SOCIETY SAW MRS. ASTOR'S NEW HOME.

Her Mansion Was Transformed into a Veritable Bower for the Occasion.

Mr. Elisha Dyer, Jr., and Mr. Richard Peters Led the Cotillon Which Followed Supper.

COSTLY FAVORS FOR THE DANCERS.

They Included Gems, Gold and Silver Souvenirs and Dainty Articles in Dresden and Sevres Ware—Guests Bidden to the Great Ball

By far the most conspicuous private entertainment that has been given in New York this season was the ball and cotillon with which Mrs. William Astor entertained about 600 friends last evening at her new home, No. 842 Fifth avenue. The affair partook of the nature of a house warming.

It was 10:30 o'clock before the guests began to arrive, but when they did their eyes met a scene of grandeur and beauty that has seldom, if ever, been equalled in this city. The small reception which Mrs. Astor gave a week ago was a modest affair, without any attempt at display, but last evening the hostess was evidently determined that society should see her home to the best advantage. Entering the door the guests saw the great marble hall, with its area of at least 50 feet square, lighted by scores of incandescent globes of varied hues.

On all sides, in niches and from marble brackets, stood exquisite specimens of sculpture, the work of distinguished foreign and American artists. They were a score in number, and two near the arched marble ceiling, forty feet above, were of heroic size. There was little attempt at enhancing the beauty of this stately chamber, but the wide stairway, which leads from the centre of the hall, looked like a pathway of bloom. This stairway ascends for twenty steps and then turns abruptly to the left. It is of marble, guarded by balustrades of wrought iron and brass.

MARBLE HIDDEN IN FLOWERS.

Last evening the marble was hidden by thousands of loose flowers—roses, carnations, violets, lilies of the valley, hyacinth, tulips and jessamines. The balustrade was invisible, for smilax, entwined with orchids, hid every inch of the iron and brass work.

Beyond the hall, opening from it, in fact, by an arcade of marble, was the ballroom. It is the picture gallery, except on occasions such as that of last evening. The floor is of polished oak, and the walls, which are of great height, are adorned by some of the choicest works of art to be found in any private residence on this side of the Atlantic. The beauties of Bouguereau, Grome, Meissonier, Reynolds, Boughton, Leighton, Chase and Church smile down [illegible] the walls, while on the west sid[illegible] room, at an elevation of [illegible]eive feet, there is a marble balcony.

No one could have told last night of what material it was built, so wide was the floral mantle thrown about it. In every corner stood huge palms, rubber plants and orchid stalks, while near the arcade were orange trees in blossom. There was but little attempt at floral decoration in the parlor, where Mrs. Astor received. An occasional orchid, tropical plant and rare exotic served to set off the exquisite appointments of this apartment.

RECEIVED BY MRS. ASTOR ALONE.

By 11 o'clock nearly all of the guests had arrived and been greeted by Mrs. Astor, who received them unassisted. She was gowned in heavy white satin, with diamond ornaments. It was at the hour that the ball proper was inaugurated. In the balcony of the ballroom were stationed two groups of musicians—the Franko Festival Orchestra and the Hungarian Band. They played alternately the various numbers for the dancing. A buffet supper was served during the entire evening, while at 3 o'clock an elaborate seated supper was given.

After the supper came the most costly cotillion that has been given in New York in years. There were two leaders, the first of which was Mr. Elisha Dyer, Jr. His colleague was Mr. Richard Peters. Mr. Dyer's partner was Mrs. John Jacob Astor, while Mr. Peters led with the daughter of his hostess, Mrs. Marshall Orme Wilson. The numerous favors were all imported from Paris and cost a small fortune. They consisted of gems, gold and silver souvenirs, and dainty articles of Dresden and Sevres ware. The dancing was kept up until 5 a. m.

THE INVITED GUESTS.

The list of invited guests is as follows:

Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Agar, Mr. and Mrs. William Allen, Mr. Ernest Adee, Mr. J. R. Abney, Mr. Maitland Armstrong, Mr. M. Lemoyne Ashton, of England.

Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Barbey, Mrs. A. Barney, Mr. and Mrs. I. Townsend Burden, Miss Evelyn Burden, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Bayliss, Mrs. J. A. Burden, Mr. and Mrs. August Belmont, Mr. Perry Belmont, Mr. Louis V. Bright, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Benedict, Miss Bradley, Mr. W. Blodgett, Mr. H. W. Bibby, Mr. D. E. Babcock, Mr. Harold Brown, Mr. Henry W. Bull, Colonel Charles P. Bryan, Miss Belknap, Mr. Charles Beekman, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Burnett, Mr. William Blackman, Mrs. R. L. Belknap, Mr. J. R. Belknap, Mr. J. R. Beninges, Miss Barnes, Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Barnes, Mrs. Gerald Barry, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Burden, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Beckman, Mr. Dexter Blayden, Mr. W. E. Babcock.

