The Dispatch.

ESTABLISHED FEBRUARY 8, 1846.

Vol. 44, No. 33.—Entered at Pittsburg Postoffice, November 14, 1887, as second-class matter.
Business Office—97 and 99 Fifth Avenue.
News Rooms and Publishing House—75, 77 and 79 Diamond Street.

Average circulation of the daily edition of The Dispatch for six months ending March 1, 1889,

27,988

Copies per issue.

Average circulation of the Sunday edition of The Dispatch for February, 1889,

45,144

Copies per issue.

TERMS OF THE DISPATCH.

POSTAGE FREE IN THE UNITED STATES:

DAILY DISPATCH, One Year	$8 00
DAILY DISPATCH, Per Quarter	2 00
DAILY DISPATCH, One Month	70
DAILY DISPATCH, including Sunday, one year	10 00
DAILY DISPATCH, including Sunday, per quarter	2 50
DAILY DISPATCH, including Sunday, one month	90
SUNDAY DISPATCH, one year	2 50
WEEKLY DISPATCH, one year	1 25

THE DAILY DISPATCH is delivered by carriers at 15 cents per week, or including the Sunday edition, at 20 cents per week.

PITTSBURG, TUESDAY, MAR. 12, 1889.

GOVERNOR BEAVER AND A BILL.

A little cloud of mystery which has gradually gathered around Governor Beaver and his attitude toward the general revenue bill, has been nicely riven by THE DISPATCH'S Harrisburg correspondent. The latter interviewed the Governor of the Commonwealth yesterday, and obtained from him an explanation that is timely and reassuring, and which will be found elsewhere in this issue.

The assertion has been often made of late that Governor Beaver, for reasons of his own, wished the Legislature to pass the general revenue bill as it stands to-day. This Governor Beaver now denies flatly, and in a general way expresses his lack of interest in the character of legislation until it comes before him for official action. At the same time, while he professes to know nothing in particular about the general revenue bill's merits or demerits, he does not abstain from pointing out that the deficiency in the revenue caused by the abolition of the tax on the gross receipts of the corporations, and the possible diminution of revenue by the passage of the prohibition amendment ought to be provided for. Further than this Governor Beaver's remarks are strictly noncommittal.

As the debate on the general revenue bill will commence to-night this information may be profitable to the legislators. The bill demands careful discussion and revision in several respects, and too much light cannot be shed upon it.

THE SPECULATIVE DANGER.

The representation which has been made in some quarters that the new scheme of issuing pig iron storage certificates foreshadows the establishment of a monopoly in that industry has little foundation in the fact; but the much more intelligent fear is that it will convert that staple into a football of speculation and thus dangerously interfere with the legitimate movements of the business.

Parallels to the methods of dealing proposed for the pig iron industry are to be found in the grain and petroleum trades. The custom of storing grain and dealing in the certificates is a generation old; but no one has ever yet been able to monopolize the business. On the other hand, the same custom in the petroleum trade has been accompanied by the establishment of the Standard Oil supremacy; but that the certificate system was an incident and not a cause of the monopoly, is shown by the fact that the certificate dealings were only in crude petroleum, while the Standard's monopoly was of the refining trade, and has mainly affected the crude interest by presenting but a single purchaser for actual use in the crude market.

On the other hand there is no question that speculation which is facilitated by the certificate system has been greatly to the disadvantage of legitimate business in those staples. No more decided example of the fact is required than the history of the grain trade for the past two years. Corners have been formed which artificially enhanced the price of the staple—at once checking exportation and stimulating shipments from the producers. When the corner is over the excessive stocks brought into market have depressed the price as factitiously as it was previously advanced. When the same features are accompanied, as in the petroleum trade, by the presence of a power in the market which is able to govern these fluctuations to suit its selfish ends there is little reason for wonder that the general interest is demoralized and unprosperous.

It is solid truth, as asserted by the New York *Tribune*: "It is the history of speculation that it has always caused, in the long run, wider and more disastrous fluctuations in prices than have occurred in articles not speculative in character." No better evidence could be asked than the fact that while the speculative articles have undergone yearly, during the past half dozen years, fluctuations of 25 to 50 per cent., the iron trade has not known an extreme fluctuation of 5 per cent. That interest should be slow to exchange its present stability and conservatism for a system which contains the possibility of such business gambling as has been common in grain stocks and petroleum.

MACADAMIZED ROADS IN VIEW.

One of the best movements in these parts for many a day is that in favor of good country roads. The introduction of a bill on the subject in the Legislature, the discussion of the matter by the Pittsburg Engineers' Society, and the contribution of views from those who know how excellently and how cheaply country roads are kept in Europe will help to open the farmers' eyes.

We hope the topic will not be permitted to drop. The increased value of farms near cities and towns, if easily accessible at all seasons to vehicles; the saving in horse-power, wear and tear of vehicles and harness; the comfort to dwellers in the country, and the beneficial influence alike on mind and temper unite to recommend the immediate and general use of macadamized in place of clay roads.

