The Dispatch.

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PITTSBURG, TUESDAY, MAY 7, 1889.

JUDGE WHITE'S REPLY.

Judge White's response to the charges hinted at, rather than directly made, by the Shiras resolution is direct and sweeping. The Judge declares that every insinuation against his fairness, impartiality and strict adherence to the etiquette of procedure is totally unfounded. He was forced by the requirements of the law to examine into the moral character of the applicants. He allowed nothing to influence him in making his decisions except what was brought out in open court; and he states the novel and interesting fact that his difficulty was not in granting enough licenses to go around, but in finding enough applicants who bore the tests sufficiently well to receive the necessary number of licenses.

In short the Judge, to use an old and somewhat threadbare piece of legal slang, denies the allegations and confronts the allegater. With the issue joined in that way it is certainly pertinent, if the opposition to him is to be taken as anything more than the inspiration of disappointment and revenge, to have some definite statements of the judicial misdeeds supported by at least *prima facie* proof. Yesterday the disposition seemed to be so far from producing or alleging the evidence, that the quandam imposchers were adopting the crawfish tactics. Whether a bolder front will be presented today, is for the fact to disclose.

As to the charge of personal motives behind this resolution made by the Judge, it is hardly necessary to bring the discussion of a question of public morals down to that low level. But it is pertinent to repeat the remark made in these columns last week, that unless the resolutions are backed up with some definite evidence, the most remarkable feature of this attack on the exercise of the judicial discretion will be the phenomenal indiscretion of its mover.

THE UNFAILING GAS SUPPLY.

The Philadelphia Gas Company's annual statement, yesterday submitted, will prove of great interest to the stockholders, though the magnitude of the concern involves a complication of accounts and figures which may not enable the general public to grasp the bearing of its exhibit in detail. What does greatly interest everybody, and what should particularly impress outsiders, is that this vast system of service is now supplying more gas than ever. Though the demands of consumers have grown, the supply has more than kept pace with them.

Where now be the prophets who, as early as several years ago, shook their heads in lugubrious prediction that Pittsburg's new fuel would not last? The end of it looks further off than ever. So long as it continues will the city continue to spread at its recent enormous rate of expansion.

THE BARON'S NEW LIGHT.

Light is thrown upon a frequently repeated claim of the railway school, by an interview with Baron Erlanger, who is visiting in the South for the purpose of inspecting the railways in which his wealth is largely invested. He says: "Over here the operating expenses eat up seventy per cent of the revenues, while in Europe they are only fifty per cent; yet freight rates here are much higher." The Baron's view is very plainly to the effect that the operating expenses ought to be reduced, from which no stockholder will dissent. But for some years past the representatives of the railway school have been telling us very strenuously that freight rates in this country are lower than they are in Europe. The positive statement to the contrary by so well informed an authority as Baron Erlanger, will rather destroy the force of the American railway argument, that everything here is all right. The Baron, from his standpoint, wants operating expenses reduced; and the people, from theirs, would be glad to see railway rates reduced wherever they are too high. Perhaps the people and the Baron can compromise on having both done.

A BROKEN REID.

By this time it is pretty certain that Mr. Whitelaw Reid is regretting that he attended so many banquets before starting on an ocean voyage. The last one, which the *Tribune* staff tendered him, must have put a nice finishing touch upon his digestive system. Possibly a lot of Mugwump fishes will rejoice that the Minister to France laid in such store for their entertainment. But he will not rejoice, and we fear that his immaculate collar and new nankeen trousers will suffer in the melee with remorseless Neptune.

It is not hard to imagine the ex-editor sitting in his berth, pale and perturbed. The hand that could have taken a pen and as with a tomahawk snatched a fresh scalp is nerveless and inert. The voice that could have told the city editor to interview a hundred proud citizens to death is weak and tremulous. It plays upon but one string—a mournful cry, "Steward!" The eye that could have made the biggest man in the *Tribune* office quail is lusterless and planetary. It is a great thing to be an editor. It is a great thing to be United States Minister to France. But the greatest man on earth feels mighty small when he is seasick. We extend our condolence to Mr. Whitelaw Reid.

ARMOUR'S CLAIM TO DISTINCTION.

The authoritative statements which are now made concerning the manner in which the American Meat Company was temporarily suppressed are very interesting as bearing upon the methods and weakness of the trust policy. We are told by the members of the syndicate who propose to revive the scheme, that Armour, of Chicago, finding the original managers of the scheme determined to carry it forward, bought up a controlling interest in the Cottonseed Oil Trust, and thereupon informed Messrs. Flagler and Moss that they must either get out of the Cottonseed Oil Trust or abandon their meat project. These gentlemen chose the latter alternative, and so the new American Meat Company was temporarily reduced to soup meat.

