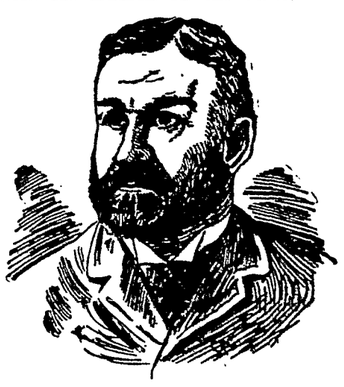
NOTES FROM GOTHAM

NEW YORK STATES INFLUENCE IN THE NATIONAL CONVENTION.

How May People Succeed in Keeping Cool—A Touching Religious Service—Enormous Trunk Line Traffic—Troubles of the Elevated Road.

Five or ten cents is the cost of keeping cool on a hot summer's day in New York, and there are many ways of investing it. The first necessities to coolness are quietude and a current of fresh air. Anybody can be quiet, and the current of air may easily be created by swift motion. Rich people secure the combination by means of buggies, automobiles and four-in-hand coaches; but people with smaller means can accomplish the same results by means of electric cars. Above Twenty-ninth street, by a judicious use of the transfer system, a man can ride all day on the open cars for five cents. For a nickel Riverside Park may be reached. Five cents also takes the pleasure seeker to Fort George, situated on a high ridge of ground, with the Hudson on the other, and



Richard Croker.

with almost the same artificial attractions which make Coney Island pleasant to so many people. For the same money, and a short walk added, Audubon Park and Washington Heights become available. After paying five cents to reach Fort Lee ferry, an additional nickel will take the tourist across the river, and a brief walk will carry him to the Palisades up the Hudson.

After weaving of Manhattan Island an additional nickel will carry the tourist from the Third avenue road to the wilds of the Bronx, which are traversed by the Union railroads, popularly known as the Huckleberry lines, and by these he may reach Bronx Park, Pelham Bay, Crotona Park, Van Cortlandt Park, Riverdale, New Rochelle, Yonkers and Mount Vernon. The transfer system is so arranged on these roads that the man who is trying to be comfortable might ride a whole day through for one fare, or, on the other hand, he may get off at any one of hundreds of shaded groves or windy hills, sling a hammock, or spread a rug and picnic.

Return of Croker.

The return of Richard Croker has been commented on by the press and a complete history of his daily doings is chronicled in some of the papers. Mr. Croker's position as the head of the most powerful political organization in the country, makes his utterances of great importance at this time beyond the lines of the State of New York, for more than one presidential election has been decided by the votes cast within a radius of ten miles of the city hall. Some of the newspapers have been trying to make much of an alleged disagreement between Senator Hill and Mr. Croker. The Senator has never approved of the Chicago platform and there has been much doubt of the attitude he will take this year. But Mr. Hill is the great power in the Democratic party in the State outside of the metropolis. Even in this field he has a rival, or to speak more correctly, Mr. Croker seems inclined to look upon former Senator Murphy as the State leader. Mr. Murphy and Mr. Croker are in accord on the candidate and the platform, while Senator Hill is as intensely opposed to certain planks of that platform as he was in 1896.

Influence of New York.

The influence of the State of New York in Democratic national conventions was for many years all powerful. But when delegates from the State went to Chicago in 1892 to nominate Mr. Hill for President and came back with Grover Cleveland as the candidate, nominated without the vote of New York, a new record was made. This was repeated in 1896 when Mr. Bryan was nominated in opposition to the wishes of New York. This year there has been no hope of defeating Bryan's nomination and consequently has made no opposition to him. Mr. Croker and former Senator Murphy both committed themselves to the platform of 1896 some time ago, but former Senator Hill has done an immense amount of ocrresponding and has made one of the most earnest if not one of the most effective efforts of his life to prevent the adoption of certain planks. He went to Chicago early and labored hard for a modification of the party's creed which would be more acceptable to Eastern people than its former utterances But even Senator Hill has found that the giant West is asserting itself, and when leagued with the South it is all powerful in national conventions. The failure of some of the prominent Democratic financiers to attend the Chicago convention is variously commented on. By some it is said that they are inclined to let others run the party and then take such action as they did in 1896, while others assert that present conditions have removed much of their hostility ot the financial planks because other issues of such great importance have come to the front. It is yet too early to predict how these financial interests will treat the platform adopted at Chicago. Perhaps the most vigorous Democratic opponent of that platform was Former Governor Flower. His great financial interests united with his long prominence in the Democratic party made him a powerful leader which those who succeed to his financial interests cannot approach even if they would.

