Thave been much surprised to learn that our legislators at Harrisburg are serious in their intention of passing an act to repeal all acts or parts of acts exempting from taxation any real estate in our city, excepting that held by the United States, the State of Pennsylvania, or the city of Philadelphia itself. This means that the real estate held by hospitals, means that the real estate held by hospitals, homes, asylums, churches, public libraries, free schools (other than public), soup-houses, and all other eleemosynary bodies, whether used for alleviating the miseries of the suffering, providing a home for the aged, sheltering the abandoned child, worshipping their Creator according to the dictates of their conscience, giving ready access to books to the inquiring mind, teaching the deaf and dumb, caring for the blind, giving food to the hungry and fuel to the poor, shall be taxed by the authorities, and an additional burden be imposed upon the benevolent and voluntary contributors to the above-named objects. Let us look at the results which must follow

Let us look at the results which must follow the proposed legislation.

In the case of a number of our benevolent institutions and of our churches, their doors would be closed, as it would be simply impossible for them to pay the tax. The property they own was purchased years ago, and has since largely increased in value, with no increase in revenue, but, in the case of the churches in the eastern part of the city, a diminished ability, in consequence of the removal to other localities of the families formerly occupying what are now business locations. Those now living in this section of the city would, under the most favorable circumstances, feel the additional burden most heavily.

heavily.

The Pennsylvania Hospital has the real estate it now holds assessed at \$1,015,000. A tax of \$1 80 per hundred dollars—a rate which we all know is insufficient to meet the curwe all know is insufficient to meet the current expenses of the city, and which we must expect to be largely increased—would require the institution to pay a tax of \$18,270. Their entire revenue, I understand, is but \$32,000, and in a short time the increase in the tax—from elither an increase in the rate or in the valuation—would be more than their income, valuation—would be more than their income, and cause them to close all their free wards. So in the case of a large number of our churches. It is well known that at the end of the fiscal year the able members are required to make up deficiencies to meet the current expenses, and a real estate tax added would cause them to give up in despair, or, at best, prevent others taking the burden, when the present bearers are removed by death or other causes. In stronger churches it would be a mere question of time when they would be similarly affected; and in the half dozen rich churches the additional amount to be raised would tend

question of time when they would be similarly affected; and in the half dozen rich churches the additional amount to be raised would tend to the exclusion of all but the very rich. Another effect would be to cripple the abilities of the congregations so that the salary of the minister would afford an inadequate support for his family; and while our able ministers would betake themselves to a region where more liberal views would prevail, their places would be filled with men whose talents would command no more than the diminished abilities of their congregation could give them. It may be said that this view is not complimentary to the clergy. We must not forget that they are but men, and that as a rule ability and talent, like water, find their own level. The envious may point to a few, very few ministers in Philadelphia, who receive what may be called large salaries; but the past has shown us that men commanding such salaries are the most likely to be taken from us, by better positions being offered to them in other cities; and at best, they are but the small exception to the large number who now must economize to present a respectable appearance and make both ends meet at the end of the year.

A rain, how many buildings of grand archi-

appearance and many buildings of grand architectural proportions or of proper ecclesiastical
appearances—ornaments to the city—would
be erected with the danger that in a few years the enhanced value of the ground on which they stand would cause to be levied such a tax that the occupants would be unable to meet the increased expense?

meet the increased expense?

Would such buildings be erected anywhere, or would those of even an inferior character be constructed in improving neighborhoods?

Bearing in mindthat no increase of revenue is derived from the increased value—and that the expenses must be met by the voluntary contribution of the members of the organization, and that to make the property available for dwellings, stores, &c., the superstructure must be taken down and all the cost thereof lost. How many buildings of such cost as to lost. How many buildings of such cost as to be worthy of the existence of a century (or the fourth of the time) would be erected in this city, where we have now so little cause to be proud in the matter of the architecture uildings, other than municipal, and none

As it is proposed to confine this taxation to the city of Philadelphia, benevolent persons turning their attention to the formation of a new charity can readily find another location than the one where the money they de-sign shall benefit the poor, the afflicted or the helpless is to be diverted to the public treasury; and Philadelphia would thus suffer in character, and be deprived of the intended advantages.

