PERSONAL.

Senator J. C. Vaughan went to Philadelphia Saturday.

J. D. Ward spent yesterday at Towanda, the guest of Frank Parrott.

Mrs. A. H. Vandling and Mrs. C. C. Rose gave a tea Saturday afternoon.

James M. Boland, of Wilkes-Barre, called on his brother, C. G. Boland, yesterday.

Miss Jessie Green, of Oneonta, N. Y., is visiting Miss Alice Williams, of North Main avenue.

Mrs. Mary McKenny, of Adams avenue, is visiting her niece, Mrs. E. H. Hudson, of Newark, N. J.

Mrs. C. W. McKinney, accompanied by her niece, Miss Madge Renshaw, returned Saturday from Mount Clements, Mich.

Miss Anna Jones, of North Rebecca avenue, and Samuel D. Pettit, formerly of this city, now of Yarmouth, N. S., will be married tomorrow evening.

COMING ATTRACTIONS.

There are not two comedians before the public who are more painstaking and conscientious than Conroy & Fox. Always striving for something new to give to the public, ready and willing to respond to encores, never disappointing an audience. They are worthy of emulation by others whome we have seen. In "O'Flarity's Vacation" which will be seen for the first time at the Academy Tuesday evening we are promised a play thoroughly clean and wholesome, full of bright dialogue, funny situations, catchy music and a company composed of actors, singers and dancers and Conroy and Fox whose work is too well known to need our praise. They have always fulfilled their promises in the past and it can safely be predicted they will do so in the future.

It is particularly a pleasure to be able to announce the forthcoming event of a theatrical attraction of real excellence. We believe we are justified in thus prefacing the engagement of the new musical comedy called "Paradise Alley," which will be presented at the Academy on Wednesday evening. It is under able and respectable management, includes some of the highest salaried and most noted performers, has special scenery and properties and embraces a most interesting story of cosmopolitan life in New York. There is a total absence in the production of objectionable features.

An eccentric astronomer, who is in search of a comet; an eccentric widow, who, interested in astronomy, interests herself in an astronomer; a doctor, who has discovered a magic gas, the alias and a Killarney brogue; an astronomical assistant with an India rubber spine; these, with a bevy of pretty girls, a number of new situations, plenty of new ideas, spirited action, constitute the interest of Joe Ott's new piece, "The Star Gazer," by Franklyn W. Lee. It will be seen at the Academy Thursday evening.

A very satisfactory production is promised by "The Train Wreckers" company which opens this afternoon for a three days' engagement at Davis' theater. It is a sensational scenic melo-drama, full of interesting situations, and with a large amount of fun distributed all through it. The third annual benefit of the board of associated charities takes place on Tuesday afternoon.

LIBRARY'S ANNUAL REPORT

Shows That the Institution Is Growing in Size and Usefulness.

FACTS THAT ARE OF INTEREST

Show the Character of the Books That the People of Scranton Read—New Books Added to the Library During the Year.

That Scranton's public library continues to grow in size and usefulness is fully demonstrated by the fifth annual report of that institution which has just been issued. During the year an average of 501 volumes were issued daily and the year closed with 25,294 volumes on hand an increase of 2,366 volumes over the close of the preceding year.

The character of the books added to the library during the year were as follows: Philosophy, 35; theology, 114; socialogy, 197; philology, 20; natural science, 90; useful arts, 90; fine arts, 87; literature, 165; geography and travels, 91; biography, 90; history, 109; fiction, 635; German, 12; bibliography, 18; cyclopedias and reference books, 291; bound periodicals, 118; public documents, 401. There were in the library at the close of the year 25,142 books printed in the English language; sixteen in the French, one hundred and seventeen in the German and nineteen in other languages. Books were withdrawn from circulation during the year for the follow causes: Worn out, 161; damaged and paid for, 5; lost and paid for, 10; lost and not paid for, 6.

