THREE INTERVIEWS.

What the Most Virtuous and Much Injured Wells Says.

[Cor. N. Y. Herald.]

Wells, who is confined in the Capitol was interviewed by a *Herald* correspondent, who said:

"Do you know John T. Pickett, who has been telling a startling story of you?"

"I don't know John T. Pickett, and do not remember ever to have heard of that name before."

"Do you know J. H. Maddox?"

"Yes, very well. I have known him since the days of the Mexican war, that is since 1846."

A copy of the letter, reading as follows:

"You fully understand the situation; can't you advise with me in relation thereto?"

was then read to the prisoner. Wells elevated himself on his left arm and said immediately: "I wrote such a letter to Maddox, but not in connection with the subject you have mentioned. The story as it has been repeated to me is an infamous lie, baseless as it is malicious.

"I am anxious to be heard in defense, or, at least, to tell my story, and when that time comes perhaps I may be able to tell more than would be agreeable to my persecutors. You say I was to sell out for $1,000 000? What nonsense! A million dollars? no, not for $40,000,000 would I betray my party. This, sir, is a matter of principle"—rising a little higher on his left arm—"a matter of principle, sir; and I can only explain this series of damnable lies as a part of the conspiracy to injure me. Witnesses were brought 400 miles to malign my character."

J. H. MADDOX.

This Gentleman Explains His Position in the Million Job.

[Correspondence N. Y. Herald.]

J. H. Maddox was next waited upon, and he gave the *Herald* representative the following account of his connection with the Louisiana business:

"I was ordered to New Orleans as revenue officer of the United States government. I was assigned to a district in the South made up of Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas, with headquarters at New Orleans. I was there in discharge of my duties accordingly while the Returning Board was in session. Wells, having been a neighbor of mine in years past, and myself an old resident and proprietor of a newspaper, the *Crescent*, in New Orleans, I very naturally called to see him, and the political situation often becoming the topic of everybody's conversation while I was in New Orleans, I became very familiar with the facts touching the contest. I became satisfied that the Democrats had honestly carried the State of Louisiana. The opportunity presented itself of serving a people who had my sympathies, and as my appointment was not a political one, I availed myself of it to render them what assistance I could honorably in their trouble. The substance of the State is eaten up by carpet-baggers."

Correspondent—How did you become aware of the intrigues connected with the Louisiana State government during the last campaign?

Mr. Maddox—I was an observant man from being on the spot, and learned from the politicians on both sides the exact information.

Correspondent—To what did this information tend?

Maddox—To convince me that there had been a complete victory for the Democrats, and some of the leading Republicans did not deny the fact, but relied upon the Returning Board for what was necessary to give them a majority.

Correspondent—What do you know about the offer of money in connection with the political campaign from either the Democratic or Republican party to affect the result?

Mr. Maddox—I don't know anything about it. I only know that I was authorized to say that the vote of Louisiana would be cast for Tilden for a consideration.

Correspondent—What was to be your consideration, Mr. Maddox?

Mr. Maddox—I was to be provided for. There was no amount fixed, nor was it a matter of pecuniary consideration to me.

Correspondent—What do you think of the morality of the transaction?

Maddox—I believe it to have been eminently proper. I was satisfied that no man could get his rights in Louisiana unless he paid for them, and I considered it better to buy them than to lose them. I can understand that it may be cheaper to buy your rights than to fight for them.

Correspondent—What part of the $1,000,000 said to have been offered for the control of the Louisiana Returning Board, if any, were you to receive?

Maddox—There never was any serious idea of obtaining that amount, and there was no amount fixed for me in case an arrangement was made, though I must confess I was promised something, but as I said before that did not weigh with me at all.

Correspondent—What do you know about Pickett, and what relation does he bear to the political affairs of Louisiana and the Wells Returning Board, as now presented before the House Committee?

Maddox—Col. Pickett is a gentleman of high character and a warm personal friend of mine. He is hearty in his sympathies for the Southern people. I selected him to conduct the negotiation that would secure the vote of Louisiana by the Returning Board to the Democratic party. He entered into the matter earnestly, and did what he could to secure a favorable result.

COLONEL PICKETT.

