Barnard presided at the Straight-out Whig convention, and he is laid out in a strong Whig ward by some two hundred. Geo. H. Simonson for sheriff; Jared Sparks, clerk; Walter Barry for register; A. C. Willmarth (who also was the rum candidate) for justice of the peace, all followed suit, and were severally laid out.

JUDGE CULVER'S CASE.—A judgment was yesterday rendered in the Supreme court, Kings county, by Mr. Justice Rockwell, declaring Judge Culver entitled to the office of city judge of Brooklyn, and to the fees and franchises thereof, and that he has been so entitled since the first day of May, 1855. We see no way now to prevent his holding this long-disputed office, the city canvassers call a meeting and declare that Judge Rockwell was not duly elected, and hence had no jurisdiction to make the decision.

ALABAMA.—The Legislature of this State met at Montgomery on the 12th inst., and was organized by the election of C. Young of Cherokee as president of the Senate, and R. W. Walker of Lauderdale as speaker of the House—both Democrats, of course.

The Westchester county Temperance society holds its annual meeting in the Presbyterian church at Sing-Sing to-morrow, (Wednesday,) commencing at 11 a. m.

The Hon. U. S. BENTON of Herkimer, it is said, will be the auditor under the new Know-Nothing State administration.

REPUBLICAN NATIONAL ORGANIZATION.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

SIR: It must be evident to every one that a *national* organization of the Republican party is desirable at the earliest day practicable. Such an organization is desirable to concentrate effort and give permanency and stability to the movement which seeks to combine the efforts of those who are seeking to prevent the extension of Slavery. The first step toward such an organization is evidently the formation of a national Republican committee. To reach this object in the most convenient way, permit me to suggest that, by common consent of the press and all interested, the chairman of each State committee be considered *ex officio* a member of the National committee for his State. Is there any more practicable or convenient plan than this? and what objection exists to its adoption? The State Central committee of Ohio are about to correspond with those of other States, in accordance with instructions of their State Convention of July 13, with reference to the holding of a National convention; and it seems to me that if the plan above indicated were first adopted, it would greatly facilitate matters in this respect. OHIO.

THE LATEST NEWS,

RECEIVED BY

MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Monday, Nov. 19, 1855.

Major Hammond, late collector at San Francisco, is reported to be a defaulter to a large amount. Dr. Maynard of this city, and the late Capt. Eolson, are his sureties.

The Union declares the report that Col. Forney has ceased to be associate editor of that journal to be false. There has been no interruption of the friendly relations between Judge Nicholson and Mr. Forney.

A dispatch from Montgomery, Ala., announces the reelection of Mr. Fitzpatrick to the Senate, on the first ballot. The vote stood: Fitzpatrick, seventy-nine; Luke Pryor, forty-five.

UNITED STATES SENATOR FROM MISSOURI.

ST LOUIS, Monday, Nov. 19, 1855.

In the Missouri legislature on Saturday last a resolution to go into the election of United States senator on the last Monday of the present month was read twice, and after an elaborate discussion was finally passed.

SEVERE STORM ON LAKE MICHIGAN.

CHICAGO, Monday, Nov. 19, 1855.

On Friday night and Saturday morning a severe gale from the eastward visited this part of Lake Michigan. The schooner Reindeer was driven ashore about half a mile north of the piers. She has a cargo of bricks, and will probably prove a total loss. Her owners are Capt. Gilmore and Benj. Phelps of Milwaukee.

The schr. St. Lawrence is ashore at Grosse point, but will probably be got off. She is owned by George Steele of Chicago. The schr. Wm. A. Small, Hooker, is also ashore just north of the pier.

MARINE DISASTERS.

BOSTON, Monday, Nov. 19, 1855.

The new ship Isaac H. Broadman, which was ashore on Whale's Back, near Portsmouth, N. H., on Saturday, got off the same evening without damage, and was towed to sea yesterday. The brig Black Hawk, Parks, from New-York for Calais, put into Provincetown last night with loss of part of deck-load.

WEATHER REPORTS.

BOSTON, Tuesday, Nov. 19, 1855.

A light snow is falling here. At Bangor one inch of snow fell this morning, the weather being quite cold. At Eastport the weather is clear and cold, and at Calais it is the same.

ATTEMPTED BANK ROBBERY.

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., Monday, Nov. 19, 1855.

At 9 o'clock last evening, as the clerk of the Pynchon bank was going into the bank for the night, he was seized by two men who had been awaiting him in the dark passage. They demanded of him where the cashier lived, which he refused to tell, when one of them plunged a knife at his breast, which penetrated his coat but struck a thick wallet with coin it, which saved a wound. The clerk then shouted murder, and the burglars fled. No clue to the would-be robbers has yet been obtained.

