

TWO BRAVE WOMEN BOUND FOR CUBA.

Consul-General Lee's Wife and Daughter Laugh at Possible Danger.

Will Accompany Him to Havana, Having Pleaded Eagerly for the Privilege.

Look Forward with Positive Pleasure to Their Trip to the Spanish Seat of War.

NEW OFFICES OF THE CONSULATE

General Lee Feels No Trouble, but Says He is Glad That a Civil Guard Has Been Placed About the Building.

General Fitzhugh Lee, United States Consul to Cuba, who came to New York last week for the purpose of sailing for Havana, has postponed his departure until Saturday afternoon.

On his first trip to Cuba, General Lee left his wife and daughter in their home in Virginia. They wanted to go with him, but he thought it best to leave them behind.

When General Lee returned to the United States to make his report to President Cleveland and the State Department upon the situation in Cuba, and to visit his home in Virginia, his wife and daughter urged him to take them with him on his return.

They had just returned from a shopping expedition when they were at their apartment in the Hotel Marlborough late yesterday afternoon, and the biting winds outside had brought down a heavy snow.

General Lee, in reply to a question, "that General Weyler had placed a civil guard around the consulate," said: "I am glad to know that he has done this, but it merely amounts to a police patrol, but it shows a disposition on the part of the Spanish authorities to be courteous to the representatives of our government."

"I do not fear any violence at the hands of the soldiers of Cuba, and I am not at all apprehensive of the safety of my wife and daughter. But you might ask Mrs. Lee about that."

"We are not at all afraid," said Mrs. Lee, reassuringly, while Miss Lee smiled at the lady's suggestion. "We have never been to Cuba before, and we are looking forward with much pleasure to the trip. Havana is a charming city, and during the winter months, and I know that we will enjoy our stay there."

"The consulate," General Lee explained, "has been moved to its new quarters on Havana street, but is now in the building of the English Mercantile Insurance Company, at the intersection of Cuba and Oberlin streets. It is a thoroughly modern three-story structure, and the offices of the consulate occupy the entire upper floor. I have engaged rooms for my family in private houses on the Prado, which is the principal residence section of the city."

To all who inquire as to the situation in Cuba or upon his opinion of the probable outcome of the war, General Lee usually offers Mrs. Lee's opinion.

"She can tell you what she likes," he says, and Mrs. Lee is quick to declare that she and her daughter are in no wise frightened at the prospect of meeting General Weyler at the base of operations of the Spanish army.

MR. BRITTON DEFENDED.

Statement Showing That His Company Prospered Under His Management.

In relation to the criticism which has been passed upon Edward E. Britton, who was recently appointed an aide-camp to Governor Black, and its reflection upon the New York Building-Loan Banking Company, William H. Hamilton, of Boorum, Hamilton, Beckett & Ransom, attorneys for the company, said yesterday: "The investigation of the company by the Supreme Court, which has been alluded to was made at the request of the officers of the company. The result of that investigation was the making of an order by Justice Calvin E. Pratt making the gross assets of the company on January 1, 1895, \$1,150,871.20, and the gross surplus, \$88,197.60. So far as the management of the company under President Britton is concerned, the assets of the company when he came here were upward of \$700,000, and now they are about \$2,250,000."

SUGAR TRUST BRANCHES OUT.

Ready to Engage in Coffee Roasting to Down Competition.

It was reported in the sugar trade yesterday that the Sugar Trust had completed the purchase of the Woolson Spice-Package Company, of Toledo, Ohio. Outside of the firm of Arbuckle Brothers, the Woolson Company is the largest coffee roasting concern in the country.

The reason alleged for this purchase is to enable the Sugar Trust to fight Arbuckle Brothers in the coffee business in case that firm carries out its intention of erecting a sugar refinery in Brooklyn in opposition to the Sugar Trust.

H. O. Havemeyer, president of the Sugar Trust, who was asked yesterday, declined to make any statement.

YALE EXAMINATIONS ENDED.

The University Pupils to Take a Recess Until January 7.