Something of this Hero's Antecedents and What He Relates.

A *Herald* correspondent interviewed Col. Pickett, who said that among the first questions asked him when the committee-room was cleared for consultation and the private examination of the witness commenced was, where and when he got his military title. The answer was prompt and ready, "Away back in the fifties." He had held confidential relations with Kossuth and had raised a legion to aid him. About the same time the Cuban question was up and he was in that. Later he was with the Confederacy, on the staff of Breckenridge, and subsequently as a representative of the confederacy, in a semi-official capacity, at Mexico. When Napoleon and Maximilian were endeavoring to found an empire in that country he held high position there, and he was going on still further when the committee was satisfied that Pickett's title to his military rank had been sufficiently made out.

There is one other point in Col. Pickett's career which may be mentioned—that it was he who sold, some years ago, to the United States government, certain papers, popularly known as the "rebel archieves." For these documents the government paid $60,000 or $70,000. Of that sum Col. Pickett received about $30,000, the larger portion of which was given away by him, through George W. Riggs, the well known banker of this city, and others, to needy Southern men and women.

Some good points were made in the presidential campaign of that date against the Democratic party; but their principal value to the government lies in the fact that the evidence they have supplied has been the means of saving millions of dollars to the Treasury in the detection of fraudulent claims. This is Col. Pickett's record.

For several years past he has been a practicing lawyer in this city, not doing a very large business, for the reason, in his own words, that iron-clad oaths and the persecutions, small and great, of the party in power have turned away from him, as from others similarly circumstanced, large fees and lucrative practice.

Colonel Pickett said that he and Maddox had been friends for upwards of a quarter of a century. Pickett knew him before the war broke out, when Maddox was the proprietor of the New Orleans *Crescent*, holding high social position in that city, rich and a man of influence and importance. Some six or eight months ago Maddox, to support himself and family, was compelled to take a government office as agent of the Treasury Department. Last November Maddox, for some purpose or another, was sent down to New Orleans. Pickett did not know the object of his journey, and, being an earnest Democrat and Southern man, he felt it his duty to warn the leading Democrats of that State against Maddox. The next tidings he had from Maddox, he says, was the proposition of Wells for the Returning Board to give the electoral vote of the State of Louisiana to Gov. Tilden in consideration of $1,000,000. That proposition was clear and specific. Col. Pickett felt it to be his duty, he says, to lay the proposition before the managers of the party in New York. Accordingly, he went to that city, saw Mr. Hewitt and laid the matter before him. Mr. Hewitt absolutely declined to have anything to do with it. He, however, fully approved Col. Pickett's action in the matter, but gave him reasons to show why neither Mr Tilden nor himself would have anything to do with the Returning Board. Pickett also saw John Morrissey on the subject. Morrissey, with characteristic frankness, said if it were necessary he thought it would be a good thing to pay those scoundrels for doing their duty, but he thought it was unnecessary; that Mr. Tilden had carried Louisiana and he could not be cheated out of its vote.

While on the stand to-day Maddox declined to answer the question whether Wells had not positively authorized him to make the proposition to sell the vote of the State.

Col. Pickett says to-night to your correspondent that he and Maddox had had frequent conversations on the subject. On one occasion Maddox told him that Wells saw that his sympathies were with the Democratic party; that he and his family had lost caste in the State and were anxious to recover or obtain some social status and recognition, but that he needed money, and he thought the Democratic party could afford to pay liberally for the advantage he had it in his power to give it by declaring the vote of the State for Gov. Tilden.

Wells asked $1,000,000, but he and his associates on the Board were willing to sell out for less. They would have taken $500,000, and that was their lowest figure. If the proposition had been accepted, Kennedy, the Democratic member who was suggested as the proper person to fill the vacancy on the Board, would have been appointed, and upon his appointment the first installment of the money was to be paid.

The colored members of the Board were, he, says, willing to go cheap. Twenty or thirty thousand dollars would have satisfied them, and it was their intention to leave the country.

This is the story of Colonel Picket, and he says to-night that if Maddox will tell the whole story to-morrow and tell it truthfully, he must testify to this effect.

THE COURTS.

Superior Criminal Court.