In connection with this, I would call at-In connection with this, I would call attention to the fact that now certain public institutions, as, for instance, the Blind Asylum, the St. Joseph's Orphan Home, the Northern Home for Friendless Children, the Lincoln Institution, and I know not what others, receive aid from the State; and to levy a tax upon the real estate of such would simply require additional aid from the State Treasury to benefit the City Treasury. How long would nearly of other Treasury. How long would people of other parts of the Commonwealth rest satisfied to raise funds to benefit our local treasury, and

whole of the grants made by the State?
Again, the value of property would be injuriously affected by the proposed action.
Church accommodations are a necessity.
Public libraries and Academies of Natural Sciences are great attractions, and hospitals and all similar institutions add to the character of a city. Would strangers be attracted to the region where a drinking-saloon is licensed, and a home for friendless children is taxed; where the brothel and the gambling-house are placed by the authorities on the same footing as a church and a hospital?

Reasons against the proposed action multiply upon reflection. I will refer to but one, and then close. Taking a mere monetary view of the case, the proposed action is inexpedient. The pub-lished returns show 366 houses of worship. valued at less than \$11,000,000, or just about \$30,000 each. To tax these would add less than 2½ per cent to the taxable property. Not only would the amount raised from them be comparatively trifling, but they now save to the city in the reformatory action far more than the \$200,000 which could be exacted from them. (Each place of worship would return at the present assessed value atax just about equal to the license of twelve drinking-

The Hospitals, Homes, Asylums, &c., now support a population who, but for the voluntary action of the benevolent, would, to a large extent, be maintained at the public cost. It is not only ungenerous, but it is unjust, to impose an additional burden on those who from charitable motives, burden themselves; to tax those who save the public from a large amount of taxation, and to punish the liberal for their liberality. M.

SIBERIA. A New Route Discovered.

The Russian papers announce an important discovery by Cartson, a learned. Norwegian, which will give an impetus to Siberian trade. He had cruised for scientific purposes in an expedition undertaken last summer to the Karian Sea, which washes the southern part of the isle of Nova Zembla and the government of Toblokk, and is covered with eternal ice. In this ice a passage was discovered which, for several months in the year, offers a convenient path for traffic between Siberia and the Norwegian harbor of Iromsog. This discovery at the same time was made by the Englishman Palliser.

-King Ferdinand of Portugal met aspirited Spanish lady on leaving the Lisbon opera house, ungallautly pushed her on the stairway, and received in return two sumcking

CITY BULLETIN.

PLAYING SHINNY,—Games indulged in by boys have their seasons like most other things. "Shinny" is one of the out-door games, and is generally adapted to the month of May, at which time. "kite-flying" and "matble-playing" are instituted. The unprecedented high temperature of the weather has induced the "rising generation" to appear with "shinnies," in the public thoroughfares, at the present time, and missiles of all kinds and descriptions are whirled about in every direction much to the discomfort and annoyance of pedestrians generally. In blokinson street, a pretty little girl, the idol of the household, is dangerously ill from the effects of receiving a blow on the head from a stone propelled by a boy playing shinny.

Terrapins.—These are now in season.

boy playing shinny.

TERRAPINS.—These are now in season.
There are several kinds, and it requires some knowledge to know which to select. The "bulls" and "heifers" are the poorest, yet no doubt they are palmed off for first quality upon persons who do not know any difference. The best terrapins in the world are caught in the waters of Egg Harbor, N. J., and the tributaries to the Chesepeake bay. These are salt-water terrapins, while nearly all the other kinds are fresh, and not near as good.

kinds are fresh, and not near as good.

ICE MERCHANTS.—This class of operatives have given up all idea of gathering any ice this winter in this latitude. Arrangements are being made to obtain supplies in a colder region. In the meantime the manufacturing of an apparatus for the making of artificial ice is being pushed forward with vigor. The time will come when people will be enabled to produce home-made ice at a much cheaper rate than they have to pay for the great summer luxury as furnished by nature.

BUSINESS SIGNS.—The scenes on our whole-

Business Signs.—The scenes on our wholesale thoroughfares, in regard to business, remind the observer of passing events of these incidents to early spring-time. Boxes, barrels and parcels are piled up in some places in the form of pyramids, awaiting transportation. Many of them are directed to places on the line of the great Pacific Railroad. Coopers are busy in "hooping" the goods, and draymen are active in removing them to the respective railway stations.

