here His own interpreter. There is some use after all even for "unrighteous Mammon." "Make yourselves friends" by it. Go into the world as into the field of opportunity. Make yourself so useful in the world, so helpful in the world, such an enlightening and uplifting influence in the world, that other men and women may have reason to be eternally grateful to you.

Thus the commanded choice is not one which forbids all contact with the world, any more than the service of God forbids the service of Cæsar. Men are not to flee from Cæsar into the solitude of the hermit's cell, and are not to take refuge against Mammon behind the rags of the mendicant or the vow of perpetual poverty. When Christ named us in His prayer, on the night in which He was betrayed, His petition was not that we should be taken out of the world, only that we should be kept from the evil. And men and women are not to think that because they are in the world and full of its duties and its cares, they are thereby, on account of any necessity, removed from God, and less able to serve Him.

If men look with pity and wonder, rather than with admiration, upon Simon of the pillar, perched up high in the air, taking small interest in the world, and lending no hand to better it, and paying absolutely no service to Cæsar; there is another, his counterpart, who is far less admirable and to be imitated, and that is the Simon of the store, or of the office, or of the kitchen, or of the parlor, who cares only for what may please his senses, not for what may profit his soul; only for this world, not at all for the world to come; who puts the lower before the higher; and pays

NO VISIBLE SERVICE TO GOD.

The Christian is to be a loyal and interested citizen; he is to vote, and to take his part in politics. The best course for men who are desirous of getting the name of God written in the Constitution of the United States, is to bring the spirit of God into the politics of the United States by their example.

The Christian is to be a working citizen; he is to give his time and thought and strength, to his trade, or his traffic, or his profession. It is just as much his duty to do his daily work industriously, honestly, persistently, efficiently, and to support his family, as it is to say his prayers. Every man is serving God, who is sincerely and helpfully doing that which he can do best. He is right who affirms that Dickens was better employed in writing his novels than he would have been in preaching the gospel, simply because the one was his mission rather than the other; that Mendelssohn did well to compose music instead of going out as a missionary to the Choctaws; and that Shakespeare was born to serve the world and his Maker better as a playwright than as a bishop." He is not robbing God who pays his due to Cæsar.

But let him who renders unto Cæsar that which is Cæsar's see to it that he does not stop there. The man of politics, the man of business, the man of affairs, the man of the world, if he would be a man, must deserve that title which is the synonym for all that is manliest and best in human life—he must be a Christian.

It is, indeed, to be remembered that although the choice between God and Cæsar, between God and Mammon, between holy living and the calls of a busy life, is not a strict alternative, yet there is a choice, and a serious one. It consists in the duty of men and women to put God first, in a way so deep, so constant, so comprehensive and pervading, that only an earnest person can understand what the words imply. They are to think in every difficulty: What would God have me to do? They are to put away every regulation of Mammon, every edict of Cæsar, which runs counter to the will of God. Whatever impediment comes in between the soul and God, they are absolutely to cast out. If it is the pleasures of the world; if the play or the ball, or the card party, or the novel, comes in between their soul and heaven, making their devotions briefer or their hearts colder, or their good example weaker, they are in that respect, and just so far, to put this spiritual impediment out. If it is the occupations of the world; if business cares or household worries hinder the religious life; if certain commercial methods or certain social customs put a strong strain upon the conscience, they are just so far, to stop.

A COMMON MISTAKE.

But it was the mistake of those Hebrew religionists and politicians, and it is the mistake into which some honest people stumble to-day, to suppose that the common duties cannot be thoroughly done, and the heavenly duties done also. It is a good deal the same kind of blunder which a man would make who should take the hour hand off the face of his clock, so as not to tire the clock. He would be like the man or woman who says: "I am so very busy, I have so many cares that I will have to leave religion out."

Why, a clock is made to carry an hour hand and a minute hand together. All its complicated machinery is constructed and balanced for just that purpose. If you take away the hour hand you might as well take away the minute hand and the dial and the wheels and the case and the clock. It is the hour hand which makes all this machinery good for anything.

Take away religion out of human life and you have taken the hour-hand off the clock; the pendulum may go on swinging, and the wheels may go on wheeling, and the ticking may sound as loud as ever, but all goes for nothing. The busiest life without the thought of God, without the spirit of religion, is only a tangle of noisy wheels rushing around in a great hurry, for nothing. The pleasures of society and the pursuit of sanctity, the world of business and the world of prayer are just as harmoniously adjusted in a right life as the hour-hand balances the minute-hand in a good clock.

And so the question is not as its first askers imagined, Which shall we serve, God or Cæsar? It is not, Shall we be good business men, good housekeepers, or shall we be good Christians? But, How may we do both, and be both?