NOLLE PROSEQUI.

Robbery—C. H. Shelby.

PLEAD GUILTY.

Carrying concealed weapons—Peter Bowden, Joe Thomas, colored.

JURY.

The petit jurors for February were selected and a good full panel obtained. Those who failed to answer their subpœna will pay the fiddler to-day.

SENTENCED.

Grand larceny—Pierre Baptiste, colored, convicted February 1 of having stolen, August 14, 1876, in No. 183 Clio street, from Mrs. C. Poulliot, a gold watch and chain, valued at $175. Three years penitentiary.

Carrying concealed weapons—Joe Thomas, colored, twenty-five days from date of imprisonment.

First District Court.

Joshua J. Baker, Esq., has been appointed Assistant District Attorney for this court.

One hundred names have been ordered to be drawn for jurors, returnable Wednesday next.

What Mr. Hewitt Says.

[Correspondence N. Y. Herald.]

Mr. Hewitt being asked this afternoon if Pickett did actually approach him with an offer of the Louisiana vote for a sum of money, replied that he was so approached; that he of course immediately utterly refused to do anything in the matter, but that the terms were read to him substantially, so far as he remembers, as they appear in the memorandum of Maddox, and that he understood the proposition come from Wells.

Literary Men and Gentlemen.

Bayard Taylor, Howth and two young bloods, with their backs mounted on the knobs of walking-sticks, talking loudly and profanely in a street car of a portion of their acquaintance, who, one of them said, wanted to be a literary man and a gentleman at the same time. "A literary man is one thing, a gentleman is another," the second rejoined. "Well—yes; but sometimes you find a literary man who is a gentleman," the first continued. "D—d seldom!" exclaimed the latter in a loud voice, and the two got out of the car.—[Exchange.

It is said that Cooking holds that the action of Gov. Grover, in issuing a certificate to Cronin, was legal and valid. In the Abbott-Vance contested election case, he holds that the votes cast for an ineligible candidate were invalid and could not be counted.—[Courier-Journal.

PLATED WARE, CLOCKS AND CUTLERY.—Large and peremptory sale this day at 11 o'clock a. m., and 7 o'clock p. m., at No. 60 Camp street, by Messrs. Montgomery, of a large invoice of magnificent plated ware, clocks and cutlery. For full particulars refer to advertisement.

PUBLIC OPINION.

What the Press of the Country Say of the Crisis.

Hayes' Chances Exploded.

[N. Y. Herald.]

The astounding testimony of the last two days, and especially that part of it given yesterday, explodes all the chances of Mr. Hayes to be the next President unless the credibility of the witnesses can be overthrown. The evidence taken yesterday by the House Committee on Privileges and Elections will excite even deeper interest than the proceedings of the Electoral Commission, because this evidence, unless successfully impugned, will compel the commission to reject the action of a Returning Board steeped in villainy and perjury. No body of honest men, clothed with authority to decide, could make themselves accomplices after the fact of such rascalities as have been sworn to since the beginning of this week. Not even Mr. Morton and Mr. Garfield will vote in the commission to count Louisiana for Hayes if the credit of these witnesses is not impeached. But inasmuch as Hayes cannot be declared elected without the votes of all the disputed States, he will have no chance at all unless this fatal testimony from Louisiana can be demolished. It is satisfactory to know that it is to be examined and judged by an upright and competent tribunal.

Leaving the alleged offer of sale quite out of consideration there remains such a mass of direct and circumstantial evidence that the count of the Returning Board was a disgraceful compound of fraud, forgery and perjury, concocted by Wells and his associates, that there seems but a slender prospect of its successful refutation.

Grant's Resumption Message.

[Chicago Times.]

The President is probably right in supposing that the demand for gold would be less if 4 per cent. gold bonds should be offered for greenbacks than it would otherwise be. Still it is by no means certain that such bonds would command par in gold in the market, and in case they should not, the holders in greenbacks would naturally prefer gold to bonds. It would certainly be prudent, therefore, to strengthen the coin reserves of the treasury to a considerable extent before attempting restmption. As the value of the bonds must remain to some extent an unknown quantity until they are upon the market, it would hardly be safe to place our confidence in them wholly, or even mainly. And the safety of the experiment would be especially doubtful if the bonds were made available as security for bank-notes, unless the banks were at the same time required to prepare for the coin redemption of their notes, for there would probably be a bank expansion sufficient to counteract in a great measure the greenback contraction.