But a few experiments are needed to insure the adoption of this system extensively through the Commonwealth.

REFORM THE MAIL SERVICE.

John Wanamaker has an excellent opportunity to distinguish himself in the administration of his present office and at the same time add to his reputation, already great, as a successful man of business. If half the reports be true the postal service, as it now exists, stands in great need of a general overhauling. The policy pursued while Mr. Dickinson was at the head of the department, of turning out experienced men to make places for party favorites and political workers, was one not calculated to add to or improve the efficiency of the service.

The railway mail service seems to have suffered most, and that branch is the one where inexperience or incompetence can least be tolerated. The public is patient and uncomplaining as to the manner in which the agents of the Government in general perform their outside duties, but when letters are delayed, lost, or go astray, the effect is so damaging to their interests that business men have a right to protest. The postal service ought to be administered without regard to partisanship, but with special care to secure efficiency and promptness in the discharge of duty. If Mr. Wanamaker can remedy the mistakes of his predecessor and make the mail service what it should be, he will win the lasting gratitude both of Democrats and Republicans.

A VITAL PRINCIPLE.

The leading commercial bodies of Philadelphia have brought up an issue with reference to transportation privileges to be granted in large cities that involves a principle of vital importance to the whole nation. The Commercial, Maritime and Producers' Exchanges of that city have united in asking the Legislature to insist, in connection with the proposed grant of $300,000 to aid in the improvement of the Delaware river, upon the construction of a railroad along the river front, which shall be open to any railway carrier that may reach it.

Such a recommendation commends itself to any unprejudiced mind. The full benefit of harbor improvement cannot be secured and such a provision would convert every wharf into a railway depot, and allow the full benefit of all terminal facilities to every carrier that reaches Philadelphia. It is plain that such a provision would not only be a great gain to the commerce of Philadelphia, but its advantages would be extended to all railroads equally, and through them to all shippers that may desire to ship freight to that city.

But it is not necessary to stop there. The advantage and justice of giving all carriers equal access to the wharves being recognized, the same principle should be extended to all occupancy of public property by railways in cities. When a street is surrendered to the use of a railway it should be recognized that all railways that can reach the city have an equal right to that street, subject of course to equitable payment for the use of the track. The fundamental character of a public street is the equal right of all persons to use it; and if its use is given to one railway, it should be given to all others that desire it. If that principle is enforced it would place all railways on an equal footing in reaching cities and would preserve the streets of cities from a universal gridironing, by making a single belt line answer the purposes of all the railway carriers doing business in a given city.

When this subject is properly appreciated the principle will be recognized that all railway lines traversing the streets and docks of the city must be so far public as to be open to the use of all railway carriers that may wish to do business at that point.

IT SHOOTS BOTH WAYS.

There is an especial interest in the method used by the New York *World* to reply to what it scents as a "partisan sneer at political opponents" in General Harrison's inaugural. In reply to the President's reference to political reform, the *World* points out that the Australian ballot reform bill was opposed by Republican votes in the Indiana and Maine Legislatures, which it conceives to prove Republican "hostility to any effective law for throwing effective safeguards about the ballot-box and the elector."

The direct inference that, in the *World's* opinion, opposition to ballot reform bills indicates adherence to the system of frauds in election, is perhaps legitimate, but it should be applied to both parties. This view is strengthened by the assertion that "as an honest man himself, President Harrison ought to know and to admit that the honest men of both parties are equally interested in a reform of the election laws." This leads to the inevitable deduction that those in both parties who are opposed to such a reform are not honest men.

We have no disposition to criticise the premises, but it is necessary to urge upon the *World* the importance of using its usual outspokenness in making the application. The most prominent example of opposition to such legislation is afforded by one David B. Hill who, as Governor of New York, vetoed an electoral reform bill, and was thereafter renominated and re-elected by the Democracy of New York. As this question was made an issue in the canvass it is somewhat difficult to see how the allegation of dishonesty, made by the *World*, can be diverted from Governor Hill and his supporters, among which, if we are not very much mistaken, was the esteemed *World* itself.

Our valuable cotemporary's logic is effective, but is very dangerous at the breech. It affixes to Governor Hill and his supporters, by a well-qualified judge, the undoubted characteristic of dishonesty.

A ROMANTIC ROBBER.

It is not customary to look for the finer sensibilities or more gracious traits of humanity in men who follow burglary as a profession. As soon would one impute a taste for the culture of orchids to a skunk, as a generous sympathetic nature to a nocturnal thief. Therefore it will be generally admitted upon examination of his record that William Harris, an English expert in the use of skeleton keys, crowbars and other burglarious tools, is a phenomenal flower in his profession.