This apparently undisputed statement of facts reveals not only the trust policy, but an absolute weakness of the trust position. It seems that the great trust proprietors must not only defend their monopolies from all competition in any quarter of the country, but that they are peculiarly weak and open to attack from other trust monopolies. Flagler and Moss threatened the monopoly of Armour in the meat trade and so Armour by an excursion into the cottonseed oil business was able to reduce them to discipline. There is nothing of this sort in legitimate business. Jones & Laughlins do not find it necessary to attack any man who proposes to start a rolling mill in another section of the country; and the man who started a rolling mill contrary to the wishes of some of the great proprietors at present, would laugh at the threat that if he keeps on in his pernicious course, they will buy up and destroy some other interest of his.

It is very gratifying to learn that this scheme of Armour's to suppress competition in the meat trade, is to be defeated. But the public can hardly help having a warm feeling for Armour, on learning that he is the one man in this country who is able to bulldoze the Standard Oil magnates.

PLANS FOR SMALL PARKS.

With the prospect of a beautiful new Exposition for Pittsburg comes the promise from Commissioner Bigelow of an official draft of plans for the transformation of the unsightly Duquesne wharf into a handsome park. Simultaneously is suggested the creation of a breathing space and elbow room by the acquisition and clearance of the triangular block at the intersection of Fifth avenue, Liberty and Market streets. These prospects come at a time when the public mind is already occupied by visions of Diamond street widened, and of an unobstructed communication by it and Forbes street with the East End.

It is true that these and other improvements, if they are ever carried out, will cost some money; but it is also true that the business, the convenience and the comfort of the half million of people who come and go in Pittsburg daily require something of the sort. Extravagance or jobbery is one thing; the meeting of reasonable, apparent and actual needs for the accommodation of the vast increase of inhabitants and trade is another. It simply so happens that the city has outgrown its accommodations in some directions as a growing boy does his last year's suit. The real economy and good sense consist in considering the propriety and possibility of adapting the situation to altered circumstances before the changes become too costly to be thought of.

As for the plan of small parks, it seems the only alternative where larger ones are not favorably considered. Particularly, as in the case of the Duquesne wharf, where the city already has the ground, there is no reason why it should not be made attractive. The Commissioner of Public Works may feel assured that any judicious enterprise in that direction which can be conducted at moderate expense will meet with very hearty and general approval. His plans and figures in detail will be watched for with interest.

CONSISTENCY AT A DISCOUNT.

The renewal of litigation over the attempt of the Junction Railroad to get its tracks past the Allegheny Valley yards at Forty-third street reveals another example of the superiority of the corporate policy to any such consideration as consistency. The first suit of the Junction to condemn a right of way through these yards for a track on the surface was resisted by the Allegheny Valley Railroad with the plea, among others, that the Junction could get past by an elevated track, without occupying the surface. This plea was largely influential in defeating the first suit of the Junction.

Having accepted that defeat the Junction now seeks to cross the yards by an elevated track and meets with exactly the same opposition as before. This confirms what was already generally understood, that the real opposition of the interests that control the Allegheny Valley Railroad is not based on the injury that will be done to property that was left unused before the Junction wished to cross it, but on the advantages to the manufacturers to whom the Junction will bring railroad competition. Another point is somewhat strongly illuminated by this action. The Junction will not compete at all with the business of the Allegheny Valley road proper; but it will enable competition to be brought to bear on the business that goes off the Allegheny Valley Railroad to the Pennsylvania Railroad lines.

Yet it was sworn in another recent railroad suit that the Allegheny Valley Railroad is not operated for the benefit of the Pennsylvania road!

UNCOMPLIMENTARY TO THE LAWYERS.

One of the expressions of opinion which has been made concerning the vote of the Bar Association with regard to the Shiras resolution reveals a rather low estimate of the integrity and independence of the members of that body. The statement is made in various ways, but always to the effect that "a great many lawyers voted against an indorsement of the resolution because they were of the opinion that the Legislature would refuse to order an investigation, and they would be at the mercy of Judge White hereafter." This is practically asserting that the legal fraternity has so little stamina that, while believing the charges to have some foundation, a majority of its members would vote against investigation on account of some petty fears of personal disadvantages. It is plain that such a contemptuous view of the lawyers would, if well founded, make their vote, either for or against the resolution, of the smallest possible value.

IN securing the services of Mr. Harry Oliver as President of the Pittsburg and Western road the stockholders not only obtain an active business head, but Pittsburg interests will have the assurance of that sympathetic consideration which comes from a thoroughly intimate acquaintance and identification with them. The Pittsburg and Western, through the enterprise and activity of the late Mr. Callery, Mr. Oliver and their associates, has been of great service to this city. There is every indication that the period of its greatest usefulness to the community and prosperity for itself has within the last few years but just begun.