KNOW-NOTHING CELEBRATION.

ROCHESTER, Monday, Nov. 19, 1855.

The Know-Nothing party in this city are having a triumphant glorification this evening in honor of their recent State victories.

SUICIDE.

PHILADELPHIA, Monday, Nov. 19, 1855.

E. Debust, an eminent mineralogist of North Carolina, committed suicide by cutting his throat at his hotel in this city this morning, on account of pecuniary embarrassments. He was the discoverer of gold in North Carolina.

AN ECONOMICAL GOVERNMENT.—The State of Vermont, with a population of over 300,000, pays about $150,000 per annum for all the expenses of government, or less than fifty cents per head for her people. She owed at the close of her last fiscal year $48,038, and had funds to balance this sum to the amount of $39,352. There was in her treasury at the year's end $16,702, and her annual expenses had been $153,127, distributed as follows:

Expense of Legislature, $24,130; salaries of officers of the Legislature, $1,576; stationery, $1,461; newspapers, $791; printing laws, $1,210; Journal of Senate, $417; Journal of House, $1,045; auditor's report, $251; messages, reports, bills and resolutions, $509; proclamations, $47; grand list books, (and very poor ones too,) $867; whole cost of State printing, $7,421. Repairs on State house, $1,077; grants by special acts of General Assembly, $1,480; Executive salaries and expenses, $2,461; judiciary and prosecuting crime, $62,469—(nearly one-half the State expenses); for the relief of the poor, $5,000; paid for paupers in asylum, $733; for deaf and dumb, $3,240; to agricultural societies, $1,855; bounties for killing bears and wolves, $365; cost of the Vermont militia, $372, (enough to pay for about six bombs at Sevastopol); peddlers license-money distributed, $1,807.

A TUN OF COAL.—Judge Grier, of the United States Supreme court, has decided, on a suit instituted in Pennsylvania, that the legal weight of a tun of coal is 2,240 lbs., and that no State law can be enacted altering the quantity. According to this decision, every coal dealer who gives but 2 000 lbs. to the tun can be arrested and convicted on a charge of swindling. The law of Pennsylvania makes the tun only 2 000 lbs., and a violent warfare has for some time being waged against the coal dealers, with the result as above stated.

XXXIVth CONGRESS.

The new Congress convenes at Washington on Monday, Dec. 3d—less than two weeks hence. The elections of members to compose it have already been completed, save that five States each failed to elect a Senator at the late Session of their respective Legislatures. It is not likely, however, that this circumstance will prevent the formation of a quorum in the Senate on the day fixed by law for assembling as aforesaid. Here are the rolls:

SENATE.

MAINE.	Term exp.	ALABAMA.	T. exp.
Hannibal Hamlin	1857	Clement C. Clay, Jr.	1859
Wm. Pitt Fessenden	'59	[Vacancy]	'61
NEW-HAMPSHIRE.		MISSISSIPPI.	
John P. Hale	'59	*Stephen Adams*	'57
James Bell	'61	Albert G. Brown	'59
MASSACHUSETTS.		LOUISIANA.	
Charles Sumner	'57	*Judah P. Benjamin*	'59
Henry Wilson	'59	*John Slidell	'61
RHODE ISLAND.		TENNESSEE.	
Charles T. James	'57	*James C. Jones*	'57
Philip Allen	'59	*John Bell*	'59
CONNECTICUT.		KENTUCKY.	
Isaac Toucey	'57	*John B. Thompson*	'59
Lafayette S. Foster	'61	*John J. Crittenden*	'61
VERMONT.		OHIO.	
Solomon Foot	'57	*Benjamin F. Wade*	'57
Jacob Collamer	'61	*George E. Pugh*	'61
NEW-YORK.		INDIANA.	
Hamilton Fish	'57	Jesse D. Bright	'57
William H. Seward	'61	[Vacancy.]	'61
NEW-JERSEY.		ILLINOIS.	
John R. Thomson	'57	Stephen A. Douglas	'59
William Wright	'59	*†Lyman Trumbull	'61
PENNSYLVANIA.		MISSOURI.	
Richard Brodhead	'57	*Henry S. Geyer*	'57
[Vacancy]	'61	[Vacancy]	'61
DELAWARE.		ARKANSAS.	
James A. Bayard	'57	William K. Sebastian	'59
John M. Clayton	'59	Robert W. Johnson	'61
MARYLAND.		MICHIGAN.	
Thomas G. Pratt	'57	Lewis Cass	'57
James A. Pearce	'61	Charles E. Stuart	'59
VIRGINIA.		FLORIDA.	
James M. Mason	'57	Stephen R. Mallory	'57
Robert M. T. Hunter	'59	David Levy Yulee	'61
NORTH CAROLINA.		TEXAS.	
David S. Reid	'59	Thomas J. Rusk	'57
Asa Biggs	'61	*Sam Houston*	'59
SOUTH CAROLINA.		CALIFORNIA.	
Josiah J. Evans	'59	John B. Weller	'57
Andrew P. Butler	'61	[Vacancy]	'61
GEORGIA.		WISCONSIN.	
Robert Toombs	'59	Henry Dodge	'57
Alfred Iverson	'61	*Charles Durkee	'61
IOWA.			
George W. Jones	'59		
*† James Harlan	'61		

