AN ASTOR'S GOWNS SAVED FROM AUCTION.

J. Coleman Drayton Withdraws His Former Wife's Finery.

But He Turns Her Novels, Children's Toys and Other Things into Cash.

Mrs. Gilligan Now Owns a Cradle in Which Some Astor Scions Were Rocked.

FAIR PRICES FOR FAMILY WRECKS.

Curious Crowd Buys the Odds and Ends Simply Because They Belonged to Aristocracy with a Peculiar History.

There are Drayton effects in homes all over the city to-day. A youthful Gilligan has slept in the cradle in which an Astor grandchild was once rocked, and a Miss O'Callahan, who boasts that Horace Greeley was at one time a guest in her boarding house, has thirty-one French novels which the girl who was Charlotte Astor probably read while swinging in a hammock at Newport.

Never before did the curiosity hunters, the boarding house keepers, the second-hand dealers and all the others who haunt auction rooms find such a harvest as they did yesterday at Flattau's, where furniture and finery of the J. Coleman Draytons were sold. Besides the auction house habitues there were valets of rich men and maids of fine ladies, and a few men of the town, who bought articles from the Drayton collection to adorn their quarters.

The yere all disappointed because the two trunks filled with Mrs. Drayton's clothing were withdrawn, as were also the family portraits, the stubs of a bank book, the letters and Mr. Drayton's Princeton College address on "Chapel Stage Speeches." The order that these should not be sold was issued by Mr. Drayton, but, to the satisfaction of the prying multitude, he did not deny them the satisfaction of bidding for his children's toys and countless other articles, rather trashy in some instances, it must be said, but still of interest because coming from the household of an Astor.

MRS. GILLIGAN'S CRADLE.

When Auctioneer Flattau mounted his box he said that everything would be sold for cash. Then he asked for bids on three little chairs from the Drayton nursery. There was a bid of 15 cents first, and finally of 65 cents, at which price they were knocked down to a woman who gave the name of Mrs. Gilligan. While these things were being sold, a group of curious women were investigating the cradle in which some one of the little Draytons, or, possibly, all of them, were rocked during their early careers. Mrs. Gilligan, who had bought the chairs from the nursery, put a baby in the cradle, and the little one crowed and cackled with such glee that when bids were called for Mrs. Gilligan was the first to make an offer.

"It's lined with fine silk and fine satin," said the auctioneer. "It's padded with curled hair and over it all is a canopy. It's as fine as the best baby in the land could wish to be rocked in. Now, what do I bear for it?"

The first bids were in the cents, and then a dollar was offered. Mrs. Gilligan triumphed at an outlay of $3.25, which the auctioneer claimed was dirt cheap for such a fine article.

A little iron wagon was sold for 35 cents to a man who said he was Jones.

"What Jones?" asked the clerk.

"Just Jones," said the buyer. "D'ye think I'm going to give myself away?"

DANCING KITTENS CHEAP.

The same Jones bought a dollbaby carriage and canopy, and a friend of his, who said he was Smith, bid in a toy stable for fifty cents and a toy marble-topped washstand for eighty cents. This gave the cue to others who did not care to make their identity known, and who, therefore, gave such names as "Mr. X.," "Mrs. Y." and "X. Y. Z." When the first mechanical toy was brought out the auctioneer had it wound up, and when it was started a cat played a fiddle and three kittens danced to the lively air. The bidding was by five-cent jumps, and the toy went to a Mr. Randall for $1.80. A mechanical tailor shop toy, which represented a group of kittens sewing at a table, was knocked down for $2.75.

After the toys were disposed of a set of horizontal poles, which Drayton probably used in taking his morning exercise, were knocked down at twenty-five cents, and a punching bag was secured by a muscular woman, who said she was Mrs. Roberts, for eighty-five cents. Drayton's Indian clubs brought only fifty cents.

A lot of lamp shades were sold at about what they would cost when new, and then the books were brought out in lots of from ten to fifty. The greater portion were paper-backed novels and magazines, and a great deal of merriment was caused when Miss O'Callahan, who says she kept a boarding house for forty years, bid sixty cents for thirty-one French novels. She got the lot, and remarked in a fine Irish brogue that such a stack of books would be cheap at double the price.

"J. C. D." TOWELS AND BLANKETS.

A little volume that the auctioneer said was printed in 1688 went for forty-five cents, and then two big books of Civil War history brought $3.25 each.