HOMICIDE.—Dennis Corkey, who was stabbed on Fifth street, above Girard avenue, last night, died from the effects of his injuries at noon to-day, at St. Mary's Hospital.

Dr. E. B. Shapleigh, the Coroner's Surgeon, will make a post mortem examination of the body this afternoon, and Coroner Taylor will hold an inquest in the case to-moreow afternoon.

noon. Quick, who is alleged to have inflicted the

fatal stab, is in prison. CHILD BURNED TO DEATH.—This morning, about half-past eight o'clock, a little girl, named Annie Sherry, aged 16 months, was burned to death by her clothes taking fire from a stove, at the residence of her parents, No. 168 Adams street, Frankford. The mother of the child was absent from the room a short time, and during the interval the sad accident

CAUGHT IN THE ACT.—Howard Glading was CAUGHT IN THE ACT.—Howard Glading was arrested yesterday morning, at half-past three o'clock, by Policeman Book, of the Elighth District, while in the act of stealing a wheelbarrow from the cellar of premises No. 1310 Poplar street. The cellar-door had been left unfastened by the occupants of the house. Glading was committed by Ald. Massey.

BARN BURNED.—A stone barn, on Main street, Chestnut Mill, owned by Geo. V. Rex and George Yeakel, was destroyed by fire about six o'clock on Saturday evening. One ton of hay was consumed, and twenty pairs of chickens perished in flames. The loss is estimated at \$900, upon which there is no insurance. The fire is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary.

A VERY LARGE CHURCH COLLECTION.—
Nearly thirteen thousand dollars (\$13,000) was
the collection taken up in the Universalist
Church of the Messiah, Locust street; below
Broad, yesterday morning. This will pay off
the entire indebtedness of the church aud
leave a surplus in the treasure. leave a surplus in the treasury. It was one of the most liberal church collections ever taken at one service in Philadelphia.

BATHING FOR THE MILLION.-Mr. Bushnell, the veteran skater, has altered his opinion about "skating-rinks," and now says that by next summer he will have introduced facilities for bathing thousands of persons at one time in running water. The location has not been mentioned, but it will be in the suburbs of the

BROAD STREET.-The weather yesterday was very line, and promenaders turned out in large numbers. During the entire afternoon the sidewalks of North Broad street were completely lined with men, women and children. The carriage-way was also very lively, teams of every description being out. ANOTHER.-Charles Green, aged 16 years,

charged with being concerned with Michael Bird in the rebbery at the Newsboys' Home, was arrested by a Reserve Officer, at Third and Chestnut streets, and after a hearing be-fore Ald. Kerr was held in \$1,000 bail for trial. A POCKET-BOOK SNATCHER.—James Wilson was arrested on Saturday night at Thirteenth and Christian streets, on the charge of larceny. It is alleged that he snatched a pocket-book containing \$5 from a person in a store in that vicinity. Ald Collins committed him.

SERIOUS FALL.—Thomas McKnight, aged 21 years, fell from the third story of a house at Darby road and Chestnut street, this morning, and was severely injured. He was taken to No. 13 South Thirty-eighthstreet, and properly

Spring.—The cracking of the ground of flower gardens mostly exposed to the sun and shielded from northerly winds by houses, indicates the rising of the sap in the roots of plants. In some instances, the tender buds of rose bushes have begun to swell.

HOUSE ROBBERY.—The residence of Mr Hamill, near Harrowgate, in the Twenty-fifth Ward, was entered a few evenings ago, while the family was temporarily absent, and was ed of a silver watch, a pair of pistols and a small sum of money.

SPRING IMPROVEMENTS .- Heavy building operations are being organized for the coming spring, at which time an unusual number of houses for various purposes will be erected. The prices for building materials are slightly

declining. CORNER LOUNGERS.—The Second District Police raided on the corner loungers during yesterday, and captured thirty. In the Eleventh District seven of the same class of indi-

viduals were taken into custody. Additional Cars.—The Camden and Atlantic Railroad Company will probably have additional cars, large and convenient, on their road for the next summer's travel.