The following will show the nature of the books taken from the circulating department of the library during the year: Philosophy, 1,052; theology, 1,145; socialogy, 2,212; philology, 201; natural science, 1,954; useful arts, 3,178; fine arts, 2,768; poetry and drama, 1,650; geography and travel, 2,974; biography, 2,756; history, 3,501; periodicals, 2,786; fiction, 119,568. During the year 1895 412 volumes were presented to the library. The report of the librarian, Henry J. Carr, which is given in part will be found of interest.

Report of the Librarain.

Registrations of 1895 were as follows: New, 2,463; re-registered, 2,082; total, 4,485; of which 4,385 were city borrowers, 19 non-resident, and 81 teachers' or other special cards. Of the 4,485 cards of 1895 issue, 1,310 were to males and 2,575 to females; 3,758 were to persons 16 years of age and over, and 727 to persons under that age. There were 165 cards surrendered or canceled for one reason of another, in addition to the 6,072 canceled by expiration of the two-year limit, making a total of 6,237; leaving, 7,222 in force at the close of the year.

The usual statistics of circulation and other features of that nature appear in the tables appended. Summarized, the result is as follows: Total issues from the circulating department (306 days) number 153,217 volumes; daily average, 501. This daily average was exceeded in five different months, that of March being 628 volumes daily.

The largest daily issue was 1,185, on Saturday, Feb. 23; and the smallest 279; on Thursday, Oct. 31. Smallest weekly issue, 2,425, Sept. 16-21; largest weekly issue 3,352, Feb. 25-March 2. Smallest daily number of volumes in the hands of readers was 2,724, on Wednesday, Aug. 28; and the largest like number out of the library at any one time was 3,791, on Monday, March 18.

The total home issues were 7,149 volumes less than in the year 1894, which may be ascribed partly to the decreased book purchases of the year, and otherwise to the customary falling off which all new libraries undergo, to a greater or less degree, after their first two or three years have passed. From thenceforward, according to usual experience, a reasonable, but steady increase may be expected, commensurate with the natural growth of the city. In the case of this library, the sag, or dropping off, in circulation did not come so early, and was likewise less pronounced than had been expected.

Indicates a Studious Tendency

As indicating a studious tendency, it may be noted that the total of books drawn from the circulating department for reference use in the building, number 773 volumes more than in 1894. Use of the books placed on the open shelves for free public access, as well as of the periodical material, in the reference and reading rooms, has been active and notable but no statistical records of either are made or attempted. The seating capacity of the main reading room, in particular, has been fully occupied on many occasions, both day time and evening.

Current issues of 36 weekly, 70 monthly, and 2 quarterly periodicals have been kept on file; and additions made to the sets of bound volumes of periodicals. Considerable more increase in the latter is expected in the coming year by reason of binding those that have been received in current numbers.

As compared with the preceding year the purchases were 1,500 volumes less, and the total additions 1,800 less in number. Appropriations for the year remained the same as before, while the amounts required for rebinding, and like increased expenses due to the wear and tear of a large circulation, were necessarily greater. These latter must needs continue to grow in like ratio, as time goes on, or else the library will depreciate in value; and unless its annual book funds are increased the sum available for additions will be still in the future.

Binding bills for 1895 include 92 volumes newly bound and 2,327 volumes re-bound. In addition, 406 volumes were repaired by the library force, so far as possible to do so short of actual rebinding.

The list of gifts for 1895, numbering some 800 volumes, and 1,750 pamphlets and current numbers, includes also many reports, catalogues, and like articles, received by exchange with other libraries and institutions, as usual.

Some of the Donations.

Among the individual donations, the following may be justly mentioned here; American Bar association, one set of its proceedings, 17 volumes; Henry Belin, jr., atlas of Scranton, 1877; Philadelphia Mercantile library, 55 volumes of state documents; Hon. J. A. Scranton, 286 volumes of documents; W. W. Scranton, 140 volumes of state and other documents; Miss Carrie E. Silkman, a scarce copy of Miner's History of Wyoming (1845); William Weber, of Pittston, 9 volumes and 26 pamphlets in German; William A. Wilcox, 40 volumes of documents and various other pamphlet matter.

