The Dispatch.

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PITTSBURG, TUESDAY, JANUARY 5.

BLAINE'S STRONG POSITION.

The dogs of war booming the Jingo brand of journalism for the past few weeks have now taken up the task of writing down Secretary Blaine, because he has the temerity to use rational means for reaching an understanding with Chile. The capacity of this class for the employment of reason is sufficiently ranked by their prompt jump to the conclusion that, because Secretary Blaine prefers an honorable peace to an unreasonable war, he is untrue to public duty, and because he has consulted a gentleman of high standing with large South American interests, there is a job in it.

To this intimation that it is the business of the State Department to consult only those who know nothing about Chile, and take into consideration no interest except the thirst of the naval officers for gore and the hunger of the naval contractors for profit, little reply is needed. As to the allegation that the President is so under the influence of the war boomers as to contemplate quarreling with his Secretary of State on this issue, it will be the final stroke of good fortune for Blaine if the rumor proves true. It will place him as the one man, in the estimate of the sober sense of the nation, who represents the broad and sensible policy of peace, union and mutually profitable commerce between the republics of the Western Hemisphere.

In his inauguration of the reciprocity policy Blaine perceived an opportunity which statesmen of a lesser caliber were unable to recognize, and began an extension of mutual American commerce of immense possibilities for the United States. In his attitude of reasonable adjustment of the Chilean matter he adopts the logical view that these great advantages are not to be lightly wrecked by an unreasonable and bullying attitude; that his country is not to be plunged into a costly and possibly disastrous war simply by the outcry of Jingoes and jobbers, and that an honorable diplomacy cannot deny to a lesser nation the principles of international law which it has applied to itself in a parallel case. By this attitude Mr. Blaine consolidates to himself the support of all sensible and thinking Americans, who prize the progress of pacific commerce more than the costly show of war, who have sense enough to know that the sacrifice of lives and treasure to glut the appetite of naval heroes would be a public crime; and who are reasonable enough to wish the opportunity to be extended for the honorable amende of which Chile has not only given assurances but toward which it has shown performance.

If President Harrison breaks with Secretary Blaine on such a pretext it will simply mark the great Secretary as the coming man. The one drawback to the Secretary's rise heretofore has been an allegation of Jingoism. When he is thus made the representative and exponent of a conservative and peaceful extension of our relations with other American nations his former pre-eminence as a Presidential candidate will be converted into irresistible strength.

THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF CRIME.

The prevalence and daring of thugs and highway robbers in New York are accounted for in the *Evening World* by the laxity and delays of punishment. "Look," says that paper, "at the record of stays and appeals and legal dilly-dallying over convicted murderers and absconders and embezzlers and all sorts of criminals. Then do you have to ask how men dare."

There is no room for dispute that the question why men dare to commit crimes against persons and property is needless. The pass to which we have come at this immediate juncture is such that the chances are usually on the side of the criminal. In the personal conflict between himself and his victim he has the advantages of design and preparation, while the hazards of detection and punishment are now being appraised by the criminal classes at a very low figure.

But in one respect it appears from the statements of our New York cotemporary that the burglars and robbers of New York are worse off than their brethren of Pittsburg. In that city there are numerous cases in which the criminal has to lie in prison while the law is shuffling over his case. Here, in the rare cases where those gentry fall into the hands of the law, they are permitted to walk out of the jail or courtroom when the monotony of confinement becomes irksome. Under these circumstances who can consider it strange if the enterprising hoodlum takes to breaking houses, or "holding up" people on the street as a regular profession?

RESPONSIBILITY, HIGH AND LOW.

The brakeman who was the immediate cause of the disaster at Hastings, on the New York Central, and who is charged with manslaughter by the Coroner's jury, has given himself up, and will now await the action of the courts. As there does not seem to be much doubt that his negligence produced the slaughter his case would, under ordinary circumstances, be an especially eligible one for enforcing the criminal responsibility.

But in this case the question is likely to appeal to the sympathies of the jury as well as to a sound public opinion whether it satisfies the purposes of justice or affords adequate public protection to make a scapegoat of a humble offender while men in high position, whose responsibility is greater than his, go untouched. There is no doubt that the greatest responsibility for the loss of life in that case lay in the negligence of the directors of the road, in failing to provide on that crowded track the block system, which years of experience had shown to be an adequate safeguard against exactly such disasters. Is there any public protection in sending a brakeman to prison for a moment of inattention under a misapprehension of the circumstances, and leaving the real authorities, whose neglect of standard safeguards really caused the collision, to continue such neglect with impunity?