Miss Elsie Coster, Mrs. D. N. Clapp, Miss Edith Clapp, Mr. R. Van Cortlandt, Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Pelham-Clinton, Mr. Duncan Cryder, Miss Churchill, Mr. Armory S. Carhart, Mr. and Mrs. Crook, Mr. Rawlins Cottenet, Mrs. Brockholst Cutting, the Misses Cutting, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Clews, Miss Clews, Miss Cornelia Crooke, Mr. F. N. Colby, Sir Roderick Cameron, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Chapin, the Misses Chanler, Mr. J. De W. Cutting, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Childs, Colonel and Mrs. S. V. R. Cruger, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Cox, Mr. C. S. Clark, Miss Corbin, Mr. Banyer Clarkson, Mr. F. G. Corbus.

Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Davis, Mr. J. W. Davis, Mr. F. J. De Peyster, Mr. J. E. Davis, Miss Dixon, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Dole, Miss De Ruyter, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Davies, Miss Cornelia Delafield, Miss Edith Davies, Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Dickey, Mrs. Joseph Drexel, Miss Julia Delafield, Mr. and Mrs. Elisha Dyer, Jr., Miss Marie Davis, Mr. John B. Dickinson, Mr. W. M. Dorsey, Mr. J. D. Deering.

Miss Edith [illegible] Mr. J. L. Erving, Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Elliott, Miss Helen Edwards, Mr. Ralph Ellis, Mrs. Alfred Edwards.

Mr. Arthur Fitch, Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Fish, Mr. H. Fahnestock, Miss Fahnestock, Mrs. Hamilton Fish, Miss Virginia Fair, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Francklyn, Mr. Gilbert Francklyn, Mr. David Gardiner, Miss Grinnell, the Misses Gibert, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Gardner, Mr. De Forest Grant, Mr. C. H. Godfrey, Miss Godfrey, Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Grinnell, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick E. Grant, Miss Julia Grant, Mrs. Frederick Goodridge, Miss Goodridge.

Mr. and Mrs. Harriman, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Henderson, Mr. John Hone, Jr., Mr. J. M. Hare, Miss Hare, Miss Beatrix Henderson, Mr. J. W. Haven, Mr. A. W. Hoppin, Mr. George Griswold Haven, Mr. J. H. Hammond, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Hornblow, Mr. V. G. Hall, Miss Hoffman, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Hand, Mr. Henry Hoyt, Mr. A. Hoyt, Mr. C. T. Hoyt, Mrs. J. H. Hamersley, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Harrison, Mrs. George Hoffman, Mr. B. Hoppin, Miss Edith Hall, Mr. J. T. Hitt.

Mrs. C. O'D. Iselin, Miss Ingraham.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis I. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Jones, Miss Mabel Jones, Mrs. Bradish Johnson, Miss Johnson, Miss Faith Jackson, Mrs. H. E. Jaffrey, Mrs. H. K. Joselin, Mr. H. W. Jones.

Mr. A. E. Kountze, Miss King, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. King, Mrs. George L. Kingsland, Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Kreech, Mrs. George Kidd, Miss Kidd, Mr. J. W. Kearney, Mr. and Mrs. Gouverneur Kortwright, Miss Kingsland, Mr. and Mrs. Reginald De Koven.

Mr. John Lawrence, Mr. J. I. Lee, Mrs. E. H. Landon, Mr. J. R. Le Roy, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. D. Lanier, Miss Caroline Lee, Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Lee, Mr. and Mrs. De Peyster Livingstone, Mr. and Mrs. P. R. Livingstone, Miss Livingstone, Miss Jacqueline Livingstone, Mr. Goodhue Livingstone, Mr. McKae Livingstone, Mr. J. C. W. Longbrook, Mr. Joseph Leiter.

Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Miller, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Moore, Mrs. H. A. Murray, Mr. Peter Marie, Miss Reeve Merritt, Mr. Newbold Morris, Jr., Mr. R. G. Monroe, General and Mrs. A. P. Montant, Governor and Mrs. L. P. Morton, the Misses Morton, Mr. John McKim, Miss McKim, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Morgan, Mr. J. T. Matthews, Mr. E. W. Maddox, Mr. H. F. Morningale, Mrs. H. L. Mortimer, Mrs. Allison Morris, Mr. J. P. Mortimer.

Miss Neeser, Mr. Alfonso de Navarro, Mr. H. V. Newcomb, Mr. J. J. Neeser, Mr. A. L. Norrie.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Oelrichs, Mr. F. P. Otis, Mr. C. W. Ogden, Jr.