Consider now, in this connection, how helpful to genuine devotion is simple faithfulness in work.

"My Father worketh," says our Lord, "and I work." And so when we work, we are following a divine example. God, having become man, humbled himself to become a working man, and to labor daily at the bench of a carpenter, that this divine example might be plain beyond mistake. Think of that when tasks multiply upon you.

Moreover, all good work is work for God—really for God. This is His world; we are His servants. He has given us the tools with which to work, and has set us down where He would have us use them. If you have a strong arm, if you have a quick brain, if you have a knowledge of art, of trade, of finance,

HE GAVE IT TO YOU.

When you use these divinely given tools of yours, in this divinely appointed place of yours, you are doing something for God. "Who sweeps a room as for God's laws, makes that, and the action fine." And so it was right that Fra Angelico should pray before he painted. He was God's artist. So it was right that that great merchant should inscribe "to God's glory," at the top of the pages of his ledger. He was God's servant, doing his share of the work which had been given him to do. When Hadyn was composing "the creation," he wrote upon each leaf of his manuscript "to the sole glory of God;" and when at "let there be light," the whole vast audience rose up in uncontrollable applause, he waved them down, with tears in his eyes, crying out, "it is not mine, it is God's." It was God's, but no more than your own work is, if you do it faithfully as God's servant.

But there is work and work. There is the work which a horse does, and the work which a man may do. A man may work like a horse, with no higher purpose than a horse has. Or he may work like a man.

He works like a man, who does his work consciously for God, doing the best he knows how, because that is the kind of work God wants. This kind of work needs faithfulness in prayer.

Among the races at the Olympic games was a race which was run with torches. The torch was lighted at an altar beside the starting point, and the winner was he who was not only first at the goal, but was the first to get there with his torch still burning. Swiftness went for nothing if the light went out.

The light is the light of God. Kindle the torch at the altar of God. The busy man and the busy woman, of all people, should begin this day with the petition that their words and acts and thoughts, may be to the praise and glory of God's holy name, that they may be strengthened against temptation and delivered from evil.

Here are the ways, then, by which the busiest person may be helped to live religiously, by faithfulness in work, and by faithfulness in prayer. It remains to speak of

DEALING WITH HINDERANCES.

If some busy people are asked why they live so unreligiously, so unspiritually; why they look down so much to earth like the animals, and not up toward heaven as men and angels may, they will say that they have so many things to think of and so little private time, and so many peace-destroying and temper-spoiling obstacles that devotion is impossible. There is a proverb in French to the effect that "Earnestness achieves the impossible." And there is a maxim in English which is even better, which counsels us to "turn stumbling-blocks into stepping stones." And anybody can do that, by God's help, if they only try hard enough.

There is a picture by Domenichino of a woman and an angel. The woman holds a tablet on which is written in golden letters a verse from a psalm; the angel kneels beside her. The woman is the blessed St. Francesca. Francesca was a noble lady, rich and beautiful, living in the midst of the gayest society of Rome. She was at her prayers one day, the story goes, and was called away six times while she was trying to read a single verse in the Psalter; and every time went cheerfully and attended to the duty or the pleasure and came back devoutly. And the sixth time when she came back she found the whole verse shining in bright gold, touched by an angel's finger.

The beautiful old story is not true, but its meaning is both true and helpful; that even a life which is busy with pleasures need not be undevout, need not be wholly given over unto Cæsar, and that God blesses with an especial blessing a worship and a service which costs something—some inconvenience, some sacrifice, some patience, some self-restraint, some self-denial.

GEORGE HODGES.

SECRET SOCIETIES.

O. U. A. M.

—Zara Council No. 386—Councilor, William L. Reed; V. C., A. H. Vankerk; R. S., William S. Murphy; Treas., Henry Henning; F. S., Sam A. Wallace; Ind., H. R. Thomas; Ex., H. B. Turbett; I. P., John Snider; O. P., John T. Honader; Jr. Ex. C., W. A. J. Burket; Rep., John P. Kenny.

—General Custer Council No. 238—Councilor, D. F. Croford; V. C., William Barton; R. S., J. W. Patton; A. R. S., W. E. Bunting; F. S., B. F. Green; Treas., G. H. Schawaker; Ind., W. H. Moist; Ex., Sanford Thompson; I. P., T. S. Ross; O. P., J. B. Bartlett; Jr. Ex. C., P. S. Brown; Rep., P. S. Brown.