Yet this is exactly what must be done under current jurisprudence. The courts of New York have ruled that directors are not to be held criminally responsible for a policy of neglect, even where it involves a violation of statute law. The theory that "you cannot commit manslaughter by proxy" absolves the directors of the New York Central from any legal responsibility for the loss of life which an enterprising policy on their part might have prevented. The statement of the case affords a sufficient commentary on the judicial theories which produce this result. It would not be at all remarkable if the circumstances should indispose juries to convict a brakeman for a neglect not half as grave as that which directors commit with impunity.

ANOTHER ELECTORAL NOTION.

The propositions already noted to change the Constitution so as to elect the President and United States Senators directly by popular vote are reinforced by another proposing that each State elect her entire delegation of Congressmen by a vote of the whole State. This, it is asserted by its supporters, can be done without amending the Constitution, as is now done in the case of Congressmen-at-large. The St. Louis *Globe-Democrat* advises States which have additional Congressmen under the new apportionment to keep them in that position instead of redistricting.

It is a little surprising to find this plan classed by its supporters as like the proposed changes in Senatorial and Presidential elections, bringing the election nearer the people. It is really the other way. It is removing the representative from the people of his own district to the representation of the whole State. Twenty or thirty men elected by a whole State can never be as close to the people as the same number each chosen by twenty or thirty different districts. It is no less surprising to find the argument that "the unfairness of gerrymandering may thus be avoided," when the fact is that the unfairness of gerrymandering would thus be made absolute. Such unfairness consists in the fact that by it the minority is given less than its fair proportion of representatives; and the proposed plan would increase the unfairness by depriving the minority in any State of all Congressional representatives. The effect of this might often be to repeat in the House of Representatives what has been frequently illustrated in the Electoral Colleges—a majority for one party in the House elected by a vote the total of which shows a large majority for the other party.

It is a singular commentary on current political moves to find this advocated by a leading Democratic paper in Michigan, where its party has recently adopted the plan of electing Presidental electors by districts. If that change could be considered in any other light than as a sheer partisan device, its theory would be the adoption of the plan of electing Congressmen for the election of electors. Yet the leading Democratic paper of the State proposes exactly the reverse for the election of Congressmen. This may be on the principle of compensations; but it serves to class the Michigan Democratic idea pretty thoroughly.

DISINTEGRATION OF MEXICO.

Among new legislative projects is one for the annexation of part of Mexico, which Senator Quay is urging. The general feeling of the United States is that we have about enough territory as the situation stands. There is certainly no hurry to undertake new acquisitions. At the same time, something is to be said for this Mexican idea. It is true that there are a great many Americans and much American capital in the Mexican Provinces adjacent to Texas, and it is also true that Mexican government in those Provinces is utterly insecure and inefficient. This is now instanced by the exploits of the outlaw, Garza.

The condition is indeed very similar to that which existed in the 30's, when the Texans, with General Sam Houston at their head, were obliged for safety of life and property to cut loose from the old Mexican Confederation and declare themselves an independent Republic. But even after that had been done the Texans were obliged to maintain their independent nationality for seven or eight years before the United States would consider the petition of Texas to enter our union. Even then the war with Mexico was brought on by the ultimate acceptance of Texas as one of the United States.

The Provinces of Coahuila, Sonoro and Chihuahua, which now want to follow the example of Texas and join the United States, have not won their independence as Texas did, and any arrangement for their acquisition would necessarily have to meet the approval of the Mexican Government. But, upon the other hand, the Mexican Government is so weak as to be hardly able to do more than hold together. It might be glad to be relieved of a territory from which it experiences much trouble. Assuredly, Diaz would not be so hard to deal with as Santa Anna.

It is possible something may come of the resolution looking to the annexation of these Provinces, which Senator Quay has introduced in Congress, as there are special arguments applying to them which do not exist in relation to any annexation project so far broached.

SENATOR HILL'S STATESMANSHIP.

Senator David Bennett Hill has latterly been telling the people of the United States in general, and his Democratic supporters of New York in particular, what the policy of the Hill Democracy will be. A prominent characteristic of the Hill brand of statesmanship is that it does not do what was laid down by the signers of the Declaration of Independence as a necessity, namely, it does not hang together.

In his Elmira speech Senator Hill developed the grand plan of free coinage which should be marked by distinct separation from the Nevada policy of free coinage. It did not make any difference to Hill that the actual coinage measure he proposed was exactly the same as that urged by the Silver Senators. He would have none of the Nevada style of free coinage; but would insist on free bi-metallic coinage. A little further lapse of time has brought a change o'er the spirit of Hill's statesmanship. He now goes to Washington on the platform of doing nothing except to repeal the McKinley act and the silver act of 1890. As this would put the Democracy in the attitude of advocating a return to the Republican legislation which they have attacked so vigorousiy for the past few years, the principal effect of Hill's statesmanship is to inspire reflections on the large amount of ignorance required to make the reputation of a sharp political manager.