Total—57 Senators and 5 vacant seats.

* Not in the last Senate.

† Objection is made to the validity of the election of Messrs Trumbull and Harlan, but we do not know that any one will seriously contest their seats. It is understood that the Governor of Illinois refuses to give Mr. Trumbull the usual certificate of election.

Opposition of all shades, 25; Regular Pierce-and-Douglas Democrats, 32. We do not foresee any question on which more than twenty of the Opposition will be likely to vote together.

The repudiation of the Missouri Compact will be sustained by a large majority of the Senate—from two-thirds to three-fourths.

It is of course understood that the terms of the Senators respectively close with the 3d of March of the year set opposite the name of each respectively.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (till March 3, 1857.)

MAINE.
Dist.
1..John M. Wood. 4.*Samuel P. Benson.
2..John J. Perry. 5.*Israel Washburn, jr.
3..Ebenezer Knowlton. 6.*Thomas J. D. Fuller.

NEW-HAMPSHIRE.
1..James Pike. 2..Mason W. Tappan.
3..Aaron H. Cragin.

VERMONT.
1.*James Meacham. 2..Justin S. Morrill.
3.*Alvah Sabin.

MASSACHUSETTS.
1..Robert B. Hall. 6..Timothy Davis.
2..James Buffington. 7.*Nathaniel P. Banks, jr.
3..William S. Damrell. 8..Chauncey L. Knapp.
4..Linus B. Comins. 9.*Alexander De Witt.
5..Anson Burlingame. 10..C. C. Chaffee.
11..Mark Trafton.

RHODE ISLAND.
1..Nathaniel B. Durfee. 2.*Benjamin B. Thurston.

CONNECTICUT.
1..Ezra Clark, jr. 3..Sidney Dean.
2..John Woodruff. 4..W. W. Welsh.

NEW-YORK.
1..WILLIAM W. VALK. 17..*Francis E. Spinner.
2..James S. T. Stranahan. 18..Thomas R. Horton.
3..Guy R. Pelton. 19..Jonas A. Hughston.
4..*John Kelly.* 20.*Orsamus B. Matteson.
5..THOMAS R. WHITNEY. 21.*Henry Bennett.
6.*John Wheeler. 22..Andrew Z. McCarty.
7..Thomas Childs, jr. 23..William A. Gilbert.
8..Abram Wakeman. 24..Amos P. Granger.
9..Bayard Clark. 25..*Edwin B. Morgan.
10..Ambrose S. Murray. 26.*Andrew Oliver.
11..Rufus H. King. 27..John M. Parker.
12..Killian Miller. 28..William H. Kelsey.
13.*Russell Sage. 29..*John Williams.*
14..Samuel Dickson. 30.*Benjamin Pringle.
15..Edward Dodd. 31.*Thomas T. Flagler.
16.*George A. Simmons. 32.*SOLOMON G. HAVEN.
33..FRANCIS S. EDWARDS.

NEW-JERSEY.
1..Isaiah Clawson. 3..James Bishop,
2..George R. Robbins, 4.*George Taft,
5.*Alex. C. M. Pennington.

PENNSYLVANIA.
1.*Thomas B. Florence, 13..*Asa Packer,
2..Job R. Tyson, 14..Gaiusha A. Grow,
3..William Millward, 15..John J. Pearce,
4..Jacob Broom, 16..Lemuel Todd.
5..*John Cadwalader,* 17..David F. Robison,
6..*John Hickman,* 18..John R. Edie,
7..Samuel C. Bradshaw, 19..John Covode,
8.*J. Glancy Jones, 20..Jonathan Knight,
9..Anthony E. Roberts, 21.*David Ritchie,
10..John C. Kunkel, 22..Samuel A. Purviance,
11..James H. Campbell, 23..John Allison,
12..Henry M. Fuller, 24..*David Barclay,*
25..John Dick.

DELAWARE.
1..ELISHA D. CULLEN.