There were over a hundred towels sold, nearly all marked "J. C. D.," and they brought from 7 to 11 cents apiece. Mr. Drayton's shoe lasts and brushes brought 15 cents, his linen riding coat 80 cents and his riding boots $1.25. Blankets marked "Drayton" were sold for a song, while a little toilet mirror which Mrs. Drayton may have used while curling her bangs was knocked down at $1.80. The heavy furniture, such as a sideboard, dresser and desk, went at no more than second-hand furniture always commands.

Among the buyers was Mrs. Elizabeth Grannis, who was after second-hand furniture to give to poor families.

Taken all the way through, good prices were obtained, but in only rare instances were there fancy figures. The amount realized was not footed up last night.

BRUNSWICK'S RENT TOO HIGH.

Receiver Says It Didn't Pay on That Account and Orders Guests to Move.

Mr. Josiah H. Baker, receiver for the Brunswick Hotel, said yesterday that the reason for the financial failure of the place was the fact that the rental price was too high. He said that at an annual rental of $72,000 the business could never succeed.

"I offered to lease the hotel at a reasonable figure," he said, "but the owners declined to accept my offer and the place had to be closed."

The guests of the hotel have been notified that they must secure other quarters by Saturday. The once famous hotel will be closed at the end of the week. Next week the work of dismantling will be begun and the furniture will be sold at auction.

E. G. Gilmore, the theatrical manager, who, with his family, has occupied apartments in the house for twenty-three years, will go to the Windsor. Others who have been in the house a great many years are Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Stickney, Colonel W. B. Blanchard, the former president of the Erie Railroad, and Mr. M. E. Ingalls, president of the "Big Four" road.

NUPTIAL KNOTS UNTIED.

Two Romances Which Began in New York Reach an Unhappy Ending at Providence.

Providence, R. I., June 23.—George R. Batcheller, who is associated with his father, George H. Batcheller, in his Providence, Worcester and Boston theatrical ventures, got a divorce from his wife, Lillian V. Batcheller, in the Supreme Court to-day.

Mrs. Batcheller was a Providence girl and came from a good family. In 1890 she met Batcheller and in May, 1891, they contracted a common law marriage in New York City.

Four years ago a boy was born, and in 1893, in order to make the tie more binding, the couple were married by a clergyman in New Jersey. Some time ago Mr. and Mrs. Batcheller came to Providence to live, when the formal separation occurred.

A case that attracted considerable attention in the Supreme Court to-day was the suit for divorce of Mrs. Jessie Reynolds against Dr. William M. Reynolds. While Mrs. Reynolds at present resides in East Providence her home has always been in or near New York City.

Previous to her marriage Mrs. Reynolds was Miss Jessie Charlick, the daughter of Oliver Charlick, president of the Long Island Railroad Company, and lived with her parents either at their city home, on West Thirty-fourth street, or at their country estate, near Flushing, L. I.

In 1878 Miss Charlick met Dr. Reynolds at Saratoga, and a year later they were married at Dr. John Hall's Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church. At that time Dr. Reynolds was regarded as one of the most promising dentists in New York City. In 1882 there came a change. Dr. Reynolds sold out his practice, Mrs. Reynolds opened a boarding house in order to obtain sufficient means to provide for the family, but her efforts were unsuccessful. At last Mrs. Reynolds left the Doctor and removed to Rhode Island, where the charge of non-support would be sufficient to enable her to get a divorce.

One of Mrs. Reynolds's witnesses to-day was Thomas S. Willets, a Flushing banker. Another was Miss Harriet Hosmer Leland, daughter of Major W. W. Leland, who was on General Grant's staff during the war and the former owner of the Grand Union Hotel at Saratoga. A third witness was Oliver M. Farrand, who has been in the wholesale jewelry business at No. 3 Maiden lane for twenty-nine years.

COLWELL TO GET A DIVORCE.

Referee Decides in His Favor, and He Will Sue Dr. C. A. Tinker for $50,000 Damages.

In the suit for absolute divorce brought by Frederick L. Colwell, a broker of No. 44 Broadway, the referee, Lawyer William G. Davies, of No. 34 Nassau street, has recommended that a decree be granted. This will probably be done by the Supreme Court next Friday.

The co-respondent is Dr. Charles A. Tinker, of No. 124 West One Hundred and Twenty-first street. He was the family's physician. It was sought to impugn the evidence of Colwell's three witnesses on the plea that they were private detectives. The referee has found that they were not, but were friends of Colwell and helped him secure evidence.