It is to be hoped that Senator Hill will take an early opportunity to air his infallible statesmanship in the Senate. The opportunity for replying to it there will have the result that David Bennett would not be as imposing as he now is, but would know a good deal more about his own rank in politics.

ONE ENGLISH IDIOCY.

If there were any remnant of a conscience hidden away in the anatomical recesses of the British lion, it would be rendered restless by the accounts which Mr. F. Buxton gives of mismanagement in British settlements on the West coast of Africa. But the king of beasts devoured the last survival of this uncomfortable moral appendage years ago, so that the comparison of French and English methods of civilizing the native—as typified at St. Louis and Freetown respectively—although thoroughly discreditable to the latter, will probably lead to no interest in legislative circles beyond a possible question or two in the House of Commons. Little things of this kind are nothing when one is used to them, and they have become contemptible to England from over-familiarity. The idiocy of England's colonial administration passed into a proverb long ago, and it has been very little improved since it led to the American Revolution.

THAT deliverance of the new agencies which have been sending one side of the story to Chile, to the effect that Senor Malta made a bad break by returning his reply of October 27 to Mr. Egan, "without ever having submitted it to President Montt or the other members of the Cabinet," is something in the line of a bad break itself. As President Montt was only inaugurated the other day—when Mr. Egan was conspicuous by his absence—and was before his inauguration simply a naval officer under the orders of the Provisional Junta, the principal significance of this story is in the ignorance it displays of Chilean affairs.

BEWARE, oh, short-sighted and timorous pedestrian of the youthful coaster as you unexpectedly cross his slippery track. Permit him to break your shins and he will probably abuse you for spoiling his slide.

SENATOR HILL has been vigorously proclaiming various stripes of Democratic policy while his foot is on his native heath of New York. But Senator Stewart's letter notifies him that the dissecting knife of criticism is awaiting him in Washington, and we may hope to see David Bennett assume a more modest demeanor when he reaches the Senate chamber.

IF the *Herald's* story be true, the Chicago police in trying to galvanize anarchism for the sake of gain are worse than the men who propagate doctrines of anarchy from a sincere, though misguided conviction.

THE tortures inflicted by the Spanish Inquisition were largely the result of a sincere wish to save the victim's soul. Those suffered by a Hungarian from a party of American tramps in Butler county seem to have had their source merely in the brutal effort to burn his body for the amusement of the onlookers.

WHILE Mr. Ingalls may still believe that the Decalogue has no place in politics, he cannot help having a fellow feeling for it Ingalls is just like the Decalogue in having no place in politics either.

THE attempted self-destruction of Guy de Maupassant, the well-known French author, while suffering from nervous prostration produced by overwork, is another reminder of the widespread, unnatural hurry of existence which spoils more lives than anything else to-day.

SNOW in the country has often been a source of poetic inspiration. In the city it is commonly more productive of bad language and ill-temper.

THE opinion of the war-at-any-price organs that Secretary Blaine is fit for treason, strategems and spoils, because he is not determined on war for the fun of the thing, is nearly as good logic as the rest of their deliverances on the same issue.

CONGRESS will reassemble to-day in a demoralized condition—a perfectly natural state after the holiday spree.

AFTER Diplomatic Manager Moses P. Handy gets through with his wholesale task of filling the entire Congress up with terrapin and champagne, his digestion may be a thing of the past, but that $5,000,000 appropriation will be safe.

AT last we have some indications that we may have a little winter, although not of the hard variety.

IT is one of the coincidences of the season that the cold wave came the day that the Sherman candidate for Speaker won in the Republican Legislative caucus at Columbus. Sherman weather is not unseasonable in January.

FAVORITES OF FAME.

THE intention of the Czarina to visit Paris is questioned by the Parisian journals.

SENATOR PEFFER was a school teacher in Pennsylvania when he was 15 years of age.

SECRETARY RUSK will address the Maryland State Farmers' Association next month.

WHEN Prof. Tyndall was young he used to puzzle his teacher with problems in Euclid.

CONGRESSMAN MCMILLIN says he was a physical wreck at the age of 19. He don't look like it now.

PRINCE GEORGE of Greece has performed another heroic deed. He recently jumped overboard and saved a drowning sailor.

MOUNET SULLY, of Paris, denies that he is coming to America. He says that perhaps he will come in a year or two for a month's tour, playing *Hamlet* and other leading parts.

ANDREW CARNEGIE has donated $30,000 for the erection of a public library building in Fairfield, Ia. Senator James F. Wilson has donated a fine lot, and the building will be erected in the spring.

THE reports concerning the health of King Leopold are said to be entirely without foundation in fact. It was officially announced yesterday that His Majesty appeared in public Sunday, and that he has recovered from his recent attack of influenza.