—Colonel Sam Black Council No. 384—Councilor, Charles Swank; V. C., James Houston; R. S., James Hazen; A. R. S., John Satch; F. S., Ward Borland; Treas., Charles Cregg; Ind., Wilson Jefferson; Ex., Charles Ander; I. P., John Simons; O. P., S. T. Ander; P. C., William Wallace; Rep., William Cregg.

—Lexington Council No. 377—Councilor George H. Myers; V. C., Jacob Oehsenirt; R S., J. B. Ross; A. R. S., A. F. Reed; F. S., H A. Howard; Treasurer, — Kerr; Ind., Milo Johnston; Ex., John H. Esler; I. P., W. C. Jefferson; P. P., Andrew Miller; P. C., A. Sill; Rep., H. A. Howard; Trustee, John Arth.

—Birmingham Council No. 299. Councilor, J. M. Bier; V. C., Churls Shecaring; R. S., John W. Gray; A. R. S., William W. White; F. S., Henry Fritz; Treas., James P. Johnston; Ind., Hen Smith; Ex., John Salsbury; I. P. Walt Triplet; O. P., D. C. Hamilton; P. C., William W. Elliott; Rep., Robert M. Johnston Trustee, James Coats.

—Officers for the several councils for the present term have been installed, as follows: Knoxville Council No. 379—Councilor, Mark Andrews; V. C., James Keneday; R. S., Ed. Glasgow; A. S., A. Caldwell; F. S., John Roredy; Treas., W. W. Murry; Ind., J. W. Hall; Exam., E. L. Larman; I. P., John Sluth; O. P., David Dewald; Jr. E. C., Prof. G. I. Stul; Representative, W. W. Murry.

—At the regular meeting of Georee W. Childs Commandery No. 17, Loyal Legion, O. U. A. M., the following officers were installed by D. N. Commander Henry Smith: Com., Thomas Ashell; V. C., John Beary; R. S., Al Teaters; Treasurer, John P. Spineweber; Marshal, Charles Sheeren; Warden, Harry Hunter; Chaplain, Isaac Bennett; Guards, Wm. W. Elliott, Walter Triplet; P. C., Jas. P. Johnston; Captain, John Beary; First Lieutenant, Charles Galley; Second Lieutenant, Thomas A. Duff; Color Bearer, Thomas Kessan; Trustees, Henry Sweeny, R. M. Johnston, Isaac Bennett, J. P. Johnston.

Heptasophs.

—The degree team will visit Beaver Avenue Conclave, of Allegheny, on Tuesday night.

—Deputy Martin Schroeder will visit Ingram Conclave at Ingram station to-morrow night.

—Pittsburg Conclave No. 89 has appointed C. M. Fairman and A. C. Shaw contest captains. Each captain has 24 aids.

—The Heptasoph degree team will visit Friendship Conclave in Pythian Hall, corner Fifth avenue and Market street, to-morrow night. Deputy Stephen Collins will also install the officers of the conclave.

—Deputy Martin Schroeder installed the following officers of West End Conclave, on last Thursday night: Past Archon, William Graham; Archon, A. F. Turner; Provost, John Collins; Prelate, John Panner; Secretary, Robert Woods; Financier, John L. Forster; Treasurer, William H. Yingling; Inspector, C. L. Koerner; Warden, James M. Kirby; Sentinel, Daniel F. Danahey; Medical Examiner, Dr. Charles Gangloff; Representative to Supreme Conclave, Homer L. McGaw; Alternate, C. L. Koerner.

—Special Deputy Morris Cohen, assisted by Supreme Organizer Osmond, installed the following officers of Sharpsburg Conclave on last Monday evening: Past Archon, John D. Heiber; Archon, Samuel McClay, Esq.; Provost, J. Q. A. Irvine; Inspector, Charles A. Clowes; Prelate, H. J. Ingham; Secretary, H. Robison; Financier, G. F. Haine; Treasurer, J. A. Donaldson; Warden, J. S. Kirk; Sentinel, H. S. McConnell; Trustees, R. A. Robinson, W. E. Koch, James R. Darragh; Medical Examiner, Dr. W. E. Johnston; Representative to Supreme Conclave, James R. Darragh; Alternate, John D. Heiber.

—The following officers were installed in Monongahela Conclave, of this city, last Tuesday night: Past Archon, M. G. Cohen; Archon, J. Campbell; Provost, R. V. Barker; Prelate, B. N Jacobs; Inspector, T. M. Wood; Secretary, Captain Jos. B. Eaton; Financier, R. T. Hill; Treasurer, E. S. Morrow; Warder, Ed. Lutz; Sentinel, R. B. Brown; Trustees, W. H. Hagan, L. De Wolf, D. C. Snyder; Medical Examiners, Drs. H. B. Orr, A. Blumberg, W. M. Johnson; Representative to Supreme Conclave, D. C. Snyder; Alternate, General A. L. Pearson. Morris Cohen and B. N. Jacobs were presented solid gold badges for bringing in the largest number of new members during the past term. Brother Ludwig will receive a similar badge, the prize offered by Dr. H. B. Orr.

