HAVANA.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Wednesday, April 23, 1856.

In a previous letter I believe I mentioned to you that several intelligent sugar planters in the central department of the island had successfully introduced white labor on their plantations. These "colonists," as they are termed, farm a certain portion of the estate, on equal shares with the owner. One man alone can plant a quarter of a *caballeria* with cane and cultivate it in two months and a half, and it will yield a net product of seven hundred and fifty arrobas of sugar, which, when sold at the low price of $1 an arroba, will give him $375. Of course, he is required to assist in cutting the cane and hauling it to the mill, which will only occupy two months more. So for four and a half months labor he will receive wages at the rate of $83 50 monthly. The second year is still more advantageous to the colonist, as his labor is reduced to the simple task of freeing his cane from the weeds, and all the time employed will not exceed two months. Thus he has ten months in which he can do any other kind of work that he pleases, or if he has children, make them assist him in cultivating another quarter of a caballeria, and he will then have a certain income of $750 per annum. Thus we see that white labor can be successfully employed in the cultivation of the cane, much to the advantage both of the planter and of the white laborer. A white man in the Island of Cuba never earns more than $17 per month as a common field hand, and all who have visited the Island will bear testimony that, as a class, the white peasantry of Cuba are in the most degrading condition imaginable. You see a whole family employed in raising a few lean hogs and chickens, and in want of all the necessaries of life. Now these people, if they have a mind to work, can employ their time very profitably in the cultivation of the cane, and attend to raising all kinds of vegetables and poultry as before, and thus support themselves by their own honest labor. As it has been heretofore, this degraded class of our population has been the source whence sprung all the robbers and assassins that infest the public highways of Cuba. It is to be hoped that the Government of Spain will do all in its power to promote the extension of this scheme of some of our philanthropic planters, who are not only in favor of the emancipation of the negroes of the island, but are themselves the first to set the noble example of providing a future home not only for negroes, but also for themselves and the poor whites, who have heretofore been made to believe that they had no chance of success as agriculturists on a small scale. I am personally acquainted with a planter who has tried the experiment of free negro and white labor on his estate, and all parties are delighted with the highly favorable result. I consider this a great triumph of our holy cause, and I am sanguine as to the ultimate results on the future of this island. The stream of Asiatic immigration will also add to the cause of emancipation. In a few years these intelligent sons of Asia will have fulfilled their engagements, and all of them will remain here. The planters must give them work, or the consequences may be worse.

Mr. Godard continues to amuse the good people of Havana by making his weekly ascents. Last Sunday he attracted a large crowd to the Parade ground, the place from which he takes his departure. He took six passengers with him, but was rather unfortunate in the descent, owing to some difficulty in the valve of his balloon, which made it necessary to tear it. One of the young gentlemen had his thigh fractured; the others sustained no injuries.

Paul Jullien and troupe have gone off to Matanzas, but will return in the latter part of the week. They have done very well so far, for Paul is a great favorite with the Habaneros. Our theater has been closed and we will have no opera this Summer. We have one advantage over people of other less favored cities, in our "Plaza de Armas," where we can always enjoy a concert of instrumental music for nothing.

The weather has been quite changeable, and we have had very hot days, followed by a cool "norther." The Winter clothes that had been carefully stowed away, were again dragged forth, and some of our elderly citizens sported overcoats for a few brief hours.

Last week an inhuman mother deserted her newly-born babe in the Cathedral Church, at Villa Clara. The little foundling was properly provided for. It seems strange she should select the church for the commission of so horrid a crime.

CHOLERA IN BRAZIL.

ITS EFFECT UPON AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS.

It is now about one year since the Asiatic cholera for the first time made its appearance in Para and on the banks of the Amazon, where it raged fearfully for several months, then nearly ceased, but afterward reappeared and still lingers in the Province. The deaths, chiefly among the blacks and laboring classes, are estimated at from 5,000 to 10,000 in the Province.

It next appeared in Bahia and throughout the interior, committing its greatest ravages on the cotton and sugar estates, sweeping off upward of 20,000 in a short time, and has not yet ceased entirely.