Census Complaints.

It seems to be difficult to finish up the census in New York. Twenty-five enumerators were sent back over their districts to "scrape a little harder." The supervisor was not quite satisfied with their work. They had returned a number of children without saying whether they were married or single. This was one of the complaints, but there were others.

A Touching Service.

There was a touching scene in the Presbyterian building here the other day, when sixty persons met for the service of prayer for the missionaries and native Christians in China. Many of those who took part have seen service in foreign fields, and their supplications for the safety of their brother and sister workers in China were marked by much earnestness. Their tears flowed freely as they prayed. Similar services were to be held in other cities in the country, and the fact was referred to at the meeting in New York.

Marconi's Conferences.

Signor Marconi, the wireless telegraph inventor, sailed for home on the Teutonic the other day. He has been in this country and Canada four weeks conferring with representatives of the two governments, but he will not tell what the conferences have been about. He said, at the pier, that valuable results from wireless telegraphy had been obtained in the South African war, which shows that Signor Marconi is not blind to the advantages of advertising his own wares.

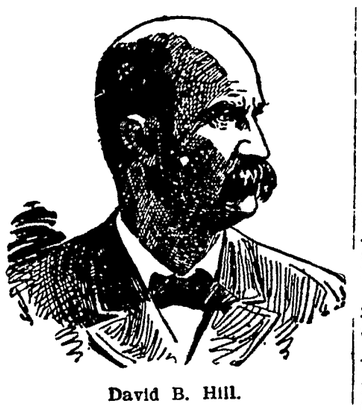
For Widows and Orphans.

The permanent organization of the Army Relief Society, which was effected recently, resulted in General Francis V. Greene being made President and Theodore Roosevelt Vice-President. The society came into existence last March, at the home of Mrs. Daniel S. Lacont. Its principal object is to create a fund for the benefit of widows and orphans of members of the regular army, the assistance to be given as it is needed, in the discretion of the society, but not as annuities. The money to be given will be graded according to the rank of the dead soldiers, whose survivors are assisted.

The Elevated Troubles.

The fight to turn the "L" road out of Battery Park is on now in earnest. President Clausen of the park board charges the Manhattan Railway Company with bad faith, and says that the road will certainly have to get out of the park. This explosion by Mr. Clausen is the consequence of the Manhattan Company procuring from the Supreme Court an order enjoining and restraining the park board from revoking the privilege of maintaining the road in the park.

The company appears to have no intention of leaving the park, and it has not been believed that the officials seriously contemplate ousting them. There have been many efforts made at times on the elevated roads, much of which was intended to depress the stock. There are many who believe that the Traction Company is determined to control the Brooklyn system as well as the Manhattan elevated. At present there is a movement to depress the price of Brooklyn Rapid Transit stock and it has gone down in



David B. Hill.

a year from 136 to about 54. This is an enormous decline, but the price is not yet low enough for the Traction Company to invest in it. Great fortunes have been made and lost in these stocks and the end is not yet. When the price of B. R. T. falls to about 25 or 30 we may expect to see it gobbled up as was the Third Avenue road. Then look out for a war on the elevated, for with that in hand the Metropolitan will control almost every line in Greater New York.

Foreign Soldiers Here.

Strange as it may seem it is a curious fact that here in New York there are uniformed soldiery owning no allegiance to the United States, but ready at any moment to return to their native land to fight its battles. These European soldiers in New York have regular military organizations, armories, ammunition and their own national flags. Many of them do not speak English. In a war between their native land and this country, it is said, most of them would side with the former. These European soldiers drilling in New York are French, Italian, Austrian, Hungarian, Bohemian, Polish, German, Scotch and Russian. At No. 213 Forsyth street meets the order known as the "Independent Polish Sharpshooters." They have a fund of $8,000, which is to be used only in case their dream comes true and a fight for Polish independence is again to be made. Mr. Maier Robacinsky is colonel of the regiment, which consists of eight companies of forty-five men each. A similar organization in England has a fund of $500,000. The Lafayette Guards, who meet at No. 225 West Twenty-fifth street, are representative soldiers of France. The regulation French infantry uniform is worn by them. The Austrian Schuetzen Verein, composed of members of the Twentieth Vienna Regiment, called the "Deutsch Meister Regiment," was organized by Mr. H. Popper in 1883.