C. M. B. A.

—The Advisory Council meets this, Sunday, afternoon at 2 o'clock.

—A meeting will take place this evening at 4 o'clock at St. John's School, on South Fourteenth street, to organize a branch.

—According to the report of the Secretary of the Advisory Council, the membership in Allegheny county increased 66 per cent last year.

—A meeting will be held at 12:30 to-day at St. Malachi's School, on the Southside, to hear the benefits of the association explained. District Deputy Buckley and others will deliver addresses.

—At St. Joseph's School, Sharpsburg, there will be a meeting this evening at 7:30 o'clock, to be addressed by District Deputy C. P. Keefer and others. Fifteen persons have applied for membership.

—The following officers of Branch No. 34 were installed by Past Chancellor P. G. Nash, last Wednesday evening: President, F. J. Brady; First Vice President, Thomas M. Hughes; Second Vice President, John Conlon; Recording Secretary, H. E. Charle; Assistant Recording Secretary, P. G. Nash; Financial Secretary, John Grant; Treasurer, William Corbett; Marshal, J. P. Jacobs; Guard, Edward Doris; Trustees, Daniel Becher, F. J. Brady, Charles Ebbe, William J. Tomer, James McGuire.

Royal Arcanum.

—The annual election of officers and the installation of the same is the order of the day at this season among the different Councils of Allegheny county. All the former have been perfected and most of the latter. Among them was the installation of the officers of Springfield Council No. 215, on Monday evening, and Mansfield Valley Council No. 840, on Friday evening, by D. D. G. R. George Dunkela, who will perform the same duty for Hazelwood Council on the night of the 24th. The Past Regent association of Allegheny county will hold their annual election of officers on Thursday evening, the 31st of January, and at the same time perfect arrangements for the reception of the Grand Council, which meets in Pittsburg on the third Tuesday of March, 1889.

I. O. O. F.

—On Tuesday evening, January 22, Fort Pitt Lodge, No. 883, will have a very handsome banner presented to it. Several prominent members of the order are expected to be present. Members of sister lodges are invited to be present.

—On Wednesday last a lodge of the Rebekah degree was instituted at Wilkinsburg with appropriate ceremonies. It will be known as Mystic Cross No. 176, and starts with good prospects. The following officers were elected: Noble Grand, Alonzo Ecker; Vice Grand, Mrs. John Porter; Secretary, John Porter; Recording Secretary, C. H. McKelvy; Treasurer, Mrs. Elizabeth Holme.

U. A. M.

—Lincoln Commandery, No. 4, of Bellevue, has ordered new uniforms.

—A commandery will shortly be instituted at Little Washington. About 50 from this city will attend in a body.

—Deputy Past Commander Cooper visited Lincoln Commandery last Wednesday evening; also Comrades Langbein and Clark, of No. 3, and assisted the comrades to initiate three candidates into the mysteries of the order.

Daughters of Liberty.

—The following officers have been installed in Unity Council No. 14, Daughters of Liberty: Councilor, Maggie Dushane; A. C., Annie Duff; V. C., Annie Anderson; A. V. C., Ruth Hayden; R. S., Carrie B. Long; F. S., Mollie R. Johnston; A. S., Kate Lindner; Treasurer, Eva Hoak; Guide, Celia Pastiours; I. G., Bella Richards; O. G., Georgean Moore; P. A. C., Jennie Robson; Trustees, Isaac Bennett, Harry Williams, Maggie Dushane.

A. O. F.

—At the last regular meeting of Court Pride, of Allentown, No. 6285, the following officers were duly installed by Brother Thomas Keary: P. H. C. R., Y. Weetman; C. R., Jas. P. Curtis; S. C. R., J. Williamson; S., J. Bowden; T., H. Hughes; S. W., J. Potts; J. W., T. Howells; J. B., H. Brownhill; S. B., A. McCormick; D. Delegate, W. Curtis; D. Deputy, T. Powell; Trustee and Physician, J. B. Sweeny.