This library having attained to the respectable number of 25,000 volumes, prior to the close of the year, its application to be placed upon the list for receipt of all forthcoming publications of the Smithsonian institution was favorably entertained and granted. By further kind favor, and recommendation of Hon. J. A. Scranton, M. C., this library has now been designated as a regular depository of United States public documents. Likewise to receive the future publications of the United States geological survey, and of the United States fish commission, as well as such of their past issues as can now be supplied.

It is hoped that, in course of time and with a comparatively small expenditure of money, it may be feasible to obtain other of those interesting and serviceable scientific publications of the government departments and bureaus, and thus help to place the library on a good footing toward fostering scientific study in this locality.

A communication was received from the Lackawanna Institute of History and Science, in March last, tendering a conditional deposit of its collection of books with view to their care and a due opportunity for public use. A proposition from this library was made in response, but it was not then accepted; and subsequently measures were taken for a resumption of activity on the part of the institute. In case, for any reason, however, it should not continue operations on the present lines of effort, it is quite possible that the purposes of those interested might be equally well served by a transfer of most of the books of the institute to this library.

President Hand's Statement.

The report of Alfred Hand, president of the library, to the councils of the city is made a part of the printed report. It sets forth that the estimated expenses of the library for the year is $15,874 and an appropriation of that amount is asked. Speaking of the necessity of allowing this appropriation, President Hand says:

Every one of the items stated, except the two for improvements recommended, are imperative. Excluding those improvements the amount required is $12,524. Allow us to state that, taking into consideration the growth of Scranton and the increased sum from taxes that should be consequent on that growth, the amount we now ask is relatively no more than has been furnished us heretofore. We therefore urge councils to grant the full requirement, and thus cover the necessary added expenditure for wear and tear of books, and meet the increasing demands of the people upon the library. If because of other city necessities there must be a reduction in all sums allowed, then the recommendations for delivery stations and new sidewalks can await another year.

In regard to these last items, they are asked for because of the reasonable clamor of the public and with view to facilitate and increase the benefits of our noble institution. The obect of delivery stations and reading rooms is to practically carry the library to the doors of the people, yet avoid the expense and extravagance of additional buildings.

One large efficient library may thus be made more effective than a number of smaller ones. The sidewalks are needed in accordance with the reasonable demands which councils make upon private individuals for good and safe footways; and also to harmonize with the Memorial building and its other surroundings. It is our duty to call your atenton to these matters in order to apprize the municipality of all our wants, immediate and future.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE.

[Under this heading short letters of interest will be published when accompanied, for publication, by the writer's name. The Tribune will not be held responsible for opinions here expressed.]

AS TO CONNELLISM.

Editor of The Tribune.

Sir:—I defy any man to say anything against the nonesty, integrity or capability of the candidates on the Republican ticket. But letting this matter rest for a moment, I shall first touch another subject. There is not a better-known man, nor a more respected man throughout this valley than William Connell. In every philanthropic movement of the last thirty years, Mr. Connell has had a foremost place, contributing not only of his means, but also rendering the help of personal endeavor to those institutions that cheer the sorrows of the human lot. Yet Democratic papers and some mixed-up politicians on the West Side will go on kicking, howling and scattering false stories in the ears of people to try to blacken his character. Their false reports are powerless to gain any votes amongst the Welsh and Irish people. Mr. Connell has been a friend to both nations and they know it. He is a Christian man who has done as much good in this city as any other person in it. He doesn't blow a trumbet and let the world know what good he is doing toward the poor people; but does his charitable work quietly.

A poor family will never be in need of anything if he knows of it. He is always on the lookout to give strangers a welcome at church. He is always ready to send something to a sick neighbor, and look after his affairs for him. He has a genius for helping folks, and it warms the heart when one, knowing all this, hears people abuse him before the public.

Let us cast our eyes for a few moments at the several factories in which Mr. Connell is interested, employing thousands of boys and girls, of whom some are orphans, others children of poor widows, others children of large families. I think that it is our duty to pause and consider helps families to make both ends meet before disparaging the name of one who and live independently of others' help. Were it not for these several industries many would have to apply for charity.

