THE HOURS OF LABOR.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

Your remarks upon this subject (in Friday's paper) do not coincide with my views. You assume "that "commodities must necessarily advance 20 per cent. "in price by a reduction of the time devoted to labor, "and that the rise in our products would not be par-"alleled by a rise in the price of European products; "and, therefore, that increased importation, leaving to "ultimate national bankruptcy, must necessarily en-"sue." This argument is no better now than it was 20 years ago, when the friends of reform insisted that factory operatives should not be worked sixteen hours, or from sun to sun; the mill-owners taking care that gas in the morning, and gas in the evening, should supply the deficiency in solar beams during the short days of winter. The argument, when stated in its simplest terms is, that "That people which can man-"ufacture cheapest, must enjoy the most happiness." I think that the happiness of a nation must rest upon another basis than its capacity to reduce its proletaires to the nearest possible ability to labor upon the smallest possible quantity of *roasted grain* or *pounded corn*. The Arabs can beat us in that race.

But it is not true that by reducing the hours of labor to *eight* instead of *ten*, products would rise to the extent assumed; unless it be also assumed that the laborer is merely an adjunct to the machine and that the machine being taxed to its utmost capacity, human nerves and muscles are to be considered as subsidiary to its exacting demands. I admit the importance of machinery to labor, but I insist that the capacity of the laborer should be made the basis of the calculation, and not the capacity of the machine. The exhausting and imbruting effects of over-taxing laborers have been too often demonstrated, even in the columns of THE TRIBUNE, to require restating; and I am at a loss to know why you take for granted that *ten hours* is the happy medium that man can devote to toil, and accomplish that mission for which his Creator intended him. I have tried sixteen hours; as I advanced in years less sufficed; and now, but little past the meridian of life, I find that ten hours is sufficiently fatiguing, when the day's work is finished, to prevent the accomplishment of any mental labor. And around me I see myriads running the same race, toiling until exhausted, and then seeking recreation and excitement to revive the jaded mind. Amusement after toil is as necessary for the mind as food for the body. I will venture to say that had we worked but eight hours per day for the last ten years, we should not have witnessed two hundred thousand citizens at the late Election voting for "good rum" or "bad rum." I say, also, that the vice and pauperism of a country is just in proportion to the demands which it makes upon its laborers: and that the idlers of temperate climates are happier, so far as the mere animal is concerned, than the toilers of England—once called "Merrie England," but that was before the spinning jenny superseded the May Queen.

Capital (it would be as well to say wealth) has always had the making of the customs and laws of society, and has always controlled Labor; the remuneration which it allowed was never more than would keep the animal in good condition, and not always that. It has, from time to time, seemed to yield to the demand for "more;" but while it gave with one hand, it took back with the other—food and rents were sure to rise.

There are some divisions of labor which may be performed by the piece; and the remuneration is always fixed by the quantity which the most dexterous hand can accomplish. This Procrustean bed has but one quality—it stretches the short! Now, to counteract this tension, adepts or quick hands are kept down, or subdued by the slow coaches; they are not allowed to tax themselves to the utmost, and thus an approach to equality is maintained. When men are employed by the week, the preference is always given to the quick; the dull, when by necessity employed, being kept on the stretch by the prospect of discharge at the first lull in business. This is all natural enough, as things are now. I do not censure; I only desire that melioration which is so slowly moving onward, and which commenced with the publication of the first newspaper to hasten its march. I infer, therefore, that there is sufficient power latent in human muscles to accomplish in *eight hours* what is now done in *ten*. The experiment has already commenced. The Methodist Book Concern has set the example by reducing the hours of labor to *eight per diem*. Other establishments prefer the more summary mode of reducing the *hands*. The managers of this Concern, with a wise and Christian-like humanity, have determined not to add to the general distress by adding to the stock of idlers already on the market; and, so far as my observation goes, they are not likely to be losers by the operation: the men waste less time over the morning papers, or in the discussion of the topics of the day; fuel and gas are both saved; the risk from fire is less, and time, I think, will manifest the wisdom of the proceeding.

Who will be the next to try the operation? Is there no humanity latent in employers, that they prefer the accumulation of misery to the dispensation of happiness? There are other religious establishments, the Tract House, the Bible House—the latter of which has been for some time on half work—three days per week eked out by gas, and three days of solar light and idleness! I suppose that most laboring men have some feelings which glow with delight when generously treated, some sentiments which will lead them to consider economy, and endeavor to promote the interest of the employer, in requital for favors received; and I would urge those employers who rely upon artificial light to venture so far into the future as to shut it off, save the gas bill, and ascertain by trial, at the present rate of wages, what will be the effect upon their profits, and upon their laborers. The time is most auspicious. S. E.

Remarks.