TOLD BRIEFLY

The number of persons born blind averages sixty-five in every 1,000,000.

Artificial yawning should be resorted to in cases of sore throat, buzzing of the ears, catarrh and like trouble.

Eighty thousand elephants are required annually to supply the world with ivory. Most of them come from South Africa.

At Queen Victoria's table an odd custom, which originated in the time of George II., is preserved. As each dish is placed upon the table the name of the cook who prepared it is announced.

The amount of gold coin in actual circulation in the world is estimated by the Bank of England officials to be about 865 tons.

Runaway horses are unknown in Russia. When an animal bolts the cord is pulled, and the horse stops as soon as it feels the pressure on the windpipe.

Cigars are given to soldiers in the Italian army as part of their daily rations.

France, with a population of 39,000,000, has a fighting force of 2,000,000 men, able to appear in the field at very short notice.

One of the unique institutions of Kansas City is State Line street. Kansas City is located in the border line between Missouri and Kansas, occupying a liberal stretch of territory on each side of the boundary. The Missouri State laws prohibit gambling within its borders, while Kansas is famed for its prohibition laws. A choice array of gambling resorts lines the north side of State Line street, which is located on Kansas soil; while the opposite side of this thoroughfare in the State of Missouri is made up chiefly of saloons.

WORTH KNOWING.

Liberia has consented to having a United States coaling station in its waters.

The great lakes of the St. Lawrence system have an area of 47,000 square miles.

According to Salt Lake City figures, the number of Mormons now in existence is 360,000.

The mortality in Rome has been reduced within a few years from 25 per thousand to 15 per thousand.

Twelve years ago one sailor out of every 106, on an average, lost his life by accident. Now the proportion has been reduced to one in 256.

The curfew is a recognized institution in twelve municipalities in New York, according to the annual report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

British nobles are the only one in Europe who ever wear coronets on their heads, and the sole occasion when they do so is at the coronation of the sovereign.

In New England the abandoned farms are being planted with nut trees, and the worked out ground is found to furnish nourishment enough to cause the walnut, butternut and chestnut to flourish abundantly.

Passenger cars (or coaches, as they are usually designated) in early days were simply stage coach bodies mounted on four wheels, and as time progressed several were linked together, thus forming a "train."

Wood pulp paper as military clothing is used by the Japanese troops. It is marvelously tough, and has an appearance that might well be regarded with satisfaction for summer wear. It holds stitching uncommonly well while its warmth is undoubted.

JUST IN FUN

"I could save more money," the young man admitted, "but I find it so hard to break away from my friends. A fellow can't be a boor and cut all his acquaintances without reason, you know."

"I will tell you what to do," said the man with the brindle moustache. "Buy a dog."

"And then what?"

"Then, when you meet your friends, you will find yourself telling them stories of his wonderful intelligence. You just can't help it. In this manner you may soon be alone."—Indianapolis Press.

The Layman—Candidly, do you expect your prayer in behalf of the Boers to be answered?

The Pastor—I flatter myself it is unanswerable, sir. Three or four cranks have tried to answer it, through the press, but it seems to me they have failed egregiously.—Detroit Journal.

Collector—I'm sorry, M. Slowpay, but your tailor has put his account against you into my hands for collection.

Mr. Slowpay—He has, eh? Do you work on a commission basis?

Collector—Yes, sir.

Mr. Slowpay—Then I'm sorry for you.—Chicago News.

Bachelor—I am told that a married man can live on half the income that a single man requires.

Married Man—Yes. He has to.—Tit-Bits.

"Your lawyer made some pretty severe charges against the other fellow, didn't he?"

"Y-e-e-s; but you ought to see how he charged me."—Green Bag.

Peddler—I have a most valuable book to sell, madam. It tells one how to do anything.

Lady (sarcastically)—Does it tell one how to get rid of a pestering peddler?

"There is a suit, my friend," said the dealer, "that will wear like iron."

"I guess that fellow was no liar," said the victim, two weeks after. "The suit is rusty already."—Indianapolis Press.

"Brethren," said the repentant man at the revival meeting, "mine is a sad story. I was born in Brooklyn, but soon went from bad to worse."

"How long did you stay in New York?" asked the long-whiskered man near the organ.—Baltimore American.

ALL SORTS

Spanish girls who make the famous fans of Valencia are paid about 25 cents a day.

Artificial yawning should be resorted to in cases of sore throat, buzzing of the ears, catarrh and like trouble.