MARYLAND.
1..*James A. Stewart,* 4..HENRY W. DAVIS,
2..JAMES B. RICAUD, 5..HENRY W. HOFFMAN,
3..JAMES M. HARRIS, 6..Thos. F. Bowie, (Ind. W.)

VIRGINIA.
1.*Thomas H. Bayly, 7.*William Smith.
2.*John S. Millson, 8.*Charles J. Faulkner,
3.*John S. Caskie, 9.*John Letcher,
4.*William O. Goode, 10.*Zedekiah Kidwell,
5.*Thomas S. Bocock, 11..JOHN S. CARLISLE,
6.*Paulus Powell, 12.*Henry A. Edmundson,
13.*Fayette McMullen.

NORTH CAROLINA.
1..ROBERT T. PAINE. 5..EDWARD G. READE.
2.*Thomas Ruffin. 6.*RICHARD C. PURYEAR.
3.*Warren Winslow. 7.*Burton Craige.
4..L. O'B. Branch. 8.*Thomas L. Clingman.

SOUTH CAROLINA.
1..*John McQueen.* 4.*Preston S. Brooks.
2.*William Aiken, 5.*James L. Orr.
3.*Lawrence M. Keitt. 6.*William W. Boyce.

GEORGIA.
1.*James L. Seward. 5..*John H. Lumpkin.*
2..*Martin J. Crawford.* 6..*Howell Cobb.*
3..ROBERT P. TRIPPE. 7..NATHANIEL G. FOSTER.
4..*Hiram Warner.* 8.*Alexander H. Stephens.

ALABAMA.
1..PERCY WALKER. 4..*George S. Houston.*
2..*Eli Shorter.* 5..*WILLIAM R. SMITH.
3.*James F. Bowdell. 6..*W. R. W. Cobb.*
7.*Sampson W. Harris.

MISSISSIPPI.
1c*Daniel B. Wright. 3..*William Barksdale.*
2..*H. S. Bennett.* 4.*WILLIAM A. LAKE.
5.*John A. Quitman.

LOUISIANA.
1..GEORGE EUSTIS, jr. 3..*Thomas Green Davidson.*
2..*Miles Taylor.* 4..*John M. Sandidge.*

OHIO.
1..Timothy C. Day, 11..V. B. Horton,
2.*John Scott Harrison, 12..Samuel Galloway,
3.*Lewis D. Campbell. 13..John Sherman,
4.*Matthias H. Nichols, 14..Philemon Bliss,
5..Richard Mott, 15..*William R. Sapp.
6..Jonas R. Emrie, 16..*Edward Ball,
7.*Aaron Harlan, 17..Charles J. Albright,
8..Benjamin Stanton, 18..Benjamin F. Leiter,
9..Cooper K. Watson, 19..*Edward Wade,
10..Oscar F. Moore, 20..*Joshua R. Giddings.
21.*John A. Bingham

KENTUCKY.
1..*Henry C. Burnett,* 6.*John M Elliott.*
2..JOHN P. CAMPBELL. 7..HUMPHREY MARSHALL.
3..WILLIAM L. UNDERWOOD. 8..ALEX'R K. MARSHALL.
4..ALBERT G. TALBOTT. 9.*LEANDER M. COX.
5..*John H. Jewett.* 10..SAMUEL F. SWOPE.

TENNESSEE.
1..ALBERT G. WATKINS. 6..*George W. Jones.*
2..WILLIAM H. SNEED. 7..*John V. Wright.*
3..*Samuel A. Smith.* 8.*FELIX K. ZOLLICOFFER.
4..*John H. Savage.* 9.*EMERSON ETHERIDGE.
5.*CHARLES REAGY. 10..THOMAS RIVERS.

INDIANA.
1.*Smith Miller. 6..Lucian Barbour.
2.*William H. English. 7..Harvey D. Scott.
3..George H. Dunn. 8.*Daniel Mace.
4..David P. Holloway. 9..Schuyler Colfax.
5..William Cumback. 10..Samuel Brenton.
11..John U. Pettit.

ILLINOIS.
1.*Elihu B. Washburne. 5.*Wm. A. Richardson.
2..James H. Woodworth. 6..Thomas L. Harris.
3.*Jesse O. Norton. 7.*James C. Allen.
4..James Knox. 8..Lyman Trumbull.
9..Samuel S. Marshall.

MISSOURI.
1..LUTHER M. KENNETT. 4.*MORDECAI OLIVER,
2.GILCHRIST PORTER, 5.*JOHN G. MILLER,
3.*JAMES J. LINDLEY. 6.*John S. Phelps.
7.*SAMUEL CARUTHERS.