Mr. Duncan Pringle, Mrs. S. H. Pell, Mr. S. Pillot, Mr. J. V. L. Pruyn, Mr. and Mrs. Archie Pell, Mr. Alonzo Potter, Miss Mary Pell, the Misses Parsons, Mrs. James V. Parker, Miss Alice Preston, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Pierson.

Mr. G. L. Ronalds, Mr. N. T. Robb, Miss Robb, Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Rhinelander, Mr. and Mrs. Riggs, Mr. M. McM. Ramsey, Mr. J. W. Ritchie, Miss Rogers, Mr. Adrian Robbins.

Mr. J. C. Smith, Mrs. J. C. Spencer, Miss Stillman, Mr. W. C. Sill, Mr. J. M. Strong, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Sorchon, Mr. S. S. Stebbins, Mr. Eben Stevens, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Soley, Miss Alice Strong, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Sloane, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Stevens, Mr. Gilbert Schroeder, Mr. Mr. G. H. Spencer, Miss Sterling, Mr. J. R. Sheffield, Mr. James Stillman, Mrs. Joseph Stickney.

Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Tomes, Mr. Fitzhugh Townsend, Mr. Belmont Tiffany, Mr. and Mrs. Suffern Tailer, Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Trevor, Mrs. G. Mead Tooker, Miss Tooker, the Misses Tooker, Mr. Henry Tailer, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Tailer.

Mr. Cornelius Vanderbilt, Mr. Henry Van Rensselaer, Miss Olive Van Rensselaer, Miss Catherine Van Rensselaer.

Mr. W. Remsen Webb, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Webb, Miss Marie Winthrop, Miss Woodworth, Mrs. A. S. Webb, Jr., Mrs. J. W. Waterbury, Mr. and Mrs. M. Orme Wilson, the Messrs. Wainwright, Mr. George Woolsey, Mrs. J. Norton Whitehouse, Mrs. Ferdinand Wilmerding, Miss Wilmerding, Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Webster, Mr. F. B. Woolsey, Mr. Francis Woolsey and Mr. and Mrs. Whitney Warren.

SON GOES MAD AFTER FATHER.

John Low Seized with Mania Following His Parent's Breakdown.

John Brown Low, the twenty-one-year-old son of Alexander Low, the McLaughlin trial juror who suddenly became insane in the jury box, has been confined for some time at the Essex County Insane Asylum. He escaped from there on January 17, but was caught in this city the following day and sent back to the asylum. One of the hallucinations with which young Low suffers is that he has but to write checks, sign them with whatever name pleases him and present them to get the money. He has done this several times, and obtained small sums from friends whose names he signed to the checks.

Forgery does not enter into the matter, as Low makes no effort to imitate the handwriting of the supposed drawer. It is impossible to learn the number of checks thus made out by Low, as they are in the possession of William E. Bloodgood, an architect at No. 64 Cedar street, who is Low's brother-in-law.

It was during the time Alexander Low was in Bloomingdale Asylum that the heavy work in the plumbing business previously conducted by him at No. 100 West Eighty-third street fell on the shoulders of his son John. The boy was too young to endure the strain, and his mind gave way. Then Mr. Low came back from Bloomingdale and later died, after which young Low's mania became more acute.

WAS HELD UP BY TWO BOYS,

But Mitchell Wouldn't Prosecute and All Were Fined.

Patrolman Bearey, of the West Twentieth Street Station, arraigned in Jefferson Market Court yesterday William McCarthy, nineteen years old, of No. 345 West Thirty-sixth street, and John Kelly, nineteen years old, of No. 227 West Thirty-sixth street, whom he had arrested at 2:30 o'clock yesterday morning, on the complaint of Alexander Mitchell, of No. 345 West Forty-third street.

Bearey told Magistrate Deuel that he heard cries of "Police!" and "Murder!" coming from the direction of Eighth avenue and Twenty-seventh street. He ran to the corner, and found Mitchell, who is fully six feet tall, struggling with the two prisoners. Mitchell charged both of the prisoners with having assaulted and attempted to rob him, and they were locked up as suspicious characters.

Mitchell said at the station house that he knew the sister of one of the prisoners, and he wouldn't make a charge. He was then locked up on a charge of intoxication.

In court Mitchell persisted in his refusal to press the charge, and Magistrate Deuel thereupon ordered that a charge of disorderly conduct be made against all three, and when this was done he fined them $5 each.

DID NOT KILL MRS. TUCKER.

Investigation Shows That Her First Husband Had No Hand in Her Death.

Detective George Cooley, of the Yonkers, N. Y., police, who was sent to Connecticut on Saturday to look up Thomas Bloomer, the first husband of Mrs. Edmund Tucker, who was murdered near Yonkers a week ago, returned to Yonkers yesterday. He found Bloomer in Ridgefield, Conn. He occupies a farm of thirty-five acres, and is living with his wife and three children. He made an affidavit that on the day of the crime he was in Branchville, a neighboring town. This was corroborated by other affidavits. Bloomer said he had been divorced, and had not seen his former wife in fifteen years.