Not long after a few cases occurred in Rio de Janeiro; it increased gradually till October, then declined considerably, but at last accounts it still lingered, and great fears were entertained that it would break out again worse than ever. It spread into the interior, where its ravages upon the coffee estates and among the agricultural population were much greater than in the city, chiefly for want of medical attendance, although the Government had done all in its power to supply the want. The deaths in Rio were 4,500, and in the interior of the province they are estimated at 15,000. Rio Grande has suffered greatly, and the city of Porto Alegre had lost 2,000 out of a population of 20,000. The small province of Sergipe, by the annexed letter, has lost 20,000 out of a population under 200,000:

The Province of Pernambuco escaped until February last. It is now raging there with great intensity, and late letters advise that much inconvenience was already felt for want of labor, and that much cane would be lost in the field. Already the deaths throughout the empire must be about 100,000, and chiefly of the agricultural and laboring classes; it still remains in almost every part, and there is great apprehension for the future, as in some parts the second visitation has proved worse than the first.

Since the total stoppage of the slave-trade in 1850, there has been a gradual decrease on the estates, and prices of slaves have risen over 100 per cent. This visitation of cholera, sweeping off such large numbers, in addition to the natural decrease, it is no wonder that the public prints from Brazil are filled with articles upon the subject, finding great fault with the Government for not, immediately on stoppage of the slave-trade, encouraging immigration in every possible manner. That in consequence of their neglect to provide a substitute for slave-labor, the agricultural interests of the country are now in a most desperate condition, for want of hands to secure their crops, particularly of sugar and coffee. That unless they are remunerated by an increase of prices, caused by short production, much distress will follow.

Fortunately for the Brazilians, several of their great staples, hides, cotton and sugar, have advanced greatly in all foreign markets, owing to other causes; but coffee, the most important one, although much advanced in Rio, has not been responded to abroad, as yet; but as the facts become known, and imports fall off, a corresponding advance must take place.

To the United States this is a most important subject, requiring as she does nearly one half of the Brazil crop of coffee, about three quarters of the whole consumption of 220,000,000 lbs.

As a large advance in the price of coffee appears now to be inevitable from the greatly increased price of labor in Brazil, without any means of relief (as the slave trade will never again be permitted), it is a most opportune moment to extend the cultivation of coffee in Liberia, where it produces most abundantly, and labor can be had at low rates. At prices which must rule here henceforward, it will be a very lucrative product in Liberia, and if properly fostered by the friends of the colony, will do more to build it up than anything that has yet been done, eventually bringing about the civilization of Africa and effectually stopping the slave trade.

It is also of the greatest importance to the United States, increasing as she does 7½ per cent in her consumption of coffee, to be sure of a full supply, at not extravagant prices, of an article which has become almost a necessary of life and one of the great promoters of temperance. We would therefore call the attention of the friends of the colony to these facts—also the friends of temperance.

As an example of the publications daily appearing in the Brazilian prints, we subjoin the translation of one from the *Jornal de Commercio*, the leading journal of Rio de Janeiro.

THE CHOLERA-MORBUS IN SERGIPE—COLONIZATION.

MARCOIM, Tuesday, Jan. 22, 1856.

Cholera is not yet extinct in our province; after six months of suffering it only now begins to diminish its ravages in all parts of the province except Habaiana, where it is still mowing down the population, and makes its appearance in a few localities which had been spared until now, so that we fear it will last for a long while.

More than 20,000 valuable lives have already been cut off by this terrible disease. Most of the provinces of the Empire have already been visited like this by this horrible scourge, and we apprehend that all of them will suffer more or less. The loss of workmen, both free and slave, has been very considerable throughout the whole Empire. Thousands and thousands of valuable lives have been taken away from our agriculture.

