ment at seeing the fun, and many sententious remarks respecting the merits of the different performers. Their children neatly, and, in some instances, tastefully dressed, had gathered in the corners and angles of the dining-room, whispering and laughing, and now and then darting across the floor and joining in the game, as if they found it impossible to resist the temptation. But their interference was generally received with a good-natured remark, or a pleasant jest, and at length the most of them were mingling unreguinedly in the sport. Children are usually true cosmopolitans.

Near the glass door that opened upon the piazza from this room, a group of women were standing. One of them might readily have been recognized as our friend Venus; for the passing years had touched her lightly, and she seemed to have renewed her youth instead of growing old. A great improvement was perceptible in her dress. Her turban was of the finest cambric, and her bright plaid dress was of fine woolen material, while her aprons, which in defiance of all criticism she still persisted in wearing one above another, were made one of black and the other of green silk, and abundantly ruffled.

A model of negro character is presented in the history of the slave Alfred, whose terrible experience forms one of the most striking episodes of the narrative. We give two or three scenes, which show the writer's power of vivid representation:

Dinner was ended, and Col. Ross, having ordered his carriage, was about to depart, when a messenger came to say that the boys sent with the plants had returned.

"Where is Alfred?" asked Mr. Wynn.

"Alfred say, massa, he done come back; say, ef dere a'n't nothin' else, he like mighty well go to bed, cause he a'n't so bery well."

"Tell him I want to see him a moment in the library, and then he may," was the reply; but Ida noticed an ominous compression of those thin lips, and an unwonted sternness in the tone with which those simple words were uttered, and her fears were at once aroused. In an instant she thought of the bad face of the man who had been closeted there with Mr. Wynn in the morning, and she was impressed with the idea that Alfred's secret was discovered. As soon as she could escape from the room unnoticed, after Col. Ross's prolonged leave-taking, she hastened to Maum Abby's room. But it was empty. Alfred was already in the library, and Ida returned just in time to see Mr. Wynn enter, and shut the door carefully behind him.

Locking the door as he shut it—an action that startled Alfred not a little—Mr. Wynn walked to the fire-place, and, turning round, put his hands behind him, straightened himself firmly on his feet, and fixed his eyes, without speaking, upon Alfred, who was standing near him, by the table. We have before said that few could endure the peculiar stare with which he expressed displeasure; and, least of any, could the man who now stood before him, burdened by the weight of a secret that involved all he held dear in life. He cast down his eyes, shifted himself from one foot to the other, changed his position, played nervously with the cap he held in his hand, and, at last, unable longer to endure this silent torture, he said, respectfully, "Dick said you wanted me, Sir."

"I did want you. Give an account of yourself. Where were you last night?"

Alfred started visibly at this question, and, though his dark skin, it was easy to see that every particle of blood receded from his face. Twice he essayed to speak, and his lips seemed too rigid to form the words he would have said. He knew, from his master's whole manner, that disguise was useless—that, through some unknown channel, his secret plans had been conveyed to the ear that should never have heard them; to the heart that would know no pity. Nerving himself at length to meet his fate, he looked up, and, with an effort at calmness, he replied, firmly, but still respectfully, "I went to see my wife, Sir."

"Who is your wife?" said Mr. Wynn, with a sneering emphasis on the last word.

"Elele Nellore," replied Alfred.

"Did I not command you three years ago to have nothing more to do with her, or any of her family?" said Mr. Wynn. And then, as his companion did not reply, he went on, with increasing excitement, "And now is not this just what I told you would be the consequence of associating with them? You have grown sulky and discontented, and full of notions that ought to have been whipped out of you long ago,—but I have been foolishly indulgent,—and tonight you were going to steal my best horse and run away, were you? You ungrateful dog! is this the way you pay me for all I have done for you?"

Alfred was proud and high spirited, and in the desperation of his circumstances, he could no longer restrain the burning words that were struggling for utterance, like the lava in a pent volcano.

"What have you done for me? he exclaimed, lifting himself proudly. "A mighty debt I owe you, sir, but not of *gratitude!* What have you done for me? You made me a plaything in childhood! You fed and dressed me well, because you like to see fat and neat looking servants about you! You educated me just enough to suit your own purposes, and then rudely checked my craving for further knowledge! What more did you do? You persecuted the girl I loved, and insulted me by offering me another woman in her place—"

"Silence!" thundered Mr. Wynn, stamping his foot on the floor.

"I will not be silent!—I will speak now if I die for it!" cried Alfred. "Twenty-five years I have served you faithfully; and because your oppressions at last made me sad and gloomy, you have scolded and threatened me. You did not like it because the man you had wronged would not sing and smile, as well as work for you,—because I had a human heart in my bosom, because God made me with the same wishes and powers that he gives the white man—"

"You insolent puppy!" exclaimed Mr. Wynn; "dare you talk that way to me!—to me! your master? *You* talk of being *wronged!* You'll find I have way to take these notions out of your head, you impudent nigger! You shall be tied up and flogged before all the people in the place. I'll take the conceit out of you, if I take all the skin off your back first."