If you will just take one peep behind the scenes you will immediately, like myself, see the ringsters who are trying to deceive Republican voters into pulling their own chestnuts out of the fire. Methinks, if you all as citizens could see them as I do now, scheming, like at the rump convention, they would never again have another office in this city.

Let every Republican strengthen his muscles. We don't feel savage. We would not harm a hair on the Democratic heads. But, politically speaking, we mean to skin them alive this coming election. Let us do as the old Welshman said true Republicans should do, namely, "stick together like the handle of a jug, all on one side," and the victory is ours.

Daniel E. Gregory.

Hyde Park, Feb. 8.

WAS KEPT ON THE MOVE.

Rev. Dr. Bagley, of Harrisburg, Delivered Four Addresses Here Yesterday.

Rev. Isaac W. Bagley, D. D., pastor of the First Baptist church of Harrisburg, and one of the most eloquent and forceful preachers among the clergymen of that denomination in this state, delivered four addresses in this city yesterday, three at the Penn Avenue Baptist church and one at the afternoon meeting of the Young Men's Christian association.

His morning theme was "God's Ability to Do Great Things for His People." At the Sunday school he delivered an appropriate address to the children, and also conducted an after meeting. Direct from this meeting he went to the Young Men's Christian Association hall, where an audience of several hundred young men were awaiting to hear him. He spoke to the young men on "Wrecks," pointing out the dangerous shoals that bestrew the sea of life and upon which young men are liable to be grounded. In the evening he delivered a most learned and interesting sermon on "Some Things That Will Not Be in Heaven."

AT ELM PARK CHURCH.

Rev. Dr. Raymond Did Not Preach at the Morning Service.

Rev. B. P. Raymond, chancellor of Wesleyan university, Middletown, Conn., was expected to fill the pulpit of Elm Park Methodist Episcopal church at the morning service, but an attack of illness prevented the congregation from hearing an edifying and scholarly sermon. Rev. W. H. Pearce, D. D., the pastor, preached and was eloquent and inspiring.

In the evening Miss Anna Shaw delivered a sermon on "The Mission of Truth." She is a renowned lady and is a leader in the advocacy of women's rights. Her sermon, however, did not touch on this subject, but was occupied with what is amplified in the thought that the title sets forth. The congregation was very large.

THE BODY RECOVERED.

Remains of Little Harry Newkirk Found in the River Near the Crematory.

The body of seven-year-old Harry Newkirk, who was drowned in Hull's creek, a tributary of the Lackawanna at Olyphant, Thursday afternoon, was found partly imbebbed in the sand near the crematory, Saturday morning.

Some Italians who were catching driftwood discovered the body and reported it to the authorities. The lad's father, Louis Newkirk, arrived on the scene about the same time as Coroner Longstreet and identified the body. The coroner's inquest was therefore a mere formality.

The remains were taken to Raub's undertaking establishment and afterwards to the family home in Olyphant.

THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

First of Rev. W. H. Stubblebine's Series of Illustrated Sermons.

SHOWN WITH OIL PAINTINGS

Result Was Gratifying and Effective. Pilgrim's Struggle to Rid Himself of His Burden of Sin, Applied to the Present.

The services at Calvary Reformed church last evening were of a more than ordinary interesting character. The pastor, Rev. W. H. Stubblebine, began a course of sermons on Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress," the subject being, "Leaving the City of Destruction." Three handsome oil paintings six feet high were used to illustrate the sermon. All the lights of the room were put out with the exception of those used to illumine the paintings and the effect was very gratifying. The sermon was very effective.

"John Bunyan, the tinker, was cast into prison, and during his twelve years' confinement, he gathered together all the metaphors, figures and other Scriptural imagery concerning the Christian, and his pilgrimage," said Mr. Stubblebine. "The result of these labors he gave to the world in a book under the form of a dream entitled 'Pilgrim's Progress.' This work has become a classic in the English language, and next to the Bible has been translated into more languages than any other book. It is worthy of a place in every library and should be read by every person."