Mrs. Colwell and Dr. Tinker vigorously denied the charges, claiming that his visit was of a professional nature.

Mrs. Colwell is very pretty, about twenty-eight years of age. She is a granddaughter of Edward Roberts, of No. 242 Lenox avenue, this city, and Manchester Centre, Vt. The Colwells have two young children, a girl and a boy, the control of which will be given to the father.

Lawyer Thomas Macadam, for Mr. Colwell, will immediately institute proceedings for $50,000 damages against Dr. Tinker alienating his wife's affections. The doctor is a married man with a large and fashionable practice.

GENTRY'S TRIAL PUT OFF.

Brooke's Continued Absence Causes Postponement Until To-day.

Philadelphia, June 23.—The trial of James B. Gentry, charged with the murder of Margaret W. Drysdale, the actress, better known as Madge Yorke, was postponed to-day, on account of the continued absence of Charles W. Brooke, of New York, the senior counsel for the accused.

At 10 o'clock this morning, Mr. Brooke not having arrived, Judge Yerkes granted a delay until 2 this afternoon. At 2:30 o'clock Gentry entered the court room and took his seat in the prisoner's dock. The room had been crowded long before the hour set for the beginning of the trial. Gentry's aged mother, dressed in deep mourning, followed the prisoner and took a seat close beside the iron cage in which her accused son sat.

After court had been called to order George F. Munce, junior counsel for the defence, arose and handed to Judge Yerkes a telegram, which stated that Mr. Brooke would be unable to starr for Philadelphia until 4 o'clock this afternoon. It stated that the Judge's charge was at the time being presented to the jury in the Fleming trial, and for that reason it was impossible for Mr. Brooke to leave.

Mr. Munce asked that the trial be put off until to-morrow morning, when Mr. Brooke would surely be present. Mr. Munce said that this short postponement would in reality expedite the trial, and it was agreed to.

Ready for Captain Copeland's Trial.

The trial of Captain Copeland, of the Union Market Station, on charges of failing to enforce the Excise law, will begin before President Roosevelt at 3 o'clock to-morrow afternoon. The charges grew out of the arrest of William Fagin on Sunday, May 3, in his saloon, at No. 283 Avenue B. President Roosevelt personally saw the saloon in question open and doing business. Roundsman Knuninger and Patrolman James J. Donnelly, of Captain Copeland's command, will also be tried on similar charges.

Wolf's Family Didn't Save Him.

Max R. Wolf was committed yesterday to the Elmira Reformatory, in Part I., General Sessions. He had been indicted for swindling a Maiden lane jeweller. Wolf was a salesman on commission. He took gems on memoranda and found customers for them. He failed to account for some diamond earrings which he obtained from Robert Schaefer, of No. 9 Maiden lane. His arrest and conviction followed. The family of the convicted man is respectable and wealthy. No expense was spared to secure his release.

AUCTION OF DRAYTON EFFECTS.

The crowd which attended the sale of knickknacks and household impedimenta belonging to John Jacob Astor's brother-in-law, yesterday, attracted a motley crowd, that was very much disappointed when Mrs. Charlotte Astor Drayton's two trunkfuls of dresses were withdrawn. A Mrs. Gilligan bought the Drayton cradle, and a Miss Callahan the paper-covered French novels. The prices, as a rule, were fair.

KILLED HER DOG AND INCURRED HER WRATH.

Policeman Dwyer Gets Deep in Hot Water by One Cruel Blow.

Mary Dowell Has Him Arrested and Says the Case Must Be Pushed Vigorously.

PET TERRIER PLAYS ON THE GRASS.

Comes Off When Called, but Begins Pulling at the Policeman's Trousers, and One Blow Crushes Its Tiny Skull.

"Yes, Beauty is dead," sobbed Mary Dowell yesterday in Yorkville Police Court, "and all I can do will not bring him back to life." Then she straightened up and her eyes flashed resentment as she added: "But how I will enjoy the punishment of that brutal policeman who clubbed my dog to death." It was plain she meant it. That policeman is pursued by her wrath.

Miss Dowell was the complainant against Policeman John H. Dwyer, of the East Fifty-first Street Station, who killed her pet in front of St. Peter's Cathedral on Sunday morning.

Miss Dowell is twenty, the only daughter of Mr. Dowell, of the Fifth Avenue Hotel. She lives with her parents at No. 837 Sixth avenue, and kept two little toy terriers. She and her tiny pets were inseparable.