Alfred shivered from head to foot as if with deadly cold. He knew this was no unmeaning threat. But his eye quailed not as he answered: "For your own sake, Sir, be careful what you do to me. I cannot bear what some can. I have not been degraded quite to the condition of a beast, and I have the feelings of a man. I tell you I could not bear it, though I know some can. It would ruin me. I should be either an idiot or crazy."

"You had better be crazy or an idiot, than such a rebellious, impudent scoundrel as you are now!" said Mr. Wynn. His voice was terribly calm and cold. His anger had reached the point where all outward demonstration ceases.

Alfred made a step forward, and raised his hand a little.

"Twenty-five years have I served you," he said, "and never a lash has fallen on my back; and, mark me, Sir, never a lash shall fall there! I have escaped that disgrace and torture, and I never will endure it—never!"

As he spoke these last words, Mr. Wynn also stepped forward, and, seizing a small riding whip that lay on the table, struck a sudden, stinging blow directly across Alfred's face, cutting the skin slightly from his eye to his chin. Alfred caught it in his hands, as it was descending a second time, and twisting it from his master's grasp, broke it in three pieces, and threw it over Mr. Wynn's shoulder into the fire, and sprang to the window. There was a momentary delay in undoing the lock, which was fastened; and, seizing an oaken chair, Mr. Wynn made one bound across the floor, a heavy blow descended, and Alfred was stretched senseless on the carpet. At the same instant, a wild shriek ran through the house—a prolonged cry of anguish and despair, which curdled the blood of every listener—and Maum Abby rushed through the half-opened window into the room. Stooping down she raised the lifeless form and laid the head tenderly on her bosom.

"My boy! my boy!" she said, in a low tone; "it ended, then, at last—it is all over—and it has come to this!" and, after these words, she spoke not again during all the scene which followed.

The next scene in this fearful drama is as follows:

As the servants and the ladies withdrew a little, Mr. Wynn came forward from the fire-place, where he had looked on without speaking, while they were endeavoring to restore him; and, standing directly before the helpless man, he said, glancing to the servants and pointing to Alfred as he spoke:

"You all see this fellow—you all know how little cause of complaint he has had, for he has been treated better than any of you. Now, listen. This fellow was not content with being sulky and disobedient, but he was intending to-night to steal one of my horses, and run away from this place. I tell you this that you may know what an ungrateful dog he is, and I command every one of you to go down to the quarters to-morrow morning, and you will see how he will be punished. Let it be a lesson to you all. If you do your duty you shall be treated well, but if you are impudent and disobedient you must suffer the consequences, as he will have to do. You remember what I told you," he added, turning to Alfred, and shaking him a little by the shoulder—"*I will do it!* You dared to brave my power. You will find it can *crush* you."

He spoke in the same tone of deadly vengeance he had used in addressing his victim just before he struck him, and all present felt that this was no time to appeal for mercy. The servants drew near each other, and looked with an air of terror from their master to their offending companion. Walter leaned against the window, with his arms folded over his breast and his lips firmly compressed, but his eyes were fixed on Alfred. The ladies had withdrawn a little into the recess, and Maum Abby alone remained with her son. For a few moments none spoke or moved. Every one of the group seemed petrified, and Mr. Wynn enjoyed his victory with a stern and cruel triumph.

Then, motioning three of the strongest negroes to approach, he told them to take Alfred and carry him up stairs to the attic, where was a large dark closet in which he was to be confined through the night. They obeyed, and Alfred, tottering feebly to his feet, allowed them to grasp his arms and coat. Maum Abby made no useless opposition. Only once, as he was rising from the floor, she bent down and pressed her pale lips to his forehead, and gazed a moment into his face with an unutterable expression, and then quietly followed as they led him away.

Mr. Wynn followed also. As they passed the hall-door, Alfred made a violent effort to free himself from their grasp; but those who held him were strong, and their master's eye was upon them, and after a short struggle they conquered him. Slowly they ascended, until, at the head of the stairs leading into the attic, they came to a strong oaken door that opened into a large closet, containing no window—no other door—no chance for escape. Alfred looked into it and felt that his doom was sealed.

None of the family knew for what purpose this place was first constructed, and it had rarely been used during the present generation; but a more secure dungeon for a prisoner could hardly have been made. The door was very thick and secured by a ponderous lock that creaked savagely as Mr. Wynn turned the key. As they thrust Albert into this cell, his mother attempted to enter also; but Mr. Wynn, with his own hand, drew her back, shut the door and locked it. Then, withdrawing the key, he said sternly: "Go down, now, all of you. If I find a person lingering about here, I will have him served as Alfred will be served to-morrow. Do you hear—go down!" he added, turning to Maum Abby, who remained leaning against the wall after the others had disappeared.