EMPEROR WILLIAM sent a very cordial New Year's message to the Pope. In his reply the Pope said he desired always to be on friendly terms with Germany, and wished the Emperor every success in his struggle with Socialism, the common enemy of religion and the empire.

No photograph can do Ethel Ingalls, the daughter of ex-Senator Ingalls, justice, says Jean Mallory in an interesting sketch of Miss Ingalls, for it is to her exquisite coloring that much of her beauty is due. She is tall, well proportioned and erect, with fine figure and small, beautifully shaped hands and feet.

A Banquet to Governor Campbell.

COLUMBUS, O., Jan. 4.—[*Special.*]—Governor Campbell was to-night tendered a banquet by the Columbus Club, composed of the leading business men of the city. Major McKinley was expected, but was prevented by illness. The affair was social and complimentary in character.

David B. Hill's Understudy.

Minneapolis Tribune.]

Roswell P. Flower is now spoken of in New York as David B. Hill's understudy. Mr. Cleveland is now starring the season. He made his farewell tour in 1888.

Danger of a Fire in the Rear.

Chicago Times.]

The Indians have started another ghost dance, and General Miles cannot land those 10,000 men upon the ensanguined coast of Chile without danger of a fire in the rear.

AT THE PLAY.

Alabama, a Poetic and Well-Acted Play—The Gossoon's Merits Discussed—Twelve Temptations, With Many Specialties—Forgiven Resurrected—All the Plays in Town.

There is more poetry in "Alabama" than dramatic power, and its influence is rather soothing than stirring. "Alabama," a four-act drama of American life by Augustus Thomas, was played last night at the Alvin Theater by one of A. M. Palmer's companies. It is a distinctly native drama; the characters are to be found in any Southern town or village, the language is natural, and the humor is richly human. As for plot, it has a mere shadow of one; it is rather a mere collection of incidents, without any distinct motive. A woman's right to her husband's name is questioned by a scamp; a young Northern engineer falls in love with a Talledega lassie; an elderly Southern colonel is promiscuously gallant and chivalrous; the grandfather of the lassie above mentioned objects to her marrying the young Yankee—and that is "Alabama," with a happy ending to it all thrown in.

The drawing of character is much more minute and careful than the elaboration of a plot. There are at least three characters that are closely studied from life, and whose personality is defined with wonderful distinctness. There is *Colonel Preston*, an old planter ruined by the war, and treasuring an aversion for Yankees almost as dearly as he does his little granddaughter. Then there is *Colonel Moberly*, a younger relic of the Confederacy; a typical Southern gentleman, afraid of nobody, yet almost tender in his courtesy to his fellow man, and still more toward women. A third character, which is broadly humorous and evidently a study from life, is *Squire Tucker*, a Talledega Justice of the Peace and a large-bodied man, in whose big heart filial affection and love for a charming widow are always battling. His greatest exertion ends at catching frogs, and his philosophy is not capacious, but calm.

The characters being far more salient than the plot good actors are needed. This Palmer company contains several good actors, and no bad ones. It works together well. Odell Williams is very happily cast as the stout frog-catching Justice. Burr McIntosh's *Colonel Moberley* is a very clever piece of acting, and the best thing he has ever done. His identity is lost in the character, and the Southern air, if not always the accent, is always his. Perhaps the warmth of the greeting begot from his many friends in the audience rattled him a little, for Mr. McIntosh's most conspicuous fault was too rapid speech. Frank Bangs as *Colonel Preston*, worked uneasily under the yoke of the Southern accent, but of course brought out on the patios of his part, as well as its kindly humor with a veteran's skill. Clement Bainbridge has been known as a singer hitherto, but he shows considerable ability as an actor in the part of *Captain Davenport*, and makes that rather thankless fellow natural and manly.

The women are comparatively in the background of the play most of the time, but Miss Jennie Eustace walks through a few trying episodes with quiet womanly dignity, and *Miss Atlanta Moberley* is warmly Southern in appearance at all events. Other smaller parts Frederick Conger's *Lathrop Page*, a very boyish Southern boy with lots of spirit, stood out as an artistic bit of work. With nearly all the company the attempt to simulate the Southern style of speech and accent was spasmodic and uncertain. Miss Eustace talked like a Southerner always; Burr McIntosh at times. A negro servant's tongue produced the most singular results of all—it was not even negro minstrel dialect.

In the scenery the beauties of Talladega were reproduced with extraordinary truth. The scene of act III, showing *Colonel Preston's* garden, with the broken wall, dismounted cannon among the flowers and vines, and the shadowy outlines of palms and trees in the moonlight against a superbly purple blue sky all a-twinkle with stars, is a poem in itself without the charming chapter of the story it enframes. It may have come from the handkerchief of some neighboring fair, but when this moonlit view, with the negroes singing on the plantation beyond the trees, unfolded itself last night, we declare that the odor of magnolia blossoms seemed to be wafted across the footlights. The sunrise over another side of *Colonel Preston's* house in act IV. was an delicious effect also. In fact "Alabama" is well acted and splendidly staged. The audience was very large and rather economical in its applause.