God Maintain the Right.

[N. Y. World.]

In the case of the fifth Supreme Court Judge now named upon the commission, there is not the slightest reason to suppose that he will be found disposed, any more than his colleagues, to sacrifice his peace of mind, his self-respect and his reputation either to gratify partisan prejudices or to secure personal advantages. We have repeatedly expressed, and we now reiterate, our conviction that the commission will deal with the great case to be presented to it, in a spirit of fidelity to its obligations and to the truth. It is at all events the plain duty of all good citizens to believe this of it until it shall have concluded its work and laid it before the country. And so—"God maintain the Right!"

The Returning Board Shown Up.

[News and Courier.]

The country needed very little convincing. It was pretty plain that there was some jugglery by the Returning Board, or why the secrecy of its proceedings, the manipulation of the returns, the refusal to place even one Democrat on the board, although the law required that both political parties should be represented? Honorable men discharging their duty in an honorable way do not so behave! Why, likewise, the refusal to surrender the original returns of the election, making it necessary to take the members of the board, in contempt, to Washington? The truth would not have been brought out had the House Committee been less painstaking and persevering. They have now been able to prove that the figures in some of the returns were transposed, so as to give the Republicans the benefit of the Democratic vote, and that forging signatures was regularly practiced for the benefit of the Returning Board. The master spirit was ex-Gov. Wells, who, as disclosed yesterday, tried first to sell out to the Republicans, and then fell back on the Democrats, and, lastly, for some good reason, took the risk, and so handled the vote as to give Louisiana to the Republicans. So ends the chapter!

About Judge Bradley.

[Cincinnati Commercial.]

Judges Strong and Bradley acquired considerable notoriety six years ago, as they were potential immediately after their appointment to the Bench in reversing the judgment of the Supreme Court then recently rendered in the Legal Tender cases, and establishing the new doctrine that greenbacks are a lawful payment for debts contracted before the war, though payable in gold. Neither of these judges has been known, we believe, as a pronounced partisan, and the country justly looks to them with some confidence for judicial fairness and impartiality, in this new juncture, which forms, in some respects, the greatest of all the causes yet submitted to their arbitrament. There has been much speculation indulged in regarding the supposed leanings of Justice Bradley, the last selected member of the Commission. In the notable Grant Parish cases, (Louisiana), reported in the Second Wood's Circuit Court Reports for the Fifth Circuit, Judge Bradley decided some provisions of the Enforcement Act of Congress unconstitutional. He knows Louisiana law and politics thoroughly, having been upon that Circuit ever since his elevation to the Bench.

How Judge Bradley Was Chosen.

[Cincinnati Enquirer.]

The appointment of Mr. Justice Bradley as the fifth member of the commission from among the members of the Supreme Court completes the Electoral Tribunal. Mr. Bradley is a Republican, and the Presidential Commission consists of eight Republicans and seven Democrats; that is, it is a Republican Commission. There are thousands of narrow-minded and short-sighted men who have been howling that the Democratic party in this wrangle has been determined to have a President or a war; that its policy was to rule or ruin; that it was not patriotism or a love of peace that actuated it, but avarice for office. The *permission* of this commission by the votes of the Democracy proves all such statements falsehoods. The Democratic party, holding the power to take the place, consented to submit the determination of the Presidency to a Republican jury, a jury which was sure to be Republican from the beginning. If this does not show exceptional confidence in the justice of the Democratic cause, and an absorbing desire for peace, what would? The best evidence yet offered that the Supreme Judges will rise above party is found in the fact that three of the four Justices named in the bill were in favor of the selection of Judge Davis, who, without proper grounds, declined to serve. Mr. Bradley enjoys the esteem of the court, and has, in some of his decisions, won the confidence and respect of the country. Let us now pray for a just decision.

Louisiana the Pivotal State.

[Journal of Commerce.]