Coroner Miles decided yesterday not to wait for any further report from Dr. William E. Horne, the bacteriologist, who discovered traces of blood in the parings from Lellie's finger nails, and will hold the inquest on Wednesday.

John Kerr, Warden of District Prisons.

Commissioner Wright, of the Department of Correction, yesterday appointed John Kerr, a livery stable keeper, of No. 329 East One Hundred and Twenty-first street, warden of the district prisons. He will have charge of the prisons attached to the Essex Market, Jefferson Market, Yorkville, Harlem and Morrisania courts. His salary is $2,000 a year. Commissioner Wright says of him: "He was born in Louisville, Ky., but when one year old went with his parents to Wisconsin. He has resided in New York for fifteen years. He employs many men, and is thoroughly experienced in handling those under him. He resides in the Thirty-fourth Assembly District, and is indorsed by leading Republicans."

RESCUE, MAYBE TOO LATE

Servant Girl Taken Unconscious from a Burning New York Tenement.

Found Overcome by Smoke in Her Bed by the Firemen, Who Save Her.

HER CONDITION VERY CRITICAL.

Taken to a Hospital, but All Efforts Fail to Restore Her to Consciousness. The Loss by the Fire Only Small.

The physicians of Gouverneur Hospital were bending every energy last night to resuscitate a young girl who had been unconscious since 4 o'clock yesterday morning. She had been taken from a burning tenement house at No. 125 Stanton street, where she was overcome by smoke while asleep in bed.

While Baker Louis Lassar was working with his men on the early batch of bread, one of his helpers noticed a flame darting through a chink in the floor above the basement where they were at work. He immediately set up a cry of "Fire!" and in a jiffy nearly everybody in the house was awake and on the way to the street.

Although the flames had not spread very far as yet, dense volumes of smoke poured through the hallways and filled many of the rooms. Several persons on opening their doors were driven back by the smoke and became panic-stricken.

TENANTS IN PERIL.

They were unable to grope their way to the windows through the blinding smoke, and ran about their rooms screaming for assistance. It was only after Fire Truck No. 18 arrived that the tenants were assisted to the street by Firemen O'Hearn, Zweiger, Young and Reinhardt.

A moment later Truck No. 9 dashed up, and Firemen Hanbury and Larkin, who sprang from it, saw Mrs. Lassar standing with horrified face pointing to the interior of the bakery.

"Anybody in there?" asked Hanbury.

"Rosie, the servant girl!" gasped the woman, and then she fainted.

With a bound the brave firemen were at the back door of the flame and smoke filled bakery. The door was locked. It was a rather strong affair and did not yield to the pressure of the two men. Hanbury thereupon put his fist through the glass panel and turned the key, which was on the inside. When they got into the room beyond they groped around until they found another door. Breaking this open, they got into the room where the servant girl slept. She was in bed and seemingly asleep. Shouting and shaking did not arouse her, so Hanbury took her up in his arms and ran with her into the street.

COULD NOT BE REVIVED.

She was carried to a nearby drug store and restoratives were applied. An ambulance had meanwhile arrived and the surgeon removed the unconscious girl to the hospital. She was found to have inhaled enough smoke to cause death under ordinary circumstances. Her condition was said last night to be extremely critical.

A cat which slept in the same room was lying dead in a corner, suffocated by the smoke.

Mrs. Lassar said that she had hired the girl last Saturday and that she knew nothing more about her than that her name was Rosie; that she was a Hungarian, and eighteen years of age. She is remarkably pretty.

The fire was quickly extinguished after the arrival of the engines. The damage to property amounted to about $250.

CAT AND DOG IN POLICE COURT.

Fight of a Feline and Canine Disturbs Disputants in Jefferson Market.

By the howls of a frightened gray cat, the yelps of an angry yellow dog and the efforts of Policemen Woolbridge and Hunt, of the Court Squad, considerable noise and excitement were caused in Jefferson Market Police Court yesterday, and the many women were badly frightened.

The cat entered without an escort, with the dog in full chase. Tabby dived for the section where the women were seated, and sought oblivion and safety among the voluminous skirts. The dog dashed after, but was stopped by Woolbridge's vigorous boot, while Hunt, catching sight of the cat's tail, seized it and dragged pussy to the street. "The cat and dog fight having been settled," said the Court, "we will now take up a quarrel of intelligent beings."

Prince Boris Changes His Faith.

Sofia, Feb. 3.—It is announced that Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria will formally proclaim the conversion of his eldest son, Prince Boris, to the Greek Church on February 9.

SAVED BY FIREMAN KIRK.

The Brave Brooklyn Fire Lad Rescues an Aged Woman from a Burning Building.