We do not distinctly understand whether "S. E." proposes to have workmen paid the same for eight hours as for ten; but we infer that he does. In the Methodist Book Concern, however, the work is nearly all paid for by the piece; consequently the workmen are only paid four-fifths as much as formerly. That may be wise and prudent; we do not see that it is particularly philanthropic: but no matter. S. E. must be aware that we no more desire than he does to have the price of Labor so reduced here that we can undersell all other Nations in fabrics: far otherwise. But we do believe it is expedient and necessary that we should make in good part *our own* fabrics—those which we wear and consume—rather than import them from abroad. Well: it is a demonstrated fact that our manufacturers cannot and do not now compete on equal terms with those of the Old World—that the latter are daily underselling and supplanting their American rivals in our own markets, because they obtain their labor much cheaper than we do. Now it does seem clear to us that if the Hours of Labor here were reduced to eight per day then the cost of producing Fabrics (and every thing else) in this country would be enhanced, carrying up their price with it, and that the underselling of American by Foreign Fabrics would inevitably be accelerated. How these Fabrics would be paid for we do not know, (indeed, we can't see how those *already* imported are to be paid for,) and we don't think S. E. can tell us. [*Ed.*

HEAVY DEFALCATION.

THE LATE OCEAN BANK EMBEZZLEMENT—ARREST OF THE TELLER.

Nearly two months since, as will be remembered, a defalcation of over $50,000 was discovered in the Ocean Bank, which was charged upon William B. McGuckin, the paying teller, from the fact, as is alleged, that he deserted his post and fled the State, or remained in the City in a place of concealment. As soon as the loss to the Bank was ascertained the President of the institution went before Judge Beebe and made an affidavit against the fugitive, on the strength of which Judge Beebe issued a warrant for his arrest. Active search has since been made for the defaulter, but without success, till 3½ o'clock on Thursday morning, when Officer Ralph Patterson, of the Lower Police Court, succeeded in finding where he was concealed, and arresting him. He remains in durance vile awaiting a hearing before Judge Beebe, on the charge of embezzlement.

P. S.—Since writing the above we have learned the following additional particulars in regard to the matter: It appears that William B. McGuckin, the accused, after leaving the Bank left for the western country, where it is supposed he has been till within a few days past, when he returned to this City. Sergeant Mansfield and Officer Patterson were intrusted with the warrant for his arrest immediately after the filing of the affidavit before Judge Beebe by Randolph Martin, Esq., President of the Ocean Bank; and since that time have searched for him in New-Jersey, and also in other States, where, according to information, they had an idea he could be found. McGuckin, as stated above, has been in the City but a short time, which fact fortunately reached the officers, thereby inducing them to watch the railroad stations, steamboats, and other modes of conveyance going from the City, in the hope of discovering the roguish financier, should he again attempt to leave. The officers have worked faithfully in this business, often depriving themselves of food and repose in watching certain localities where there was any probability the accused could be found. At 3½ o'clock yesterday morning the efforts of the officers were crowned with success. They had got an inkling that he was to cross the Jersey City Ferry, foot of Courtlandt-st., to take the New-York and Erie cars, bound for the Far West. They accordingly stationed themselves in a position so that McGuckin could not go aboard the boat without being discovered. They had been at their posts but a short time, when the object of their search appeared, and was arrested, much, of course, to his surprise—he believing that he had eluded the Police as luckily as he did upon first leaving the City. His baggage, consisting of two trunks and three valises, which were on the Jersey side, were seized by the officers, taken to the Third Ward Station-House, and searched, as also the person of the prisoner. In his possession was found $2,500 in gold coin, a large quantity of clothing, a box of medicine, two revolving pistols, and other articles not worthy of mention. The accused was taken before Judge Beebe, and committed to prison to await an examination, which is set down for 3 o'clock on Monday next. Although the affidavit of Mr. Martin charges McGuckin with embezzling only $50,000, it is supposed $100,000 comes nearer the amount taken. What he has done with that large sum of money is unknown to a certainty, but it is surmised that he has lost the greater portion of it at gambling. Hopes are entertained that much of the funds may yet be recovered, but upon what grounds could not be learned. James T. and John R. Brady, Esqrs., appear for the defendant, and James R. Whiting and Ald. Sturtevant for the Bank.

NEW-YORK CITY—TAXES.

STATEMENT OF TAXES RECEIVED BY HARVEY HART, RECEIVER, FROM AUG. 31 TO DEC. 1, 1854.