This is a sad truth which we cannot but acknowledge; and this terrible guest, which makes its abode in every corner, will continue to afflict us for a long time. Nobody can doubt it; the contrary would be a complete blindness or illusion not to be pardoned. We have before us the history of this devastating monster, both in Europe and North America, to bear witness of this terrible fact. It will make its appearance again and again, and reproduce in Brazil the very same scenes which we now see represented, and every time our population will be made to suffer more and more, and be thinned. In Europe, where the evils of the pestilence are very considerable, they are to a certain extent supported by the superabundance of population, but in Brazil, where territory is so extensive and where population is so limited, the effect of this scourge is immense and beyond calculation, and cannot be remedied, unless effective and strong measures be speedily taken. Yes, the loss of the workmen employed on agricultural pursuits, which form the principal source of our private and public wealth, must carry with it the fatal annihilation of agriculture itself. Lands, however rich, will be left untouched, and the scarcity of food will soon increase to a fearful extent; famine and misery will follow, and private fortunes, being thus destroyed, the public revenue will also be considerably diminished.

Since the Government of Brazil understood that the importation of slaves was an evil to the country, and that it was also an offense to morals and civilization, and since they undertook to put a stop to it, the immigration of free labor ought to have been protected and encouraged by good, efficient enactments. This was expected by everybody. Only in this way would they have blessed the hand which, with the wise and humane measure, had also offered the remedy against evil effects. But this has not been done; they have suppressed the trade, and thus they diminished the number of laboring men, so that agriculture presents a discouraging prospect, to our conviction. And the Ministers who took upon themselves to suppress this trade, and got with the greatest possible zeal from the Legislature the necessary powers to carry their scheme into execution—they did not do anything in favor of colonization, and look with indifference upon the law of public lands enacted by the Senate. This law is passed; it is severe, but what is the use of it? What will its result be? Our ministers are in duty bound to have it executed, but up to this day they were able only to establish the Bureau for Public Lands. The Secretary of the Interior being questioned in the Senate, in 1854, in regard to the colonization, answered that he was maturing this matter, and during the last session not a word was said on the subject.

LATER FROM THE WEST INDIES AND VENEZUELA

ARRIVAL OF THE TENNESSEE.

The steamship Tennessee—the pioneer of the West Indies and Venezuela line—arrived early on Thursday forenoon from her third homeward trip, after a passage of eleven days from Venezuela, stopping at St. Thomas two and one at Porto Rico.

THE PURSER'S REPORT.—The weather has been mild, though the wind has not favored us. The steamer brings full freight, and more passengers than she can comfortably accommodate. This fact proves what we have before stated, that this line will be one of the most profitable that have ever been started in the United States, and there is no doubt that if the enterprise continues as it has commenced, the Company will soon see the necessity of adding another steamer, thus establishing a semi-monthly communication between the States, West Indies and Venezuela, that beautiful and rich country which needs but an enterprising emigration to develope the thousand resources with which nature has favored her.

In regard to the conveniences of the Tennessee, we have only to add, that if before there were many, they are now far superior, for on her last trip to New York she was newly coppered, several berths added to her, and many more improvements, which render her now one of the most agreeable boats of her tunnage. The table is excellent, and the treatment and attentions bestowed on the passengers by the Captain, Purser, and rest of the officers, cannot be excelled, as has been testified by the several cards published by the passengers in St. Thomas, on her three different trips.

FROM ST. THOMAS.

There was nothing of importance taking place in St. Thomas at the time of our departure, with the exception of a new postal law which was carried into effect about a month ago, to the very great dissatisfaction of the public, and even ruin of the mercantile community. My general impression is that the law will soon be repealed on account of its unpopularity.

VENEZUELA NEWS.

Venezuela continues to enjoy the blessings of peace, already commencing to reap the advantages of it.

The telegraph between Laguayra and Caracas will soon commence operations to the very great delight of the intelligent portion of the community. Great credit is due to Mr. Manuel de Montufar for his untiring perseverance and herculean efforts to establish in Venezuela an enterprise which a few months ago was even mocked at. The wires will extend not only to Caracas, but also to Valencia and Puerto Cabello, traversing a distance of 156 miles.

Congress is still sitting. The last reading to the great railroad project had been given in the House, and there is every reason to believe that before the sessions come to an end it will be a law of the Republic.

This is another enterprise which, in conjunction with the telegraph and steam communication, is destined to change the face of that magificent country, that requires but very few years of peace to be again the gem of South America.