ROBBERY.-The wheelwright shop of Thos. Knapp, at Hollingshead Corner, near Holmes-burg, Twenty-third Ward, was robbed of tools valued at \$75 sometime during last night.

NEW STORE BUILDINGS.—In the northwestern part of the city new stores for a variety of business are multiplying rapidly. No Frost.-Bricklayers inform us that in excavating the ground for drains and surface-ditches last week no frost was discovered.

A HANDSOME ESTABLISHMENT.—Mr. Thos. Heath, the well-known manufacturer of plaster architectural ornaments; has left his old store at Eleventh and Arch streets, and opened a magnificent establishment, No. 42 North Eleventh street. He has five floors, each of which is devoted to the manufacture of the manufacture of the properties of the manufacture of th or sale of some article in his line of business. His specialty is architectural ornaments in every variety, and he has specimens of these which are not surpassed in beauty in the world; but he also makes plaster busts, statues, and he has business plaster busts, statues, and he had business plaster busts, statues, and he had beauty from the statues of all kinds from world; but he also makes plaster busts, statues, figures and knick-knacks of all kinds, from the smallest to the greatest. Mr. Heath claims to have the largest stock of goods in his line of any establishment in the country. He devotes much attention to scagliola work, which votes much attention to scagliola work, which he has brought to absolute perfection. His imitations of Italian variegated marbles are absolutely marvelous. They are as durable as marble and about one-fourth as costly. These must be seen to be appreciated. They are equal to anything of the kind ever attempted. Mr. Heath's store has two handsome show windows, ornamented with copies of Franklin Institute medals awarded the proprietor, and filled with beautiful goods. The builder of the store is Mr. William Tussy. store is Mr. William Tussy.

Charity ball will be given, at the Academy of Music on Wednesday evening next. For several years past these balls have excited great interest in the community, as they have been generally considered the finest given. The management is always in charge of gentlemen who spare no labor to get up a magnificent affair; and as the entire proceeds are devoted to charitable purposes, the attendance is always large. Everything is conducted on a grand scale, and the Academy never presents a brilliant or gorgeous scene than on the occasion of one of these splendid entertainments. On Wednesday evening Aaron E. Greenewald will be Master of Ceremonies and Mark Hassler Musical Director.

IMPORTANT TO ART CONNOISEURS.—
Mesors, G. Pelman and Jos. Richardson announce their sale of high-class paintings, in which will be found over 100 paintings of the Dusseldorf School. The collection will be on exhibition on Thursday, the 27th instant. Full particulars in future advertisements.

GERMAN LECTURE. Gust. R. Bechler will deliver the fourth of the course of German Lectures, at the Hall of the German Society, to-morrow evening. His subject will be-"Sketches from the Northwestern Plateaus and the Rocky Mountains."

CITY NOTICES.

THE UNIVERSAL RESPONSE.—Burnott's Standard Preparations are of approved usefulness, and all that they profess to be.—Pailadelpuia Bulletin.

HELMBOLD'S FLUID EXTRACT BUCHU is pleasant in tasts and edor, free from all injurious properties, and immediate in its action.

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W. H. CARRYL (formerly of 719 Cheatnut street) has resumed the Curtain business with his Bons, and invites attention to their new stock of Curtain Materials and Railroad Supplies, at 723 Chestnut street, two does above our old stand.

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HELMBOLD'S EXTRACT BUCHU gives health and vigor to the frame and bloom to the pallid cheek. Debility is accompanied by many alarming symptome, and if no treagment is submitted to, consumption, insanity, or epileptic fits ensue.

DEAFNESS, BLINDNESS AND CATARRH treated with the utmost success, by J. Isaacs, M. D., and Professor of Diseases of the Eye and Ear (his specialty) in the Medical Calles of Pensylvania, 12 years experience. No. 306 Arch street. Testimonials can be seen at his office. The medical faculty are invited to accompany their patients, as he has no secrets in his practice. Artificial eyes inserted without pain. No charge for examination. Enfreebled and Dklicate Constitu-tions, of both sexes, use Helmbold's Extract Buohu. It will give brisk and energetic feelings, and enable you to sleep well.

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