He then spoke as follows:

The first scene shows us the starting point in the Christian life. "I saw a man," says Bunyan, "clothed with rags standing in a certain place with his face turned from his house, and a book in his hand, and a burden on his back. I looked and saw him open the book, and read from it, and as he read he wept and trembled; and not being able to contain his feelings, he brake out with a lamentable cry, saying, "what shall I do?" This has ever been the first agonizing cry of the awakened soul. On the day of Pentecost when the bultitude was pricked to their hearts by the preaching of Peter they cried out, "What shall we do?" Saul, humbled to the dust by the wonderful vision of glory, cried out, "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?" From the midnight darkness of the earthquake shaken prison house at Philipi the jailor cries out, "What shall I do to be saved?"

Soul Filled with Fear.

The first feeling of the awakened soul is one of fear. The eyes are opened to see the greatness of their sins. They have been so accustomed to look upon their sins as such insignificant things. As long as they have not broken any of the greater of God's commandments, such as stealing, or committing murder, they try to get comfort from the thought that they are not such terribly great sinners. But when the voice of God speaks, and they are brought into the presence of the great Judge they are smitten with confusion of face. Then there is a casting about for a way of escape.

What shall you do to be saved? How many souls when thus convicted of sin do just what Pilgrim did, try to smother up their feelings; keep all your anguish of soul to yourself. Men try to drown the voice of God in drink; women try to get away from God by indulging in a giddy round of pleasures. But let me entreat you for God's sake, yes, for the sake of your immortal soul, don't try to drown the voice of God that is tonight calling you to repentance. There is danger, yes, there is eternal death in delay.

When he could no longer bear the heavy burden, Pilgrim spoke thus to his wife, "O, my dear wife, I am undone by reason of the burden that lieth hard upon me." Wherever he went that burden went too. He could not by any means get rid of it. What an example is this of a guilty conscience, of a heart that is filled with sin. Did you ever find any peace in the pursuit of sin? Think you that the murderer can ever rid himself of the thoughts of his crime? Can you find any chemical solution that effaces the sins and iniquities of a life time?

Long Indulgence in Sin.

At the bottom of all life's pleasures there is the inevitable dregs. And yet it is hard to get men to realize their great need. Hard to get them to utter this greatest cry. You don't seem quite sure whether you want to be saved. Long indulgence in sin deadnes the sensibilitis of the soul, so that you can live on from day to day in comparative unconcern about your soul, while the cloud of God's wrath gathers thick about you. Dare you live another day in such indifference, with such a load of sin resting upon you?

When Pilgrim's family and friends heard of his conduct they were afraid that a frenzy of distemper had gotten into his head. They thought that he needed quiet and rest, so they quickly hustled him off to bed, covered him up, the while whispering into his ears that all would be right in a little while. These feelings were due to weakness. It don't do for a person to get too much excited on the subject of religion. If you do you are liable to lay yourself open to criticism.

People will shake their heads and say that you are a little off-color. Religion has made you crazy. That is the method the devil uses to lull the conscience to sleep. Samson lost his life by falling to sleep in the lap of Delilah. But beware lest you fall asleep from which there is no awakening. Pilgrim's friends did not succeed in getting him to sleep off his feeling. He brushed them all away with the exclamation, "Miserable comforters are ye all." The heavier his burden became the louder he cried "What shall I do?"

Wherefore Dost Thou Cry?

In this condition of mind he was walking through the field one day with his mind in a tumult and knowing not what to do, when he met the Evangelist, who undertook to show him what to do. He asked him the question, "Wherefore dost thou cry?" To which Pilgrim replied, "Sir, I perceive by the book in my hand that I am condemned to die, and after that to come to judgment, and I therefor I fear that this burden on my back will sink me lower than the grave." Then said Evangelist, "If that be your condition, why standest thou still?" "Because I know not whither to go," said Pilgrim.

Thereupon Evangelist hands him a book with these words written upon it, "Flee from the wrath to come." He does not seek to allay his fears, but he bids him to flee from his danger. There is a warning voice calling every sinner today to flee from the wrath to come. There is an avenger upon your track, and if you do not rise and away to the Rock of Refuge you will pay the penalty of your sins.

The Wicket Gate.