There are strong grounds for believing that an impartial tribunal, of the weight and standing of this one, will give the vote of Florida to Gov. Tilden. But, whether Florida, Oregon and South Carolina be assigned to him or not, no intelligent man, not completely blinded to truth and justice by foregone prejudice, can fail to understand, that the State of Louisiana is Democratic by from seven to thirteen thousand majority, voted for the Tilden electors by at least seven thousand, and has been outraged in her electoral vote by the stupendous villainy of the Returning Board. This Radical machinery for setting aside the will of the people and keeping the Republican party in power through daring fraud, has been in operation at three elections in that State—that of '72, that of '74 and that of last November. The glaring rascalities practiced in the past have been so thoroughly exposed, that every honest man in the United States, who has paid any attention to politics, is aware of the wrongs of Louisiana and of the manner of their perpetration. These are so well appreciated as to have been the prime cause of the political change which swept over the North in '74, and sent a majority of over two-thirds Democrats to the House of Representatives.

Away With Returning Boards.

[N. Y. Tribune.]

Legally the presumption in the present case is also in favor of the accused; but actually, is the Returning Board of Louisiana a body of which the world would naturally be slow to believe evil? It was created in fraud; it has had long practice in iniquity; it has given scores of offices to men who were not elected; its rascalities have been denounced by Republicans in Congress. In fact, a suborned witness would have little difficulty in manufacturing an infamous charge against members of such a board, and making it square exactly with their past performances. An enterprising perjurer could not find an easier field of operations than amid the slime of Louisiana politics.

When the present complications are settled, we hope the people of Louisiana will see, what has long been plain to the rest of the Union, that they are not safe until they have rid themselves of this Returning Board. It has always been the blackest blot on the administration of their unfortunate State; perhaps they will now realize that it is also their gravest danger.

Composition of the Tribunal.

[Courier-Journal.]

We have already, on more than one occasion, expressed our opinion of Judge Bradley, and we need only again say that in point of ability and personal character he is the peer of any man on the Supreme bench.

So far as the appearance of freedom from undue partiality is concerned, we think the Democrats make the best presentation. Of course, every Democrat appointed by either house would prefer seeing Mr. Tilden elected, and every Republican so appointed would prefer Mr. Hayes. But every one must concede that among the five Democrats there are no members of the commission to correspond with Senator Morton and Representative Garfield, the former of whom is violently opposed to the whole proceeding in which he is to participate, while the latter has already committed himself in writing on one of the main questions that will be brought before the tribunal. Mr. Morton was one of Mr. Hayes' chief managers, and the same reasons that induced the Democrats to refrain from nominating Mr. Hewitt might very properly have suggested an impropriety in nominating Mr. Morton.

Too Big a Thing.

[St. Louis Republican.]

The presidential conspiracy was too big a thing to manage successly. Too many agents, go-betweens and tools were required, and the leaders could not always know their subordinates thoroughly, and previous performances in the same line had made these leaders too careless and confident. They had played the game so nicely in 1874 that they could not see how the marked cards could fail to win in 1876. The pivot of the plot was the alleged power of the president of the Senate to count the vote. Had that pivot held, the Returning Board job would have been rushed through with a whoop and halloo, and there the matter would have ended; but when the pivot broke off by the passage of the compromise bill the whole machinery went to wreck and ruin, and the investigating committees are now picking up the pieces.

The Republican Party Saved.

[New York Sun.]

The arbitration is the escape of the Republican party from threatened destruction.

A conspiracy had been entered into to count Mr. Hayes in as President. It was based on fraudulent returns from Florida and Louisiana. The plan proposed was to be carried through by the President of the Senate, supported, as it was expected it would be, by the Republican majority in that body.

This was the scheme, but it must now be apparent to every one that it could not have been carried out; and that if it had been carried out, it would have ruined the Republican party forever. The majority of the Senate would not have consented to it, and the future would have left the Republican body broken by a radical and fatal schism, and covered with the shame of a defeated conspiracy.