IT is reported that before President Harrison appointed Mr. Frank Palmer, of Chicago, to the position of Public Printer, he telegraphed to the gentleman and asked him whether he would accept the place. This seems to indicate the necessity of information for the head of this administration as to whether ducks will swim or not.

THE Atlanta *Constitution* thinks that ex-President Cleveland was joking when he recently said that his public life was ended, and declared that he would not be a candidate in 1892. It seems to have been a good deal the same sort of a joke as that which the same statesman indulged in when accepting his nomination for the first term, viz., his strong opposition to a second Presidential term. The person who most appreciates the humor in both cases is likely to be David Bennet Hill.

THE promoters of the bill now pending at Albany to authorize the use of Niagara Falls for a manufacturing electric waterpower, must be the descendants of the tailor in the old story who, when he saw the Falls, exclaimed: "Ye gods! what a place to sponge a coat."

THE disposition to jeer at the rural members of the Pennsylvania Legislature who took home to their families some of the free champagne from the New York Centennial is carping and unjust. It certainly shows a better taste and wiser foresight for the statesmen to save up the surplus champagne for the enlivenment of their domestic circles than to utilize it all on the spot for the purpose of making hogs of themselves.

AFTER some centuries of destruction of its forests Italy proposes to undertake the governmental work of restoring the trees to its mountain slope. The necessary work is estimated to cost nearly $12,000,000. The example should have some effect in this country.

EX-SECRETARY BAYARD has got a new position, having been made a member of the Delaware boundary commission. The fact that the State of Maryland, in putting up its line fences lately, encroached several feet upon the territory of Delaware, has aroused that State to action. Delaware perceives that a little persistence in this policy on the part of Maryland will soon leave Delaware no territory worth mentioning.

PERHAPS that proposition for a monumental arch in New York is based on the conviction that when it comes to celebrating making a big pot of money out of outsiders and enjoying the privileges of an enormous free blow-out, New York is there every time.

THE discovery is announced that the man who shot at President Carnot is a crank. That view was supposed to be the natural one to take of people who indulge a penchant for shooting at Presidents; but in this case the rather saturnine theory seems to be permitted that the crankiness appeared in the fact that the man used a blank cartridge.

THE prolonged stay of Colonel Fred Grant in London is privately explained to be for the purpose of keeping Boulanger straight until Mr. Robert Lincoln can arrive at his post of duty and overawe him permanently.

THE refusal of the Legislature to pass any law for enforcing the Constitution against the corporation, affords a tolerably clear explanation of the fact which was advertised with some pride at the opening of this session, that there is no lobby there. No lobby is necessary, it seems, to make this Legislature do the bidding of the corporations.

ADMIRAL PORTER and Ben Butler are trying to find out which of them has the most unsavory war record. So far as the country can find out it is a dead heat.

WE ARE glad to see that arrangements are already on foot for celebrating three years hence the fourth century of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus. Three years is not too long a time to quarrel over who shall dance at the Centennial quadrille, or to provide safeguards against too free libations of the champagne.

THE Allegheny wharf park scheme is starting at the right end of the city. Let us go ahead and open up some breathing places in the center of the city.

PROMINENT PEOPLE PARAGRAPHED.

A BRONZE statue of John Bright is to be erected at Rochdale by public subscription.

BOSTON is getting ready to greet the President and his family sometime late in the coming summer.

GENERAL LEW WALLACE says that there are two things of which he is immoderately fond—horse racing—when conducted honestly—and baseball.

EX-MAYOR STOKLEY, of Philadelphia, has given to the Presbyterian Church at Bethlehem, Pa., a splendid pulpit made of brass, ivory and onyx, inlaid with mosaics. It is a memorial of his niece, Mary Stokley Evans, who died a year ago.

EX-GOVERNOR FOSTER' General W. A. Warner and Secretary Miller, of the Sioux Commission, called on Secretary Noble yesterday and received their final instructions. General Crook will meet his associates in Chicago, May 27, from which point they will together proceed to the Sioux reservation in Dakota.

SECRETARY WINDOM was better yesterday, but was not well enough to leave his house. His condition was much more serious than was supposed. He had a severe attack of cholera morbus Thursday night, which did not fully succumb to medical treatment until Saturday night. Yesterday he was able to leave his bed.

MEMBERS of the Institute of France appear, as a class, to be extremely long-lived. The late M. Chevreul was a notable example; indeed, he is the only member who ever lived beyond a century. Yet, although he entered the institute at the comparatively early age of 40, he is only fourth on the list as far as official life is concerned. Gassini was a member for 75 years, Fontelle 66 and Jussieu 63. M. Chevreul, at the time of his death, had been a member 62 years.