ARKANSAS.
1..*Alfred B. Greenwood.* 2..*Albert Rust.*

MICHIGAN.
1..William A. Howard, 3..David S. Walbridge,
2..Henry Waldron, 4..*George W Peck.*

FLORIDA
1..*Augustus E. Maxwell.*

TEXAS.
1..*Mathew Ward,* 2.*Peter H. Bell.*

IOWA.
1..*Augustus Hall,* 2..James Thorington.

WISCONSIN.
1..*Daniel Wells, jr.* 2..C. C. Washburne,
3..Charles Billinghurst.

CALIFORNIA.
1..*J. W. Denver.* 2..*Philip T. Herbert.*

LIST OF DELEGATES.

MINNESOTA—*Henry M. Rice.*
OREGON—*Joseph Lane.*
NEW MEXICO—*José Manuel Gallegos.*
UTAH—*John M. Bernhisel.*
WASHINGTON—*Anderson.*
KANSAS—*Almon H. Roeder, disputed by *John W. Whitfield.*
NEBRASKA—[Not heard from.]

* Those marked with a * were Members of the last House.

We have placed in *Italics* those who were elected as friends of the National Administration, and who are generally but not uniformly with Pierce and Douglas on the Kansas Question. Those in SMALL CAPITALS are Whigs or Know-Nothings of presumed Pro-Slavery tendencies; those in Roman, we trust, can be relied on to uphold the cause of Freedom in the Territories. At all events, such was the understanding of the People by whom they were chosen.

THE ELECTION.

SECRETARY OF STATE—[Complete.]

	King, Repub.	Headley, K. N.	Ward, Hard.	Hutch. Soft.
Albany	2690	6163	782	5136
Allegany	2962	1429	——	1513
Broome	2485	929	1765	43
Cattaraugus	2815	2012	352	635
Cayuga	3844	3076	175	1120
Chautauque	3420	3564	406	738
Chemung	951	1092	26	1721
Chenango	3126	2276	573	951
Clinton	876	1576	48	1687
Columbia	2118	2173	834	1660
Cortland	2153	1541	281	391
Delaware	2170	2102	162	1534
Dutchess	3498	1635	2098	1756
Erie	2710	4591	257	5602
Essex	1096	1928	395	308
Franklin	177	1831	169	1214
Fulton	1279	1089	154	1170
Genesee	2082	1570	322	365
Greene	1081	2167	346	1260
Hamilton	43	104	92	187
Herkimer	2387	2024	20	1795
Jefferson	4097	1690	700	2832
Kings	2914	6111	8924	1221
Lewis	1638	318	21	1426
Livingston	2199	2704	129	695
Madison	3126	1575	446	1284
Monroe	4695	3522	832	2452
Montgomery	2115	2058	182	893
New-York	6549	20,347	16,127	12,857
Niagara	2498	2247	265	835
Oneida	6313	1552	804	5264
Onondaga	4475	3479	——	3028
Ontario	2426	2744	682	454
Orange	2575	1806	2585	560
Orleans	1731	1831	84	494
Oswego	3555	2413	460	1938
Otsego	2872	1958	533	2540
Putnam	293	414	295	211
Queens	884	1461	1726	430
Rensselaer	2098	5350	654	2789
Richmond	394	772	663	367
Rockland	206	982	817	62
Saratoga	2630	2671	1158	1134
Schenectady	992	1534	209	302
Schoharie	1508	1606	2007	446
Schuyler	1197	780	303	567
Seneca	1148	1285	42	1055
St. Lawrence	4723	2167	160	1559
Steuben	2460	3400	802	1757
Suffolk	1104	1128	443	1141
Sullivan	668	2133	546	903
Tioga	1919	440	420	1520
Tompkins	1956	2163	173	474
Ulster	1257	5096	549	2197
Warren	666	1513	747	194
Washington	2585	3715	79	640
Wayne	3315	2388	257	1408
Westchester	1886	3264	2634	587
Wyoming	2291	868	1066	515
Yates	2041	244	523	706
Total	135,962	146,001	58,394	90,518

THE NEW-YORK HOUSE OF REFUGE.

WHAT IT IS AT THE PRESENT TIME.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

SIR: There are found in every community certain persons more unfortunate than others. Not the least interesting of these are the misguided youth of a people. In our State as well as in some others special attention has been given to these—the law dealing more tenderly with them in misfortune than with men in maturer years. This shows a sensitiveness on the part of the community for their youthful members. They wish them guarded well. They have provided for such of them as may have committed an offence against the laws of the State. And what is this provision? Who is acquainted with it? Do the people generally know anything definite in regard to it? How many of the voters of this State, whose money goes so freely to support the New-York House of Refuge, know what it is accomplishing? And as the Refuge is a house of "Reformation," how many parents who have erring sons and daughters would like them to go there to be reformed? Doubtless the greater part of your readers are not at all well informed in the matters of the Refuge, though they are contributing abundantly of their treasures to its support, and maybe their sons and daughters or their neighbors' sons and daughters are going there to be "reformed." It is but recently that heavy appropriations of many thousands ($125,000) of dollars have been made by the Legislature to support this institution—and probably the next Legislature will be asked to make a similar contribution. A little, then, of the object, and workings and prospects of the New-York House of Refuge cannot fail to gratify and interest the public.