Bright and early Sunday morning Miss Dowell started out for a tramp along Fifth avenue. Topsy and Beauty, delighted with their temporary freedom, frisked and frolicked all about their pretty mistress. The three made such a delightful picture that many a promenader turned to look after them.

After a long walk, Miss Dowell sat down for a moment on the coping that surrounds the lawn in front of the Cathedral. She was a bit tired. The little dogs were not, however, and they chased each other up and down the grassy plot, dodging in and out among the early morning worshippers and enjoying themselves, if ever dogs did.

As the pleasure of the pets and their mistress was at its height along came a policeman. He frowned and said in no pleasing tone: "Get them curs offen that grass; d'ye hear?" Miss Dowell did hear, and was offended at the man's manner. But she obeyed.

"Come, Beauty! Come, Topsy!" she called. The terriers bounded to her call. They scampered around the feet of the stern policeman, snapping at his trousers, as toy terriers will.

"G'way, you beasts!" he cried, flourishing his club. Topsy scampered away and crouched, trembling, by Miss Dowell for protection; but Beauty was not afraid. He seized the blue trousers in his dainty little teeth and tugged away, growling the while. A thoughtless crowd of urchins, just escaped from Sunday school, laughed gleefully at the sight.

Dwyer raised his club, brought it down heavily upon Beauty's head, and the thin skull was crushed.

"Dead, dead, dead!" sobbed the girl, and she buried her face in Beauty's soft coat. Then she raised the terrier's body and bore it home.

After a good cry she wrapped the tiny body in a white silk handkerchief and carried it to the station house. There Miss Dowell confronted the slayer of Beauty.

"Have you children?" she asked.

"Yes," answered Dwyer, shamefacedly. "Well, this dog was like a child to me," and the girl broke down again.

Dwyer declares that Beauty was "a cheap cur and vicious;" Miss Dowell, that he was "valuable and ever so kind." She placed his actual value, barring affection, at $200. She reported the case to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and had Dwyer arrested. She says she means to have the case pushed vigorously. In court yesterday he asked for time to get witnesses and his case will be called to-morrow.

Tailors Urged to Strike.

The General Executive Board of the finishers' branch of the Brotherhood of Tailors yesterday sent a circular to each of the 3,000 members of the union, urging them to attend a meeting in Walhalla Hall, on June 30, to vote on the question of striking. To make sure that every member received the notices they were placed in the hands of nine members of the union to be delivered personally. The circulars state that unless some action is taken now a return to the task system is inevitable. If this branch decides to strike the other branches will follow.

BANNON ALL CLOTHES.

Wore Three Coats, Seven Pairs of Trousers, Nine Shirts and Much Underwear, and It Was Warm.

He was a tramp, committed to the Hudson County (N. J.) Jail, yesterday, for fifteen days, under the name of John Bannon, although he told the jail officials that "any old name would do," but he had the most extensive wardrobe of any prisoner ever received there.

John was resting quietly in Hamilton Park early yesterday morning, when one of Captain Kelly's sleuths came along, disturbed his slumbers and landed him in a cell in the Second Precinct. From there he was taken before Justice Potts and committed to jail. The police failed to discover anything peculiar about his appearance, but the jail officials did.

When Bannon, six foot tall and with a shambling gait, was led into the jail office, Clerk John Merschiemer prepared to take his pedigree.

"Any old thing will do for my name, mister, and I don't know how old I am," he said, when Merschiemer started in to question him. Then he volunteered the information that he had formerly lived at No. 18 Oliver street, New York, and that he had visited Jersey City for the purpose of seeking work on the sewers.

Bannon was led to the bath and ordered to strip. As he obeyed Keeper Robinson gasped in astonishment, for the prisoner first peeled off three coats, then followed four vests and then came seven pairs of trousers and five pairs of under drawers. Each pair of trousers was attached to a belt, and the seven belts were fastened to a pair of suspenders composed of rope and the end of a dog chain. In the hip pocket of each pair of trousers was a bandanna handkerchief, and three more were found in the pockets of his coats.

Bannon was also long on shirts; nine in all were taken off and laid on the floor. Then followed seven undershirts. This completed his wardrobe, and it was a warm day, too. Bannon stood in his brogans and socks. Keeper Robinson would not have been surprised had Bannon shed about five pairs of shoes, but only one pair was cast off. Six pairs of socks, however, followed. His extensive wardrobe and queer actions caused Warden Mitchell to have County Physician Converse examine him as to his mental condition. The Doctor pronounced Bannon perfectly sane.