"Can you have a heart to bid me go? I am his *mother!*" she answered, clasping her hands over her heart, and lifting her eyes to his, with an expression that touched even his stern nature in its angry mood, and without another word, he left her.

The short twilight of a winter's day was fading, and through the small windows everything looked dim and indistinct in the large garret; and as the heart-broken woman felt herself left there alone in her great sorrow, she gazed upon the walls of the closet as upon a tomb, where her son was immured alive. Sinking down on the floor, she placed her lips to the crack at the bottom of the door, and called in a loud whisper, plaintive and thrilling,—"Alfred, my son! my dear son!—I am here. It is your mother, Alfred!—speak to me! I will never leave you, my son—never! O, Alfred, speak just one word to me!" And so on into the night were breathed out those yearning cries of a mother's heart. And he answered her once. The cold lips that pressed the door were warmed a moment by a fevered breath from within, and a low, hoarse tone, that she could scarce recognize, said faintly, "O, mother dear, pray for me—pray for me, for I feel that I am going mad!"

The sequel is thus given:

Some moments elapsed, and then there was a little confusion heard above stairs, a quick step descended, and Dick again threw open the door, exclaiming, "O, massa! come dis minute up star. Dat ar' Alfred done kill beself!"

"What do you say?" said Mr. Wynn, sternly, his face growing a little more rigid and white as he fixed his eyes on the child.

"Fact, massa," repeated he; "dat ar' Alfred done kill beself—cut hole in he throat and let out all de blood. Done shirked he whippin' *dis* time, massa, anyway."

Mr. Wynn rose quickly and left the room. Walter lifted his head, and his chest heaved with a deep inspiration, as if a load had been lifted from it, while he exclaimed fervently,

"Thank God for that!—he is *dead!*"

"Why, Walter! a'n't you ashamed to say so?" said Mabel. "For my part, I'm really sorry, for now who will we get to build our summer house? My heart was set upon having that before another year, and there isn't a workman anywhere around who was equal to Alfred. I'd rather have nothing at all than one of those common things. I say it is a downright shame for him to kill himself, when it is so inconvien to lose him."

Walter listened to her with an expression of utter astonishment, which gave way to indignation as she completed this last sentence, and, with the bluntness that characterized him when excited, he exclaimed, "Cousin Mabel, if you were empty-hearted as a soap-bubble, one would think you could not speak thus at such a moment as this;" and, giving her a reproachful glance, he followed Ida, who had already left the room.

He found her standing beside Maum Abby in the midst of the whole household, who had by this time gathered around the spot where Alfred lay across the threshold of the closet door, with his head supported in his mother's arms. Through what intense disappointment, through what utter despondency, through what anguish of mind and heart, that excited brain had grown delirious, only God can know. But He, who gives the fullness of a boundless sympathy and pity to the weakness of our human nature, will pardon that wretched man, who, left thus alone to wrestle with a crushing tyranny, and finding himself cut off from all other refuge, had dared with his own hand to open the gates of death, that through them he might escape from the oppressor.

This thought was a comfort to the bereaved mother, who sat silently bending over him. It was no shock to her when the men, who, imagining Alfred asleep or sulky, were dragging him roughly forth, suddenly loosened their hold, exclaiming that he was dead. For two hours she had listened in vain for the quick, panting breath which all night long had given assurance that he was still alive; and, after the first involuntary heart-thrill, the knowledge thus gradually attained brought with it a sensation of relief; and, thinking of all he had endured in the past, all he must have endured in the future, more fervently than she had praised God at her child's birth, that mother gave thanks that her only son was dead.

As they stood around her silently, even the garrulousness of the negroes being checked by the pitiful scene, a slow, decided step was heard on the stairs. It was Mr. Wynn; and, as the sound of his footsteps drew nearer, and the group, scattering apart, left him face to face with the dead, Maum Abby unclasped her arms from the lifeless form she had been holding close against her heart, and, laying it down tenderly upon the floor, arose and stood before him. There was something almost majestic in the solemn reticence of her manner—something awful in the utter desolation in which this tragedy had involved her, that hushed the very breathing of those who listened, as, pointing with one hand to the corpse at her feet, and raising the other a little to demand her master's attention, she said to him: "Look! there is my boy!—he is dead, and you, *you* have murdered him! Do not start back—do not frown on me—my son is dead, and you cannot harm me now! It is not for me to curse you—not for me! I know not why God has permitted this wrong to be done. I know not, blind worm that I am, how my child's death can cause the wrath of man to praise Him, or my own misery advance the purposes of His holy will; and yet I trust him—O, I will trust Him though he slay me!" she added, raising her clasped hands high above her head, and looking upward. For a moment she stood thus, her lips moving inaudibly, as if she prayed, and then gradually lowering her arms and fixing her eyes again on Mr. Wynn, she continued: "I will not curse you, that you have robbed me of what was more to me than my life; that you drove him to desperation and insanity, that ended in death. God will pardon *him* that deed; but, when He maketh inquisition for blood, will he not require it at *your* hands!—you, who could not pity—who would not forgive! What will you answer, when One who judgeth righteously shall ask you, 'Where is thy brother?' O, Master Richard, beware! Learn, while it is yet time, that these whom you are crushing, are *men*, and repent before God of the evil you have dared to do. Repent!"—and here her voice rose like the pealing of an organ swell,—"Repent! for, behold, the day cometh that shall burn as an oven, and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be as stubble, and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of Hosts."