Date.	Amount of Tax.	Croton Arrears.	Total Amount.
*Aug. 31 to Sept. 30	$1,052,053 54	$5,527 95	$1,057,581 49
October	544,651 39	4,149 00	546,651 84
November 1 to 16	524,291 67	3,323 17	527,614 84
November 20	42,710 13	763 65	43,473 78
November 21	44,691 65	631 75	45,323 40
November 22	44,271 04	371 60	44,642 64
November 23	92,743 83	665 65	93,409 48
November 24	50,149 01	440 45	50,589 46
November 25	127,712 93	565 05	128,276 03
November 27	162,264 95	865 95	163,129 90
November 28	163,623 91	968 45	164,592 36
November 29	847,413 73	5,367 63	852,981 36
Total	$3,681,396 79	$23,880 40	$3,705,261 58
Amount of Tax			$3,681,396 79
Amount of Discount			20,355 24
Total			$3,661,041 55
Amount of Croton Arrears 1852-53			23,569 40
Total			$3,685,110 95
Arrears of Personal Tax for 1849 to 1853			$2,735 47
Amount of Interest			449 21
			$3,184 68
†Total from Aug. 31 to Dec. 1, 1854			$3,468,503 53

Interest added on the 1st December to Taxes remaining unpaid, 1 per cent.
Interest added on the 15th December, 2 per cent.
Interest added on the 1st of January, at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum.

*Discount, from August 31 to Sept. 30, $15,553 32; for October, $4,801 97. Total, $20,355 29.
†The levy on the year 1854, $4,845,331 07.

CITY ITEMS.

John Thompson, Esq., of Poughkeepsie, will lecture this evening before the Young Men's Christian Association, at the Lecture-Room, Clinton Hall, Astor-place. Subject: "The Beautiful in Nature and "Art." This Course of Lectures is instituted for the benefit of the funds of the Association.

A Free Lecture will be given by Mr. and Mrs. L. N. Fowler, in aid of the "Ladies' Humanitarian "School," at No. 695 Sixth-av., opposite the Crystal Palace, on Monday evening at 7 o'clock. As this is a new enterprise, in a new locality, and much in need of the fostering care of all who feel that it would be beneficial to humanity, to gather up the ragged and destitute children of a neighborhood remote from any public school, we hope the lecturers will have a good audience, and that they will have their hearts warmed up so as to give a good wish, at least, to such a good work. You had better make a note of this item.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL OF THE FOURTH WARD.—The Fourth Ward is said to have been infested with young thieves and vagrant children to a greater extent than any other in this City. The report of the Chief of Police for the first six months of 1854 shows 200 cases of petit larceny, or more than double the number reported in most of the other Wards. It also showed that over 3,000 persons obtained lodging during that period in the Station-Houses of the Ward.

The Fourth Ward Industrial School was established in December, 1853, by ladies of different sections of the City, with a view to reach the destitute and vagrant children of the Ward. A matron was appointed, and children collected by the visitors of the Childrens' Aid Society. The first assemblage is said to have been composed of the very offscourings of society: many of the girls are described as having been addicted to the grossest vices that pollute humanity. At first these ragged and intractable girls gave a great deal of trouble to those who sought to elevate their condition, but eventually kindness subdued even the most turbulent.

The main object of the establishment was to educate the minds and muscles of its inmates. To this end, the common English branches are taught in the morning, and sewing and making paper bags for grocers in the afternoon. To these are added instructions in domestic affairs.

Two teachers have been employed, and their efforts, seconded by the benevolent ladies of the management, have been, thus far, very successful.

A cheap dinner is provided each day at the school, for the children, and they have been allowed to have such clothes as they could earn. Fifty pair of shoes and 112 garments have been distributed among them. In the work-room the children have, among other things, made about 50,000 paper bags. Through the Society for the aid of Children, 48 of the attendants at the school have been sent into the country, to homes that have been provided for them. Many of the children have been sent from this school to the public schools. The books exhibit a total of 270 scholars. The largest number of attendants at any one time was 170.

Mr. Moses H. Grinnell one day visited the School, and was so pleased with its operations that he hired the house No. 22 Oliver-st., the use of which he tendered to the ladies gratuitously. Bath-rooms were constructed in it, and in May last the School was moved to it.

The following is the Treasurer's Report:

Industrial School, Fourth Ward, in account with M. A. Parker, Treasurer:

DR.		
To Cash, Donations and Subscriptions		$2,005 25
CR.		
By Cash paid Food	$424 77	
By Cash paid for Clothing	223 00	
Salaries	476 64	
House Expenses	345 31	
Books	21 88	
Coal	45 50	$1,539 09
Balance in Treasury		$465 56

The ladies of the management solicit the aid of the public in behalf of the School.

Donations can be sent to the School, No. 22 Oliver-st., or to the Office of the Children's Aid Society, Clinton Hall, Astor-place.

MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, CLINTON HALL (ASTOR-PLACE) AND NO. 1 NASSAU-ST.—The Library, now comprising 44,000 volumes, is already one of the most complete and comprehensive in the United States, and is daily increasing by donations and the purchase of all new publications of interest as soon as they are issued. The reading room is regularly supplied with all leading periodicals of England, America and the Continent. Newspapers are also received from the principal cities in the United States and Europe. Classes are arranged in all the most important branches of mercantile education, and are well worth the attention of the clerks of our City who are desirous of qualifying themselves to discharge properly the duties of their profession and the offices of social life. During the lecture season popular and instructive lectures are delivered by the most able and talented men that can be procured. To the liberality of the merchants of this City they are indebted for their present extensive accommodations, on a scale of comfort, convenience and elegance unsurpassed if not unequaled by any similar structure in our country. The managers earnestly invite those merchants and clerks who are not already members of the Association to visit the rooms and examine for themselves the many attractions, and, both by their influence and example, assist in this work of mutual improvement. Although this institution is decidedly mercantile in its character, its doors are open to all others as subscribers. There is already a large number of lady subscribers, who avail themselves of the advantages of the library, and we would gladly see this list increased. A room has also been set apart for a ladies' reading room.

Terms of Subscription.—Clerks, $1 initiation fee and $2 annual dues; all others, $5 per annum. Subscriptions received at the rooms of the Association in Astor-place, and at the office, No. 1 Nassau-st. The library is open from 8 o'clock A. M. until 9 o'clock P. M., and the reading room from 8 o'clock A. M. till 10 o'clock P. M. Contributions of books, manuscripts, maps, charts, or other literary matter, will be thankfully received and duly acknowledged. A subscription of $100 to the capital stock of the Clinton Hall Association entitles the shareholder to all the privileges of the library and reading rooms free of charge.

CUSTOM-HOUSE.—Michael Hoffman, Esq., lately one of the Deputy Naval Officers, has been transferred to the Collector's Department, and appointed Deputy Collector. Col. Thomas Dunlap fills the vacancy in the Naval Office.

JOHN G. SAXE, who was lately reported ill of fever at Chicago, is again on his travels, and lectured in Brooklyn last evening.

DECEASE OF A "CHARACTER."—Last summer we briefly alluded to a remarkable old lady in this City named Joanne De Lux, as included in the category of "New-York Characters." To this allusion and partial description she took umbrage, and repaired to the editor's sanctum for redress. The poor old lady is now gone. Last month, while crossing Broadway, she was run over by an omnibus and had one leg broken, receiving injuries which caused her death last week at the age of 65 years. The assessors of City tolls always encountered in her a most reluctant tax-payer, and piteous appeals were made to their clemency; for, to all appearances, she was in great pecuniary distress, living in a secluded apartment in an upper story, with a scanty supply of antique wearing apparel and rickety furniture, denying herself the ordinary comforts of life. In consideration of her extreme poverty and oath, she was last year assessed for only $10,000, though the house she occupied and owned was well worth $25,000. The bureau of the Public Administrator now shows that she owned bonds to the value of $20,000—making her entire property at least $100,000. She is not known to have had any relative in this country except a nephew, residing in Cincinnati. When inquired of as to what disposition she intended to make of her property, she said she meant to build a splendid hospital. After all, she died without leaving any will, though often urged to prepare one. Old Madame De Lux, though of French origin, was remarkably fluent in English billingsgate when her accustomed equanimity was disturbed. Once she was brought before the Criminal Court charged with stealing a neighbor's cap; but Mr. O Conor, as defendant, got the case. Altogether, her life has been of varied experience, and it may some day serve to "point a moral or adorn a tale." She adhered to the Catholic faith, and died in care of some of the "Sisters." [Journal of Com.

THE NEW POST-OFFICE BUILDING.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

SIR: I hope you will make some objection to the building of the new Post-Office in the Park—the only air-hole in the lower part of the City that is left to the public. It is quite bad enough to have the Park encroached upon by the public offices, in the way that has lately taken place, without introducing a large building equal in size to the Custom-House. Think of the utility and pleasant appearance of the Park, even in all weathers, for reviews, public meetings, reception of illustrious strangers, &c., &c.; and more than half of this open space is to be taken from us, and the public are to be cribbed, cabined, confined to the small space in front of the Hall. You have always been an advocate for ventilation and open air. Do help to save the City from this desecration of Nature's temple on a small scale. There are plenty of other sites to be had about the neighborhood. The ground of Columbia College is for sale; or why not tear down the north side of Ann-st., near Broadway, or some part of Nassau-st., the whole of which street is a horrid nuisance; or some of the mean houses to the north of French's Hotel? Any place would be better than taking the Park from us. It is curious enough that both France and England and most of the nations are beautifying their cities; we are disfiguring ours in every possible way with dirt and other incumbrances. What is the reason that the Brick Church cannot be pulled down, and the Post-Office built there? ONE OF THE ANCIENTS.

HELP THE POOR.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

SIR: How is it in these biting times of want we hear so little of the "Society for Ameliorating the "Condition of the Poor?" I think if the Managers would make the Society and its objects a little more public they would find many, like myself, who would esteem it a privilege to be able to give their mite to an Association, that, in its charities, recognizes no distinction of color, creed, or country. A. R.