Fireman Henry P. Kirk, of Truck No. 3, who had already saved nine lives, distinguished himself yesterday morning by the rescue of an aged woman from the burning building at Fulton street and Sprague alley.

Policeman Cox, who discovered the fire, went up to the third floor and helped a woman and two children to get out. The engine companies were on the scene in a few minutes. Members of Truck No. 3 saw the pale face of the aged woman at a window on the fourth floor. A thick cloud of smoke hid her from view momentarily, but it was wafted away and the woman was visible again.

Kirk and his comrades raised a ladder, but it was not long enough. Kirk ran up it, and grasping the window ledge was just pulling himself in when the woman, Mrs. Jane Griffiths, fell back into her room overcome by smoke.

Kirk entered the room and raised Mrs. Griffiths up. To get her out was a difficult task, but the young hero was equal to it. Grasping the woman around the waist, he crawled out of the window and lowered himself to the ladder. Two of his comrades seized Mrs. Griffiths by the feet, and together they brought her to the street. In descending Fireman Kirk's left hand was badly cut by a broken window, which he clutched at to save himself from falling. The fire did $1,000 damage.

Kirk is an American of Irish descent, a native of Brooklyn, and twenty-six years old. He was educated in St. Ann's Parochial School and Public School No. 5. He served in the United States Navy for six years. While serving on the Tallapoosa in the harbor of Buenos Ayres he saved a French sailor, who had fallen overboard. For doing this Congress awarded him a medal and General Tracy, Secretary of the Navy, sent him a letter of commendation. He became a fireman in September, 1893.

Fireman Henry P. Kirk.

The brave Brooklyn fire-lad who added to his record as a life-saver by yesterday rescuing an aged woman from a burning building.

ANOTHER TERM FOR FEENEY.

He Is the Leading Democratic Candidate for the Board of Arbitration.

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 3.—Edward Feeney, of Brooklyn, is a candidate for reappointment on the Board of Arbitration. The terms of three members of the Board expire in May next. Mr. Feeney is said to have made an excellent record during the past three years. He is a candidate for the Democratic place on the Commission. In the Senate last session, when a bill antagonistic to the Board was pending, Senators Mullin, Kilburn and O'Connor lauded Feeney to the skies for his industry and intelligent treatment of labor troubles, and proposed that his salary be raised and the other two members of the Board retired, leaving him alone to deal with the strikers and their employers.

Many Republicans of the State, most of them large employers of labor, are exerting their influence to have Mr. Feeney retained on the Board. He seems to have the call at present in the Executive Chamber for the Democratic corner of the Board of Arbitration after May 20. Up to three years ago Mr. Feeney's life had been spent in the newspaper office. He is a veteran of the War of the Rebellion.

MOTHER'S FIGHT FOR HER CHILD

The Grandmother, Mrs. Frances Stowell, Wouldn't Give It Up.

Mrs. Emma Stowell, who lives at No. 165 South Ninth street, Williamsburg, yesterday had her mother-in-law, Mrs. Fannie Stowell, of No. 413 Pacific street, before Justice Goetting, to show cause why she should not surrender the complainant's six-year-old son.

Five years ago Mrs. Stowell was left a widow with two boys, now six and eight years old respectively. After the death of the father, the mother gave the children to her mother-in-law, who cared for them. Last Fall the mother made a demand for the return of the boys, but it was refused. A month ago the eldest boy returned to his mother voluntarily.

In court yesterday the grandmother tearfully told how much she was attached to the children, and to lose them both would probably kill her. When it was seen that she would not surrender the boy, the Magistrate told the mother to institute habeas corpus proceedings.

Too Much Work for the General Sessions.

Asistant District-Attorney and Chief Clerk H. W. Unger announced yesterday that the General Sessions courts were practically unable to cope with the volume of criminal business awaiting disposition. He said that the District-Attorney's office did not put on the calendar for trial many ball cases, for the reason that there are too many important cases in the Tombs awaiting trial. There is a movement on foot to have the Legislature create a Part V. of the General Sessions, for which ex-Judge Allison is slated.

OLNEY MUST STEP BACK,

The Grave Question of Precedence at State Dinners Finally Settled.

Combined Wisdom of President and State Department Brought to Bear on the Subject.

AMBASSADORS NOW COME FIRST.

One Woman Settled It Originally by Taking Olney and Pauncefote in Together and Passing Soup to Both Simultaneously.

By Julius Chambers.

Washington, Feb. 3.—Secretary of State Olney has finally settled a question that threatened to involve this country in unprecedented and delicate complications with the representatives of their Royal Highnesses Queen Victoria, Emperor William and King Humbert and the President of France.