Johnson Is Better Than the Gossoon.

It was the Athenians who everlastingly cried for something new. To their well should be added that of our American citizens, who have a feeling of sympathy for Ireland in unison with a love for the drama. An absolute duty devolves upon some playwright to rise up and give this class something fresh. There is no doubt but what the good-sized crowd that attended the Duquesne Theater expected such a treat. But they were sadly disappointed. "The Gossoon" is neither fresh nor meritorious. It is the same old Irish play of "The Shaughran" and "Terry Gow" type. There is a difference. "The Shaughran" and "Terry Gow" are plays. "The Gossoon" is balderdash. It has neither head nor tail, plot or action. In one act the heroine is broken down with despair over the loss of one love; the next she is on the top rung of happiness with another, whom she had hated three short hours before. On another occasion a suffering native is having all sorts of blessings in the shape of eatables, drinkables and kindness showered upon him by the neighbors. Within five minutes practically the same crowd is tearing the roof off his cabin. Add to all this the same grinning, sharp-witted young Irishman; a colleen who, in this case, has been in America long enough to be termed an Irish-American and catch the patriot of the upper tier with appropriately high-strung allusions; a conventional English villain and his tool, the black side-whiskered, heavy-browed bog-trotter, and you have a complete resume of "The Gossoon." The first act is a pretty scene, a cabin with a view of Killarney. The third act is supposed to be the same scene in winter, but, strange to say, the lovely hills of the first view have faded away under some fell cataclysm.

As to Mr. Carroll Johnson "The Gossoon." He is worthier of something better. Barring a tendency to undue flourishing of arms and catch-play, he evidences ability not only as a comedian, but as a clever melodramatic actor, which will improve with time and opportunity. He is a sweet singer—one of the best that has been heard in Pittsburg for a long time—of graceful, pleasing presence, and should win distinction in the new field—in time. The supporting company is mediocre. Marc E. Heisey is as villainous as he well could be as *Gordon Keene*, Miss Lida McMillen as *Rose O'Connell* and Miss Annie Shindle as *Annabel Grey*, perhaps do all they can for the aimless existence allotted them, while the balance of the cast endeavor without much success or ability to bring coherency into the so-called play.

Twelve Temptations With Much Specialty

The reconstruction of "Twelve Temptations" has resulted in changing its former spectacular character into one made up mostly of specialties. Though as a whole this cannot be called an improvement, yet the performers do their various bits of work with exceeding cleverness, and were thoroughly appreciated by the audience last night. The La Martine brothers of acrobatic fame were probably the favorite performers, as they introduced not only some clever but novel feats of skill and strength. A duo in singing and pantomime, Lillian White and Henry M. Browne, were also the recipients of much applause, and were given encores again and again in their topical songs. It's a pity that some women of the stage do not cultivate a modesty that is higher in the bodice and deeper in the skirt. The danseuses received the compliment in the ballet yesterday evening, of several jeering laughs from the gallery and afterward a dead silence upon their exits, which comment, it must be said, was well deserved. There does not appear to be any change in the scenery from that of a year ago, and since it looks a bit travel-worn is probably the same. The young gentleman who takes the leading male character has mistaken his vocation. He should be an amateur Shakespearean actor. What is the matter with the usually careful programmer of the Bijou? His work was far from what it should be this week.

The Harris Theater.

An absence of encores was the particular feature of the afternoon and evening performances at this house yesterday. Devoy and Smiley's International Comiques hold the boards. It is the first vaudeville company appearing at Harris' this season, and cannot, therefore, be called the worst of the year. The one commendable number is the introduction of a wonderful trained horses by Bob Stickney, the old-time bareback rider, though the Guichard sisters' French statue act is worth seeing.

Harry Williams' Academy.

As far as vaudeville companies go nowadays the "French Folly Company" is not a bad one. That aggregation of talent is at the Academy of Music this week. They opened to a crowded but not an enthusiastic house last evening. There are many weak features on the programme and a few tolerably good ones. Sam Bernard creates lots of fun and is an excellent mimic, and in rhyme tells a very pathetic story entitled "The Face Upon the Floor." Lizzie B. Raymond, though not particularly graceful, sings a number of songs with a vivacity that makes her a favorite. Smith and Lord, the Wood Sisters and Fitzgerald and Kelly are all on the list. The Comedy Burletta, "Paris Life," and "Adam and Eve's Daughter" introduced any number of pretty women, handsome dresses and a good amount of fun.