William Harris left his country, conspicuously for his country's good, and honored New York city with his professional attentions. He was captured in the latter place last week, but not before he had visited many houses, and secured considerable plunder. It is a fact that he invariably chose his victims from among the rich. This might have been because rich men are the most profitable to pluck, but Mr. Harris assures us that he was actuated in his selection by motives of the highest humanity. Like Robin Hood he robbed the rich only. He was considerate even when he was making off with the valuables of a millionaire. It was his custom to leave a note at every house he visited, stating that if he had by chance taken any article endeared to his victims by tender associations of any kind, he could be relied upon to return it for a suitable reward offered through the newspapers.

Mr. Harris shows that even the gentle burglar, in his humble way, can add something to the record of romantic humbug. Following his example the meanest henroost robber may lend a poetic flavor to his pursuits, even if prosaic buckshot prove his final reward. But we trust Mr. Harris will be led to perceive that burglary and sentiment do not mix well, and that by confining himself to the latter he might have escaped the years of penal servitude which he will now have to endure. A good, stiff sentence may help Mr. Harris to a clearer understanding of the true relations between sentiment and thievery.

ANOTHER FORM OF THE DANGER.

A very interesting discussion is going on before a committee of the Massachusetts Legislature with regard to the danger from overhead wires as means of furnishing power to electric street cars. The representation of the danger from so heavily charged wires is of course met by testimony on the part of the companies, that they are not so dangerous as is supposed, but the evidence of their safety is by no means convincing. Another disadvantage has recently been experienced in Cleveland where along the line of a road operated by overhead wires the telephones have become almost useless from the induction of the more powerful current.

It certainly does not seem proper that after such convincing proofs of the danger of electric light wires have been given that the public should be exposed either to that danger or to the one which comes from the more powerful current required to move street cars. It is all the more wanton to do it when the danger is so easily avoided. The same underground conduit that affords accommodation to the electric railway wires could be used for the electric light current; while a separate conduit can be supplied for telephone and telegraph wires. This may cost more than the pole system, it is true, but beside the enhanced safety the cost is infinitessimal. The platform should be made universal that electric railway wires, like all other electric wires, must go underground.

WHAT the copper syndicate really wants is to take a leaf from Senator Stewart's book, and elect a statesman to urge bills requiring the Secretary of the Treasury to purchase $4,000,000 worth of copper each month.

SENATOR FARWELL has again demonstrated that he is not true to Republican principles, by antagonizing in an interview the declaration of the party platform and the pledges of the President on the question of the Civil Service. Consequently on the Senator's own basis, a partisan Civil Service, he has placed himself outside of the party lines, and is not entitled even to a fourth-class postoffice.

PERHAPS the announcement that "S. J. McKallip is a candidate for Public Printer from Pittsburg," will enthuse local political circles when they get a little clearer information as to who the gentleman is.

THE failure of the Findlay Iron and Steel Company is said by the Chicago *Times* (free-trade) to "celebrate the return of the party of protection to American industries to power." What it really does, however, is to add another to the practical lessons on the folly of locating iron and steel manufactures away from the natural centers of those industries.

THE report that Chicago has abolished the name of God from her school-books, suggests that the reason is probably a desire to anticipate the danger that God would abolish Chicago.

THE report that President Harrison's declination to shake hands with every one at his last reception "provoked much unfavorable comment," is another proof that the element who consider it a great American privilege to maul the hand of the Chief Magistrate still offers a splendid field for the exercise of the functions of the foolkiller.

HAVING had "Jack the Ripper," "Jack the Kisser" and "Jack the Choker" there is an urgent need for completing the series by a specimen of "Jack the Dangler."

A POUGHKEEPSIE man drew a cigar-lighter on another man and was at once arrested, and bound over to keep the peace. This harsh course was probably justified by the suspicion that he intended to follow up his offensive activity by giving the other fellow a Poughkeepsie cigar.

THE Samoan war and the appearance of the Countess di Montercoli on the stage are the latest stock subjects for the efforts of journalistic imagination.

THE very strong indication afforded by the new legislation in the Canadian Parliament for the extradition of embezzlers, that Canada is sick of our boodlers, is also an indication that boodlers must have spent most of the money.

WHEAT continues to decline having got down below the dollar line again. Let flour follow the example and all may be forgiven.

WITH the Spanish, Swiss and Japanese missions filled, the chances of the editorial aspirants are just so much diminished; but while the English, French, Italian and German places are left open there is both life and hopes.

PERSONAL FACTS AND FANCIES.

THE Shah will be domiciled at Stafford House when he visits London.

A FINE statue of the late Bishop Rappe is soon to be unveiled at Cleveland.

AMONG the curiosities of the Queen's railway journeys has the time tables supplied to Her Majesty, these being printed in violet ink on hand-made paper with gilt edges. They contain the exact times of the stoppages at all points, and give other information of interest.

CARDINAL MANNING will celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of his Episcopal consecration on June 8, 1890. A fund is being raised as a testimonial to pay off the $60,000 debt on his cathedral, so that the building may be consecrated on or before his own anniversary.