The combined wisdom of President Cleveland and of the entire State Department staff on diplomatic etiquette, and the experience of the four distinguished Ambassadors from Great Britain, France, Germany and Italy, and all the stray hints that could be gleaned at the Congressional Library have been found necessary to reestablish peace and tranquility in high official circles.

As if it were not enough that Venezuela, Armenia and other irresponsible countries should embroil this country in diplomatic strife, there recently arose a momentous question as to who should walk into dinner first after the President of this Republic. It was a serious matter. Many times a question of precedence has arisen, but it was always easily settled. It would not down, however. It hung over the Administration. It haunted the waking hours of the entire staff of the State Department. It troubled the dreams of the President. The Secretary of State had nightmares in which the four Ambassadors withdrew their passports because they did not follow Mr. Cleveland in the procession that marches from the East Room to the dining-room at the White House dinners. It was worse than Armenia and Venezuela, Cuba and Hawaii combined. When these four Ambassadors were only Ministers it was easy enough to dispose of them. The man who had been in this country longest led the way and the other Ministers came after in the order in which they landed in the country. And the Secretary of State always marched after the President.

AN UNKIND HINT.

Last year four Ministers were made Ambassadors. Somebody was so unkind as to hint that if the Secretary of State had any idea of the diplomatic usages of court society in Europe he would not be treading on Mr. Cleveland's heels in the dinner procession, but would modestly give precedence to the Ambassadors.

This stirred up the jingoism of others, who insisted that the Secretary of State ought to take precedence over all Ambassadors. The cloud grew black.

Sir Julian Pauncefote, as dean of the diplomatic corps, was consulted by the three other Ambassadors. The ladies of the diplomatic circle chatted in an uneasy way, and the trouble grew. The Ambassadors met in consultation with Mr. Olney and his experts on etiquette. Voluminous reports on foreign customs were read. Meantime nobody went in to dinner, because nobody wanted to give cause for talk.

Mr. Olney and Mr. Cleveland tried to untangle the web. Secretary Lamont, with all his diplomatic and warlike ways, was unable to advise the President whether an Ambassador or Secretary ought to sit at his right hand.

THEY SIDE-TRACKED OLNEY.

The Ambassadors themselves collected statistics to prove that Ambassadors to a foreign country took precedence of Cabinet members of every rank in every European Court. Nobody wanted to give a dinner with the Ambassadors and Secretary of State present at the same time, because nobody knew which country would be scratched the hardest. One woman bravely settled the question by taking both Olney and Pauncefote in to dinner with her and reversing their positions at the table, while soup was passed to both guests simultaneously. When Mr. Blaine was in the State Department he used to revel solving such problems, but Mr. Olney has no taste for social controversies.

When complications had grown unbearable last week the President himself suggested that the rules of hospitality should settle the whole matter.

"Ambassadors are Ambassadors," said Mr. Cleveland. "We've got them, and we might as well treat 'em well. They are our guests, and Mr. Olney is one of the official household."

That settled it. The four Ambassadors were duly notified that on state occasions, such as dinners in the White House, they would have the right of way over Mr. Olney. He now walks in fifth place after his chief.

This question, of course, touches the ladies. It is harder work to arrange the places at a state dinner for diplomats at the Executive Mansion than it is to lay out a roulette wheel. Now that the four Ambassadors have side-tracked Mr. Olney, it is more difficult than ever. As to the ladies, they come last. The men count first, and when they are placed the ladies are assigned to the men.

There is an idea that a conflict may arise in some of the diplomatic households, and just now hostesses are very careful not to have too many Ambassadors on hand when the Secretary of State is invited.

SUBSTITUTE IS DOOMED.

The Final Vote, However, Will Furnish a Test of Free Silver Strength in the House.

Washington, Feb. 3.—The doom of the Senate silver substitute for the House Bond bill is sealed. Chairman Dingley, of the Ways and Means Committee, said this afternoon that no date had been fixed for the debate on the substitute, but that ample time would be allowed for everybody to speak on the subject. Privately it is understood that two day and two night sessions will be given up to the debate.

There is no question as to the result, and the only importance attached to the final vote is that it will furnish the first real test of the free silver strength in the House. Going over the House list and checking off all the probable Democratic silver votes discloses the fact that silver will probably command 109 supporters. The most sanguine believers in the white metal claim 125, but their estimate is largely guesswork. Among the Republicans, according to Mr. Hartman, of Montana, a silver substitute will have thirty-six supporters. This would give a total of 145 votes. But it must be remembered that while the strength of the silver dogma exists principally in the Democratic party, there are some features in the Senate substituted bill that are not wholly acceptable to the members of that party.

Mr. Bailey, of Texas, said this afternoon that he thought only about ninety Democrats in the House could be counted on to support the measure. All these estimates are based on a full attendance, and this cannot be counted on, even in such an emergency as the present. An uncertain factor in the situation is found in several Southern Republicans, who are new members.