"WILLIAM DEAN HOWELLS is one of the neatest men in the world of letters," says *Current Literature*. "His study is as daintily ordered as a lady's boudoir, and his dress is immaculate, but he cannot induce his thick, grayish brown hair to remain in the state of smoothness to which he endeavors to reduce it, and, rumpled over his broad forehead, it gives him a singular youthful appearance. He is rather un-American looking on the whole; dark, with heavy features and very deep eyes beneath drooping lids, but which light up wonderfully, as indeed the whole face does, when he is conversing."

"IT is not," says Mme. Sarah Bernhardt, "because I am always extavagant that I am always in want of money, but because I am always being robbed by my directors. Shamefully robbed! I have been cheated out of millions and millions. One trusts the rogues, does not read over the engagement as carefully as one ought to do, and signs. Then there is always a line about a forfeit or something else which one has overlooked, and it is there that the director is in ambush. Between the thieves on one side and the small prices paid in Paris on the other, I really often wonder how I get a piece of bread to put between my teeth. Of all countries France is perhaps the one where an actress earns the least. Look at what Ellen Terry, Bernard-Beere and Mary Anderson earn. Why, they make as much, I am sure, in a week as I do in a season."

Their Second Circus.

From the Philadelphia Press.]

After the Centennial mismanagement in New York it was hardly necessary for the 400 to get up an exhibition which was specifically announced as a circus.

THE TOPICAL TALKER.

Some Notes on Suicides of Recent Date—A Query in Rhyme and a Parable.

THE William Henry Davenport who committed suicide at San Francisco on Sunday was not a son of E. L. Davenport, the great actor, and a brother of Fanny Davenport, as the telegram from the Pacific coast asserted he was. It so happens that a competent witness on this question is in this city just now. MRS. A. L. Hamilton is staying here with her husband, who is very well known in England as the proprietor of a most remarkable diorama, and her sister was married to E. L. Davenport.

She said yesterday that it was impossible that the man who committed suicide at San Francisco could be a son of E. L. Davenport. He had two sons, but both are living elsewhere. It is just possible that he may be a brother of the actor. His age, 53, would seem to prove conclusively that he is not a son of E. L. Davenport.

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THERE is some talk of the Grand Central Rink being used for rather a novel purpose in a few weeks' time. It is proposed to set up a diorama there, the canvass of which has been brought over by Mr. Hamilton and some others interested in the project from London, where it has been exhibited for some years.

There is hardly any certainty about the scheme yet, and the Pittsburgers who are to put up the money for it are unwilling to say anything about it. A diorama, if really first-class, might be welcomed heartily in Pittsburg after the theaters close. The summer diversions of this work-day community are not many.

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'A RHYME FOR BONNET.

Give me some new rhyme for bonnet?
Fit to help along the sonnet,
Some poor poet pens upon it,
Or the girl who hops to don it.
For to-day if you should con it,
You will find in such a sonnet
Very fearful rhymes for bonnet.
Such as won, and done, and shone it,
Ton, and gone, and sun, and shun it,
Pun, and run, and spun, and stun it,
Or some Latin word as "*Monet*"—
All supposed to rhyme with bonnet!

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THE surgeon of the Inman steamship City of Berlin, who committed suicide a day or two ago, was known to a good many Pittsburgers. What they think of him, I have no means of knowing. He seemed to me to consist principally of waxed mustache, and to be thoroughly conscious that he had nothing else to live for. That's about the limit of the average steamship surgeon's ambition.

Nothing is more pitiful than to see a young man of the least merit slipping down into the position of surgeon for a passenger steamer. As far as my experience goes, and it happens to be rather large in this direction, only doctors who cannot make a living on land take to the sea. Recently, that is to say within the last six months, there cases of poisoning by carelessness or ignorance of the surgeons on board trans-Atlantic liners have been reported in the papers.

It is said that Surgeon Armstrong of the City of Berlin disliked women; the newspaper report says so. Travelers on the City of Berlin never were aware of this. The reverse holds good as to the expressed likings of most ship surgeons. Flirtation is their strongest point.

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TWO ANTHEMS.

Brightly the light in the chancel fell,
And the perfumed incense rose
From altar high to the rafters dim,
And the golden figure enshrined of Him,
Who died for the world He loved so well;
While the choir chanted a thun'drous hymn
In praise of Him,
In glory of Him,
His love and His might to tell!

And out in the churchyard's shadows gray,
Where the tall grass waved
An oriole sang his vespers too,
While from afar came the low, long "coo"
Of a dove at the close of day;
And the robins sang as they're wont to do,
Now one, now two,
The orchards through,
Till the twilight waned away.

And the sweet sounds flew to heaven's gate,
The hymn from the stately church,
And the song of the birds, the one free and trill
Bent with the scent the flowers spill
When spring finds daylight lingering late.
And the song birds' psalm is echoing still,
And ever it will,
On heaven's hill,
While without man's hymn shall wait!

OLD IRONSIDES MUST GO.

Secretary Tracy Orders the Historic Vessel to Washington.