THE Prince of Wales has perhaps the finest railway coach in Europe. The Southeastern built it, and it contains seven rooms, there being a study, little library, a couple of bedrooms, a dressing room and a bathroom. The bedroom is most luxuriously furnished in old gold silk, being lighted by electricity, and the panelling is beautifully painted. The Prince uses his carriage for all his journeys.

RECENTLY the Prince of Wales made his first appearance in the gambling rooms at Monte Carlo since his arrival on the Riviera. Very little notice was taken of his Royal Highness by anybody there, few people recognizing him, or if they did, not being sufficiently impressed by his personality to look at him a second time. He patronized the roulette tables in preference to the more select Trente-et-Quarante, where most of the English statesmen have been disporting themselves for the last month. The Prince stood at the end of the table and every now and then gave the croupier a 100-franc piece to put down for him on a batch of numbers. But every time he staked his £4 they were remorselessly raked in, to the very evident mortification of the royal punter, who played a losing game extremely badly.

THE TOPICAL TALKER.

A Little of the Lighter Side of Life Briefly Touched Upon.

"THERE was a time," said a theatrical man a few days ago, "when the critics of the newspapers throughout the country were not as incorruptible as they generally are to-day. In those days, and I am speaking of an era not beyond the recollection of a middle-aged man, it could not have been said, as THE DISPATCH truthfully remarked the other day, that the dramatic critics were beyond the reach of a smart manager.

"I remember a case in point. Once upon a time I was engaged to manage an actress whose only claim for recognition was her great beauty. She was a lovely woman and a desperately bad actress. The backer of the show had not a very fat bank account, so I had to rely upon my star's good looks and charming manners off the stage to pull us through. We got along fairly well till we reached a large city, where I knew the principal newspaper had a disagreeable habit of making things lively for stars who traveled on anything but sheer ability to act.

"I was afraid of the dramatic editor of that paper, but I resolved to try my best to square him. My previous experience with him taught me that he had an eye for feminine beauty. I told my star, therefore, that she must try her best to charm this critical ogre into amiability, and I promised her that I would give her a proper opportunity."

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"ON the afternoon of the Monday our company was to appear for the first time I visited the captious critic, and begged him to take dinner with me at the hotel. He agreed, but dropped a very plain hint that I must not expect any favors in the critical line.

"I arranged that my fair principal should dine with us, and bade her try her best to capture the critic. Dressed very modestly but most becomingly, she appeared at dinner, which was served in a private room. and I explained to my guest that her presence was accidental—that I had invited her to dine with me and had forgotten the engagement.

"She exerted herself nobly, and when the dinner was over I knew that we were safe—that at least there would be no slashing critique, and that perhaps we might get a favorable notice.

"The result exceeded my hopes; the paper which I had feared so much had a pleasant and tolerably long article next day, in which the writer laid stress upon my star's beauty and allowed the inference to be drawn that she was a good actress as well.

"There was a change of bill in the middle of the week, but I was not anxious, for the first notice had been favorable without exception. What was my surprise the next morning when I read in the paper I have spoken of a perfectly diabolical dissection of my star. It was one of the brightest things of the kind I've ever seen, but you can imagine that I didn't appreciate the slaughter of my star. Late in the day the critic of the paper called to see me. He said he'd been sick the day before, and another member of the editorial force had taken his place at the theater. Well, there was no remedy for any of us, but the critic, I think, was the worst hurt."

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A CURIOUS phenomenon came under my eyes on Saturday, which goes to illustrate the disagreeable side of a locomotive engineer's life. Seated in the corner of the car nearest to the locomotive of the fastest local express that runs out of this city, the Beaver Falls express, on the Fort Wayne, a clear view of the track ahead was afforded me. It was snowing just enough to make it difficult to see more than 200 yards ahead of the train.

As soon as the train clears the city limits it runs at a speed ranging from 30 to 60 miles an hour, and often for a mile or two strikes a steady gait of not less than a mile a minute. At Jack's Run station I saw a man deliberately cross the track not 50 yards ahead of our train. When we came to Bellevue station a small boy waited on the south side of the track till the train was less than 50 yards away, and then ran over to the north side. For a moment I thought the boy was under the wheels, so narrowly did he escape. Thereafter for a distance of a mile or so at every station, and at every possible crossing, some one appeared to be waiting to put his life in jeopardy.

Perhaps locomotive engineers get used to avoiding involuntary manslaughter by a hair's breadth, with an occasional exception where a human being is knocked into the next world as a reward for his foolhardiness, but the unhardened traveler cannot help but wish that railroad tracks were better inclosed, and that the penalty for trespassing on them were high and regularly enforced.

DREXEL'S PHILANTHROPY.

The Site Selected for the Female Industrial College.

PHILADELPHIA, March 11.—A project that has been contemplated for some time by Mr. A. J. Drexel has been put in practical shape by the purchase of the Louella mansion at Wayne, Delaware county, and the selection of trustees and managers for the "Drexel Industrial College for Women." The object of the institution, as set forth in the charter, is to instruct females between the ages of 13 and 19 years in all duties appertaining to the care of a household, and to teach such trades and business as will make them practical women, able to earn a respectable livelihood.