A special meeting of the Ways and Means Committee will be called to-morrow to consider the Senate bill. Of course, every member who voted to report the Bond bill can be relied upon to recommend that the House does not concur in the Senate substitute. Undoubtedly there will be a minority report, but the passage of the Senate bill is an impossibility. If by any juggle it should get through, its fate is not less sure, because the President would undoubtedly veto it. Exactly when the bill will be reported cannot be foretold, but it is not likely to be this week, because Mr. Reed undoubtedly desires to have as much time as possible used up in frivolous debate of any character. This is the only purpose that the bill is going to serve, and in view of Mr. Reed's waning popularity it makes very little difference what happens.

TO DISCUSS IT IN SECRET.

Senators Will Consider the Davis Resolution Behind Closed Doors.

Washington, Feb. 3.—When the Davis resolution on the Monroe doctrine, reported from the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, is reached on the calendar, or is made the unfinished business of the Senate, a motion will be made to proceed with the debate behind closed doors. Many Senators believe that this is the proper course, and the statement is made with positiveness that at the outset, at least, the doors will will closed to the public and the official reporters of the Senate debates will be excluded from the chamber.

A leading member of the Committee on Foreign Relations said this morning that no harm could come from the carefully prepared essays on this resolution, but that harm might grow out of the impromptu debate that would certainly follow this question when it came before the Senate regularly for consideration.

THE HOUSE IN COMMITTEE.

Amendments to the District Appropriation Bill Took Up Most of the Time.

Washington, Feb. 3.—The House spent nearly the entire session in committee of the whole to-day discussing three amendments to the District of Columbia Appropriation bill, changing the items for the support of charitable institutions so that the appropriations shall be disbursed by the Board of Children's Guardians instead of the institutions themselves.

Two of these amendments were agreed to, and the third was pending when the committee rose at 4:50 p. m., and the House adjourned until to-morrow.

UNCLE SAM WILL PAY THEM.

Provision for Families of Italians Lynched Asked by the President.

Washington, Feb. 3.—The President sent to Congress to-day a message and accompanying corespondence relating to the killing of three Italian laborers at Walsenburg, Col., in March last.

In his message the President suggests that Congress make prompt provision for the dependent families of the victims, and for those of two other Italians who were seriously injured at the same time. The Secretary of State's report of the occurrence, which is transmitted, gives all the details of the crimes.

ANNIE SMITH'S BURGLAR.

Found Him Breaking a Door, Chased Him Through the Streets and Caught Him.

Miss Annie Smith, a twenty-year-old Williamsburg girl, captured a burglar after a lively chose through the streets on Saturday night. Miss Smith lives with her parents at No. 293 Stockton street, Williamsburg. The building is a three-story, double flathouse, owned by Christopher Wendland, who occupies, with his wife, one of the apartments on the first floor. The Smiths live in the flat on the opposite side of the hall.

Saturday Wendland with his wife locked up their apartments and came to this city to visit friends, and asked the Smiths to keep an eye on their flat.

While Miss Smith and her mother were sitting in the dining room of their flat Sunday night a noise was heard in the hallway. Miss Smith threw open the door, and found two men working with a jimmy at the door of the Wendland flat. One of them dashed for the door and escaped, but Miss Smith collared the other, at the same time screaming for help. The burglar threw her against the wall with considerable force, ran out the vestibule door and held it closed. Miss Smith's screams frightened him, however, and he released the door and ran up Stockton street toward Lewis avenue. Miss Smith pursued, screaming, "Stop thief!"

Finding that she was gaining, the man turned and threatened her with a revolver, but as it did not stop pursuit he fled again. Turning down Lewis avenue he ran to Myrtle and started to climb a steep hill. Miss Smith screaming at every step pursued.

A young man named Charles Schlaepper, who lives in the same apartment house with the Smiths, recognized the girl and joined in the pursuit. At the top of the hill they came upon the panting fugitive, and secured him without trouble. A policeman took him to the Vernon Avenue Station, where he gave his name as Thomas Ward, and said he lived in East Third street, this city. He was recognized in the Lee Avenue Police Court yesterday as an old offender.

HERMIT CLAYTON MURDERED.

Inquest Shows His Death Was Violent, and Casts Suspicion on Shuman.

Coroner Bennett and a jury held an inquest in Babylon, L. I., yesterday over the body of the hermit, William Clayton, who was found unconscious in his little cabin in the woods on Sunday last, and who died a few days later.

John J. Carlett, a resident of Deer Park, L. I., testified that he visited Clayton's cabin on the day the old man was found, and that Clayton, after being revived, told him the story of the assault on him. Clayton said he heard some one knock on the door, and on opening it a masked man, attired in a dark ulster, dark suit of clothes and derby hat, entered and demanded Clayton's pocketbook. The old man said he had none.