New Haven, Conn., Dec. 17.—The semi-annual examinations which have been in progress at Yale closed this morning, when the last papers were given and the University closed in every department until January 7. Not more than 200 undergraduates will remain in the city during the holiday recess.

The hockey team and six club and the representatives of the university at the intercollegiate chess tournament in New York have left, the first two organizations for their extended southern and western trips.

Never let a little child's cold pass on. These are dangerous and perhaps fatal at the end of it. The infantile organs are always helped by Dr. J. J. Ross's Expectant, and the little ones like it—Adm.

MAKING ROOM FOR A BRAIN TO GROW.

Remarkable Operation Performed on a Little Eleven-Year-Old Girl.

Her Skull Did Not Expand enough to Hold Her Brain and She Was an Idiot.

Dr. Wyeth Boldly Used His Instruments to Enlarge the Child's Cranium.

NEVER JUST SO ATTEMPTED BEFORE.

Famous Surgeons Assembled to See the Experiment—Weeks Must Elope Before Its Result is Positively Known.

A surgical operation, both novel and daring, was performed upon little eleven-year-old Sarah James on Thursday. The child's skull was cut nearly in half, so that its cramped brain might have room to grow.

At the time of its birth the baby seemed as bright and intelligent as most babies. For months nothing unusual was noticed. It learned to walk at the same age that most children do, and its lisped utterances betrayed no sign that anything was wrong with the brain that prompted them.

As the child grew older its parents noticed that it did not learn so readily as other children of the same age. They did not regard this as a permanent trait and consoled themselves with the assurance that the child was "backward." But as years passed and the child failed to develop intellectually, the belief was forced upon them that their offspring was an idiot.

A physician was called in, but he could do nothing, and the little one lived at home, kept from school, because its weak brain was unable to retain any of the facts imparted by the teacher.

The physician who had been called to examine the child, though he could do nothing to aid it, noticed what had been overlooked by the parents. This was that the child's head did not keep pace in growth with the body, but was so small as it had been a few months after birth.

The case seemed to be a remarkable one to him, and he spoke of it to Dr. Wyeth, president of the New York Polyclinic. The latter was greatly interested and was taken to see the child, and pronounced it a congenital idiot. Then he told the parents that if they would allow him he would perform an operation which he believed would give the child full control of all its senses and make it as bright as any other.

Skull Too Small for Brain. The trouble with the little girl, as explained, was due to the fact that the skull had not sufficiently increased in size to give the brain room for expansion. He told of operations performed in London by which the sutures in the skulls of several persons had been opened when they were found to have grown together. These operations, he said, had been successfully performed by Dr. Victor Horsley, of London; Professor W. W. Keen, of Philadelphia, and Professor J. Allison Hodges, of Richmond.

The operation Dr. Wyeth wanted to perform was not like these. Instead of opening the sutures of the skull he wanted to cut through the top of the skull. After such an operation he received the required permission, and on Wednesday the child was taken to the Polyclinic to be prepared for the operation. Dr. Wyeth was assisted in the operation by Dr. Bodine.

After the child had been put under the influence of anæsthetics, the scalp was cut over the crown of the skull. On the top of one ear to the top of the other. The scalp was then drawn back and the bone was exposed. As a preliminary to the intended work the operation of trephining was performed at a point about three inches above the right ear. Then in the same hole thus formed Dr. Wyeth inserted the tongue of the peculiar instrument with which he worked. This is known to surgeons as "Dr. Wyeth's bone forceps," and was invented by him. With this instrument, which resembles somewhat a pair of wire pliers, the bone was held away until a hole had been cut in the skull one and one-half inches wide and extending from the point where the trephining had been performed to a corresponding point above the left ear. During the entire operation the greatest care was necessary to avoid tearing the tissues covering the brain. The work was accomplished successfully, the wound washed with antiseptics and the scalp drawn back to its original position and held together. At present the operation promises to be an entire success. The child has recovered from the shock of the operation, and is stronger than the surgeons thought it possible she would be.

The cutting of the skull over the brain instead of at the sutures is an idea original with Dr. Wyeth, who believes that, while there is no healing point established at the sutures, such would not be the case in a fresh cut in the main portion of the skull. He believes that at that point the bone has the power of regeneration and that new plates will grow. So far the operation has been a wonderful success, and a few weeks will show whether it will give the child renewed intelligence.