A great step will be taken next year by the Government of Venezuela, to wit: reform of its Constitution, and if possible, the reconstruction of the ancient Republic of Columbia, under a federal system. Matters have arrived to such a state that it requires a strong hand and a firm will to make things take their natural course, and to afford protection and security to the peaceful citizen in the exercise of his daily occupation. It is generally conceded that under the existing circumstances Gen. José Tadeo Monagas is the only man that can save Venezuela from the anarchy and ruin that has for some time threatened her, and deeply impressed as he is with the desire of her future happiness, it becomes a sacred duty of every high-minded Venezuelan to sustain and support him in his efforts to regenerate the country and render it prosperous and happy.

The Dutch question has been amicably settled, and great praise is due to the Foreign Ministers for their exertions in bringing this unpleasant affair to a speedy and fair termination. Prominent among them is the Hon. Charles Eames, American Minister resident at Venezuela, who has now given one more proof of the esteem in which he holds that country, and the great satisfaction he always experienced in doing something in its favor, as well as he does toward all American citizens in their different claims, to which he attends with energy, politeness and carefulness.

The Geographical Society at Paris, in its first annual meeting for 1856, awarded its prize for the most important discovery during the last year to Dr. Heinrich Barth. The next prize, of a golden medal, was adjudged to Mr. E. Geo. Squier, of the United States, for his Central American Researches.

THE LATE RIOT AT ERIE.—The passage of a favorable bill to the Lake Shore Road has irritated some of the Erie folks, and the war burst out on Friday evening—having been brought to a fury by an altercation and fight between young Walker and Cochran, in *The Constitution* printing-office. *The Cleveland Plaindealer* says the bells were rung, and a crowd of rail-rippers gathered in; the sign of the office was torn down, and a grand bonfire made in the street of everything in the building of a combustible nature. A large quantity of printing paper, all of the law library of Mr. Johnson, railroad attorney and editor of the paper, with all his papers and railroad accounts, were also destroyed. The mob then got out the cannon, and being excited by the thunder, went to work and gutted the building, entirely demolishing it. The loss of Mr. Johnson must amount to several thousand dollars. They afterward proceeded to the house of Mr. Tracy, another prominent railroad man, and fired several bullets in at the windows, and threw brickbats and other missiles at other houses. The affair is one of the most disgraceful that ever blackened the fame of any city. From Tracy's they went to Walker's; but his windows being fortified by close window-shutters, they were unable to effect anything. Had they succeeded in getting in, they would have been met with murderous weapons, as young Walker's friends had assembled there in considerable numbers. What the upshot of the matter will be, remains to be seen.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

THE TENTH WARD KNOW-NOTHINGS.

The failure of Council No. 5 to control the Chrystie street School House job, and thereby to emblaze itself in architecture, will fall heavily upon posterity. It is said the obdurate contractor even refuses to the Know-Nothing School officers the poor boon of a complimentary slab over the main entrance, because not called for by the specifications.

Ever vigilant in his duties, our reporter on Saturday evening was early at his post. A great crowd had assembled before the hour for opening, which indicated an exciting session. The chief topic was the action of Alderman Griffiths in the Irving matter. Their growling and grumbling resembled a caucus, though the debates were neither orderly nor decorous. Some spoke of tar and feathers, some of expulsion, some of banishment, but more of a simple vote of censure. The argument for this latter course was to carry out the modern spirit of the Order, to wit: an entire indifference to the acquirement of public office, and consequently an entire absence of all that low plotting which loafers sometimes cloak with an intense patriotism. This course was finally agreed on in caucus, and to push it through without debate.

Fifty-four quids received an extra squeeze from fifty-four pairs of American jaws, as the electric gavel brought it order from uproar. The minutes of the last meeting, kept by Bro. Corson, and those of our reporter, showed a wonderful similarity. The approval of one set would therefore be no impeachment to the other. Some kind friend presented the name of Bro. Henry Smith for re-obligation, but an overdose of black balls excused him. Bro. WAINWRIGHT stated his inability to catch any of the reporters of THE TRIBUNE, and upon request was discharged from the Commitee. Only two hours were consumed in balloting, re-balloting, and fighting over the two names to complete the Committee, which was so unceremoniously disposed of at the previous meeting.