The intruder, Clayton said, then struck him with a club or a pistol. Clayton said he was a man from Deer Park. Carlett said that a young man named Schuman, who had recently returned to Deer Park and since left, was seen wearing an attire answering the description given by Clayton of the man who assaulted him. Hotel Proprietor Leeney, of Deer Park, testified to entertaining Schuman at his hotel on Thursday and Friday preceding the crime. Leeney said Schuman was attired the same as the man described by Hermit Clayton.

The Jury rendered a verdict of death from assault by a party or parties unknown. The District-Attorney of the county will at once take charge of the case.

The Brooklyn Life.

The thirty-second annual report of the Brooklyn Life Insurance Company, of Liberty and Nassau streets, New York, just issued, is a flattering showing for the company. The total assets, secured by bond and mortgages, in loans on call, deposits and cash, are $1,734,208.66. The report also shows that during 1895 the company largely increased its assets, income, surplus and insurance in force. Under the new State standard, the reserve maintained by the company is $1,519,544, and the surplus $195,820.71. This company has for a number of years been one of the strong life insurance companies of the country, and with a decided increase of business to be recorded for one of the worst financial years of the past twenty years, its management is to be congratulated.

WHY BYRNES SAW PARKER.

Made a Request for Leave to The the Police Department Records.

Wants to Use Rogues' Gallery Pictures and Facts About Noted Criminals in His New Book.

HE WILL PROBABLY BE REFUSED.

Commissioners Roosevelt, Andrews and Parker Are Not Friendly to the Late Chief and May Vote Against His Application To-day.

When the Board of Police Commissioners meet at Police Headquarters to-day there will be probably presented to it the application of ex-Superintendent of Police Thomas Byrnes for permission to examine certain records of the department.

While the request is apparently an innocent one, it has stirred up the department in no slight degree. On last Friday Mr. Byrnes called at Police Headquarters and had a long talk with Police Commissioner Parker. Afterward there was a secret conference between Commissioner Parker, President Roosevelt, of the Board, and Chief Conlin.

Byrnes's visit to Commissioner Parker was to obtain more facts and rogues' pictures for his book of criminals, which is to be published shortly by G. W. Dillingham. The work is to consist of about 400 pages, and is to be profusely illustrated with portraits of noted criminals now at large or in prison, with copious facts as to their respective careers.

The new book, by the way, is not the first attempt of authorship of ex-Superintendent Byrnes. In 1886 Cassell & Co., the publishers, issued a book entitled "Professional Criminals of America," which then bore these words upon its title page: "By Thomas Byrnes, Inspector of Police and Chief of Detectives, New York City." The book also bore the motto, "Pro Bono Publico." The work had a large sale at $10 a volume, and Byrnes reaped a small fortune by its publication. Since then Byrnes has been compiling new facts about criminals to be used in a new book. Much of the data in the old book, it is understood, is to be used in the new one. Criminals whose pictures and records are in the old book who have reformed or died will not be included in the new work. It will be upon the same lines as the old book, but will be written up to date, most of the facts in the old work being obsolete. The Police Board of 1886 authorized Mr. Byrnes to use the records of the department at his discretion.

Commissioner Parker and President Roosevelt had a talk yesterday about the matter. It is understood that both Commissioners feel that all of the data that Byrnes wishes to use is the property of the Police Department and should not be used in any private enterprise. It is also believed that the present Commissioners and Acting Captain O'Brien, of the Detective Bureau, and Chief Conlin are opposed to the publication of the book, because it will place much of the secret records of the department before the public.

The position of the present Board of Police Commissioners will, it was freely acknowledged by Byrnes's friends last evening, do much to make or mar his new book. While at the head of the department the ex-Superintendent is known to have compiled a great deal of matter for his forthcoming work, but there were many facts which he did not make notes of and which he cannot secure unless his application to look at department records is granted. If the matter is considered at to-day's meeting it is safe to say that President Roosevelt and Commissioners Parker and Andrews will vote against granting Byrnes's application.

Commissioner Grant has always been considered as friendly to Byrnes, owing to favors extended to General U. S. Grant, Commissioner Grant's father, during the troubles of Grant & Ward. When the present reform Board of Police Commissioners took office and started in to force Byrnes to retire on a pension, as is well known now, Commissioner Grant did all he could to aid him to keep his position.

BOTH LOVED THE SAME GIRL.

Messrs. Hoffman Met in Her House and a Pistol and Knife Were Used.

George Hoffman, who said he lived at No. 339 West Thirty-ninth street, was arraigned in Jefferson Market Court yesterday charged with assaulting Samuel Hoffman, of the same address. According to the story told by the police, both men appear to have become infatuated with Nora Murphy. Samuel, it is said, claims to be engaged