Bryton Once More in Forgiven.

"Forgiven" has successfully survived the frosts of several seasons, and after a lapse of a good many years is again presented to the people of Pittsburg, this time at the Grand Opera House. That it has lived so long is evidence that it is better than many of its class which have long since been buried in forgotten sepultures. It is really strong in its way; that is, it has the same exciting intenseness that is invariably given to the stories in the widely read weekly paper, and the large audience last night enjoyed it from beginning to end. The interest centered in Frederick Bryton as a gambler who reforms, and his chum *Denver Jack*, essayed by Raiph Delmore. Miss Lettie Allen makes a very charming gambler's wife and the entire cast is well filled. If there are weaknesses in the ranks, the lines are so vivid that the imperfections remain hidden until after the curtain falls.

Harry Davis' Museum-Theater.

The lions and the wonderful feats of daring which Daniel Boone and Carlotta perform with them attracted great crowds again to Harry Davis' Museum-Theater yesterday. The lions appear in some new tricks, and a local newspaper man ventured within the den yesterday afternoon. It is not known whether the lions were real hungry at the time, but they didn't eat the newspaper man, anyhow. In the theater is the Gaiety Specialty Company, with a pretty fair programme.

Stage Whispers.

Tanbark was laid in the paths of the conservatory at the Alvin Theater last night. It is not an improvement, unless a circus smell and soiled carpets can be so considered.

Burr McIntosh's friends turned out in full force last night.

"Sinbad" reached Boston all right yesterday and opened to an immense house.

SILVER COIN DEMONETIZING

According to the Arrangement Between Germany and Austria-Hungary.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 4.—Mr. Leech, Director of the Mint, made the following statement to-day in regard to the arrangement said to have been completed between Germany and Austria-Hungary to demonetize the silver coins known as the "Vereins thalers:"

"All the Austrian Union thalers are now in Germany, and are considered national coins in that Empire. In fact all the Verein (Union) thalers are now in Germany, and the amount is variously estimated at from 400,000,000 to 500,000,000 marks, or about $100,000,000. The Austria Verein thalers, which it is proposed to melt down, are embraced in this amount. They are variously estimated at from 75,000,000 to 93,000,000 marks, that is, from $18,000,000 to $23,000,000. From the dispatch it would seem as if Austria-Hungary had decided to buy those silver coins and melt them into bars for the reason that silver florins are quoted below their value on 'Change."

REVENUE FROM NOTARIES PUBLIC.

The State's Income Over $20,000 From This Source, Last Year.

HARRISBURG, Jan. 4.—[*Special.*]—Notaries Public who take in over $1,000 a year in fees are now paying into the State Treasury a tax of 5 per cent upon their net receipts. There are about 3,000 notaries in the State who confess to earning enough to make them liable to this tax, and all but one are located in Philadelphia. The other one is in Pittsburg. The checks range in amount from 18 cents to $6 and $8.

The total revenue from this source amounts to about $900, but the item of stationery and postage, to say nothing of labor, nearly eats up the entire amount. The commissions issued to notaries public, for which $25 apiece are paid, are more remunerative, and every Governor of late years has more than earned his salary by these appointments. Last year notaries public paid nearly $20,000 for their commissions.

HALF A MILLION BOOKS.

A Collector's Work of a Life Time Purchased by the Chicago University.

NEW HAVEN, CONN., Jan. 4.—Some time ago it was announced that the Chicago University, of which Prof. William P. Harper, formerly of Yale, is president, had received a gift of a large library from a gentleman in Germany. A professional gentleman in this city, who is in a position to know, states that the library was acquired by purchase by Prof. Harper at a cost of $500,000, which was taken out of the funds of the University.

The library, it is stated, consists of 300,000 volumes, and was procured from a German who is a great collector of valuable books. The library is the work of a life time by this collector. The books have already been shipped to America.

GOVERNOR FLOWER AT WORK.

He Reprieves an Italian Murderer at the Request of Secretary Blaine.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4.—The request of the Italian Government for a reprieve in the case of Trezza, an Italian now in Sing Sing under sentence of death, was presented to Secretary Blaine by the Marquis Imperiali, who has been the Italian Charge d'Affaires at Washington ever since the recall of the Minister, Baron Fava.

Mr. Blaine submitted the matter to Governor Flower, and last evening received a telegram from the Governor saying that the request would be granted, and that nothing would be done in the case until advised by the State Department of the further wishes of the Italian authorities who are now investigating the case.

France and the Pope at Peace.

ROME, Jan. 4.—Count Lefevre de Behaine, the French Ambassador to the Vatican, came to a complete accord with the Pope to-day regarding a future mutual policy. The Pope accepted France's terms for conciliation, including the cessation of the episcopal letters to the Archbishop of Aix and the suppression of Catholic electoral catechisms.