She paused. There was a lurid light in her eyes, and with her pale, stern face, her tall figure elevated to its utmost hight, and her hand raised with a prophetic earnestness, she looked like one inspired. Self-possessed as was Mr. Wynn, and firmly as he had braced himself against any manifestation of the feelings that secretly agitated him, he had quailed before the influence that acted like a spell upon those around him; but when she ceased speaking, he recovered himself, and, stepping a little aside, said half aloud, "These are but the ravings of insanity. Take the woman away."

She bent forward a little, and laid her hand lightly upon his breast, but he shrank from her touch with a slight shudder. "I go, I go," said she. "I have no more to do here. Bring my son after me—bring him to my room for a little while—a few hours, and then the earth must cover him. He will sleep there in peace, and I—God help me!—I shall be *alone*."

Her words, changed now in tone and manner, had a melancholy and touching pathos, as if they came from the depth of a broken heart; and she tottered as she descended the stairs slowly, with an uncertain step, like that of one who walks in the dark. Moved by a simultaneous impulse, Walter and Ida sprang to aid her. Her hands were clenched together, and her eyes glazed and dim. The reaction from that unnatural and desperate calmness was commencing, and in a few moments she was seized with strong convulsions, that for many hours threatened her life.

These descriptions could have proceeded from the pen of no ordinary writer. They are much above the level of the popular fictitious productions of the day. They are a proof both of feeling and talent, which authorize the highest promise for the future productions of the writer, and legitimate her calling to the sphere of literary effort which she has so auspiciously entered.

Children's Trials is a neat volume of juvenile stories, translated from the German of AUGUSTE LINDES, forming a seasonable gift book, without extravagant embellishment. (12mo, pp 238. Crosby & Nichols. Sold by Evans & Dickerson.)

WORKS IN PREPARATION.

Stringer & Townsend announce "The People's Edition" of the complete works of J. FENIMORE COOPER. The extraordinary demand for the works of our great National Novelist, since his death, has induced the proprietors of his copyrights to prepare an edition superior to all others in completeness, elegance and correctness. It will embrace the author's latest corrections and emendations and an elaborate Life of Mr. Cooper, in one volume, by one of his most intimate and distinguished literary friends. The whole series is to appear in semi-monthly volumes, each containing an entire work, and to be sold at the low price of one dollar. The publishers promise that the style of this edition will not be inferior to that of Putnam's edition of Irving's Works. By subscribing for a serial issue of this eminent and favorite author, whose writings are so deserving of a place in the library of every American, his admirers have an opportunity of obtaining them for a scarcely perceptible outlay. The first volume will be ready on the first of December.

J. Buffum, Boston, will speedily issue a collection of miscellaneous pieces in prose and verse, entitled "Town and Country, or Life at Home and Abroad," by JOHN S. ADAMS, in a handsome illustrated volume, suited for a gift-book.

H. Long & Brother have in press a story entitled "The Slave of the Lamp," by the late WILLIAM NORTH, whose recent unfortunate death has produced such a general sensation. We understand that it contains numerous autobiographical details, illustrating his literary career, sketches of cotemporary writers, and strictures on modern society. The appearance of the volume will doubtless be looked for with great interest.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

NEW-YORK COUNTY CANVASSERS.

SEVENTH DAY'S SESSION.

The Board of New-York County Canvassers met yesterday, in the Chamber of the Board of Aldermen, City Hall.

At ten minutes past eleven o'clock the Board was organized, and on the calling of the roll the following Supervisors answered to their names: Messrs. Blunt, Tucker, Voorhis, Christy and Ely, (the President).

The PRESIDENT said—The proceedings yesterday terminated with the canvass of the Fifth District of the Eighth Ward. If there be no objection, we will proceed to canvass the returns from the other Districts of that Ward.

Supervisor TUCKER then proceeded to deliver the balance of the returns from the Eighth Ward. No errors of importance occurring, they were speedily passed.

Supervisor BLUNT—Mr. President, I am ready now to furnish the corrected returns from the Inspectors of the Third Ward.

The PRESIDENT—The Supervisor of the Third Ward reports the corrected returns from that Ward. He will proceed to deliver those returns, if there be no objection.

Supervisor BLUNT—I got the majority of the Inspectors together, and this is the certificate which they have appended to the returns from each District where corrections have been made:

"This is to certify that the errors underlined were clerical errors, and we have corrected the same by writing the names in full." Signed by the respective District Inspectors.

The following are specimens of the corrections made:

FIRST DISTRICT.