PORTSMOUTH, N. H., May 6.—"Old Ironsides," the same old American frigate immortalized by the poet and the topic of many a schoolboy's declamation, is and has been for year one of the dearest relics of this town. So when the rumor of Secretary Tracy's intention to remove the battle-scarred ship from Portsmouth Navy Yard to that in Washington spread a wave of indignation burst upon the town. And to-day it may be said that Portsmouth citizens, young and old, are fairly beside themselves with anger at the prospect. People here see no reason for taking the noble old frigate away. She is indissolubly connected with this town, the people are attached to her, and Portsmouth's proud naval record is in itself a reason why "Old Ironsides" should stay here. The idea of making her an attraction for the curiosity hunters who flock to the National capital is extremely distasteful.

There is no doubt that great pressure will be brought to bear upon the administration to save the old ship to the Granite State. From Washington it is learned that Secretary Tracy proposes to use her there as a receiving ship, providing the expense of removing her is not too great. He argues that the Constitution is not earning her oats here, and must be utilized in some fashion besides catering to the patriotic sentiment of the people who live on the banks of the Piscataqua. It is more than probable that "Old Ironsides" will have to go.

Not a Bad Investment.

From the Chicago Inter-Ocean.]

New York spent some $200,000 in her Centennial decoration, and it is reasonably estimated that she took in $3,000,000. It was not a bad investment.

ODD ITEMS FROM FOREIGN SHORES.

TEN and three-quarter miles is the range that the French have obtained for the 43-ton gun, 35 feet long, with an 800-weight projectile and 425 pounds of powder.

THE French "National League Against Atheism" proposes to erect a statue to Chevreuil, the centenarian chemist, to record the fact that he remained "a believer" throughout his life.

THE greatest snuff-taking country in the world is France, though it shows a decline in the habit. In 1869 the consumption was 13,000,000 pounds, or seven ounces per head. Now it is five ounces.

THE newest thing in London household economy is a female butler—a maiden dressed in a livery of blue, green, gold or scarlet, as taste may prefer. The effect alleged is "more quiet and equal style."

AT the Royal Theater at Munich they are going to try the presentation of Shakespeare's plays with scenery and stage fittings as nearly as possible a reproduction of those with which the plays were originally produced.

IT appears that Mr. Gladstone's ancestors were pirates. In 1685 Halbert Gladstone, a merchant in Edinburgh, was a member of the crew of the George, which sailed from Glasgow to prey on the Dutch merchantmen.

THE greatest of the new English ironclads, the Nile, had to be taken out of dry dock because of her structural inability to support her armor. The Nile rates as of 12,000 tons, and the weight of her protecting armor, exclusive of glacis plates and steel decks, is 4,230 tons.

THE Joneses are at the head of the English clergy list, with 450 representatives, while the Smiths follow with 318. After them come the Williamses, with 295, and the Evanses, with 194. The Smiths make such an unexpected showing because of there being almost none in Wales.

A GRAND washerwomen's competition has been held at Bouveret, on the shores of Lake Geneva, between France and Swiss laundresses. Two of the champion washerwomen of Paris appeared to represent their country and one Mlle. Lefevre, aged 16, won the first prize. A banquet wound up a day such as the lake had never witnessed.

VON MOLTKE'S objection to intrusting private soldiers with a rifle which can be fired too easily appears justified since two German regiments have held a sham fight with an imaginary enemy consisting of wooden palisades. The command was three times given to "fire at will," and 220,000 rounds were fired. About nine-tenths of the bullets went clean over the palisades.

HOW WE ARE AMUSED.

New York Philharmonic Club Concert, Davy Crocket and Other Attractions.

The New York Philharmonic Club, long known as one of the foremost chamber music organizations of the land, made its first appearance in Pittsburg last evening at Old City Hall. The audience was fairly large and manifested hearty appreciation at almost every opportunity during the course of the following programme:

Sextet, Op. 79 ..... Jadassohn
Intrate; nocturne.
Composed for and dedicated to N. Y. Phil. Club.
Violoncello, solo { Adagio ..... Goltermann / Tarantella ..... Popper
Vocal solo—"Thou art Mine All" ..... Bradsky
Miss Elizabeth Norcross.
Violin solo—"Fairy Dance" ..... Bazzini
Mr. Richard Arnold.
Sextet, Rhapsodie No. 1 ..... Liszt
Quartet, variations, D minor ..... Schubert
Flute solo { Largo ..... Handel / Allegro ..... Terschak
Mr. Eugene Weiner.
Sextet { Evening Song ..... Wagner / Cuban Dance ..... E. Hoffman
Vocal solo ..... Denza
Miss Norcross.
Sextet, Tarantella ..... B. Godard

In addition to the above, Miss Belle Johnson, soprano, of Chicago, was to sing an aria from Goldmark's "Queen of Sheba" at some point in the latter part of the programme, but as the writer had to hurry off to the opera just after the Liszt Rhapsodie it would be neither safe nor just for him to enter into details as to those later numbers.