The ostensible object of the House of Refuge is the "moral reformation" of its inmates. Herein it differs from the State prison. The latter seeks not the reformation of the convict, but becomes his punisher. In his case there is deemed to be no excuse for his crime, and the prison punishes him. But youth has its palliatives, and the public have wisely decided to give to the erring young a chance to retrieve their characters by reformation. True, they are taken from their friends, to whom few ever return again; true, they are carefully kept within a walled inclosure during their stay at the Refuge, but this is because it is thought to favor their reformation—it is not to punish them. In so far, then, as such an institution fails to reform the characters of those intrusted to its keeping, it fails to accomplish the object for which it is set apart. Whatever else it may do, if it fail in this particular, the institution itself, in its specific character, is a total failure. In such case it is scarcely, if any, better than the State prison; for the youth, whether male or female, are put to hard labor for a period not less than one year, and it may be five, or ten, or more; and then, when they are sent out, they are not discharged to go freely to their friends or wherever they choose, but are incentured to those who may chance to come for them, to do their bidding till the boy or girl arrive at majority. Not so with the convict. He, having "served his time out," is then discharged to go where he pleases; they to whom he is dear can now enjoy his society, be cheered by his presence, and it may be, supported by his stronger and manlier arm. The Refuge inmates, on the contrary, are indentured till the age of twenty-one, and, when arrived at that age, few of them can ever again find their parents or friends, in consequence of removals or deaths. Who then would not rather go to the Prison than the Refuge if the Refuge fail to "reform" him? And is the Refuge thus primarily working out the "reformation" of its inmates as it is now conducted? This is the question I propose to consider. And in treating it I shall speak as one who knows whereof he affirms. There are those who may not be pleased with what I may have to say. I would not however willingly offend. Others I hope may gain instruction, and others will derive pleasure.

The buildings of the Refuge, some of your readers may not be aware, are not now in the city, as formerly, but on Randall's island, in East river, above Blackwell's and Ward's islands. The House is easily and pleasantly reached by taking a seat in a Second or Third avenue car. Not the least agreeable portion of the trip is the row across Harlem river in an open boat, with jolly oarsmen. The present buildings were opened about a year ago. The principal one is five hundred and ninety feet in length, four stories high, and is built of brick in the Italian style of architecture. It is divided in elegant proportions into a center and two wings, surmounted with three domes at center and extremities. The school-rooms, dining-rooms and baths are spacious and commendable in their appointments. It has a well-provided hospital for the diseases of the body, and a pretty and pleasant chapel in which the inmates assemble twice on the Sabbath for healing the diseases of the soul. The out-buildings are two shops and a kitchen, convenient and airy. The grounds are new but rapidly beautifying.

I have been thus particular and tedious in detailing the externals of the institution, in order that the public may know what has been done for the convenience and comfort of the youth whom they send there to be made better; hoping also that some may be induced hereby to visit the Refuge who otherwise might think it too far to go, or not requiting them for their time and trouble. If there are any such, I can say to them that a visit to the "house of Reformation" will amply repay them; and I intend to throw so much light on the internal character of the house that a visitor in making a tour of the premises will scarcely need a conductor, and certainly not a lantern.