It is understood that Vernon M. Davis, who has been acting as District-Attorney since the death of John R. Fellows, will be retained in his present position. He has been in charge of the many prison cases that have been tried in the last few years, and more are soon to be tried. John F. McIntyre, who has been in charge of the homicide cases and who has prepared some that are now awaiting trial, will also hold over for some time. It is thought, with the exception of Alfred Lauterbach, a son of Edward Lauterbach, president of the Republican County Committee, the other assistants and deputies will be removed or will resign.

The minor office holders will also have to give way to Republicans, and there is a small army after the places. There are a number of good positions in the office at an average salary of \$3,200 a year. Among the names mentioned for Assistant District-Attorney are those of ex-Police Justice Charles H. Murray, John Sabine Smith, Julius Mayer, counsel to the old Excise Board; Meyer J. Stein, a former Tammany Assemblyman, and Lucius L. Van Allen. Attorney Mr. Oest has received about 200 applications for positions. Mr. Maurice Eckstein, who has been connected with the Republican State Committee for some time, is being lobbied by his friends for secretary of the District Attorney to succeed Edward T. Flynn, the present incumbent. The total salary list of the office at present is nearly \$180,000 per year.

There was some talk yesterday among the Democrats of electing a Tammany man to fill the vacancy in the Board of Aldermen caused by Oloffe's resignation.

These Democrats argue that as it is the plan of the Republicans to take the places of Tammany men in the District-Attorney's office the Tammany Aldermen should retaliate. In this event there may be changes among the clerks in the Board of Aldermen. The patronage there amounts to about \$2,000 per year.

OLCOTT NOT SWORN IN.

He Will Be To-day, Doubtless, and the Scramble in the District Attorney's Office Will Begin.

Alderman W. M. E. Oloffe waited all of yesterday to receive his commission as District-Attorney from Governor Morton, but it did not arrive in time for him to be sworn in. He expects to take the oath before business hours this morning, and will immediately assume the duties of his new office. Mr. Oloffe is a strong Plurarian, and in appointing his assistants will, it is thought, recognize only organization men.

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WEALTHY WOMAN MISSING.

Police Looking for Mrs. Leechman, of Kentucky, Who Thinks Herself Heir to Part of New York.

Nothing has been heard of Mrs. William T. Leechman, the wife of a prominent Louisville, Ky., physician, who has been missing from the Starrett House since Wednesday afternoon.

Mrs. Leechman is forty-five years old, and labors under the delusion that she is heir to that part of New York below Thirty-fourth street. Another of her hallucinations is that she is owner of a \$3,000,000 silver mine in Colorado.

Mrs. Leechman applied for accommodation at the Fifth Avenue Hotel on Tuesday night. She had no money or baggage and was refused a room. It was ascertained at the time, and when she applied at the Starrett House a few minutes later Manager Bang's heart softened, and he took her in. On Wednesday she acted so strangely and talked so irrationally that Dr. Washburn, the hotel physician, was called.

After an examination Dr. Washburn decided to have the woman removed to Bellevue Hospital. While he was absent making arrangements for her removal Mrs. Leechman slipped out of the reception room, and since then there has been no trace of her.

The hotel manager telegraphed to Louisville yesterday and received a reply asking them to keep up the search, and notify Mr. Leechman when she is heard from. Manager Bang believes that Mrs. Leechman left her home without the knowledge of her husband or relatives, and came on here to prosecute imaginary claims.

Mrs. Leechman's story of her claim goes back to the beginning of the Revolution. King George III. rewarded Robert Edwards for bravery in a struggle against the American troops, by deeding to him the lower part of Manhattan Island. Mrs. Leechman claims to be a direct descendant of Robert Edwards. When asked how she would overcome the fact that all property held by those who fought in the name of Great Britain was confiscated, she replied that Queen Victoria would help her.