H. J. Raymond corrected to Henry J. Raymond, 83 votes.
W. H. Ludlow corrected to William H. Ludlow, 96 votes.
H. Fitzhugh corrected to Henry Fitzhugh, 79 votes.
J. R. Williams corrected to Joseph R. Williams, 70 votes.
J. P. Sanders corrected to James P. Sanders, 70 votes.

No less than twenty-three of these corrections were made in the returns from the First District; five in those from the Second District; one in those from the Third District, and ten in the Fourth District making in all thirty-nine discrepancies in the returns from the Third Ward Inspectors. The certificate of correction was signed by all the Inspectors of the Fourth District, and the certificates from the other Districts were signed by a majority of the respective Inspectors thereof. The returns from the Third Ward having passed,

Supervisor VOORHIS delivered the returns from the Ninth Ward, which were canvassed without discovering any discrepancies. There were as many as twenty, and in some instances thirty, blank votes in several of the districts, which was the only peculiarity of these returns which caused remark.

Supervisor THOWBRIDGE then presented the returns from the Tenth Ward, which were canvassed thoughout without interruption, no discrepancies appearing therein.

The PRESIDENT then called for the returns from the Eleventh Ward, but, Supervisor Boardman not being present,

Supervisor WAKEMAN presented the returns from the Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Districts of the Twelfth Ward. He said the returns from the First District had never yet been sent to him. A discrepancy appearing in the return for State Prison Inspector, in the name of James P. Sanders, in the Second District, it was ordered to be sent back to the Inspectors for correction. In one of the returns of this Ward the name of "Wm. H. Lenon" was written, but, as the sound was similar to that of "Wm. H. Leonard," the votes were allowed by the Board to be given to the latter, as it was written "Wm. H. "*Leonard*" in the returns sent to the County Clerk. The returns for Mayor from the Fourth District of the Twelfth Ward were ordered to be sent back for correction, as a discrepancy appeared in the first name of James W. Barker. There were 129 votes returned for "*E.* Oakey Hall" in the return for District-Attorney from the Fifth District of the Twelfth Ward. The Board decided that as the sound was similar, the votes should be officially recorded for A. Oakey Hall.

The returns of the Twelfth Ward, as far as received by the Supervisor, having been canvassed—

The PRESIDENT asked what was the pleasure of the Board?

Supervisor WAKEMAN—I move that the Supervisors of the Eleventh and Thirteenth Wards be notified that the Board is ready to canvass their returns.

The PRESIDENT said there was no authority in the law for making any such application.

Supervisor WAKEMAN—Then, as the Supervisor of the Thirteenth Ward is not present, I move that we now adjourn.

This motion being agreed to, at 18 minutes to 3 o'clock, the Board adjourned until 11 o'clock to-day.

BOARD OF COUNCILMEN.

A regular meeting of the Board was held last evening, EDWIN J. BROWN in the Chair.

A resolution by Councilman CONOVER to advertise for the paving of Maiden-lane from Broadway to the East River, and Courtlandt-st. from Broadway to the North River, with the new iron pavement, was referred to the appropriate Committee.

In regard to the extension of Albany-st., the same member presented a preamble and resolutions urging that at the present time it is expedient that the Common Council should give direction in the premises, and requiring that the Committee on Streets be directed to report on or before the first Monday in December next, upon said extension. Laid on the table.

The Board, on motion of Mr. PINCKNEY, resolved not to enter into any contract for lighting Wharves, Piers and Slips, until a suitable plan shall have been made by them. Adopted.

Mr. SMITH presented a resolution for paving the Battery with square blocks of the Belgian pavement from Broadway to the river, which was referred to the Committee on Streets.

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the petition of the Board of Education, asking for an extra appropriation of $198,091 96 to meet the deficiencies of 1854, reported that the petition had not been approved by the Board of Commissioners, and asked to be discharged from further consideration of the subject. The report was adopted.

Communication from the Counsel to the Corporation in answer to resolution of inquiry whether the Board, or its Committees, have any legal authority to compel the attendance of witnesses, or to administer oaths—stating that the act of 20th March, 1853, (which is the only one giving power in such cases) gives the Chairman of Committees of Common Councils and of public municipal bodies, charged with any investigation or inquiry requiring the taking of testimony, authority to administer oaths to such witnesses as may be brought before such Committees, and false swearing in testimony so taken shall be deemed perjury; but the law does not give the power to subpœna witnesses—so that none can be sworn but those voluntarily appearing—and that the law in that respect is defective. To Committee on Law Department.

The Board then went into Committee of the Whole. The clock of the Council Chamber, which, after much squabbling, the Messrs. Sperry obtained permission to put up at the commencement of the present year, was last night again the subject of debate. The clockmaker alluded to having sent in a bill for $220 for the clock, and the matter was referred to the Committee on Repairs and Supplies. The Chairman of that body paid a visit, as a private citizen, to the store of Messrs. Sperry, when they showed him specimens of clocks of like quality with that in the Chamber, but four inches less across the face, for $75. The Committee therefore recommended in their report that $75 be offered for the clock, or that the maker furnish one at that price for the Board. This report was strenuously opposed by Mr. Conover, who went in for paying them the full amount of their charge. The report of the Committee was, however, accepted, with but one dissentient voice.