In Jadassohn's sextet—a work at once learned and possessed of much melodic interest—the club displayed an *ensemble* of marked smoothness, balance of tone and uniformity of attack and phrasing. The dynamic effects deserved especial commendation, and the whole rendition well deserved the applause it received to a degree quite unusual for an opening concerted number. The Liszt rhapsodie is not the kind of a work that lends itself well to treatment by such a club. Its province is chamber music where form and thematic development are supreme: whereas the rhapsodie is a fitful, formless effort at impressionist color-painting.

In both of these concerted pieces Mr. Weiner, the flutist, earned warm praise for the purity of tone and artistic discretion, with which he blended his single wind instrument with the string ensemble. Mr. Schenck played the lovely adagio with rich tone and much taste, while in the tarantella he displayed a brilliant, if not immaculate execution. Mr. Richard Arnold approved his reputation as a leading violinist through the masterly ease and musicianly phrasing with which he interpreted Bazzini's interesting gaieties. On encore, a graceful lullaby, Con Sordini, received a feeling and tasteful rendition at his hands. Miss Elizabeth Norcross sang Bradsky's glowing song a trifle slowly, but, nevertheless with emotional strength and artistic taste. Hers is a rich, pure and sympathetic voice that it would be pleasant to hear more frequently in our concert rooms.

Bijou Theater.

There's any amount of life still left in the old dramatic dog, "Davy Crockett," and Frank Mayo makes it vastly interesting still. Mr. Mayo is none the worse for wear; he remains an actor of intense power, of quiet and grave humor, and the character of *Davy Crockett* naturally fits him as snugly as the bark does a tree or a dog. Perhaps some day it will be necessary to re-tell the story, quaint and powerful, of "Davy Crockett." It is badly time yet for the theatergoer to have forgotten the drama or Frank Mayo's conception of the hero.

As usual the wolves are very strong and noisy assistants of Mr. Mayo, and the climax of Act II. made a great impression, while at the close of the third act Mr. Mayo and Miss Burriss were called before the curtain amid great applause. Miss Burriss plays *Eleanor Vaughn* with a delicacy and strength that are rarely found together in such a comparative novice, as we are assured she is. Graceful and slender, with a face that re-enforces by its sweet expressions singularly melodious tones of her voice, Miss Burriss has an excellent foundation upon which she lays unflagging energy in her work. She possesses decided dramatic talent and will do far better things some day.

The company includes Mr. Henry Aveling and other actors of well-known ability, Mr. Mayo always has a competent company, by the way. "Davy Crockett" is well worth seeing again.

Harris' Theater.

The advent of warmer weather had very little perceptible influence on the size of the audiences at this popular house yesterday. Both performances were witnessed by almost packed houses. The bill is George S. Knight's well and favorably known "Over the Garden Wall," and it is in the hands of a competent company, headed by that celebrated German comedian Dan Mason. Edwin H. Carroll, Ed Van Veghten and Richard Reab have the other male roles, and all are equal to the demands upon them. The ladies of the company are Misses Rosita Worrell, Lizzie Ingles and Millicent Page. All sing prettily, dress neatly and become popular with an audience in short order. Especially is this the case with Miss Page, who is pretty, plump and has a sweet voice.

Notes of the Stage.

"THE Barber of Seville" is the opera at the Grand Opera House to-night.

THE curiosities and stage performance at the Casino Museum this week are novel and amusing.

THE Wild West and the spirit of its rough and ready heroism has been transplanted to the Academy of Music this week. "The Ranch King" is not unknown to Pittsburgers, but added to it at Manager Williams' cozy theater this week is a first rate variety show into the bargain.

THE FISH HATCHERIES.

Commissioner McDonald Outlines His Plans for the Summer.

WASHINGTON, May 6.—To an Associated Press representative, to-day, Colonel McDonald, the Fish Commissioner, put forth in detail the plans proposed by him for the summer. At the request of the Ohio Fish Commission, the United States Commission this spring added to its regular programme the distribution of pike perch, commonly called pickerel, eggs and fry collected and hatched at Sandusky. About 80,000,000 eggs were secured, and these are now being planted in the waters of Illinois, Ohio and Western Pennsylvania. The trip of the distributing car to Illinois is reported to have been one of the most successful ever made.

The distribution of shad eggs and fry is being conducted from several hatcheries in the East. A car will leave Washington tomorrow on its second trip to the South, with 4,000,000 eggs, going direct to Montgomery, Ala., whence the distribution to local streams will be made. On the first trip only 300,000 of the 4,000,000 eggs on board, or less than 10 per cent, were lost. There are now being taken at the Fort Washington station, ten miles down the Potomac river, about 20,000,000 shad. During the summer the cars will be engaged in the collection and planting of indigenous fishes in the Mississippi Valley, in the States of Nebraska, Kansas, Illinois, Ohio, Indiana Missouri and Michigan.