Say Di Salvo Was Murdered. In the case of Sabito Di Salvo, who died at the Hudson Street Hospital, last Friday night, after having been assaulted and robbed, the coroner's jury brought in a verdict yesterday that Di Salvo was murdered by persons unknown. Detective Finn testified that Di Salvo told the police that two men had taken him into the yard in the rear of No. 18 Baxter street, and after choking and beating him, took \$24 from his pockets.

London, Dec. 17.—Two strong shocks of earthquake were felt throughout Wales, the Midlands and the South of England early this morning.

The first shock occurred at 3 o'clock and the second at half-past 5, the waves passing from west to east. Houses were violently shaken, bells moved from their places, doors forced open and furniture overturned.

Telegrams from all quarters concurred in the statement that the first shock was of thirty seconds' duration, and was followed by a loud rumbling sound and minor tremblings of the earth. The second shock was shorter, but more severe.

Many people in Windsor, Cheltenham and other places rushed out of their houses, but no one was hurt. The cathedral at Hereford was damaged somewhat, but no other serious damage is reported.

Wide Area of Disturbances. The area of the seismic disturbances was unusually wide, extending hundreds of miles, from London north to Lincoln, thence west to Lancashire, south through Wales to Tain and southeast to Southampton, over 200 towns and villages being affected.

There were, however, no fatalities, except in the case of a woman who died from fright at Hereford. The telegraph lines were not affected. The attacks of the Greenwich observatory say that the galvanometer which registers the earth currents, showed a very slight disturbance at the time of the shocks. The authorities at the Stonyhurst observatory say that their galvanometer showed no indication whatever of a seismic disturbance.

Crashes, Thunder and Lightning. At Hereford the rumbling sound was followed by two crashes. At Ruthin the shocks were accompanied by thunder and lightning, and for fifteen seconds there was a distinct movement of the earth.

At Liverpool the shocks were followed by thunder, lightning and hail, and there were similar manifestations at Bridge north, where the streets at first seemed to be on fire for several seconds. After this there was a violent report, followed by a heavy shock.

Only a slight quaking sensation was felt at Manchester, Birmingham and in the northwestern part of London. The damage was not serious anywhere.

LASKER WINS ANOTHER GAME.

Moscow, Dec. 17.—The eleventh game of the championship chess match between Steinitz and Lasker, a queen's gambit declined, was won by Lasker after sixty-six moves. The present score is: Lasker, 7; Steinitz, 0; drawn, 4.

ENGLAND SHAKEN BY EARTHQUAKES.

Two Severe Shocks That Were Felt in More Than Two Hundred Towns.

Little Serious Damage Except to the Nerves of Astonished Britons.

Houses Rocked to Their Foundations, but the Only Building Injured Was Hereford Cathedral.

LONDON BUT SLIGHTLY AFFECTED.

Just a Faint Shaky Sensation Felt in the Northwestern Part of the City. One Woman Died of Fright.

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JOHN A. SLEICHER STARTS A TRUST?

Contractors Say He Has Founded a Close Corporation in Paper.

All Goods Sold to the City Must Be Bought from One of Three Mills.

Then There is Loud Talk About Favoring the Mayor's Friend on Lead Pencils.

COL. STRONG AS A TRUST SMASHER.

He Has Had Experience in This Line, and is Likely to Investigate the Complaints Against the City Records Editor.

War was begun yesterday against John A. Sleicher, Supervisor of the City Records, by the contractors who supply the city with paper, blank books and stationers' supplies. They charge Mr. Sleicher with forming and protecting a paper trust before which they are compelled to bow. The matter came to public notice at the opening of bids for supplies for next year, and these were an angry group of faces clustered about His Honor, Mayor Strong, when the contents of the weighty documents were made known.

The charges as they affect the alleged trust are founded on this paragraph in the blank estimates inserted by Mr. Sleicher: "All writing, legal cap, typewriting and other paper, envelopes, etc., called for, excepting machine pads, shall be made of rags, tab-sized and lot-dried, equal in weight to that called for by the samples, and the paper shall contain the regular water-mark of an established mill or manufacturer mentioned in the specifications, viz.: The Whiting Company, the L. L. Brown or the Weston Paper Company."