Last night, attired in a pair of overalls much too short for his legs, a clean shirt, "jumper" and slippers, Bannon was happy as a king, and only sorry that his term was not for thirty, instead of fifteen, days. He did not explain why he wore so many clothes, but it is believed he picked them up in lodging houses where he slept.

SAT ON THEIR SECURITY.

Bookbinding Girls Hold Their Employer's Stock for Wages.

Boston, June 23.—Fifteen pretty girls sitting on as many piles of books and all looking disconsolate was the unusual scene in a bookbindery at Cambridgeport to-day. Wages have not been forthcoming of late, according to the statements of employes, but the storm did not break until this morning. The proprietor has not been seen at his place of business since early Monday morning.

The foreman said there are, or were, fifteen girls employed as folders, and also half a dozen men and boys on other work. The wages due the girls, he thought, would average about $20 apiece.

This morning, owing to the non-appearance of the proprietor, the girls took possession of the shop, and are prepared to hold the fort against all comers. There are several tons of books ready for shipment, and in various stages of completion. The girls propose to prevent any stock being taken from the bindery until their wages are paid, and so they sit on the books, holding them as security.

When dinner time arrived, the girls relieved each other one by one, but at least a dozen girls were kept guarding the stock all the time.

Appleton Lands in Jail.

William R. Appleton, a civil engineer, who was graduated at Girard College and who put the electric lights on the Brooklyn Bridge, pleaded guilty to a charge of petit larceny in Part I., General Sessions, yesterday, and was sentenced to the penitentiary for six months. Some time ago Appleton, who was in financial straits, was befriended by Francis S. Turner, of No. 45 Broadway, and in return stole an overcoat and several other articles from that gentleman's office. During the last year Appleton was adjudged insane and confined in an asylum, from which he escaped and went to England. He returned to this country and robbed his friend, was arrested, and escaped from the Centre Street Court. A few days later a body was found near College Point, L. I., and was identified by Mrs. Appleton as that of her husband. Reading of this, he at once returned here to deny his death, and was arrested, his trial yesterday following.

Burglars Fired as They Ran.

Providence, R. I., June 23.—Burglars blew open the safe in the dry goods store of S. D. Angell, Lonsdale, this morning and escaped with about $400. They were pursued by constables and residents, and there was a lively interchange of shots. A policeman named Thornley was struck in the thigh by one of the bullets.

Mayor Strong Remembered.

Mayor Strong received from the Tippecanoe Club, of Cleveland, yesterday, several mementos of the St. Louis Convention. They included a white flannel cap, four convention badges, one of which was like the badge worn during the Harrison campaign, in 1840; a cabinet photograph of William McKinley and a red- white and blue necktie.

WHEELWOMAN'S RIDE ENDS IN A HOSPITAL.

Miss Riott Runs into a Trolley and Is Dragged Twenty-five Feet.

Two Ribs Are Broken, Arm and Ankle Sprained and She Is Injured Internally.

"JONAH" RIDE ENDS SERIOUSLY.

Victim Turns Out from Behind a Grocer's Wagon and Runs at Good Speed Directly in Front of the Approaching Car.

Miss Gertrude Riott, of No. 11 West One Hundred and Thirty-third street, while riding a bicycle yesterday morning, collided with a Lenox avenue trolley car, at One Hundred and Thirty-first street. Two of her ribs are broken, her right arm and right ankle are sprained, she is injured internally and badly bruised all over the body. She is in Manhattan Hospital, and will recover.

Miss Riott is a pretty brunette, twenty-two years old, and weighs about 135 pounds. She is a stenographer, employed by Flint, Eddy & Co., importers, at No. 68 Broad street. She and Miss Maggie Dillon, another stenographer, employed in the same place, have been making early morning trips down Fifth avenue on the asphalt, back again to Lenox avenue, up to Kingsbridge, and sometimes to Yonkers.

Their starting hour has been 5 o'clock, but yesterday morning there were many petty annoyances and delays. A tire had to be pumped up, a skirt caught in the chain and was torn, a roll of jet black hair became unfastened and a hat was dropped. The young ladies noticed their ill-luck and called their ride a "Jonah." At One Hundred and Thirty-first street and Fifth avenue they turned west to Lenox avenue, and started up that thoroughfare.

A grocer's wagon was being driven slowly along in front of them. Miss Riott suggested more speed. They quickened their pace and Miss Dillon rode to the right between the wagon and the curb. Miss Riott turned to the left, intending to cross the car tracks, but just as she pushed over them a southbound car struck her. It was going quite fast and so was Miss Riott. Her wheel was knocked from under her and thrown fifteen feet away. She clung to the platform of the car and was dragged twenty-five feet.