Now, it is true there has been a controversy within the party, not much worse than all parties continually have to undergo; but the result is that the Republicans are extricated from their immediate peril. The almost absolute decision of the presidential question is left to Judge Joseph P. Bradley, of Newark, a partisan to whom his party never looked in vain. Hayes being counted in, the frauds by which this result is established will be covered with the quasi mantle of the Supreme Court; and if Tilden should possibly be declared elected, the Republican party will yet have been preserved.

The gain to the Republicans in this Electoral bill is something immense and unparalleled, while the Democrats have been signally circumvented. The Democratic House of Representatives had the determination of this great question in their own hands; and now it is in the hands of Joseph P. Bradley.

BREVITIES.

The lease of the ferry privilege across the river at the head of Louisiana Avenue has been awarded to A. Dumestre & Co. for $17 50 a month. There was only one other bidder at $10 per month.

George Gracien, colored Representative from the Thirteenth Representative District, Orleans, who still holds out at the scenery on Royal street, was in the House yesterday morning looking on, and possibly measuring the distance of the lean from the St. Louis Hotel to Old Fellows Hall.

The venerable Judge Jesse R. Jones, of St. Tammany parish, visited the Legislature yesterday. Judge Jones occupied a seat in the House in 1816 and 1817, and again in 1833 and 1834. Although he has just entered his ninetieth year, Judge Jones is remarkably well preserved, and scarcely looks more than sixty-five.

Messrs. Fremaux and Reynolds, assistant city surveyors, were engaged yesterday in making a general survey of the Claiborne drainage canal, to ascertain the probable cost of dredging the canal which filled up within a few years to such an extent as to make it almost useless for the purpose for which it is intended.

A party, which promised to be very brilliant, was literally "busted" up a few nights ago by the *status quo*. The cause was that company "Q" which comprised a majority of the invited young bloods, was unexpectedly ordered on duty the very day the party was to have taken place. Who'd dare say now, that patriotism is a myth.

Madame France is, who for many, many years, had formed part of the interesting group of flower vendors at the corner of Canal and Royal streets, died last week at an advanced age. The old woman was an expert bouquet maker, and a jolly soul. Her death resulted from a cold, caught while already ill, in picking violets in her little garden on a cold morning.

The report of the Board of Health of interments for last week shows that there were 155 interments during that period; whites 86, colored 65, not stated 4. Males 83, females 72. The principal causes of death were small pox 53; consumption 13. Children under 10 years of age 47. Of the total number 88 were Louisianians, 22 from other States, 17 from Germany and 9 from Ireland.

It has been ascertained that the cost last year to assess the property of the city of New Orleans amounted to the fabulous sum of sixty-five thousand six hundred dollars, subdivided as follows: Seven assessors, comprising the board, at $4000 each, $28,000; contingent expenses, each assessor $1000 $7000; paid by the city for assessment rolls $16 000; expenses of the Administrators' office $4100; paid for certificates of conveyance $4500.

AMUSEMENTS.

VARIETIES THEATRE.—Returning from the Varieties Theatre, we sit down, invoking all the amiability and benevolence which characterize a sympathizing critic, in order to express a favorable opinion of the tragedy of "Samson," produced last night for the first time in this city. We fear that we had expected too much, for we must confess that "Samson is weak; weak in its text, weak in its construction and in its situations, of the latter there are so few that they may not be mentioned at all, without doing injustice to the play. We scarcely dare call it a tragedy, for, barring the closing scene, there never was written a play less tragical. That Salvini should have made it great is possible, but that must be, in all probability, due to the greatness of Salvini himself, and to that alone. We do not wish to convey the idea that the play is a poor one, on the contrary, it is a pretty dramatization of the biblical story of Samson and the jawbone of an ass, but we can readily understand how Charles Pope, even with his splendid figure, his fine voice and withal an incontestable talent, did not create a furore in the title role. The text, in our humble judgment, does not carry out at least our idea of the man who carries iron gates on his shoulders and rends chains like cobwebs. It is not our typical Samson; it makes him a genteel love-sick spadassin, arrayed in all the elegance of the politeness of a century or two ago. A Meiconio and not—well, not a Samson. Charles Pope had indeed some very fine moments, as the French say, and his soliloquy of the fifth act was a model of correctness. We wish we could compliment unreservedly for the rendering of the scene of the anathema at the close of the fourth act; we found, however, that he lacked somewhat in volubility or better in fluency and clearness of articulation. We may compliment, *en passant*, Miss Rosa Rand, for her effort in the closing scene of the same act, it was merit to text in the full sense of the word.