The Committee then rose, and the Board adjourned for lack of a quorum.

GOVERNORS OF THE ALMS-HOUSE.

The regular meeting of the Governors of the Alms-House was held yesterday afternoon, at their rooms, in the Rotunda. Present: Gov. DRAPER, the President; Govs. West, Duke, Dugro, Pinckney, Smith, Townsend, Henry, Conover, and Herrick.

The requisitions show the following number of persons remaining in the various institutions under the charge of the Governors for the week ending Nov. 18:

Bellevue Hospital	722
Lunatic Asylum	555
Alms House	1,171
Penitentiary	524
Penitentiary Hospital from Penitentiary	354
Penitentiary Hospital from Work House	78
Penitentiary Hospital from Alms House	11
Work-House	371
Small-Pox Hospital	5
Randall's Island	909
Randall's Island Hospital	215
City Prison	228
Total	5,603
Increase	16
Number remaining Nov. 11	5,537
Admitted	870
Total	6,457
Died	23
Discharged	742
Sent to Penitentiary	85
Sent to State Prison	4— 854
Remaining	5,603

A communication was received from G. B. Gilbert, stating that he had visited the children indentured in New-Jersey from Randall's Island, and, with one or two exceptions, found them located in comfortable homes. He also recommended that some twenty or thirty more little girls be sent there to supply the demand.

Mr. PHILLIPS, the Clerk, reported that at this time last year there were 1,077 inmates in the Alms-House; now there are 1,171.

Gov. SMITH moved that $100 be appropriated for the purchase of refreshments for the children on Randall's Island on Thanksgiving Day. Adopted.

Gov. TOWNSEND also suggested that if any of the friends of the Governors should be disposed, the children on the Island would be happy to receive any favors from them on that day.

The following document was received and read:

To the Governors of the Alms House:

The Board of Commissioners, designated in the 16th section of the amended Charter of 1853, consisting of the Mayor, Recorder, Controller, the President of the Board of Aldermen, and the President of the Board of Councilmen, having received from S. Draper, President of the Governors of the Alms-House, an estimate of the expenditures for that Department for the year 1855, have examined the same, in connection with the amount required for the arrearages of the year 1854, as set forth in a communication of the Governors of the Alms House to the Common Council, a duplicate of which has been furnished by the President of the Governors, and the Commissioners respectfully return the estimate, with their objections to some of the items, for reconsideration, as provided in the amended Charter of 1853

The estimate for 1854, as made by the Governors of the Alms-House, and sanctioned and carried into effect by the Common Council, the Legislature, and the Board of Supervisors, was as follows:

For support and maintenance	$427,000
For construction and repair of buildings	95,000
Total	$522,000

The whole of this sum has been drawn from the Treasury, and it now appears that the Governors of the Alms-House have contracted obligations to the amount of $125,000 more for the support of the establishments under their charge, on account of the current expenses of 1854; and also have an application before the Common Council for an appropriation of $40,000, for the completion of the south wing of the Work house at Blackwell's Island. The estimate for 1855, for ordinary support and maintenance is $562,450. Deducting $40,000, the estimated amount of earnings, leaves $512,450
For buildings and repairs the estimate is 71,000
And for arrearages of 1854 125,000

Total sum to be put in the tax levy of 1855 $708,450
The sum in the tax levy of 1854 427,000

Thus increasing the amount to be raised by tax 311,450

This is an increase equal to 73 per cent. in the amount of taxes then, comparing the estimate of 1854 with that proposed for 1855. And this does not include the $40,000 for the Work-House.

The sum of $95,000 expended by the Governor's of the Alms-House in 1854 as before stated, was raised by creating a debt, to be paid with interest, by future taxation, which leaves the increase of taxation as before stated.

To enable the Board of Commissioners to act understandingly, they ought to be furnished with specific and detailed estimates of the various items which make up the total sum required, the estimated quantities and prices of the leading articles, &c. The statement submitted for the approval of the Commissioners, gives in one item: "Salaries, $160,000." How are the Commissioners to determine, understandingly, whether the numerous salaries making up this large sum should command their approval, or whether there is any item in regard to which they ought to object, and ask the Governors of the Alms-House to reconsider it? The Commissioners insist that the statement submitted to them ought to be, at least, as minute and specific as the one submitted to the Controller in 1854 and which occupies 13 pages of Doc. No. 17 of the Board of Assistant Aldermen of that year. There are other large sums in regard to which more minute details would aid the Commissioners in satisfying themselves whether they should approve or object to any portion of the sum to be put in the tax levy.