The motorman, Augustus F. Leinbach, had not seen Miss Riott until she turned out from behind the wagon and was directly in front of his car. There was a scream and the driver of the grocer's wagon and Miss Dillon ran to Miss Riott's assistance. The girl lay unconscious at the side of the car. Her face was covered with blood and her clothing was torn. They carried her to a neighboring drug store, where she remained until the arrival of an ambulance from Manhattan Hospital. The motorman was arrested, and, when arraigned in Harlem Police Court, was held in $1,000 bail, to await the result of Miss Riott's injuries.

Woman Bicyclist Injured.

Mildred Tyler, while riding a bicycle along Eighth avenue yesterday afternoon about 4 o'clock collided with a wagon which was turning into the avenue at Fortieth street. Miss Tyler's hand was lacerated from contact with the pavement and she was taken to the Roosevelt Hospital, where the wound was dressed. The injury was not serious, and after recovering from the nervous shock the lady, who is thirty-two years old, went unaccompanied to her home at No. 62 West Sixty-sixth street.

Bicycle Masher Sent to Jail.

Vantagh, L. I., June 23.—Justice Seaman to-day committed George Irish, of Brooklyn, to the Queens County Jail for ten days. George Utz and Mary Offerman, both of Brooklyn, went bicycling on Sunday, and Irish tried to flirt with the girl. Utz had him arrested.

BAD FOR PARK BUGS.

Department Sprays Trees About City Hall with Insect Poison.

The bugs in City Hall Park yesterday ran up against the first piece of real hard luck they have encountered since the warm weather started. For several weeks bugs with long names and foreign ancestry have been eating table d'hotes from the trees until in many cases the branches were bare and but skeletons of what they had formerly been. The Park Department's bug wagon, under the direction of E. B. Southwick, the entomologist of the department, arrived on the scene, with a tank full of bug poison and a squad of men.

The department's bug destroyers carry their outfit in a one-horse wagon. It consists of a naphtha engine capable of throwing a stream like a steam engine, and a tank holding one hundred gallons of the material used to destroy the insects. The mixture consists of one pound of London purple, four quarts of flour and six pounds of lime in one hundred gallons of water. The fluid is pumped through rubber tubes fastened to jointed poles and sprayed over the leaves. The poison does not kill unless the insect eats the leaft that has been sprayed.

Seventeen Aldermen Absent.

President Jeroloman and thirteen Republican Aldermen met in the City Council Chamber yesterday, but as it requires sixteen for a quorum no business was transacted. All the Democratic members and two of the Independents were absent, some in Saratoga and others at the Suburban. The next regular meeting will be on June 30.

"L" ROAD COMING TO TERMS ON EXTENSIONS.

Company's Next Proposal May Specify Immediate Completion.

In Turn, However, Waivers of Damages Are Coming from Property Owners.

THE PLAN OF A NEW SYNDICATE.

William H. Morrell, Their Promoter, Says They Will Build 125 Miles at $500,000 a Mile—Details of the Plan and Terms.

The Manhattan Company and the North Side residents who have disapproved of certain features of the "L" extension plan submitted to the Rapid Transit Commission, were reported by Mayor Strong yesterday to be nearing an agreement. The objection to the "L" plans has been mainly in their vagueness as to the time of completing lines projected for the annexed district.

It is understood that the final proposition of the company will specify the immediate completion of the Fordham and West Farms extensions, and the Yonkers line on the West Side.

The company is also making headway in its efforts to secure waivers of claims for damages from property owners. Few in the annexed district refuse them. On the proposed West street line in the downtown district and the Centre and Canal street crosstown line, the Manhattan company is already indemnified against damage claims by most of the property holders. By the time the Transit Commissioners are ready to act on the Manhattan's proposition ninety-five per cent of the property holders interested will have submitted to the demands for exemption.

Mayor Strong has received a letter from William H. Morrell, of No. 34 West Twenty-fifth street, a promoter, who says he represents a syndicate composed of wealthy men, proposing to construct for the city an elevated railroad system of 125 miles, at the rate of $500,000 a mile. The Mayor does not approve the Morrell proposition.

"The best solution of the rapid transit problem now before us," said he, "is the extension of the present system, according to the plans discussed, if the annexed district is satisfied. I understand that Mr. Sage and his associates are now trying to adjust the differences that stand in the way."