All the bids put in included of necessity papers made by the three companies named in the specifications, for there was no judging the issue presented by Supervisor Sleicher. One man who got his certified check of indemnity in four minutes too late had his bid thrown out, though it was in the box on time. The bidders were John Goggin, of No. 31 Barclay street; F. W. Devoe & C. T. Reynolds company, John H. Baird, No. 578 Lexington avenue; the Jordan Stationery Company, No. 15 Cedar street; L. W. Ahrens, No. 314 1/2 1/2 street; Michael Cavanaugh, No. 338 Greenwich street; Frank W. McNeil, No. 80 Rouse street; James B. Wilson, No. 131 William street, and the Keuffel & Esser Company, No. 127 Fulton street.

When the charge of forming a paper trust was called to Mr. Sleicher's attention yesterday, he refused to look at the matter in the way his critics made it out. He said: "My only object has been to get good paper, and these three companies make the best I know of. I have not mentioned much more freely this year than was ever done before, simply to get the fullest competition, but I must have good paper."

"In the estimates for supplying printed, lithographed or stamped forms and pamphlets, the contractor is required to use only as good paper as the firms mentioned in the estimates supply. Bids are under separate estimates. One bids the contractor to use the Whiting, Brown and Weston papers, the other only papers that come up to their standards."

The contractors who object to Mr. Sleicher's paper trust are careful what they say for publication. In private they talk loud. Briefly summarized, their contentions are: That John R. Sleicher has not the technical information that would fit him to deal with contracts of such magnitude, and that an expert should be appointed to the place; that the estimates, as at present made out, are impossible to bid on, in that they are arranged by items instead of classes; that the compulsion of bidding on certain makes of paper gives the manufacturers a chance to raise the price, to the detriment of the taxpayer, and that favoritism is shown for certain dealers thought to be old friends of the Mayor.

This last charge touches the supply of pencils. The claim is made that Mr. Fogg, New York manager for the Dixon Crucible Company, was as a boy a playmate of Mayor Strong in Ohio, and that he is now, as he has been for years, vice-president of the Ohio Society, of which the Mayor is president.

Regarding the paper, it is claimed that while three firms are mentioned, they say which to make a selection, the bulk of the business must necessarily go to the Whiting Company, because neither the Brown nor the Weston Company make all the goods called for. It is claimed that the Whiting Company does not make the grade of envelope paper wanted, and complications are expected to arise in that way.

It is contended that the Whiting Paper Company can now get away with it as well as in the past. It is already demanding fifteen cents for plain paper and seventeen for ruled, that could be bought much more cheaply from other companies. They say that that paper for which the favored house asks 13 1/2 cents a pound can be bought elsewhere of the same grade for eleven cents.

When Mayor Strong looked over the estimates yesterday, after his attention had been called to the alleged paper trust charge, he said: "The idea of this administration is to afford the fullest possible competition. We want the best to be had at the lowest market price, and to get it we must allow every person in the market a chance to bid."

"Since we have no other firm found in one of the estimates of the Charities Department a clause which obliged the city to buy a special make of cotton. I told Mr. Porter it was fair to bidders, and showed him how he was paying from half to two-thirds of a cent a yard more than goods of identical make could be had for."

Salvation Oil, the people's friend, is guaranteed the best. It will cure you—Advt.



Gen. Lee's Family to Go With Him. At their earnest request, Mrs. Fitzhugh Lee and Miss Lee will accompany the General to Havana on his return this week. The ladies are brave American women who do not in the least fear a Winter at the seat of war. General Lee says he expects to be quite comfortable in his new consulate quarters.

Tried to Shoot a Colored Porter. Charles S. Early, twenty-eight years old, who said he was a civil engineer from Georgia, and had last worked in a mill at Summit, N. J., came to town on Wednesday and got drunk. He went to the Christopher Street Elevated Railroad station and caused great consternation by trying to shoot a colored porter with a big revolver. When the porter was shot, he said he didn't remember what had happened. An elderly Knickerbocker held him in \$5,000 bail for trial.

New Games. "The Wide World" and "The Power of Zenda" and "The D. S."