K. O. T. M.

—The following officers of L. W. Ebert tent, No. 47, were installed Friday, January 11, by Past Sir Knight Commander George Colston: P. S. K. C., R. L. Esler; Commander, Charles Vogtrberger; Lt. C., P. G. Guth; R. K., W. B. Munur; F. K., J. J. McGrew; Prelate, L. D. Boggs; Sergeant, S. F. Scott; M. A., F. Meir; First M. G., H. Grant; Second M. G., W. Kundi; Picket, William McCracken; Sentinel, A. C. Muckert; Physician, F. Gartner; Trustees, W. E. Bunting, R. L. Esler, Charles Behringer.

Equitable Aid Union.

—The following officers were installed at the last meeting of Etna Lodge, Equitable Aid Union: President, Mrs. A. M. Williams; Vice President, Mrs. John Hieber; Secretary, E. A. Patterson; Accountant, J. D. Hunter; Treasurer, S. A. Yahres; Chaplain, Mrs. S. A. Yahres; Conductors, Chas. Noel and Mrs. M. Moyle; Sentinel, Mrs. Chas. Harding; Guard, Chas. G. Sautter.

Order of Chosen Friends.

—Goodwill Council No. 12 will hold their second annual reception at Cyclorama Hall on Wednesday evening, January 23. Committee of Arrangements, C. M. Cochrane, U. S. Gillis, Emma E. Leety, V. E. Paulin, George P. Steinmark, William Crede, George P. Leety. Installation of officers next Friday evening.

Sons of Veterans.

—The following named officers were installed at the last meeting of Colonel Collier Camp, No. 139, Sons of Veterans, by Past Captain M. L. Sautter: Captain, L. H. Knost; First Lieutenant, Bert Williams; Second Lieutenant, G. Humphreys; Chaplain, S. J. Smith; First Sergeant, Wm. L. Coats; Quartermaster Sergeant, H. W. Rennof.

British American Association.

—The British American Association will hold a meeting on Monday evening, the 21st inst., for the purpose of instituting the Lawrenceville Branch, No. 15. It is expected that prominent speakers will be present, among them J. H. Williams, Esq., Worthy Grand Secretary of the Association.

Knights of the Golden Eagle.

—Venus Castle, No. 291, K. G. E., have just received their working paraphernalia and did the work of the pilgrim's degree for the first time in regular form on Friday evening, January 11. This castle is but seven weeks old and numbers 100 members, with 35 names on the application list.

Carroll Club.

—The recently organized club of Catholic young men of the East End will be called the Carroll Club. It has 55 members. The rooms are in the Moreland block. F. J. Brady is President.

BUSINESS among the majority of dealers in photographic goods has been steadily getting less for the past year, which they attribute mostly to the failing business of the cheap photographer.

How Does Your Watch Run?

If your watch needs repairing, take it to Hauch's, No. 295 Fifth ave. Good work; low prices; established 1853. WFSU

WORKINGMEN buy a pair of pants for $1 25 or $1 75, home made, at Jackson's Star Corner, 954 and 956 Liberty street. TTSU

EVERYBODY PLEASED

With the Bright Outlook of the Local Business Situation.

A WEEK'S RECORD TO BE PROUD OF.

No Phenomenal Activity, but Everything on a Steadily Growing Basis.

MONEY, OIL, STOCKS AND REAL ESTATE

Business the past week was in the direction of a steady improvement in the volume of transactions, and a general hardening of values, the only notable exception being petroleum, which gradually yielded to a powerful bearish influence that was both unaccountable and unexpected. It was generally conceded that a big deal was being manipulated, of which selling was a prominent factor, with the ulterior purpose of loading up heavily at 85c and under, and it became known that there was heavy buying in New York and the West at these figures. The combination working the deal may change front any day and put prices up, but it is probable it has not fully supplied its wants and will retain its grip on the market for some time longer. Considerable long oil was dumped during the week.

The local stock market presented some interesting features. There was a lively demand for all the specialties, gas, traction and electric heading the list, but holders refused to respond, except in cases of urgency. Brokers attended the Exchange day after day with pockets full of orders, but were unable to obtain what they wanted on terms satisfactory to their customers. These securities, with their growing possibilities, were considered good investments, and those in possession of them were not anxious to let them go. The result of this was increased steadiness all along the line, with comparatively few sales. The inquiry for bank stocks was unusually urgent, but the figures at which they were held were too steep for ordinary purses. Practically they were out of the market.

Real estate was active so far as inquiry could make it so, but the number of deals consumated was rather beyond the average. It was difficult to bring buyers and sellers to look at prices through the same glasses. This divergence of views stood in the way of several transactions. The sensation of the week among real estate men was the so-called Wood street deal, embracing an entire block to be used for hotel purposes. Persistent attempts to run the rumor down resulted in adding to the mystery. All that could be learned of a reliable nature was that a Fourth avenue dealer had sold a property on that street for $100,000, or thereabouts, and that parties in the purchase money had been paid. All other information was withheld. From another source it was learned, in an indirect way, that the same parties were negotiating for the adjoining block, but that there was a slight hitch in regard to the price. It was promised that light would be thrown on the subject this week. Inspector Frank granted 38 permits for new buildings—principally small frame residences—the estimated cost of which is $46,653.