The scene of the construction of the temple of Dagon was good. The painting is due to Mr Donald.

Since we have undertaken to speak at length of the entertainments, we can afford to speak of the excellent music dispensed by the orchestra under Mr. Maillert during the intermission. The fantasia on "Am I not fondly thine own," with flute obligato by Mr. Livain, was exquisite, and a rare treat, also was the fantasia on "La Fille du Regiment," in which the first cornet distinguished himself.

Go and see "Samson." We are satisfied that it will please you.

There will be no performance at this theatre on Thursday, in honor of Momus, but there will be a matinee on Wednesday, to make up as much as possible for the deficiency.

ST. CHARLES THEATRE.—The Forbish Fifth Avenue company appeared last evening to a good house in "Clouds." The performance this evening will consist of the drama entitled, "The Sort."

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—Soldene and her mammoth organization played "La Grande Duchesse" to another large house last night. To-night "Trial by Jury" and "Cinderella" will be produced. This is Soldene's last week. Frank Mayo follows in "Davy Crockett" on Sunday next.

QUICK WORK.

Trial and Conviction of the Counterfeiters.

On Wednesday night last the United States detectives arrested Francisco Pantilla, Jos. Mattini, Virginia Gargina, Salvadore Aberia and Mrs. Mattini, on the charge of making and passing counterfeit coin.

The case was immediately following the arrest was brought before the Grand Jury, and true bills were found on all the indictments against the accused.

Yesterday the prisoners were brought before the United States Court, arraigned on the charges, and all but Pantilla pleading not guilty, were immediately placed on trial. Pantilla plead guilty and was remanded to await sentence. Mrs. Mattini was acquitted. Jos. Mattini and Salvadore Aberia were convicted, and the case against Gargina was continued until to-day.

Valentines for nothing, 630 Magazine. Come and help yourselves. D. Leech, Stationer.

AN INCIDENT.

She didn't have the appearance of a regular drunk, and she seemed to be heartily ashamed of the position in which she was, and kept as far from the gas-light over the iron-barred door as she possibly could.

The children, two little girls, one perhaps four years of age and the other not more than two, caressed her hands and smoothed her hair.

The turnkey apologetically said: "It is seldom, sir, that it happens. As a general thing the officer finds somebody to take care of the children, and when he don't, why, we keep them in the office; but this woman, sir, was picked up on the street this morning so drunk that it took two officers to bring her in, and the children were with her, and followed on behind the officers. We had them in the captain's room, sir, until the little one (ain't she bright and pretty?) got down off the sofa, and went up to the clerk, and looked up at him with those big blue eyes of hers, and said "me wants my mamma." The clerk, sir, is as kind a hearted man as you'll ever meet, and he's mighty nigh to children, because he's a father himself. Well, he talked to the youngster and set her on his desk, and set her to fishing in the water bucket, with a bent pin and piece of thread, and kept her quiet that way for a while, but then she got tired, and the clerk nor nobody else could do anything with her, not even the big one, her sister, who is a little woman in her way, as you can see. As I was saying, sir, nobody could do anything with her; she just went from one to the other of us, and said, while those big blue eyes of hers looked in such a pitiful, beseeching way, "me wants my mamma." At last she went to the clerk, and she looked at him and said it, and added, "you bad man," and the clerk turns to me and says, "d—n it, I can't stand this; the woman has straightened up by this time, I reckon, take the child to its mother," and I brought them in, sir, and that's why you find them here.

"You see that old wretch there, that gray-haired woman, she's a hard case, she is, and we've had her in here often enough, and never found out until to-day that there was anything like a woman about her outside of her shape.