The benefits of the college are to be extended, first, to the daughters of clergymen and second to daughters of respectable parents who, through adverse circumstances, are unable to give their children proper training and education. The entire expense of the purchase, new structures and endowment will be met by Mr. Drexel, and the amount, it is said, will reach $1,500,000. In connection with the college, instruction will be given upon the plan of the Cooper institute, by which pupils will derive tuition while residing at their own homes.

FORCED TO DECLINE WITH THANKS.

A Yale Professor Unable to Become Secretary Rusk's Assistant.

Special Telegram to the Dispatch.

NEW HAVEN, CONN., March 11.—Prof. William H. Brewer has been asked to allow his name to be used in connection with the First Assistant Secretaryship under Jeremiah Rusk, Secretary of the Agricultural Department. Secretary Rusk is not only willing but anxious to have Prof. Brewer accept the position, in order that he may be a counsellor on arranging the laying out of the work of the new department. A dispatch has been received from headquarters to the effect that should Prof. Brewer allow his name to be used his immediate appointment would follow.

The recent death of his wife and his own ill health led the professor to decline. Prof. Brewer holds the "Norton Professorship of Agriculture" in the Sheffield Scientific Department, and is an acknowledged authority on all matters pertaining to agriculture.

A YOUNG LADY DIES OF NOSEBLEED.

Singular and Fatal Termination of a Cold in the Head.

Special Telegram to The Dispatch.

POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y., March 16.—Miss Lulu May Mackinlay, of New York, died at Vassar College Sunday morning. A few days ago she became slightly ill of what was apparently a cold in the head. It becoming serious she went to the infirmary and was put under treatment. Suddenly on Thursday she was attacked with bleeding at the nose, and the college physician had great difficulty in checking the flow of blood.

Every effort was made to stop the flow of blood. Partial success was met, but each returning hemorrhage was worse than its predecessor, and the young lady finally died of exhaustion. Funeral services were held at the college to-day, and the body removed to New York.

DEATHS OF A DAY.

Mrs. Rev. W. B. Hamilton.

WASHINGTON, PA., March 11.—A letter received here to-day announces the death of Mrs. Rev. W. B. Hamilton, January 10, last, at Chinafu, China. In company with her young husband she left Washington in September last. A few days after their arrival Mrs. Hamilton was taken ill with consumption, and a week later died. Deceased graduated at the seminary here in 1885. Her father is a resident of Bellevernon, Pa.

Mrs. Margaret Craig.

Mrs. Margaret Craig died yesterday at the advanced age of 82 years. She has been a resident of Pittsburg for nearly 70 years. Until a few days days ago she was able to visit her children. Her memory was clear and bright until the last. She was the mother of Mr. B. Craig and James M. Craig, who, with four daughters, survive her. The pallbearers will be eight grandsons.

John Mahon.

CONNELLSVILLE, March 11.—John Mahon, one of the most widely known residents of Connellsville, died at his home on Water street yesterday, aged 75 years. He was a former resident of Pittsburg. The remains will be interred Wednesday morning.

AT THE THEATERS.

The Henrietta Revealed — Ballets and Scenery—Other Plays.

In spite of the obliging hints of the lucky elect who saw Bronson Howard's "The Henrietta" in New York most Pittsburgers till now have been at a loss, to know what "The Henrietta" might be. Was it a chestnut filly, a ballet girl, the witch of Wall street, or what? Now, everybody who has a small store of coin to spare can discover that "The Henrietta" is one of the best, if not the best of comedies written by an American author. Last night "The Henrietta" was produced at the Grand Opera House before an appreciative audience. Taking the performance as a whole it is the best Pittsburg is likely to see in a long while. Seldom is a company so carefully and artistically combined sent upon the road to play to provincials. The provincials may, with a good deal of gratitude, take off their hats to Messrs. Robson and Crane.

The strength of "The Henrietta" lies equally in plot, situation and dialogue. The plot is ingenious and absolutely new, and though the possibility of a shrewd old broker like *Nicholas Vanalstyne* fighting his own son and partner on the stock market without knowing who his adversary was may be doubted, the lines of the plot are led so deftly to a climax that in the intense interest excited the unreality of the motive is lost sight of. The situations are conceived with a wonderful eye to effect. The glimpse of "Old Nick's" character which his words, "Not a cent—the blanked young pauper, not a cent more, I'll turn him adrift on the world," at the end of act I afford strikes like a hammer on a clear bell, the tone of the play. The most dramatic situation is that which concludes act II. The younger brother, the hopeless dude, heroically shields the elder—in silence throwing the criminating letter, that would clear him into the fire.

The comedy itself—the main skeleton of the piece, exhibits Mr. Howard's fancy in its happiest expression. The interview between the old bull of the Exchange and the fashionable widow, in which the former is trying to watch the course of the stockmarket on the ticker and to propose to the lady at the same time, is deliciously funny. So in everything that involves either of the principal actors, Messrs. Robson and Crane.