The duplicate which has been furnished of the communications to the Common Council, in regard to the causes of an excess of expenditure for 1854 is considered by the Commissioners as a satisfactory compliance with the 16th section of the Charter of 1853, requiring that appropriations for the support and government of the Alms-House, before they are finally made, shall be submitted to the Board of Commissioners for their approval. And considering that obligations have been entered into which can only be met by an appeal to the taxpayers for this excess, they interpose no objection to an appropriation to provide for this deficiency of $125,000.

In regard to the estimate of 1855, the Commissioners return it to the Governors of the Alms-House for reconsideration, referring to the objections set forth in the previous part of this report, and respectfully submit to them the propriety of postponing or modifying such appropriations as are not indispensable to the protection of the public property and the support of the establishments under their charge.

The Commissioners, in returning the statement for reconsideration, accompany it with their objections to the following items:

1. The item of $4,000 "for refreshments, official and other "visitors"

2. To the item of $7,500 "for wine, alcohol, brandy, &c.," unless required for medicinal purposes. As there is an item in the same estimate of $12,000 for "drugs and medicines," it is presumed that the first item named is not necessary for medicine for the hospitals and the sick.

3. The item of $30,000 for introducing gas and gas-works on Blackwell's Island, with so large an increase to the tax levy of 1855 over 1854, arising from obligations created or expenditures already made, and those which are indispensable, no serious detriment to the public service can arise from being confined to the lights which have heretofore been used.

4. The Commissioners object to the item of $10,000 for residence of the Warden and his officers, &c., on Randall's Island. Also to the several items in the same estimate, under the head of "Buildings and Repairs," and making a total of $71,000, which are not indispensable to the preservation of the public buildings referred to.

All which is respectfully submitted.
November 20, 1854.

A. C. FLAGG, Controller.
JACOB A. WESTERVELT, Mayor.
F. R. TILLOU, Recorder.
NATHAN C. ELY, Pres't Board of Aldermen.
E. J. BROWN, Pres't Board of Councilmen.

The above communication was referred to the Finance Committee for a revision, and to prepare an answer.

Governor Draper thought that the estimates for 1855 had been made up with great care, and with an eye to the interests of the City. He was gratified that an opportunity was afforded to exhibit the conduct of the Board of Ten Governors, as he felt confident that their transactions would bear the closest scrutiny. It was the right and duty of the Board of Commissioners to examine into the workings of the public institutions, and the manner in which they are conducted, and yet this had been neglected. The Controller had visited the institutions upon the Island but once, and this was upon the occasion of the visit of the Pope's Nuncio.

Gov. DRAPER went on to show the sums actually necessary for repairs on the Penitentiary Hospital, Lunatic Asylum, Nursery buildings, Bellevue Hospital, &c. These repairs were actually necessary for the comfort of the inmates, and for the preservation of the buildings. These estimates were also based upon an increased number of inmates and increased prices.

A report, fully explaining the estimates of the Governors for 1855, will be submitted at the next meeting of the Board.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

At the meeting of the Executive Committee of the American Tract Society on Monday, Nov. 20, interesting letters were read from correspondents in France, Germany, Greece, Turkey, Syria, Southern Africa, India, China, and the Sandwich Islands.

The Paris Tract Society report the printing of 200,000 copies of their excellent "Almanac of Good "Counsels" for 1855, and speak of its gaining popularity and usefulness.

The Wupperthal Tract Society, Barmen, acknowledge the American Society's aid in printing two valuable books, and solicit funds for issuing an edition of Pilgrim's Progress. The Rev. Mr. Oncken, of Hamburg, states that 70 Colporteurs and Missionaries associated with him have recently met, and at their conference gratefully acknowledged the support of this Institution. He asks for enlarged appropriations in money, and for a grant of Dutch, Danish, Swedish and French Tracts, which was sanctioned to the amount of 30,000 pages. "Your late generous grant "of German books for libraries at our 400 preaching "stations," he writes, "has been disposed of to great "advantage, so that many thousands of precious "souls are by them constantly directed to the "Saviour."

The Rev. Jonas King, D.D., Athens, Greece, solicits an appropriation of $1,000 for extending operations by the press.

The Rev. J. S. Everett remits $100 for publications sold in Turkey by Colporteur R——, and writes: "These are times of war and bloodshed. For the "last two days steamers have been constantly bringing down the wounded from the dreadful battle be-"fore Sevastopol. Many of those who have fallen—"most, indeed—have been supplied with the New "Testament; but how opposed the spirit of war to "that blessed book!" The Rev. Mr. E. speaks of encouraging signs at a new station—at Arebkir—to which twelve or fourteen boxes of publications have been sent.

The Rev. John Buckley, late Missionary in Orissa, and successor of the recently-deceased Rev. J. G. Pike, as Secretary of the English General Baptist Missionary Society, gives the painful intelligence of the death of the Rev. Amos Sutton, D.D., at Cuttack, Aug. 19. He was for thirty years a devoted missionary in India, and was the translator of the Scriptures and other publications into the Orissa language. In his repeated visits to this country, as well as by his correspondence with this and other Societies, he became widely known, and was much beloved.