The several steamers attached to the commission have their summer's work laid out for them, and it is of great importance. The Albatross will leave San Francisco about June 1, going as far as the Privilow Islands in the Behring Sea, where a study will be made of the seal fisheries, in accordance with a resolution of Congress, adopted last session, as well as of the general fisheries along the southern Alaska peninsula. On the way up the Albatross will leave a party of investigators in Alaska who will examine into the salmon fisheries there, under the terms of another Congressional resolution. The new hatcheries are to be located at Put-in-Bay Island, Lake Erie, which will be the largest fish hatchery in the world, having a capacity of 500,000,000 eggs a year; at Evergreen Lake, Colorado, and Bairdspoint, California. Plans for these improvements are all completed now, and it is expected to have them erected and ready to begin work in the fall when the white fish season begins.

A LEGACY TO A PAUPER

Results in a Queer Legal Complication in an Alabama County.

NEWNAN, GA., May 6.—A curious suit is about to be brought by this county in Troy, Ala. Last year an old man by the name of Zachry died at the County Poor Farm after a lingering illness. Since that time his son has come into possession of $40,000, being a legacy left his father. The County Commissioners will present a claim against the State for expense incurred by Coweta county in caring for the old man and defraying his burial expenses, and as the surviving heir is amply able to pay he will be called upon to do so.

The deceased made a nuncupative (that is by word of mouth) will bequeathing all his property, of whatever character, to O. P. Sewell, Superintendent of the Poor Farm, who will take legal steps to enforce his claim thereto.

A Fortune Hanging on a Word.

COLUMBUS, May 6.—State School Commissioner Hancock has been subpœnaed to appear in the Supreme Court as an expert witness in a contested will case brought from Butler county, in which $150,000 is involved. The whole case turns upon the grammatical construction of one word, the word "them" in one sentence.

JESTERS TO ROYALTY.

An Important Appendage of the Courts in the Middle Ages—A Number of Anecdotes Concerning Celebrated Personages.

Court fools, or royal jesters, are happily things of the past. Wallett, the Queen's Jester, was the last of his kind, but he was only so in name, having none of the functions to perform exercised by a Will Somers or an Archie Armstrong. Inded, although he styled himself and was known as such, I scarcely think he was able to produce the Lord Chamberlain's warrant. We must hark back to the days of "bluff King Hal" if we would behold the jester at court. Henry VIII., probably to ease his troubled mind, took great delight in the mirth-provoking qualities of the mountebanks. When these merry serving-men were first recognized as auxiliaries at court it is difficult to determine, but it is known that not only in England but in Eastern countries they were in much vogue with monarchs and nobles. Like chatting over dinner, so laughter is said to aid digestion, and it was probably in this belief that the clown in cap and bells was called upon to play his part before royal and distinguished parties.

Chambers, in his "Book of Days," treats somewhat extensively of these court jesters, and a brief summary of the article may interest your readers. During the middle ages the court fool became an indispensable officer. He usually had his head shaved, and wore a fool's cap of gay colors, with ass's ears and a cock's comb. He often had bells attached to his cap, and carried a scepter or bauble. "The fool was a very humble person, haunting kitchen and scullery, messing almost with the dogs, and liable, when malapert, to a whipping." The jester, on the other hand, was generally a well-educated man, and comparatively a companion to the sovereign or noble whom he served, a man full of wit and keen imagination, whose jests "were wont to set the table in a roar." Of English royal jesters we have the names of Scogan, Will Somers, John Heywood, Pace, Tarleton and Archie Armstrong, who served a succession of Tudor and Stuart sovereigns. Court jesters disappeared with the last-named dynasty, one of the latest examples being Archie Armstrong, who died in 1648. Afterward half witted persons were employed by noblemen as court fools; but toward the end of the seventeenth and beginning of the eighteenth centuries the custom was abolished.

Some Celebrated Individuals.

Will Somers, the court jester to Henry VIII, whose effigy is preserved at Hampton Court, had his memory perpetuated by the establishment of the "Will Somers Tavern" in Old Fish street. When tavern tokens were allowed to be issued, the landlord of this hostelry used one bearing a figure of Will Somers. In the reign of the Stuarts, the court jesters were allowed serving men to wait on them, and some of these were pensioned for their good services. Archie Armstrong, who was jester to James I and his son Charles, was a sort of gentleman Groom of the Chambers to the first King, "preceding him when in progress, and looking after the royal quarters. In this capacity," we read, "Armstrong was made a free citizen of Aberdeen, and held that freedom till his death. James must have loved him at one period; for, despite his hatred of tobacco, he granted a patent to Archie for the manufacture of tobacco pipes. The position of Armstrong, who was on most familiar terms with his second master, Charles, is significantly indicated by his demand, when appointed to accompany that Price to Spain. He claimed to have the service of an attendant, the same as was awarded to the gentlemen of the royal suit."