Now as to these principals, one might write all night and yet fail to convey how natural and how harmonious is the old stockbroking king of Wall street of Mr. Crane, and how entirely laughable from make up to the accent in his laconic utterances is the Anglomaniac dude of Mr. Robson. They have caught the idea of the dramatist; they have photographed two American types of character, and with just a shade of exaggeration present the pictures in the admirable frame provided for them. Some may say Mr. Crane grimaces a little too much, or Mr. Robson relies too often on tricks of his throat and eyes, but no one can deny that they have stolen a couple of cartoons from nature's magazine and reproduced them with truth and spirit.

But not all the good acting was had from the stars. Mr. Charles Kent was powerful, though perceptibly striving after the Irvingesque in his characterization of the villain, *Nicholas Vanalstyne, Jr.* His death as far as the physical phenomena were concerned was terribly realistic. Mr. George Woodward, a triumphant caricature in make-up of the fashionable minister, was excellent. So was Miss Ellie Wilton as the sprightly widow. All the rest of the company can be accorded praise in different degress, excepting possibly Mr. Lorimer Stoddard, who makes the burlesque of an English lord so thoroughly absurd and unlifelike, that the real satire in the character is concealed.

The scenery and every adjunct to the play is of the best. The production is delightful in every aspect.

Bijou Theater.

There was a perfect jam of people at the Bijou Theater last night. Every seat was filled; the standing room was all occupied and the demand for tickets at the box office continued long after all available space in the house was sold. Apparently there has been no attraction in town this season which the public was more anxious to see. And yet it is to be feared that the more intelligent element in the large audience found the much-heralded production of "The Twelve Temptations" hardly up to their expectations.

Aside from its brilliant spectacular effects there is nothing in the piece that calls for serious criticism. The scenery is elaborate and abundant and much of it exquisitely beautiful. Among the representations are a wreck at sea, the ice floes of the Northern Ocean, the council chamber of Boreas, the palace of *Zero*, the snow Queen, and other scenes that are marvels of stage magnificence. The whole is admirably managed, and the changes from one scene to another are made with such rapidity and ease that the result is like a grand panorama, affording a constant succession of novelties and surprises.

The dialogue amounts to nothing. It is mere bombast, without plan or purpose, save only to introduce a variety of tricks and clownish acts more or less clever and amusing. The leading roles are evidently in the hands of inexperienced amateurs, and would be better in most cases if there were no speaking to be done. Some of the ladies have voices that would grate harshly on the ear of any man not accustomed to the noise of a machine shop. The ballet is sufficiently strong in point of numbers, but the dancing is of a very commonplace order. Even the premieres danseuse are disappointing. There is an abundance of pretty girls, some agile acrobats and gymnasts, a marvelous green dragon, and some ingeniously made-up Polar bears and trick donkeys—on the whole enough to look at—as well as a liberal amount of horse play and original ruses to excite laughter.

Judging by the applause so liberally bestowed the piece made a decided hit, and will continue to draw crowded houses. There is enough that is attractive in the scenery alone to partially compensate for what is lacking elsewhere.

Harris' Theater.

The management of this house have an important task before them. Better means of handling the immense crowds that persist in attempting to get in the lobby at just the hour at which the curtain is advertised to ascend. The pressure yesterday afternoon was such as to break every pane of glass in the door. Long before 2 and 8 o'clock the well-used "standing room only" sign was brought out. The attraction this week is not a new one, by any means, but it is one that never fails to do a big business here. James H. Wallick, in "The Cattle King," a real melodrama of the Wild West melodramatic kind, with his three well-trained horses, will play to the largest audiences of the season. The company Mr. Wallick has with him is some thing of an improvement over that of last season, with the possible exception of the young lady who essays the role of *Katherine Paxton*, the heroine. The horses are as good actors as ever. "Bandit King" will be given beginning Thursday.

Dramatic Notes.

THE Casino Museum has many new attractions this week.

HARRY WILLIAMS' own company, with its many excellent features, was received with great favor at the Academy last night.

THE sale of seats for Emma Abbott's opera season at the Bijou begins on Thursday. The demand for seats is already so heavy that no doubt remains but that the popular company will achieve unusual success.

Those popular favorites, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Florence, will begin a week's engagement at the Grand Opera House next Monday evening, supported by the best company they have ever had, in the following repertoire of the successful plays: Monday and Friday evenings, "The Mighty Dollar;" Tuesday, only time, "Our Governor, or His Little Hatchet;" Wednesday and Saturday nights, Dickens' "Dombey and Son," with Florence as *Captain Cuttle*, his greatest creation; Thursday evening and Saturday matinee, their latest success, "Heart of Hearts," will receive its first presentation here. It is said to be unlike any of the plays yet presented by them, and both Mr. and Mrs. Florence appear in entirely original creations. This will be their farewell joint appearance, Mr. Florence having contracted to star with Jefferson next year, and Mrs. Florence will retire from the stage.