Iron was a shade firmer in consequence of a slight improvement in the demand, but there was no change in quotations. The prospect for a revival increases as the season advances. Large prospective building operations, it is expected, will more than absorb the stock of structural iron on hand. Pig already feels the stimulus of increasing business. Coal and coke were depressed owing to the uncertainty of the outcome of the labor agitation.

BIDDERS GO BEGGING.

Stock Brokers Still Unable to Supply Their Wants.

Stocks were strong yesterday but not active, bidders making nearly all the noise, but accomplishing little. Brokers were on hand at the opening of the session, which was presided over by Captain Barbour, full of orders for all the specialties, but they were unable to supply their wants, owing to the advanced views of those owning the stuff. The result was there were only two sales—one of La Noria and one of Philadelphia Gas. The demand for the stocks was something extraordinary, but there were no responses. Good dividend-payers are not picked up every day. Bids and offers follow:

MORNING.

	Bid.	Asked.
P. Pet. S. & M. Ex	610	....
Allegheny Nat. Bank	60	....
Bank of Pittsburg	70	....
Commercial National Bank	92	98
Citizens' National Bank	61	....
Diamond Nat'l Bank	150	....
Exchange Nat. Bank	80	....
First National Bank, Pittsburg	165	....
Fourth National Bank	119	121
Freehold Bank	40	....
Iron City National Bank	90½	....
Iron and Glass Dollar Savings Bank	122	....
Keystone Bank of Pittsburg, ex div.	....	59
M. and M. Nat. Bank	58½	....
Metropolitan National Bank	60	....
Odd Fellows' Savings Bank	63	....
Pittsburg National Bank Commerce	205	....
Peoples' National Bank	140	....
Real Estate Savings Bank, Limited	100	....
Union National Bank	300	....
German National Bank, Allegheny	140	....
Real Estate Loan and Trust Company	72	....
Second National Bank, Allegheny	175	....
Allemannia Insurance	40	....
Boatmans' Insurance	....	42
Ben Franklin Insurance	....	50
German American Insurance Co	50	....
Man'f'rs and Merchants Insurance	....	50
National Insurance Co	58	....
Peninsula Insurance	50	....
Union Insurance	44	....
Allegheny Gas Co. (Illum.)	96¼	....
Bridgewater Gas	....	50
Chartiers Valley Gas Co	55	57
Philadelphia Gas Co	38½	39
Natural Gas Co. of W. Va	55	59
Peoples' Gas Co	29¾	29¾
Tuna Oil Co	....	63
Washington Oil Co	70	73
Citizens' Traction	....	79
Pittsburg Traction	47½	50
La Noria Mining Co	1¼	1¾
Silverton Mining Co	1	1½
Allegheny County Electric	....	97
East End Electric	3	....
Westinghouse Electric	35¾	36
Monongahela Nav. Co	....	37½
Union Switch and Signal Co	10	....
Westinghouse Brake Co., Lim	60	63

The sales comprised 100 shares La Noria at 1¼ and 300 Philadelphia Gas at 38⅞. The session was brief, being rushed through to begin the sale of oil and gas leases of the Fort Pitt Natural Gas Company.

The total sales of stocks at New York yesterday were 110,765 shares, including: Delaware, Lackawanna and Western, 7,200; Erie, 6,05; Lake Shore, 2,326; Missouri Pacific, 10,410; Reading, 7,100; Richmond and West Point, 1,625; St. Paul, 12,521; Union Pacific, 3,545; Western Union, 2,791.

BREAKING THE RECORD.

Business at the Banks Shows a Steady Improvement—Comparative Figures.

"The root of all evil" moved along cheerily yesterday, all the banks reporting a brisk business in the way of checking and depositing, with a rather better run of country discounts. "One reason why we don't figure larger in the eyes of the country," said a cashier yesterday, "is that we try to do an absolutely safe business. Wildcatting finds no favor in Pittsburg. A bank failure here is looked upon as something extraordinary, and causes a sensation. Such a thing very seldom happens, as you know."

The Clearing House business was hardly up to the mark for Saturday, the exchanges being $1,060,244 13, and the balances $398,552 06.