SUICIDE BY HANGING.—A German, 50 years of age, named Frederick Keyser, committed suicide yesterday morning at No. 137 Houston-st., by hanging. The deceased had been destitute for some time, and on Wednesday evening went to the above number, a shop kept by Jacob Earlidge, and asked permission to sleep there for the night. This was granted, and yesterday morning Mr. Earlidge, on opening his shop, found him suspended by the neck to a door, and dead. He was so frightened at the sight that he jumped out of the front window, and never stopped running until he reached the Eleventh Ward Police Station. Coroner Gamble held an inquest upon the body, and a verdict of suicide was rendered by the Jury.

BURNED TO DEATH.—Henry Westwood, a child two years old, was burned to death yesterday at the residence of his parents, No. 225 West Forty second-st. He had been left with other children in a room, and while there approached too near the grate, from which his clothes took fire, and he was fatally burned before help could reach him. Coroner O'Donnell held an inquest upon the body, and the Jury rendered a verdict of accidental death.

ARRESTS FOR GRAND LARCENY.—Simon Kuhlman, a Prussian, was yesterday arrested by Officer Rue, of the Lower Police Court, charged with stealing a gold watch and jewelry to the value, in all, of $100 50, from the house of Augustus Green, No. 132 Walker-st. The prisoner called upon Mr. Green, and it is alleged that while he was absent from the room for a few moments, he stole the property and went off. He was committed by Justice Bogart to answer the charge.

Hamilton Lurren was yesterday arrested with a horse in his possession, which, on the 5th inst., was stolen from the stable of Duncan Campbell, at Paulding, Dutchess County, and is charged with being the party who stole the animal. He was taken before Justice Bogart and held to await examination.

Wm. Smith, Peter Lummy, Edward Engor, all boys, were yesterday arrested, charged with stealing a horse and wagon belonging to John Haggony, which were found in their possession. They were taken before Justice Stuart, who sent them to the Juvenile Asylum.

Henry Johnson was arrested yesterday, charged with stealing a cow worth $40, the property of Lewis Ellis, of Westchester County. The animal was found in possession of the accused, and he was held to bail in $500 to answer.

SUSPICION OF ARSON.—Joseph Ehlen, an importer of fancy goods, having an office and store at No. 122 William-st., was yesterday arrested on suspicion of having feloniously set fire to his premises at 10½ o'clock yesterday morning. No person was in the office when the fire broke out, and the damage sustained will not exceed $300 or $400. The occupant was insured for $600 in the Rutgers Insurance Company. Some circumstances transpired in regard to the fire which led the police to suspect him of arson, and he was arrested and held to await examination.

[Advertisement.]

Don't wait till the last minute, if you do you will not get your PORTRAITS done by RAGE, for holiday presents. Do early, before the crowd, that will be sure to secure all the time just before Christmas. Perfect PICTURES in any weather at No. 363 Broadway. PHOTOGRAPHS and STEREOSCOPES taken to perfection.

[Advertisement.]

Attention is invited to the Auction Sale of ELEGANT FURNITURE and FANCY ARTICLES to be made by TUNIS POSNATIL at No. 364 Broadway, THIS MORNING at 10½ o'clock. The sale is peremptory, and offers an unusual opportunity to those who desire to make presents, or purchase for themselves useful articles. No postponement.

[Advertisement.]

PROFITABLE AMUSEMENTS are offered by Mr. PERHAM to his patrons, as will be seen by reference to advertisement in our amusement columns; and our friends cannot do better than buy a few of the dollar tickets, and take the loved ones at home to see the performances of PERHAM's celebrated FUNICIPAN TROUPE, at No. 663 Broadway. They give a splendid entertainment this evening.

[Advertisement.]

The PERFORMING BEARS are at BARNUM'S MUSEUM, Performances as usual there, AFTERNOON and EVENING. JNO. E. SCOTT opens at Barnum's, on Monday.

[Advertisement.]

PHRENOLOGY.—EXAMINATIONS, with Charts and Written Descriptions of Character, Day and Evening. Works on Phrenology, Physiology, Hydropathy and Phonography, by FOWLERS AND WELLS, No. 308 Broadway.

[Advertisement.]

SEVASTOPOL NOT YET TAKEN—But WYNKOOP'S ICELAND PECTORAL is, by hundreds who are afflicted with Colds, Coughs, Asthma, Bronchitis and Inflammation of the Throat and Lungs—the incipient stage of Consumption. Price only 25 cents. To be had at No. 140 Fulton-st., second floor.

[Advertisement.]

WIGS AND TOUPEES.—A Silver Medal awarded to MERHURNT & HEAND, No. 27 Maiden lane, for the best Wigs and Toupees exhibited at the New-York State Fair, 1854. Back and front Braids, Curls, &c. Copy the address.

BROOKLYN ITEMS.

APPOINTMENT.—Col. Abraham Vosplanck, of the Kings County Veteran Corps, recently received the appointment of Brigadier-General of the Second Brigade, comprising Long Island and Staten Island.

WILLIAMSBURGH ITEMS.