Floors of rubber, claimed to be as durable as asphalt, and cheaper, are being tried in Germany.

Muffs were first used by doctors to keep their fingers soft, and were adopted by the ladies about 1550.

The cemeteries around London cover 2,000 acres, and the land they occupy represents a capital of £20,000,000.

A census of the Klondike district gives a total population of 8,306 of whom 5539 are citizens of the United States.

The Queen has been greatly touched by the number of letters sent her by Irish peasants and humble workers in other walks of life.

The work of blind women typewriters is one of the interesting features of the United States treasury department. It is said that their work is equal to that of the best operators.

Many of the streams in France have been stocked with American black bass, and the fish have flourished to such an extent that they are common articles of diet in the hotels and restaurants.

Fish skins are being used for leather. The Eskimos of Alaska make shirts and boots of salmon hide and jackets from codfish. Frog skins are said to make excellent bindings for books.

Engagements are rarely broken off in Germany. A bride in Germany must provide the furniture, plate and linen for the future home, and during the time of her engagement Gretchen is busy making these extensive purchases, in addition to her trousseau.

A railroad man says that there is no limit to the size of the American locomotive. "I will be using 200 pound rails, and locomotives, and "as long as heavy rails can be secured, just so long will engines grow. Some of these days we will be using locomotives twice the size of those now in use."

It has been shown that one pair of robins will bring to their young in one season more than 3,000 worms—cutworms and others. The robin alone saves to gardeners and fruit growers more than enough to compensate them for injury done by all other birds together.

In point of magnitude and cost the Trans-Siberian railroad is certainly the greatest engineering work of the age. According to figures furnished by the Russian imperial ministry of ways of communication, the total cost of the railway will be $500,000,000, of which about $295,000,000 has already been expended.

The laborers of Sweden, who are employed by the government, have given to the public a few figures showing how difficult it is for them to exist on the small pay they receive. The pay of section men on the railway, common laborers and others, who do work that requires no special skill amounts to $202 a year. This is for ten hour's work a day.

Seven Presidents of the United States were members of the Masonic fraternity—Washington, Jackson, Polk, Buchanan, Johnson, Garfield and McKinley. Washington was master of his lodge at Alexandria, Va. Jackson was at one time grand master of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee, and Buchanan was deputy grand master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

At Fortress Monroe and various other forts and arsenals throughout the United States are an enormous quantity of antique and obsolete cannon. Columbiads, howitzers, mortars, shells and other projectiles, gun carriages and equipment which the secretary of war is authorized to loan or give to soldiers' monument associations, municipal corporations and posts of the Grand Army of the Republic under an act passed in 1898 by Congress. Some of these guns are very old and all are more or less ornamental but they are otherwise worthless except for old iron.

FROM THE BEST THINKERS

Who am I; what is this me? A voice, a motion, an appearance; some embodied visualized idea in the Eternal Mind? "Cogio ergo sum." Alas! poor cogitator, this takes us but a little way. Sure enough, I am; and lately was not. But how? whence? whereto? The answer lies all around, written in all colors and motions, uttered in all tones of jubilee and wail, in thousand fingered, thousand voiced, harmonious nature; but where is the cunning eye and ear to whom that God-written apocalypse will yield articulate meaning We sit as in a boundless phantasmagoria nd drem grotto; boundless, for the faintest star, the remotest century, lies not even nearer the verge thereof. Sounds and many visions flit round our sense; but Him, the Unslumbering, whose work both dream and dreamer are, we seek not, except in rare, half-waking moments, suspect not.—Thomas Carlyle.

A man may be as brilliant, as clever, as strong and as broad as you please and with all this, if he is not good, he may be a paltry fellow; even the sublime which he seems to reach, in his most splendid achievements, is only a brilliant sort of badness.—John Stuart Blackie.

I wish to suggest that a man may be very industrious, and yet not spend his time well. There is no more fatal blunderer than he who consumes the greater part of his life getting his living. All great enterprises are self-supporting.—Henry David Thoreau.

Man dwells apart, though not alone;
He walks among his peers unread,
The best of thoughts which he hath known,
For lack of listeners, are not said.
—Jean Ingelow.

A friend is worth all hazzards we can run.

Poor is the friendless master of a world:

A world in purchase for a friend is gain.—Young.

How we all attitudinize to ourselves! The whole of life often seems one long dramatic performance, in which one-half of us is forever posing to the other half.—Mrs. Humphrey Ward.