Exchanges for the week	$12,378,818 59
Balances	2,191,656 71
Exchanges, daily average	2,063,136 43
Last week's exchanges	11,572,849 99
Balances	1,887,680 42
Exchanges, daily average	1,928,808 22

These figures show a handsome gain the present week over the previous one, and represent a material increase over the business of the same period last year.

Money on call in New York yesterday was easy at 2 per cent. Prime mercantile paper, 4@5½c. Sterling exchange dull but firm at $4 85¾ for 60-day bills and $4 88¼ for demand.

The weekly statement of the New York banks shows the following changes:

Reserve, increase	$3,486,400
Loans, increase	3,007,700
Specie, increase	3,518,000
Legal tenders, increase	1,639,400
Deposits, increase	6,786,000
Circulation, decrease	38,800

The banks hold $18,029,500 in excess of the 25 per cent rule.

The exports of gold from the port of New York last week amounted to $461,046, of which $88,409 was in gold, and $362,637 in silver. Of the total exports, $22,159 in gold and $338,736 silver was shipped to Europe, and $66,250 in gold and $8,901 silver went to South America. The imports of specie for the week amounted to $219,962, of which $197,486 was in gold and $53,476 in silver.

NEW YORK—Clearings to-day, $120,717,592; balances, $7,557,994. For the week—Clearings, $724,073,920; balances, $38,818,885.

BOSTON—Clearings to-day, $15,736,630; balances, $1,912,666. For the week—Clearings, $98,801,140; balances, $10,250,131.

PHILADELPHIA—Clearings, $12,580,340; balances, $1,865,007. For the week—Clearings, $78,520,678; balances, $10,740,681.

BALTIMORE—Clearings to-day, $2,170,081; balances, $839,568.

ST. LOUIS—Bank clearings to-day, $3,206,233; balances, $447,394.

CHICAGO—Money unchanged at 5@7 per cent.

MOURNERS WERE MANY.

The Petroleum Market Persistently Refuses to Brace Up—Wet Blankets.

The session of the Petroleum Exchange yesterday was a short horse and soon curried. It lasted about two hours. The market was dull and lifeless from the start. There was no snap in it. The dumping of long oil and the producers' nightmare disheartened the boys, and they resorted to scalping to earn an honest penny.

The opening was 84, ¾ under Friday. This struck the keynote for the day. About 10 o'clock the bulls made a feeble attempt to brace up. They put their stuff up to 84⅝, but it wouldn't stay there. The downward procession was then resumed and continued until the combined noise of gong and gavel announced that the meeting was over. It was a jolly if not a happy crowd that trooped out of the exchange at noon.

The opening was 84, highest 84⅝, lowest 84, closed 84⅝, ⅛ higher than Friday. It was an off day at all of the oil centers. New York was quiet as well as the West. Outside news was generally bullish, but had no effect upon the market. Friday's clearings were 2,148,000 barrels.

A. B McGrew quotes puts 83½c, calls, 84⅝c

The following table, corrected by De Witt Dilworth, broker in petroleum, etc., corner Fifth avenue and Wood street, Pittsburg, shows the order of fluctuations, etc.:

Time.	Bid.	Ask.	Time.	Bid.	Ask.
Opened	84	Sales	11:15 P. M.	84⅛	84¼
10:15 A. M.	84¼	84⅝	11:30 P. M.	84⅛	84¼
10:30 A. M.	84⅛	84⅝	11:45 P. M.	84⅛	84¼
10:45 A. M.	84⅛	84⅝	12:00	84⅛	....
11:00 A. M.	84¼	84⅝	Closed	....	....

Opened, 84c; highest, 84⅝c; lowest, 84c; closed, 84¼c.

	Barrels.
Daily runs	54,336
Average runs	42,867
Daily shipments	70,610
Average shipments	69,520
Daily charters	6,349
Average charters	36,806
Clearances	2,148,000

New York closed at 84c.
Oil City closed at 84⅛c.
Bradford closed at 84⅛c.
New York, refined, 7c.
London, refined, 6¾d.
Antwerp, refined, 18¼f.

NEW LANDLORDS.

Real Estate Changing Hands at a Lively Rate—Big Figures.

There was no falling off in the demand for real estate yesterday. Buyers are beginning to see that there is no prospect of a reaction in prices. The necessary result of this clever understanding of the situation is an increased number of sales. Were all the transactions reported the public would be surprised at their number and magnitude.

John F. Baxter sold to A. M. Husmann lots Nos. 44 and 45, Bank of Commerce addition extended, Brushton station, frontage of 100 feet on Baxter street by 150 to a 20-foot alley, for $1,100.