The claim caused a tumult among the gentlemen in question, and Archie was fain to go abroad in less state than he thought became him. I have quoted this from a work by Dr. John Doran, published in 1858. The same authority, speaking of court jesters, tells us that, although they were not to be found in the household list of Oliver Cromwell, there were occasions when buffoons, hired for sport, appeared at Whitehall. One of these occasions was on the marriage of the protector's daughter with Mr. Rich. At the festival which followed some of the buffoons attempted, with burnt cork, to blacken the face of Sir Thomas Hillingsley as he was dancing. The gentleman usher to the Queen of Bohemia was so enraged at the liberty thus taken that he seized his dagger, and would soon have made short work of the jester's life had not others present interfered.

No Fear Even of Kings.

Leaving royalty, we now come to speak of the nobility, who also had in their retinue fools or jesters. In the reign of Henry VII. (who, it may be observed, neither kept fools nor admired those who did), Thomas, Lord Derby, had one of these jesters in his suite. The King, being on a visit to his lordship shortly after he caused his host's brother, Sir William Stanley, to be executed, was standing on the leads of Lathan House viewing the country. Lord Derby was close beside him. The jester, drawing near to his master, exclaimed: "Tom, remember Will." The remark fell like a bolt on the King's conscience, and he retired in an undignified manner into the house.

Perhaps the last man who would be credited with maintaining a jester in his suite was Judge Jeffries. But so it was. He attended him on his bloody circuit. The Judge "loved and laughed at the fool's power of wit and mimicry, and at Taunton he tossed the buffoon the pardon of a victim, leaving the victim's friends to purchase it of him, if such was desired and lay within the compass of their means."

Of the royal jesters of France, I may mention the names of Triboulet and Brusquet, court fools to Francis I, called Coulon, attached to the court of Louis XVIII., and Dufresnay, to that of Louis XIV. Dufresnay was a multum in parvo, being at once poet, playwright, actor, gardener, glass manufacturer, gambler, wit and beggar. Having got into debt with his washerwoman, he settled the claim by making her his wife. He ventured one day to rally the Abbe Pellegrini on the soiled look of his linen. "Sire," said the Abbe, "it is not everyone who has the good luck to marry his laundress." The jester was non est.

Two Occupations Combined in One.

Coulon was a medical man of great skill, who gave up all his practice except with respect to the King, to whom he became doctor and jester. As a medical student he was wont, by tests of mimicry, to keep a whole hospital ward in roars of laughter. His power of mimicry and imitation of individuals was so great, it was almost impossible to detect the feigned from the real. The King would ask him daily whom he had met, and Coulon, without mentioning them by name, would so mimic each that the King had no difficulty in recognizing the individuals. "Coulon," said the Duke of Orleans to him one day, "I happened to see and hear your imitation of me yesterday. It was capital, but not quite perfect. You did not wear, as I do, a diamond pin in your cravat. Allow me to present you with mine; it will make the resemblance more striking." "Ah! your highness," replied Coulon, fixing the pin in his own cravat and putting on such a look of the Prince that the latter might fancy he was standing before a mirror, "as a poor imitator, I ought, properly, to wear only paste!"

Russia, too, has had her royal jesters. One Aksakoff was jester to the Czarina Elizabeth, whilst Prof. Stehlin filled the joint offices of teacher of mathematics and history and jester to the Grand Duke, afterwards Peter II.

Ernst Augustus, Elector of Hanover and father of George I., retained a jester, by name Burkard Kaspar Adelsburn, who exercised great influence over him. That this custom lingered on in Germany to the middle of the last century is evident from a letter written by Lady Featherstonehaugh, in 1753, in which she says:—"In the evenings we were at the apartments of the Royal Family, and were much surprised at seeing an ancient custom kept up here, and in no other court besides, except that of Russia, of keeping buffoons. There are no less than three at this court."—*Newcastle (Eng.) Weekly Chronicle.*

A CURIOUS FANCY.

A Poor Mother Acts as Nurse to Her Elegantly Attired Child.

From the New York Sun.]

"What a pretty child; whose is it?" said one lady to another, as they crossed Madison Square. "I noticed you nodded to the nurse."

"Thereby hangs a tale," responded her companion. "The nurse used to be in my employ, and left it to become the wife of a coachman. They live over his stable, not far away, and the child is theirs. She dresses it like a millionaire's baby, in the finest and most dainty of clothes, which she faithfully copies from Fifth avenue children. She cannot dress herself to correspond, so she wears the nurse's livery for her own child, and is proud to have passers-by stop and admire him as