THE POST-OFFICE.—The consolidation of Williamsburgh with Brooklyn will in no way interfere with the Post-Office of this city. The name will continue as at present.

PUBLIC SCHOOL EXAMINATION.—The examination of the Primary Class of the Female Department of Public School No. 1 took place on Wednesday evening, before quite a large audience. The exercises in History, Algebra, Mental Arithmetic, Vocal Music, Recitations, Compositions, &c., were gone through with in a manner highly creditable to all concerned. At the conclusion an address on the subject of Education was delivered by Mr. Tuttle.

NEW-JERSEY ITEMS.

THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC IN JERSEY CITY—THE PROSECUTIONS TO BE CONTINUED.—Notwithstanding the serving of the *certiorari*, issued out of the Supreme Court and served upon the Mayor and Common Council of Jersey City, taking the ordinances relative to inns and taverns out of the control of the Common Council, the prosecutions of the unlicensed liquor sellers, upon complaints made before the Recorder by the agents of the Carson League, will be continued. An opinion, obtained by the opponents of the Carson League, in which an eminent lawyer declared the prosecutions of liquor sellers under these ordinances to be illegal, together with the action of the Supreme Court, induced the liquor sellers to believe that all immediate obstacles to the prosecution of their trade had been removed. With this belief those who had continued business with great caution threw off restraint, and others who had closed up their places opened again their doors and invited the thirsty public to come in and buy. If the Judges of the Supreme Court should consider the Aldermen of Jersey City as acting in contempt, the interest in the contest will be greatly increased. In Jersey City considerable excitement exists on the subject.

RELIEF FOR THE POOR.—A society for the relief of the poor was organized in Newark on Wednesday evening, at a public meeting of citizens held for that purpose. The name of the Society is "The "Newark Society for the Relief of the Poor." Horace J. Polsler, Mayor of the city was chosen President; P. H. Porter, Treasurer; and Benjamin C. Miller, Secretary. Measures were taken to district the city and appoint visitors therefor. The sum of $709 was subscribed at the meeting, and a gentleman present offered a donation of $1,000, if citizens would subscribe an additional $3,000. The Committee and officers will meet this evening to advance the project.

A complimentary dinner was given at Paterson on Friday night, to M. La Fayette, a grandson of the Marquis, who is on a visit to the United States in behalf of a suit, we believe, now before the Supreme Court, relative to lands given by Congress for services rendered during the Revolutionary war.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—A man named Stephen Crane was suddenly killed on Tuesday evening while driving a team in the immediate vicinity of the track of the New-Jersey Railroad near the Hackensack River. The team became frightened and ran away, upsetting the driver and the load into a ditch. A rail of lead fell upon Mr. Crane's breast and killed him almost instantly.

Burglaries continue to be frequent in Paterson.

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

TRIAL OF JOHN N. T. TUCKER FOR THE MURDER OF HIS CHILD.

KINGS COUNTY OYER AND TERMINER—Dec. 7

Before Judge STRONG, presiding—Judge MOORE, and Justices STILWELL and STRYKER.

SECOND DAY.

The Court reassembled shortly after 10 o'clock A. M., when the trial of the prisoner was proceeded with. The Jury having been impanneled the day previous, the District-Attorney made his opening argument, in which he gave a history of the case, and concluded that the murder was committed with premeditation and design. He had no doubt that the cause of the unnatural transaction, of a father killing his own child, proceeded from the use of rum, as he had reason to believe the prisoner was drunk on the very evening that he committed the deed. Another cause might have been jealousy, and that the hostility in his bosom toward his wife was reflected upon the child.

Rachael Meyers was the next witness called. Her testimony proved that she resided at No. 403 Atlantic-st., Brooklyn, on the 1st of August last, when the murder was committed. Prisoner occupied a front room in the third story; he had three children—one by his first wife, and two by his present wife; their names are Florence, aged about 8 years, Vincent, (the deceased,) aged about 2½ years, and John, aged about 8 months; several other families occupied the house. The witness's attention was first attracted by a noise up-stairs, about 8 o'clock in the evening; herself and Mrs. De Nyse went out into the front yard, and looked up at the room occupied by prisoner, when they saw him hanging by the sill of the window; the wife was standing there, and hallooing murder and help; her left temple was bleeding; when prisoner saw witness, he went back, and the witness went into the house and alarmed the other occupants.

Cornelius Meyers testified to going up into prisoner's room; saw him leaning over the child with a razor in his hand; the child's throat was cut and bleeding; witness took hold of prisoner, and tried to take away the razor; he jerked loose, and ran at his wife, took her by the throat with one hand, and inflicted several wounds on her face and neck, having the razor still in his hand; he succeeded in preventing him from inflicting additional injuries, and the razor was taken from him; Messrs. De Nyse and Henderson went up stairs with witness.