A Meadville Professorship Endowed.

MEADVILLE, Jan. 4.—[*Special.*]—The Meadville Theological School has just received from Mrs. Abbie B. Haywood, of Sterling, Mass., an endowment of $16,000, to be held in trust as a permanent fund for the establishment and maintenance of a department to be called "The Adin Ballows Lectureship of Practical Christian Sociology."

Bound to Be With Us.

Boston Traveller.]

Cranks and the grip have followed us into the new year.

CLUB REFRESHMENTS.

THAT is a nice New Year's gift that Judge Pennypacker has given the social clubs.—*Philadelphia Inquirer.*

IN the matter of Judge Pennypacker's decision concerning the illegality of clubs selling drinks, it may be added that it's not the first time the bench and the bar haven't agreed.—*Philadelphia Times.*

JUDGE PENNYPACKER, of Philadelphia, has decided that the sale of liquors in any social club is unlawful. All clubs are included in this decision, from the lowest to the highest. Williamsport has no clubs in which liquors are sold.—*Williamsport Sun.*

THIS is a new application of the law, and will create widespread dismay among clubs if the Supreme Court affirms it. It is probable that the higher court will sustain the decision, for there is no exception in the law in favor of clubs.—*Titusville Herald.*

THE decision, if sustained by the Supreme Court, as it probably will be, will have the effect or closing a great many club rooms. The result will be seen in an increased revenue for the city from the payments by the numerous clubs that are able to meet the expense.—*Altoona Times.*

THE opinion of Judge Pennypacker, that under the terms of the license act it is unlawful to sell liquor in club rooms to the members of clubs without having first obtained a license authorizing such sales, appears to be based upon sound reasoning and an accurate understanding of the law.—*Philadelphia Record.*

IN THE SOCIAL WHIRL.

A Rumor Concerning the Daughters of the Revolution—The University Club Secures Headquarters—Matters of Minor Moment.

THERE is a blatant rumor abroad that some of the Daughters of the Revolution are looking up grandfathers and grandmothers. Naughty action though it is, they are accused of inventing proofs, where such could not be found, that their ancestors were in the War of the Revolution. This does not display a particularly nice perception of honesty among ladies and Daughters, or would-be daughters, of the Revolution, though whether they are to be pitied or blamed most is a question. Where one's forefathers are so forgetful of their descendants, when they might, could and should have fought to give their children unto the third and fourth generation a place among the organizations of the land is it any wonder that those coming after should insist on present skill making up for former dereliction of duty. We have known of people disowning their children, but now the tables are changed, and the children are being heard from. Let us by all means when our progenitors do not suit us, make us ones of our own. Let us stick cocked hats on their heads, buckle swords to their sides and send them to the war, if it's going to put money in our pockets, or distinction on our brows.

THE University Club, which has hovered between life and death for almost a year, has decided to live, and in proof of this intention has taken a house. The club is planned, as has been stated in this department already, to bring together men in Pittsburg who have been educated in universities, and only such will be admitted to it. There is now a membership of 50. The club house is located at 417 Wood street, where reading rooms have been established. There will be neither a cafe nor a buffet, as, in accordance with the intellectual tastes of the members, nothing save a literary atmosphere will be permitted. The rooms were, at a former time, the apartments of the American Club. Mr. John H. Hickenson, Mr. D. T. Watson, Mr. W. N. Frew, Mr. G. Harton Singer, Mr. W. W. Lawrence, Mr. H. K. Porter, Mr. Joseph B. Shea, Mr. H. D. Sellers and Mr. Stewart Johnston are members of the club.

The officers of the club are a president, vice president, a secretary and a treasurer, which will be elected annually in October.

Social Chatter.

DISSATISFACTION has been expressed regarding the management of the State Music Teachers' Convention and charges made that some of the women members, who were performers, were pushed into the background by their male collaborators. Since the dissensions of male musicians go back a good bit, probably as far as Tubal Cain's orchestra, it is not strange to learn that the ladies have asserted the privilege also of being cranky.

THE Symphony Orchestra, of New York, Walter Damrosch conducting, to-night in Cyclorama Auditorium, Allegheny, under the auspices of the Musical Association, of Allegheny.

THE Nirvana Dancing Club has issued invitations for a german on Wednesday evening, January 13. Mrs. J. L. Boardman and Mrs. I. K. Becker will act as chaperons.

YESTERDAY at noon the nuptials were celebrated of Miss Martha Kingsley, daughter of the late Bishop Kingsley to Samuel McCombe, of Sewickley.

MR. DAVID BOVARD, who has been spending the holidays in Pittsburg, returned yesterday to his Eastern home in New York City.

A FASHIONABLE tea yesterday in honor of Miss Dewey, was one of the events of the day. Miss Alice Willard was hostess.