MORE PRECIOUS THAN GOLD.

BARIUM sells for $975 a pound, when it is sold at all, and calcium is worth $1,800 a pound. Cerium is a shade higher—its cost is $160 an ounce, or $1,920 a pound.

GOLD is worth about $340 per pound, troy; platinum $130, and silver about $12. Nickel would be quoted at about 60 cents, and pure aluminum $8 to $9 to the troy pound.

THESE begin to look like fabulous prices, but they do not reach the highest point; chromium brings $200, cobalt falls to about half the price of silver, while didymium is the same price as cerium, and erbium $10 cheaper on the ounce than calcium, or just $1,880 per pound.

IF the wealth of the Vanderbilts be not overstated, it amounts to nearly $200,000,000. With this sum they could purchase 312 tons of gold and have something left over, but they couldn't buy two tons of gallium, that rare metal being worth $3,250 an ounce. With this metal the highest price is reached, and it may well be called the rarest and most precious of metals.

GLUCINUM is worth $250 an ounce; indium, $158; iridium, $658 a pound; lanthanium, $175, and lithium $160 an ounce. Niobium costs $128 an ounce; asmium, palladium, platinum, potassium and rhodium bring respectively $640, $400, $180, $92 and $512 per pound. Strontium costs $138 an ounce; tantaum, $144; telurium, $9; thorium, $272; vanadium, $320; yttrium, $144, and zirconium $250 an ounce.

A CHANGE NEEDED.

Echoes of Last Week's Inauguration Crush—Only One Man From Ohio Who Wanted No Office—Merry Under Difficulties.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

WASHINGTON, March 11.—After the passage of these six or seven days since that terrible 4th of March, the town has almost assumed its normal appearance. Most of the visitors who still remain are of that class which will always increase so long as the Government pays better wages for shorter hours than are paid by private employers. There are more of these office-seekers than ever before, and they seem to be of a better type than ever before. Few of the bummer element are seen. I thought I had struck one of that kind last evening, however. Walking along the avenue past the entrance to a prominent saloon, a big fellow came out of the door and down the steps like a small cyclone and fell upon the sidewalk with a force that would have broken every bone in the body of a sober man.

"I thought it was up hill instead of down, out of the cussed place," he said, when he had pulled himself together a little.

I assisted him to a seat on the curbstone and suggested he had better call a cab and go home.

"By George, that's what I want to do. I've been here five days and feeling good all the time. Come to think of it, guess I've missed the 'nauguration. Show's over, isn't it?"

"Probably you are waiting to get an office," said I.

"No, sir," he shouted, "I'm not here for an office, but I'm from Ohio, and I'm the only man in Washington from that State who doesn't want an office."

A Chance for Wishart.

The free-and-easy character of last Sunday has terribly shocked the sensibilities of those who are rigid in their observance of the day, and indignant resolutions are being adopted by most of the churches condemning the contempt for law shown by Congress and the city authorities. The advocates of strict Sunday rest have made herculean efforts to influence the two bodies which govern the District, Congress and the Commissioners, and thought they had had some effect. Never before were the Commissioners so rigid in their enforcement of the license laws as within the last few months. For weeks some of the most prominent hotels and restaurants were refused license on account of their infraction of the law against selling on Sunday, and several popular resorts were forced to go through with the performance of a change of proprietors, either real or sham, to secure the required franchise.

But on Sunday every one of these places which had been under a cloud, as well as others which had not been, ran at full blast, with wide open doors and with such scenes of corousal as rarely have been witnessed before in Washington. The rain outside drove everybody indoors who could get in. Revelry was unchecked, and the most serious of Christian politicians appeared to be mingling with the Philistines totally oblivious of the sacred character of the day. The cashier of the popular resort tells me that his house took in over $3,000 on that Sunday, and on Monday received of $4,000. Beer was sold at the usual price, but the glasses had double the ordinary foam. The two-for-a-quarter drinks were 15 cents straight or 20 cents; oysters 40 cents instead of 25, and so on.

One can guess at the profit made during those four or five days at these prices. Wages of servants and employes of all kinds were doubled and trebled, and with all that the good servants seemed to have disappeared. At one of the best restaurants of the city I was waited on at luncheon by a fellow who was so drunk that he emptied the soup in my lap, and when I complained to the proprietor that worthy informed me that the man was worth $10 an hour to him, drunk or sober, for he could not get another for that pay, and he was then short-handed. He was absolutely at the mercy of such help as he could secure, and that was bad enough.

Merry Under Difficulties.

But the good temper maintained under all the discomfort of the season was something admirable. There were surprisingly few rows, and those who spent most of the time in the streets absolutely appeared to enjoy tramping about in the mud and rain. It was a sight to see refined-looking ladies on all sides on the day of the inauguration splashing through the pools and slush, holding their skirts up in the most sensible manner, water spirting out of their shoes at every step, merry as though they were in their own drawing rooms, and joking at the very worst and most dangerous phases of the day.