The Morrell plan includes two lines starting from the Battery and extending north by way of South and West streets to the northern city limits, by avenues and streets to be designated by the Rapid Transit Commission. There would be eight connecting cross-town lines south of Harlem. The main lines would be of steel superstructure, and carry four tracks, two of which would be used for fast trains. The proposition is to build and equip 125 miles of track, at $500,000 a mile, the first twenty-five miles to be completed within a year after the contract is made.

The rest of the road would be built, under the Morrell proposition, at the rate of thirty miles a year, and three per cent gold bonds would be accepted from the city in payment. Mr. Morrell also offers for his syndicate to take a fifty-year lease of the road, paying interest on its cost or a percentage of its gross earnings, as agreed upon.

"L" ENGINE HITS A TRACK MAN.

Brisbrow Tried to Escape by Dropping Between the Ties.

Tracy Brisbrow, a track walker on the elevated railroad, was severely injured yesterday while trying to get out of the way of a train. He had crossed from the east track to the west track at One Hundred and Thirty-fourth street and Eighth avenue just as a southbound train came along. Brisbrow did not notice the train until it was almost on top of him. He tried to escape by dropping between the ties, but the engine struck him on the head and fractured his skull. He fell unconscious into the pan below the tracks.

Fellow-workmen carried the injured man to the platform, and he was removed to Manhattan Hospital. His hip is also sprained, and he is suffering from shock. Brisbrow is forty-five years old, and lives at One Hundred and Forty-first street and Eighth avenue. He had been employed on the road only two days.

BURDENS ARE DUE TO-DAY.

Trial of Their Former Servants Will Be Called Next Week.

Mr. and Mrs. I. Townsend Burden are expected to arrive from Europe to-day on the Majestic. They intended to sail two weeks ago, but could not get the stateroom they wished, and delayed the trip until they secured acceptable accommodations.

The trial of their former servants, William Robert Dunlop and William Turner, who robbed them of jewels and fled to England, will probably be set for an early day next week, if Turner does not decide to plead guilty. Negotiations for the acceptance of pleas and for light sentences are in progress.

It is probable that the day the men are sentenced the maid, Ella Stimquist, who talked too much, and so was accused of complicity in the robbery, will be freed.

Mamie Cunningham Inquest.

Coroner Dobbs will to-day hold an inquest on the body of Mamie Cunningham, the little girl who was strangled in her bedroom on Memorial Day. Mrs. Cunningham is so ill that it is thought she cannot attend. Fifty witnesses were subpoenaed, but as most were expected to prove the guilt of Edward McCormick, who has been released, few will be examined.

COMPTROLLER FITCH DECLINES THE HONOR.

Tells the Governor He Cannot Serve on the Greater New York Commission.

Fears He Might Forfeit His Right to Act in His Present Important Office.

MANY VITAL INTERESTS AT STAKE.

Pioneer Andrew H. Green Will Not Be Able to Attend the First Session of the Commission in the Mayor's Office To-morrow.

Comptroller Ashbel P. Fitch will not be a member of the Greater New York Commission. He said so yesterday in a letter to Governor Morton. He admits that the honor of serving would be a great one, and that the work is the most important in the history of the State. Two considerations lead him to decline, one of which arises from the question whether by accepting the appointment he might not forfeit his right to act as Comptroller. After stating that he has been furnished with two legal opinions that the acceptance of membership on the commission is not the acceptance of "office," he continues:

I am not, however, willing to take any place, however high, on any legal speculation or inference. If the question should be raised and perhaps, after a year or two of litigation, decided differently from the conclusions which my advisers have reached, I might not suffer personally. The Comptroller, however, signs the bonds of the city for many millions of dollars. He acts as a member of the Sinking Fund Commission and the Board of Estimate and Apportionment. He is Chairman of the Board of Revision and Assessments, and a member of other city boards. He signs the ferry and market leases, and is the direct custodian of the city's securities and real estate. An adverse decision as to his right to act during 1896 and 1897 would throw doubt and discredit on the city's obligations issued during those years, and would confuse and upset the city's business for years to come.

The second consideration is equally important. The financial officer of this city ought not, it seems to me, to sit as a member of the court which is to decide our rights. He ought to be free to act only as the advocate of New York's great interests. He ought to present th case of the city to the Commission, instead of sitting in judgment upon it, and to make as well as he can, and free from duty to any other community, her fight for fair treatment. Whoever he may be, he will have his hands and mind well occupied if he tries only to look after the interests of the present city, so well worth guarding and so much in need of protection in this matter.