But it is time to introduce my readers to the inmates themselves. Of these there are now five hundred—four hundred and thirty boys, the remainder girls. They are nearly all there for some crime, ordinarily for petty thieving. Taken there by the officers of the law, they are then handed over to the superintendent, who says what he pleases to them, and among other things tells them there are two laws of the Refuge especially for them. The first is that no boy (or girl) shall ever tell a lie; the second, that every boy is expected always to do as well as he knows how. I speak of these two rules here that my readers may, in the sequel, judge whether the inmates are likely to learn and practice them by imitation. Thus commences the process of "reform," the sole object for which this house was built. As a second step, the boys and girls are put to work. The girls do all the washing and ironing of the institution, make their own clothes and the shirts for the boys, and attend to their own house scrubbing. The boys are variously occupied. Some are retained to do the work of the house and kitchen; others do the gardening; while others do the tailoring and shoe making, and the remainder go to the "shoe shop" and chair making or cane shop. According to the laws of the institution, for purposes of "reformation" the boys should be divided into two classes in respect to labor—the worst behaved boys laboring eight hours a day, the better behaved six, yet in point of fact the division is not made on this moral distinction, but just as may be found most convenient by the head of the house so as to furnish a *stipulated number* of each class for the contractor. Now, the boys know perfectly well what the original distinction was meant for, while the principle is set aside; and yet in view of this example they are expected to "reform" their "morals." The labor of the boys is contracted for—the institution receiving twelve and a half cents a day for each of the eight-hour boys and ten cents a day for each of the six-hour boys employed in the shops. As soon as they have come to show some dexterity in the use of tools they have a task assigned them and what may appear to some a little singular, this task is not given by the house but by a contractor whose sole object is to make money out of their labor, and this task is raised from time to time as the boys acquire a facility in performing it. These boys then work for twelve and a half cents and ten cents a day for men whose interest in tasking them is modulated in a direct ratio with their love of gain; and who does not know what this passion is in a place like New-York? The boys will commonly peg from ten and twelve to eighteen pairs of shoes in the six and eight hours of the day—the price for doing which I am told is very low at three cents the pair. Having received their task the officers in charge of them enforce its performance; and this is not optional but imperative, being required of them by the superintendent, who has been heard to character ze the labor of the workshops as of more importance to the boys than the school-room is. This shows pretty clearly his view of the institution and in singular consistency with it the object for which he evidently labors.

The reader may be curious to know what the consequence is if a boy fails to perform his task. He is punished of course, and this in various ways. He may have nothing but bread at his meals for a certain length of time; he may be put in the "lock-up" in total darkness without bed to sleep on, and with bread and water for food; he may be locked in his own bedroom from Saturday night to Monday morning (quite a common thing), visited twice in the mean time, with a partial allowance of bread and water. But, perhaps, the more usual punishment for getting short of work is by the rattan—the boy being made to lie over a stool or the end of a bench so as to draw the trowsers tight, while the deputy superintendent uses the rattan according to his liking. As one instance of this kind, I might mention his severely flogging a boy over a stool, and speaking with me about it after sending him back to his work, said that the boy seemed willing enough to work, and he thought tried to get his task done, but somehow or other failed to do it. The boy being of a very nervous temperament, was so excited by the flogging, and the necessity of working with rapidity, as to spoil two pegs in every three he attempted to drive. The deputy superintendent spoke to him once or twice to have him work more deliberately, and wished me to stand by him and calm him down, and ascertain if I could, what the trouble was with him. I did so, standing by him probably four or five hours in the next two days, in which time he got so as to work coolly and deliberately, and I found that the previous "trouble" had been an effort to work too fast, he thereby losing time in striking too hard, and multiplying strokes through a nervous failure in driving the pegs. The remedy was a little instruction. But I do not intend to speak here of punishments, as I shall consider that subject by and by. I have heard fair visitors remark with pleasure and smiles that it was because *they* were present that the boys wrought with such diligence and dexterity. I would caution such hereafter to be chary in expressing their delight at the industry of the boys, for though some may doubtless still be proud to show their ability in presence of the fair, the greater part knowing the error of such conclusion, feel wronged, and would gladly say to you, "It is because we are compelled to labor thus."

Having treated of the industrial department of the house, my next letter will be devoted to a consideration of the educational department, together with the course of moral and religious instruction, and the system of rewards and punishments. J. R. HALE.

New-York, Nov. 12, 1855.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

BOARD OF COUNTY CANVASSERS.

The board met yesterday at noon.

Mr. VOORHIS offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That this board proceed to estimate the votes of this county as the law directs.

Mr. WAKEMAN moved to amend:

"That we proceed to estimate the First district of the First ward.

The amendment was adopted and the resolution carried.

Mr. Brown then proceeded to read—In the vote for sheriff there was a discrepancy of six votes between the supervisor's and the county clerk's copy.

Mr. WAKEMAN proposed that the poll-list be referred to.

Mr LORD objected to consulting the poll-list, and Mr. Kelly supported him. The poll-list was referred to and it showed that the county clerk's copy was right.

Mr. LORD however moved that the return be sent back for correction, but as one vote was subtracted from each of the leading candidates and the error made no difference to the result, he withdrew his motion.

Mr. WAKEMAN moved that the vote of the supervisor, which was corroborated by the poll-list, should be counted. This was carried, and the poll-lists were triumphant. The vote for coroners was called. The supervisor had two thousand one hundred and fifteen for the whole number of votes, while the county clerk had two thousand one hundred and forty-five. As the poll list showed that five hundred and twelve votes only were put into the county box, and but four coroners were voted for, of course but two thousand and forty-eight votes could have been legally cast. It was unanimously agreed to send the return back.