The Rev. W. W. Scudder, Arcot, India, presents the vast field for Christian labors in that empire, and urges the appropriation of $2,000 as a grant to the Arcot Mission, established recently by the three brothers Scudder.

The Rev Mr. Happer, Macao, China, presents a discouraging aspect of the revolution in progress in that Empire, though threatening to overthrow the Tartar dynasty. He also states that the opium trade has increased from 75,000 chests in 1852 to 100,000 in 1853.

The Rev. Mr. Cunningham, of the S. Methodist Mission, Shanghai, China, writing independently of the Rev. Mr. Happer, concurs in important respects in the view of the Chinese insurrection, and presents thanks for appropriations of funds.

Mr. S. N. Castle, Honolulu, acknowledges a grant of $1,000 for the Sandwich Island Mission, and reports the prosperity of their work.

The receipts for the month were $26,045, and the grants 6,188,464 pages. The expenditures of the Society, in supporting more than five hundred Colporteurs, and in carrying forward their world-wide operations, are more than $1,000 a day, and require large donations from the friends of religious knowledge. The present condition of the treasury should prompt its patrons to furnish immediate relief.

N. Y. ASSOCIATION OF SUNDAY-SCHOOL TEACHERS.

The monthly meeting of this Association was held on Monday evening, J. C. BAXTER in the Chair. After the opening exercises, the question for discussion: "Is it essential to the prosperity of a City Sun-"day School to hold two sessions on the Sabbath?" was opened by R. G. PARDEE. He took the ground that it is essential, from the nature of the case. One session of an hour or an hour and a half does not afford time to impart the requisite amount of religious instruction. Two sessions are insufficient, and it would be a serious injury to restrict ourselves to only one. 2. The testimony of the wisest, oldest, and best of superintendents and teachers is unanimous in favor of two sessions—at least so far as his inquiries and observations extended. F. A. PACKARD, of the American Sunday School Union, gave it as his firm conviction from the universal testimony he had collected, that Sunday Schools will weaken, decay, and finally fall to pieces in cities, if but one session is held.

EDGAR KETCHAM, Esq., followed with a comparison of reasons and facts, more for the purpose of obtaining practical information than with a view to give a decision.

WM. MCCREA, Esq., followed, taking the negative, in a few brief remarks.

Mr. SIMPSON, of No. 61, warmly urged the importance of two sessions. If we have but one, let us have it all day long. The facts he presented were interesting and cheering.

C. R. ROBERTS, Esq., of No. 75, followed on the same side of the question, giving the result of his twenty years' labors in Sunday Schools. His decision was that "it would be the death-knell of Sun-"day Schools in this City to have only one session," and earnestly urged his fellow-laborers to constancy, devotedness and love of their interesting and invaluable work.

Several others followed with brief remarks, when, on motion, the question was continued to next month, Messrs. Vanderheyden and Crocker to open.

On calling the roll, 41 Schools were reported by their delegates, of whom there was a very numerous attendance—Nos. 2, 4, 5, 6, 11, 13, 14, 16, 19, 23, 24, 27, 32, 47, 50, 48, 49, 57, 58, 61, 64, 65, 71, 74, 75, 76, 78, 85, 88, 94, 100, 101, 103, 108, 115, 134, 143, 148, 151, 169, 177—total, 41.

The Prudential Committee reported a vacancy, and on nomination, Mr. S. Holmes was appointed to fill the said vacancy.

R. G. PARDEE reported 7,000 families visited during the last month, and several new Schools opened with flattering auspices.

The Committee on Testimonial to the late James Cooper Weeks, reported progress.

EDGAR KETCHAM, Esq., reported from Committee on a Course of Lectures. The gentlemen who have consented to lecture, as far as their decision has been communicated to the Committee, are: Rev. Isaac Ferris, D.D., Introductory, Rev. G. B. Cheever, D. D., Rev. Dr. Babcock, Professor R. Ogden Doremus, of the Medical College and Free Academy, and Wm. Oland Bourne. The list for the course will be completed and arrangements announced at an early day.

Mr. CROCKER was appointed delegate to the Board of Managers, and the Association adjourned with singing.

TESTIMONIAL OF WELSH CITIZENS TO A LIVERPOOL EMIGRANT AGENT.

Mr. ELEAZER JONES, of Wales, who some years since established an agency in Liverpool for his emigrating countrymen, being in this City on business connected with his agency, was called upon on Monday evening to accept a testimonial of their gratitude for his kindness to them and others of his fellow-countrymen of Wales and all other parts of Great Britain.

The meeting was held at Cambria Hall, Chrystie-st. The Rev. Thomas Thomas, Wesleyan minister, the Rev. T. L. Davies, Baptist minister, and several laymen, who occupy responsible positions, and are among the worthiest of our citizens, were present. W. B. JONES,