James P. J. De Nyse testified that he kept the house in which Tucker lived at the time of the occurrence; the prisoner went out that evening in company with his wife and returned without her; she came home shortly after; subsequently his attention was called to the fact that something was going on up stairs; he heard cries of murder, proceeding from females; everything appeared to be quiet in the room when he got to the door; he returned and again went up with Henderson and Meyers. (The remainder of his testimony was corroborative of that given by Meyers.) Witness also testified that he had seen prisoner drink brandy, and on several occasions saw him stagger; he staggered that night on going up stairs.

Sarah De Nyse, wife of preceding witness, testified that Tucker and wife went out of the house about 8 o'clock and returned in about half an hour; Tucker came home first; her husband let both in.

The prosecution here rested, and Mr. Hadley made his opening remarks on the part of the defense. He stated that the nature of the evidence to be adduced would be to show that the prisoner was not in his right mind when the deed was committed, and was therefore irresponsible. He would bring further evidence to prove that the prisoner had been subject to mental derangement from his youth up.

EVIDENCE FOR THE DEFENSE.

The Rev. Herman J. Eddy, sworn—Resides in Brooklyn; am a clergyman of the Baptist Church; have known Tucker from childhood; his childhood was spent in Meriden, Wayne County, this State; I suppose him to be about 43 or 44 years of age; first knew him as a clerk in a store in his native town; he was occupied after that as an assistant in the office of the County Clerk at Lyons; the next heard of him was that he had been converted to the Baptist Church in the village of Lyons; soon after he came to Meriden, and engaged in a revival meeting there; it was the first time I observed anything strange in his manner; this was about twenty years ago; when he engaged in prayer I noticed him on his knees with his eyes to the ceiling, talking to God as if he was his equal; his face would become exceedingly red, and when speaking, his eyes had a wild expression and his voice had a tone that was angry; next time saw him some months after in the same place in the capacity of a Congregational preacher; I heard him preach at a series of meetings at which he took the lead; his manner was the same as before, with the exception of praying, he seemed more calm; in speaking he was incoherent and disconnected; his audiences were not large; the leading members of the church did not sustain him; the next personal knowledge of him was when he was editor of a Syracuse paper—I think called *The Freeman*—an Abolition paper; the paper was soon changed to *The Syracuse Star*, a neutral paper, he continuing as editor; next saw him in the village of Jordan, where I had a congregation; he came to deliver an address before the Odd-Fellows' Lodge; heard the address; there was nothing extraordinary in it, excepting an exhortation on the religious principles of the order—denominating it the glory of the world; saw him in the City of New-York about two years since; I received several letters from him previous to this, requesting me to procure him a church in which to preach, as he had been restored to the church; soon after he called on me and spent the Sabbath at my house; I invited him to preach in my pulpit; he made an effort to do so; spoke at random for ten or fifteen minutes, threw himself on the seat in the pulpit, and covered his face, appearing greatly agitated; he manifested while preaching a wildness of expression; after we came from church, he showed me the sermon he had prepared, and threw it on the table; I have the manuscript yet; I next saw him in the office of *The Daily Advertiser*, in Brooklyn, about three weeks before the occurrence; I asked him how he was getting on; he said he had been very unfortunate; everything had worked against him all his life, but now he had a position which would make him rich in a very short time; he detailed to me his plan, which was to advocate the new American party; (Know-Nothings;) he said he had already struck many blows on Romanism in Brooklyn; he also said the Irish were combined against him; he said they had 'spotted' him; he then proposed that I should buy out Mr. Thompson, the proprietor of the paper, and said if I would buy the paper we both might edit it and become rich at once; there was no doubt the party would sustain him; he then went to the clerk or accountant, and I heard him use violent language; say he was exceedingly excited; I soon after left; next saw him in jail, the day after the child's death; his language when preaching the sermon, two years ago, was incoherent and disconnected; never knew that he drank liquor; his general disposition was mild and humane, but he was of an excitable disposition.

On the cross-examination of this witnesses he said he had just glanced at the heads treated of in the manuscript sermon; it appeared to be a cohesive document; in preaching, his ideas were disconnected; he took a text, but wandered from it.

The Court here adjourned until this morning at 10 o'clock.

CIRCUIT COURT—Dec. 7—Before Judge ROOSEVELT.

SUIT FOR DIVORCE.

Frances L. Childs agt. Solomon Childs.

This case was continued.

Simeon Levenger, sworn—Was with Mr. Cohen and Mr. William Childs, one evening, at the house of Bell Forrest, in Crosby-st. [Bell, in her deposition, stated that Solomon Childs had been at her house, after she came here. The object of the testimony is to show that it was William, and not Solomon, that was at her house.]

Solomon L. Simpson recalled—The person Emily Moore pointed out to me as passing her house in Cincinnati was Solomon Childs; Fourth-st., where I saw Solomon Childs, before he went to Bell Forrest's house, is the Broadway of Cincinnati.