Mr. HOWARD moved that the inspectors, Benjamin D. Quick and Wm. G. Black, who signed these returns, be requested to send in an affidavit explaining the mistake, and it was understood that the supervisor of the First would make the request.

It will be remembered that this is the district in which Jordan on Friday accused a man of going to demand the returns who "had the impudence to call "himself Mayor Wood." No other discrepancies were discovered, and the IId district was called.

Mr. ELY announced that he had affidavits in relation to this district, which, with permission he proceeded to read:

James Reese swears that after the charter ticket was canvassed the ballots were removed to the Station-house, and the canvass adjourned; that while the ballots were being canvassed the captain of the police came out and said that they wanted assistance; that he (Reese) said "I am a National Whig and have a "right to be in there;" to which the captain replied, "there's one Whig in there already;" that the captain selected three men who went in.

Mr. VARIAN made an unsuccessful attempt to stop the reading of the affidavits.

Mr. ELY proceeded to read that of Hiram Griffin, who swears that at 3 o'clock on the morning after the election he was present at the counting of the votes, and two men came in and requested to be sworn in inspectors, and were sworn in by the chairman of the board, Benjamin Cordway, who thereupon went away and sat down; that one of the inspectors went out, leaving the two new inspectors and one of the original ones to carry on the canvass; that J. L. Smith, candidate for councilman, then came into the room and was also sworn in inspector by the chairman, who took no further part in the canvass until the opposing candidate came in and objected; that when he objected Mr. Smith replied that he was sworn, and continued to count the votes for some time, until he gave up his seat to the chairman.

Francis D. Bigelow, No. 5 Morris street, swears that he was present at the counting of the city and county ticket, that the chairman of the inspectors swore in three additional inspectors, —— Burke, Jacob L. Smith, candidate for councilman, and one Moss; that these new inspectors, with the assistance of —— O'Neil, one of the original inspectors, proceeded with the canvass, which was of the city and county ticket, while the other two original inspectors went to sleep; that soon after O'Neil went to sleep, and one Robert S. Collins (who was not sworn in) helped to continue the canvass, that he called off the tickets, and his count was not recounted but was recorded; that deponent went away, and on coming back after a while found the original inspectors at work, the city and county ticket having been finished.

Mr. ELY announced that he had several others, but he did not care to offer them for the present.

Mr STEERS moved that they be received and laid on the table, which was done.

Mr. VOORHIS hoped the time of the board would not be wasted in this way.

Application was made at the county clerk's desk by a reporter for the affidavits to copy. They were refused.

The Third district was then canvassed with no note worthy incident except that three votes for James Willett were counted for James C. Willett, and one for R. C. Flagg was not counted for Azariah C. Flagg. It was decided to postpone all similar cases until the conclusion of the canvass, when they will know what to admit.

The Second ward was canvassed without change of the published returns or objection. So also was the First district of the Third ward, and the board adjourned until 11 a. m. to-day.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

A special meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was held at 1 p. m., yesterday, Mr. Pelatiah Peritt in the chair.

The PRESIDENT stated that the object of the meeting was to consider the case of the bark Maury. It would be recollected that this vessel was seized by the United States marshal in October last, at the instance of the British consul at this port, on the charge of fitting out as a Russian privateer, and subsequently released, there appearing to be no foundation for the charge. The matter would have rested there, but for the fact that when Mr. Buchanan, our minister at the Court of St. James, asked of Lord Palmerston an explanation respecting the formidable augmentation of the West India fleet, he was met with a bundle of papers, detailing this very case.

Mr. MOSES H. GRINNELL offered the following:

Whereas, It appears from information derived from reliable sources, that the representation made to the British government respecting the bark Maury, which was seized at this port in October last, on suspicion of being fitted as a privateer to cruise under the Russian flag, was one of the causes which led to the recent high excitement in England; and whereas, it is just and proper that the respectable owners of that vessel, and the commercial community, should be relieved from the imputation thus causelessly thrown upon them.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to inquire into the facts, and report the same at a subsequent meeting of the chamber.

Some discussion ensued on the resolution. Mr. JAS. LEE thought the chamber ought to be in possession of more satisfactory information before taking such a step.

Mr. JOHN A. STEVENS thought it was sufficient for the chamber that an honorable merchant, and indeed this entire commercial community, had been defamed in Europe by reason of this unfounded charge, to warrant this action. It appears that the British consul did not so promptly transmit a correction of his error to London as he did the error itself.

After some further debate the resolution and preamble were adopted.

The following committee was chosen: Messrs. Moses H. Grinnell, George Griswold, Chas. H. Marshall, John A. Stevens, Thomas Tileston, R. C. Goodhue, James Lee,