Of course there have been many deaths and there will be many more, on account of the exposure, and many a case of consumption will date from that day, but inaugurations must be had, and if the people are always so merry and good tempered I fancy only heaven and not the other place will be recruited from those who die.

Too Much of a Good Thing.

It would seem that the weather of the Fourth, and the experiences of that time, endured by those who are capable of influencing legislation, must result in the change of the day of the installation of the President and Vice President. And it seems to me, moreover, that the handshaking and other kinds of persecution to which President Harrison has been compelled to submit since his election, and more especially since his inauguration must bring about a revolution of public sentiment with regard to these performances.

It has become not only an abuse of decency, but an actual menace to the health and life of the President and his wife, or the lady who takes charge of the household of the President, and so is forced to pose as "the first lady of the land," as though there could be any first lady where one is as good as another. Mrs. Cleveland was young and strong, but even she was completely worn out at times with the siege of a great reception, and on the occasion of the last public affair of that kind previous to the change, Mr. Cleveland was forced to order the doors closed before the mob had half been filed through the mansion.

I call it a "mob," because those upon whom the doors were closed indulged in very unseemly conduct, and at one time it looked as though the discontent might develop into a small riot.

Plenty of Visitors.

The abuse is increasing with the increase of the vast crowds who now make Washington the Mecca of the year. Every month the number of visitors increases, and it will soon come to pass, if the custom be not abolished, that the President and his family will be able to do nothing but attend to the demands of the thousands of curious who merely burn to say when they go home that they have seen and shaken hands with the President and "the first lady of the land." Their entire time will be occupied in this manner, to say nothing of the dangers arising from the physical strain.

Already President Harrison has been forced to abandon the hand-wringing part of the custom, to a great extent, and at this some grieve and some curse. Some of the scenes are ludicrously pathetic. One old Republican has attended the receptions every day this week without having had a chance to shake the hand of Mr. Harrison, and when asked to-day if he had any special business with the President he answered in a tremulous tone that he just wanted to touch the hand of a Republican President before he died. But a vast majority of those who make up the crowds who seem to want to wring the life and strength out of Mr. and Mrs. Harrison, are merely curious and thoughtless, and desire to only tell their friends at home that they have touched the coats or the paws of some of the social and political lions of the day.

The abuse is about to correct itself, however, and the prospects are that very soon a President will attract as little attention in his coming and going, and at his residence, as the kings and queens of the East. It is a remarkable fact that the President of the French Republic can drive along the Champs Elysees, King Humbert and his wife through the Corso and among the crowds on the Pincian Hill, King William down the Linden and about the public drives of the Thiergarten, and the Prince of Wales and his wife up Piccadilly and along the royal drive in Hyde Park, without attracting half the attention that is excited when the President of the United States drives the length of Pennsylvania avenue, and little curiosity to see them is manifested at any time, except on the occasion of a royal fete, or show of some kind, and then the foremost of the curious crowds are usually visiting Americans.

E. W. L.

GERMANS LEAD THE LIST.

The Annual Report of the Arrivals at Castle Garden.

NEW YORK, March 11.—The forty-second annual report of the Board of Emigration Commissioners, as prepared for the Legislature, shows in substance that during the year 1888 the total number of passengers from all foreign ports landed in Castle Garden was 370,822 (237,356 males and 132,966 females).

The nationalities chiefly represented were Irish, 44,300; English, 38,355; German, 78,145; French, less than 6,000; Russian, 33,032; Swedish, 37,934; Italian, 43,927; Austrian, 16; Chinese, 5. Of the total number of immigrants, 67,518 were under 15 years of age; 265,005 over that age and under 40; 38,799 over 40 years.

METROPOLITAN SILHOUETTES.

Maybe the Judge is Right.

[NEW YORK BUREAU SPECIALS.]

NEW YORK, March 11.—In instructing the March grand jury Judge Gildersleeve told them that they must be extremely careful in their investigation of the elevated railroad charges: that lawyers had been guilty of crimes in stirring up litigation in the way of damage suits against that corporation. The Judge plainly hinted that there was good reason to think that the railway company was trying to use the Criminal Court to save itself from just suits in the civil courts.

The Coal Trade Aroused.

The entire coal trade is aroused over a proposition of the Reading Company to maintain the winter schedule of rates throughout the summer. Rates for local consumption, it is claimed, have been cut, and the regular summer schedule for many of the agents must be lower. Another bone of contention is the matter of reduced production for the year, beginning April. It is supposed that there will be a falling off in consumption, and yet none of the companies care to reduce their output. These questions will be settled at a meeting of the agents of the companies to-morrow.

Taken Back to the Tombs.

Arrangements of the prosecution of the Electric Sugar frauds are being pushed. Officers from the District Attorney's office made photographs to-day of the bogus refinery in Brooklyn and all its alleged machinery. These will be used as part of the evidence against the quintet from Michigan now under arrest and