MISS LYDIA SUTTON gave a 4 o'clock tea yesterday for Miss Harriet Frances Inman.

MRS. CHRISTOPHER L. MAGEE'S reception this afternoon and evening.

MISS ROSE CALLERY'S reception this evening.

A REPUBLICAN GERRYMANDER

Giving the Dominant Party of Ohio 16 Out of 21 Districts.

COLUMBUS, O., Jan. 4.—[*Special.*]—The following are the Congressional districts under the Carpenter bill, introduced in the Legislature to-day:

First and Second districts—Hamilton county. Third—Whitewater, Harrison, Crosby, Colerain and Sycamore townships of Hamilton county, and Preble, Butler, Warren, Greene and Fayette counties. Fourth—Montgomery, Clark and Madison. Fifth—Darke, Shelby, Auglaize, Mercer, Allen and Van Wert. Sixth—Miami, Champaign, Logan, Hardin and Hancock. Seventh—Paulding, Putnam, Defiance, Henry, Wood and Sandusky. Eigith—Williams, Fulton, Lucas and Ottawa. Ninth—Seneca, Crawford, Wyandot, Marion, Richland and Ashland. Tenth—Franklin, Union and Delaware. Eleventh—Clermont, Brown, Clinton, Highland, Adams and Scioto. Twelfth—Lawrence, Vinton, Jackson, Pike, Ross and Pickaway. Thirteenth—Athens, Gallia, Meigs, Morgan, Hocking and Fairfield. Fourteenth—Muskingum, Perry, Noble, Guernsey and Washington. Fifteenth—Jefferson, Carroll, Harrison, Belmont and Monroe. Sixteenth—Tuscarawas, Coshocton, Morrow, Holmes, Knox and Licking. Seventeenth—Huron, Erie, Medina and Summit. Eighteenth—Stark, Wayne and Columbiana. Nineteenth—Mahoning, Trumbull, Lake, Ashtabula and Portage. Twentieth—Geauga and from the Fifth to the Twenty-seventh wards, inclusive, of Cleveland, with the townships of East Cleveland, Mayfield, Newburg and Euclid, of Cuyahoga county. Twenty-first—The remainder of Cuyahoga, and Lorain county.

A SMUGGLER OF CHINESE CAUGHT.

Sam Joy Given an Opportunity to Explain His Actions.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 4.—[*Special.*]—Sam Joy, a Chinaman, believed to be the head of the syndicate which has been engaged in the business of smuggling Chinamen into this country over the Mexican border, was brought before the United States Court today, for violation of the Chinese exclusion act. Joy speaks English well, and claims to have been naturalized and to have voted at Mobile. He makes frequent visits to Cuba, returning by way of El Paso or some point on the Mexican border, and he always returns to New Orleans accompanied by a number of other Chinamen. He came with 11 Chinese laborers in November; in his next trip, in December, he had 12; this time he had only three.

He claims that these men are from Texas and California, but the United States authorities insist they were smuggled in this country, and that Joy is engaged in a regular smuggling business and has already brought in several hundred Chinamen, receiving $145 a head for those he can safely transport to this country. There have been a number of arrests of smuggled Chinamen here who have been sent home, but the authorities think the capture of Joy will altogether break up the business.

MISS GOULD'S CRANK LOVER.

Who Hears Angels Whispering Inspiration to Him, Is Adjudged Insane.

NEW YORK, Jan. 4.—"Prinz" Von Michaels, who has caused so much annoyance to the family of Jay Gould by his insistence that Miss Helen Gould should marry him, was pronounced insane at Bellevue Hospital today and will be sent to the asylum on Ward's Island to-morrow.

His hallucination is that angels are whispering to him and breathing inspiration.

Sad Fate of a Loving Husband.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 4.—[*Special.*]—The body of John Haas was a subject for dissection on the table of the Ohio Medical College this morning. A few years ago he was a rich carriage manufacturer. He idolized his wife, and when a short time ago she died he immediately became a reckless drunkard, threw his fortune away, died in a free ward of the City Hospital and his body, like that of other paupers, was turned over for dissection.

Of Importance to Chinamen.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 4.—The United States Commissioner at Deming, N. M., has decided that the "country whence he came" in the case of a Chinaman who entered this country from Mexico was Mexico, and ordered his return to that country.

Funeral of General Meigs.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 4.—The funeral of General Montgomery C. Meigs will take place to-morrow. It will be of a military character. The services will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church, and the remains interred at Arlington.

Pan-Americanism Is Marching On.

Toledo Commercial.]

Reciprocity with the principal Central American States having been effected by way of treaties, the Pan-American movement may be said to be marching on.

SEVERAL IMPORTANT RULINGS.

**The U. S. Supreme Court