"You see, we got something for the youngsters to eat, and those other hags in there, sir, stared for the provisions, and those youngsters would have had mighty little left, if they had got their hands on them. I told them that if they touched the babies I would put them in the dark cell and put the stocks on them, but I knew that they'd take the chance on that, and I felt bad about leaving, because you see I had to go back to the office, and then that old woman there she steps up, and she says to me, "you go about your business, and never you mind the children," and then she patted each of them on the head, and told them 'there, you darlings, sit down;' and then to the other women, 'on how drunkards, you, just let me catch one of you laying the weight of your hand on the darlings and I'll have it out with you, so I will.' Well, sir, I do believe if one of those women had come near the babies that there would have been an inquest to-morrow."

The turnkey paused here and for half a minute took a look at his bunch of keys, and while he looked his face lost that tender expression which it had while he was talking, and in another half a minute he was no longer the man but the official, and then in a business-like way, he put the key in the lock, opened the iron-barred door, and in a harsh voice said to "this woman": "Here, you, the captain says you are to be released; take your youngsters and get out of here, and be lively about it, and don't you come back any more, if you do, you look out, that's all!" and as the woman and the babies walked off he banged the door to and remarked: "Business will be lively to-night, sir, it is a good one for drunks."

CRUSHED TO DEATH.

A Man Run Over by a Float and Almost Instantly Killed.

At half past four o'clock last evening, at the corner of St. Ann and Levee streets, a Spaniard by the name of Jaques Sangenette was run over by a float driven by a negro named Eli Gibson, and almost instantly killed. The injured man was brought to the Third Precinct Station, where he expired almost immediately after his arrival.

The negro was arrested and locked up in the same station, and on being interviewed by a reporter made the following statement:

I did not see the man until my lead mule was about ten feet from him; I halloded to him three times to get out of the way, and tried to check my mule, but could not; I suppose that he did not hear me halloo to him to get out of the way, and the end of the float knocked him down, and two of the wheels passed over his body.

The Coroner held an inquest, and returned a verdict in accordance with the facts.

CITY AND POLICE ITEMS.

DIED OF HIS WOUNDS.—Officer John McDonough, who was shot yesterday at the Central Station by Dan Shay, died this morning at half past seven o'clock. The Coroner concluded the inquest yesterday, and the jury returned a verdict that the deceased came to his death from a pistol shot wound, which produced internal hemorrhage, the pistol being in the hands of Dan Shay, now in custody. The coroner will, to-day, make an affidavit, charging the accused with murder.

By the death of Officer McDonough a wife and several children are left in absolute poverty, and should any one feel inclined to help the widow and the orphans they can do it by calling at the late residence of the deceased, No. 137 Howard street, between Poydras and Perdido.

BURGLARS. Some time during Sunday night burglars entered the grocery store of Peter Burke, at the corner of St. Ann and Johnson streets, and carried away groceries and dry goods to the amount of $40. They effected an entrance by boring the front door.

A COMMITTEE OF SCREWMEN.—A committee of the Screwmen's Association called on Capt. Hurst, of the Sixth Precinct Station, and stated that Henry Smith, who was charged with having dishonored his daughter, was never a member of their association.

The Empire Case.

Judge Rogers, of the Fifth District Court, on Monday morning rendered an interesting decision in the case of the Empire Parish Company vs. the Union Insurance Company.

The Empire Parish Company was the owner of the steamboat Empire, which sunk at a wharf in front of the city on the night of November 17. The boat was insured in the Union Insurance Company for $6000; the company refused to pay the amount, and hence the suit.

Judge Rogers decided that the evidence showed that the officers of the boat had been negligent in the discharge of their duty, any had not complied with the acts of Congress in reference to steamboats, and that the Insurance Company could not be held liable for the amount, and rendered judgment in their favor.

An Important Suit.

Messrs. Schneider & Zaberbier have instituted suit in the United States Circuit Court against the Knickerboker Insurance Company, on a policy on the life of Gustave Ostermanns, a debtor of the firm, on whose life a policy was obtained June 6, 1867, for $20,000. Plaintiffs claim that, although the conditions of the policy have been strictly complied with, and proof of Ostermanns' death furnished the company, he having died September 15, 1876, in St. Louis, the company refused to pay the insurance.

Plaintiffs state further that the policy has increased by dividends, etc., to $22 500, for which amount, interests and costs they pray judgment. Suit entered February 3 by plaintiffs' counsels, Messrs. Honor and Benedict.