Evangelist tries to show Pilgrim the wicket gate in the next picture. But as yet he could not see it. The scales had not fallen from off his eyes. But he could see the glory light of the city streaming through it, and sustained with the hope of relief beyond, he presses on.

So, tonight, there streams through the gate of the heavenly city, rays of divine light. A voice speaks saying, "This is the way, walk thou therein." Like Pilgrim, you may not see all the way clearly, you may not be able to understand all about the way of salvation, but will you be so foolish as to refuse to walk therein on this account? If you were sick with a disease and an operation was necessary to save your life would you refuse to let the physician perform the operation because you did not understand all about the way in which it was to be done?

No, all that concerned you was your life; you wanted that saved at any cost. But in this case there is something more at stake than your life, it is the life of your immortal soul. Is it not sufficient that the gate of heaven swings wide open to you tonight and the light of divine love and mercy streams through it for you? God is ready to relieve you from the awful burden and curse of sin; he waits to be gracious.

Wife Pleads with Pilgrim.

Pilgrim was not long in making up his mind as to what he should do. He starts out at once. The next picture shows Pilgrim leaving wife and children and friends. It was a question of vital importance to him to get rid of this awful burden. It robbed life of all its joy, and filled his soul with terror. What were wife and children and home to him with such a burden resting upon him? And so he starts off on a run.

His wife pleads with him, his friends mock him, while others threaten him, but he sticks his fingers in his ears and rushes on crying out, "Life! life! eternal life!" We may not be called upon to leave home and loved ones in order to find forgiveness of sins; but we are to have that spirit of surrender, that willingness to give up everything in order to get pardon. Nothing is to stand in our way.

Do not be surprised if you find your way opposed. When blind Bartimeus cried out, "Thou Son of David have mercy on me," the multitude told him to hold his peace. But that voice reached the ear of the Divine Healer. He paused in His journey and spake to him. "O, lift up your voice and cry aloud unto the same a Savior and He will abundantly pardon you."

If an alarm of fire should be sounded from near your home what a rush there would be to get home to save a little of your property. But there is something more than property at stake tonight. It is your soul; it is life everlasting. There is danger that both your body and soul will be destroyed by the fires of hell. Can you then sit there in unconcern? Dare you run the risk of another day's delay? Flee the wrath to come by accepting Jesus as your Savior.

SABBATH CHURCH NOTES.

At the Baptist pastors' conference in the parlors of the Penn Avenue Baptist church Monday morning at 10.30 a. m. Rev. W. J. Ford will read a paper on "Prophets as Social Reformers."

Secretary F. W. Pearsall addressed the Railroad Young Men's Christian association meeting at 2.45 o'clock yesterday afternoon. There was a large attendance of railroadmen and their families.

Rev. Thomas Bell, of the Plymouth Congregational church, and Rev. Dr. Kirkpatrick, of Pittston, exchanged pulpits yesterday.

Miss Margaret Jamieson lead the Gospel meeting at the Young Women's Christian association yesterday afternoon at 3.45 o'clock, delivering a very thoughtful address on the subject "Whither?"

Rev. Guest, of Peckville, preached an interesting sermon in the evening at Jackson Street Baptist church. His topic was "The Advent of Truth, Law and Grace." Edwin Bowen sang a pleasing solo.

Rev. J. P. Moffatt, o fthe Washburn Street Presbyterian church, preached both morning and evening. Morris Thomas sang a solo in the evening. Mr. Thomas is a candidate for a permanent position on the church quartette. His singing was favorably commented upon yesterday.

AWARDED BIG DAMAGES.

Scranton Boy Gets a Large Sum of Money from a New England Road.

Bernard Crossin, of North Hyde Park avenue, has just returned from New Haven, where he was the prosecutor in a damage suit for $20,000 against the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad company.

Crossin was awarded a verdict of $10,000 for injuries received while braking on that road last summer. Owing to the absence of safety couplers, which are required by law in Connecticut, Crossin was compelled to go between the cars to make a coupling and had his head squeezed between the bumpers. Howe & Hummell were his attorneys.