Orville Winston (the witness who spoke of having seen Solomon Childs several times at Bell Forrest's house in Cincinnati) recalled—As I passed through the office of the Irving House on Sunday last, I asked a person if that was not Solomon Childs sitting there; the person had come up to me and spoke about this case; I did not ask him if it was William Childs, as I did not know William; I knew Solomon by sight, but asked the question.

Mr. Graham wished to recall William Childs, but it was objected to and not allowed.

Mrs. Catherine Simpson sworn for plaintiff—Am the mother of the plaintiff; her father is expected back from Europe in the spring; I was present at my husband's store some time in 1850, when Solomon and William Childs were there; it was about four or five weeks after the marriage; plaintiff and her husband had been living at Mrs. Phillips's; remember her coming to my house in Seventeenth-st., about four o'clock in the morning; she was hardly dressed; she was very much excited; I saw them at the office about 10 o'clock the same day; Solomon and William Childs were there, also plaintiff and her father, and I believe her brothers Lessack and Solomon; Solomon remarked that he was going to take her life, because she was not a virgin; my husband, of course, was very angry, and took down a pistol, and if it had been loaded, he would have shot him right dead on the spot.

Cross-examined—I went to Europe with my husband, and three of my children, in 1850; it was after this interview at the office; Solomon spoke in English at that interview; I told you (to Mr. Jordan) before what he said; he spoke in a very angry tone; he told me my daughter was not a virgin; he said, "I will "take her life because she is not a virgin;" I was very angry; I am angry now; those words were the first words he spoke; I cannot remember any words that I said to him; after he said that, my husband took down the pistol; don't remember that anything else took place; I don't recollect pinching or pushing my daughter; I don't remember my husband saying she ought to have her face slapped for running home for every little thing; don't remember that my sons Lessack and Solomon said anything; don't remember that William and Solomon Childs were there longer than enough to speak those words; think they then went immediately out; can't remember whether they did or not; my husband said something when he took down the pistol; can't remember whether Solomon stood still or not when my husband presented the pistol at him, or whether any one stepped up to interfere between them. I did not see Solomon Childs till three or four days after that; William and himself were going at the time to Philadelphia; on their return Solomon came to our house; he was to have hired that house, and we remove, as we afterwards did, to another house; the rent was to have been $150 a year.

Mr. Graham offered to call Mr. Lessick H. Simpson (next friend) but it was objected to and ruled out.

Charles F. Watts testified to being a constable; was on one occasion at the house of Bell Forrest, No. 51 Crosby-st.; went there to dispossess her. [Describes situation of the parlors in reference to the description given by a former witness.]

Mr. Morange (one of the counsel for defense) testified to the time of the suit being brought (in reference to residence.) The delay in bringing on trial was owing to the death of Mr. Sandford, lost in the Arctic, who had been engaged as counsel. Adjourned.

SUPREME COURT—SPECIAL TERM—DEC. 7.

DECISIONS.

Betts agt. Benson—Motion granted.
Belmont agt. Boyce—Motion denied.
Pendleton agt. Shelton—Defendant must submit to the examination.
Raleau agt. Bernard—Order modified.
Haughwout agt. Radcliff—Motion granted.

SUPERIOR COURT.—Dec. 7.

Before Judge SLOSSON.

Joseph C. Gayelty agt. John Orser, Sheriff.

Plaintiff claims to have owned a stock of paper, &c., at No. 13 Spruce-st., worth 3,000, and alleges that the Sheriff wrongfully levied upon and took said property away on 23d Aug. last, whereby his business was greatly injured, &c., and he brings suit to recover $5,000 damages. In defense it was said the levy was made on an execution at the suit of W. Harvey and A. L. Bassett agt. Lagrand M. Anway, for $1,200, and that the stock really belonged to latter. This was denied—it having been sold to plaintiff, who had been a clerk in the store, it was said, on 9th Aug. The case is on. For plaintiff, Mr. E. W. Andrews; for defendant, Messrs. Vanderpoel, and D. D. Field.

Lyon & Duffy agt. Beaj. Blossom & Son.

Plaintiffs say defendants agreed to purchase the sheds and fixtures at foot of Montague-st., Brooklyn, known as Lyon & T.'s naval store-yard, and they were delivered to them.—defendants to pay such price as Messrs. James B. Barney and Wm. Wright, as arbitrators, should say they were worth; and in the event of their not agreeing, that they should call in the aid of a third person and that Robert White was selected by them as said umpire, and that they adjudged the sum of $2,350 to be paid therefor, for which this suit was brought. In defense it was denied that Mr. White was called in as umpire, and it is also alleged that Mr. Barney was not at the final meeting notified. In answer it was stated that he was there, and the award signed by Messrs. Wright and White. Verdict for plaintiff in amount, subject to the Court. For plaintiff, Messrs. Willard & Anderson; for defendant, Messrs. Ingraham, Underhill, and Hayes, of Br