L. O. Frazier, corner Forty-fifth and Butler streets, sold 125x160 feet on Liberty avenue, Twentieth ward, for $8,100, for the Gross estate; 20x100 feet on the east side of Edmund street, same ward, to Joseph Burkhart, for $500; for George D. Dubarry, Esq., No. 5012 Penn avenue, same ward, new brick dwelling, 6 rooms, lot 25x110 feet to alley, to Miss M. Burrett, for $5,000; for the Gross estate, 20x110 feet to an alley, on the east side of Edmund street, same ward, to Frank Boggs, for $500; for James M. Hamilton, No. 2123 Penn avenue, Twelfth ward, frame dwelling, lot 24x100 feet, to alley, to McCabe and Byrne, for $3,750; for the Irwin estate, 26x100 feet, on the northest corner of Forty-sixth and Plummer streets, to F. P. Livingston, for $1,350; for G. M. Lang, 22x100 feet, on the east side of Plummer street, Seventeenth ward, to C. E. Jones for $1,000. He also placed a mortgage for $2,500 on a Baldwin township farm, for three years, at 6 per cent; one of $2,000 on a Seventeenth ward property, for three years, at 6 per cent, and one on Nineteenth ward property, of $700, for three years, at 6 per cent.

D. P. Thomas & Co., 408 Grant street, sold for the Peoples' Savings Bank, to Mary S. Speer, a lot on Wylie avenue for $1,200; also to Catherine Lippert, lot on Herron avenue for $800; also to N. E. Haw, lot on Wylie avenue for $500, and for E. P. Jones, Jr., to Robert Hastings, lot on Wadsworth street for $850.

Lisbell & Rankin sold for John Watson four lots at Coraopolis, on Mill street, cornering on Fifth avenue; terms private.

Samuel W. Black & Co., 99 Fourth avenue, sold to Joseph Greiner for $750 cash, lot No. 24, 25x120 on the south side of Brereton avenue, in the Denny plan, Twenty-eighth ward.

Alles & Bailey, 164 Fourth avenue, sold for John Dolan, frame dwelling of three rooms, etc., lot 25 feet 8 inches by 167 feet, to James J. Wilson for $1,225 cash.

W. J. C. Floyd sold for the Denny estate to Armstrong & Co. five lots for $2,000; also to Cornelius Curtin one lot for $250; also to Thomas S. Lewis, lot No. 5, section 20, for $425; also to Sarah I. Floyd, lot No. 4, section 20, for $425. They also sold for Rose Trainor to Ed Scanlon one lot, Thirteenth ward, for $500, one to Timothy Quinn for $450, one to Arthur Burns for $450; also two lots for W. J. C. Floyd to Christian Hebner for $500. They had many inquiries for others.

SOMETHING NEW.

A Project for Amalgamating the Flour Dealers and the Grocers.

Upon this subject a correspondent of THE DISPATCH, who is fully posted on the condition and needs of the trade, makes some pertinent and forcible suggestions. His statements are worthy of careful consideration. He says:

There has been some talk lately among the wholesale flour men of this city concerning the necessity of forming an organization, not necessarily to regulate or control prices, but merely for trade protection in a variety of ways. Such a thing is much needed, as the flour business is undoubtedly the most "cut" and "hacked" in town. The fact that no such organization as indicated exists is largely accountable for this state of affairs. The flour dealers of this city had an organization once upon a time, but it didn't survive long. Promises were broken all around, with the inevitable result that cutting soon became a common practice, and business treachery the rule rather than the exception. Of course the association soon "busted." That was a natural consummation.

But the latest idea conceived will, I think, prove effective where the other very largely failed. It is now proposed to ask admittance to the Wholesale Grocers' Association of Pittsburg—a model body which has had great success in the work intended, because of unanimity in working. Now the interests of the wholesale flour and grocery men are closely identified; every wholesale grocery house sells flour. The advantage of being united strongly in business relations must therefore be apparent to all concerned.

The matter has not as yet taken definite shape, though there has been some talk indulged in. But as things stand something must be done to organize our flour dealers, and everything points in the direction of amalgation with the grocers' organization as the most suitable and likely means of attaining the aims and objects desired.

UNDER THE HAMMER.

Sale of the Fort Pitt Natural Gas Company Leases.

An important sale of oil and gas leases belonging to the Fort Pitt Natural Gas Company took place at the Exchange yesterday noon. The sale was made necessary by the terms of the charter of the company, which restrict the business of the company to gas. The leases and wells are in Robinson and Stowe townships, being what is known as the Crafton district. The land comprises 1,835½ acres. The leases are all subject to a royalty of one-eighth on oil and $500 for each gas well. The sale was conditional upon the purchaser assuming certain drilling contracts.

The contest for the property was between