William C. De Witt, a member of the commission, yesterday said the members would meet for organization in the Mayor's office at 3 o'colck to-morrow. Andrew H. Green will not be present. He is still confined to his residence, No. 91 Park avenue, but, although he is improving fast, it will be some time before he can leave the house.

Mayor Strong said yesterday he was sorry Comptroller Fitch had decided he could not serve on the Greater New York Commission. He had not and would not suggest his successor to Governor Morton, for he was sure the Governor had a list from which he could select another man.

Albany, June 23.—Governor Morton left for Ellerslie this afternoon without having been officially notified of the refusal of Comptroller Fitch to serve as a member of the Greater New York Commission. If the Governor had been notified early in the day of Mr. Fitch's refusal to serve, it is likely that an appointment in Mr. Fitch's place would have been made so that the new member could attend the meeting of the Commission for organization to-morrow.

A surprise may be expected when the appointment is made. The new member will be a Democrat and of as high standing as the other Commissioners named by the Governor. David J. Dean was considered as a probable appointee for a time to-day, but it was soon discovered that he also would be ineligible unless he resigned as Assistant Corporation Counsel.

ULSTER COUNTY WHISKERS.

Style Revealed at the Trial of Lair and Coon in Federal Court.

Isaac A. Coon and Samuel E. Lair, citizens of Ellenville, Ulster County, N. Y., pleaded guilty to an attempted pension fraud before Judge Brown in the Federal Court yesterday. Coon was sentenced to nine months in jail. Sentence upon Lair was suspended.

Besides a number of experts in writing, among whom was David N. Carvalho, fifty-five witnesses from Ulster County were down to testify in the case. By a special order of Judge Brown, witnesses for both sides were allowed fees which, with mileage, amounted to $13.90 each. The majority of the Ulsterites, in order that the Court might be impressed with their veracity and general appearance, had seen to it that their whiskers had been properly trimmed before they left Ulster. The prevailing style of whiskers worn in Ellendale, judging from those displayed by the witnesses yesterday, resemble those formerly worn by Ned Harrigan's goat in "Squatter Sovereignty" before they caught fire.

When the announcement was made that witnesses on both sides would get fees the witnesses for the defence could hardly be restrained. They insisted upon congratulating one another and Attorney John R. Devany, who secured the special order for them. The crowd lined up, and drew the same amount of fees. Last night's train to Ellendale carried them back home full of purchases and importance.

FIRE IN A VARNISH FACTORY.

Workman So Seriously Burned That He May Die—Damage $10,000.

A fire, caused by an explosion in one of the varnish tanks in the factory of Mayer & Lowenstein, on Vernon avenue, Long Island City, broke out shortly after 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon, and for a time it looked as if serious damage would be done. Jones & Co.'s lumber yard is close to the varnish factory, and the firemen fought hard to prevent the flames from spreading to it. Several tugboats in Newtown Creek played on the fire. The fire was confined to the part of the factory in which it broke out, and it is estimated that $10,000 will cover the damage done by the blaze.

Anton Guise, thirty-four years old, of No. 204 Crescent street, Long Island City, one of the workmen in the factory, was badly burned about the head, face and body by hot varnish and is now in St. John's Hospital in a critical condition.

Daniel Curley's Wife Dead.

Chicago, June 23.—The burial yesterday of Mrs. Eliza Curley has revived the story of the murder of Lord Cavendish and Edward Burk, for which Daniel Curley, husband of the woman, was hanged, along with Patrick Brady and Edward Kelly. Mrs. Curley came to Chicago about five years ago, and took up her residence at No. 3721 Emerald avenue, in a house presented to her by sympathizers. Her death occurred Saturday after a long illness.

PINK SODA VS. RED LIQUOR.

In the war against strong drink the W. C. T. U. of Brooklyn has enlisted strawberry phosphate as its ally. Two phosphate reservoirs—one in front of the Hall of Records and the other in front of the Arbuckle Building—have already been set in operation, and by dropping a cent in the slot a glass of the beverage is secured.

Each reservoir holds eighteen gallons, and the popularity they have met with has encouraged the projectors so that they

think of instituting several more in other parts of the city. The newsboys and street urchins have been observed to be the strongest advocates of the innovation thus far.

Its chief opponents are the venders of soda water, and a Chicago concern, which furnishes the pink liquid, is the monetary gainer.