At the signal agreed on in caucus, Bro. JACKSON offered the resolution of censure upon Alderman Griffiths for voting to confirm Mr. James Irving to the office of Superintendent of Public Buildings; also that a copy of said resolution be sent to each Council in the city, and to each of "our" Aldermen. As soon as it was offered, the Alderman was allowed to explain. He only said, some of his comrades had "played off" on him, and now he had got square with them. Further speaking was unnecessary. Bro. WHEELER assured the Council that the thing was all right; that the Alderman had made him understand it perfectly. Bro. CORSON said a little, Bro. JACKSON said a little, others said a little, and then the resolution was passed.

The Council is fast approaching that singular period when it will be expected of all who can be prevailed on to accept a public office, to so manage it as to cheat all the brothers, and thereby to secure for themselves and the position itself, an immortal contempt.

NEW-YORK PRISON ASSOCIATION.

The Executive Committee of the above Association held its regular monthly meeting in their Committee-Room, Clinton Hall, Astor place, on Monday evening, the 28th inst.

Present—Richard Reed, esq., in the chair; Messrs. W. C. Gilman, W. A. Busteed, Stephen Cutter, Henry A. Oakley, James C. Holden.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer's Report showed that $269 had been contributed to the funds since their last meeting—a sum altogether inadequate to meet the necessities of a large number of persons discharged from our State Prisons, Jails and Penitentiaries.

From the Diary of the agent it appears the following had been their operations during the month:

Upward of 400 persons had been visited in our City Prisons. These were faithfully reproved, advised and encouraged, as their respective cases seemed to require; 117 complaints were cautiously and impartially examined; 33 of these, on advice of the Association, were abandoned as frivolous, and too diminutive to occupy the time and attention of the Court; 39 persons, charged on slight grounds, have been discharged from our courts and prisons on their recommendation—not one of whom could be recognized as having previously been charged with crime; 23 discharged convicts received pecuniary aid; each of these were selected as the most hopeful of those who promised to reform. In consequence of an exhausted treasury, very many were but partially and temporarily helped, while a larger number, especially from our County Jails and Penitentiaries were reluctantly "sent empty away." 13 of the above were supplied with such clothing as they most required; 7 persons found employment, and are now placed where they may earn an honest livelihood. Already has this Association been instrumental in awakening a general interest on the subject of prison discipline and the condition of the discharged convict, and, although they have not accomplished all they could desire, they have done much to meliorate the one, and very much to alleviate the wretchedness of the other.

It is much to be regretted that the contributions to this useful institution are not commensurate with the daily pressing claims upon them; they are doing a good work; and were the public conscious of its extent and character, it would doubtless secure the material aid so indispensably necessary to develop its benevolent designs.

Contributions of money and clothing will be thankfully acknowledged by the Treasurer, Henry A. Oakley, esq., No. 66 Wall-street, or a line addressed to Abr. Beal, No. 15 Centre street, in relation to clothing, shoes, shirts, and the like, will be promptly responded to.

TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of this Association was held on Saturday evening, in the Hall of the Board of Education—quite a large number of teachers being present. HENRY KIDDLE, esq., presided.

The Committee appointed to revise the roll of membership presented a full and able report, recommending that non-paying members be omitted from the roll, which at present consists of nearly 250 members. The report was ordered to be printed, and will be acted upon at the next monthly meeting.

A communication was received from the Board of Trustees of the Association, announcing a donation of 100 volumes from the Hon. S. S. Randall, City Superintendent, for the Library of the Association. The thanks of the Association were tendered to Mr. Randall for his liberal and valuable donation.

Mr. S. M. PERKINS of Ward School No. 49 read an essay upon "The Teacher's Profession," at the conclusion of which a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. P. for his able and instructive paper.

Several new members were elected, and the Association adjourned till May.

COMMISSIONERS OF POLICE.

The Commissioners of Police met on Wednesday afternoon, in the Mayor's Office, to hear the trials of Policemen charged with violation of the rules and regulations, and dereliction of duty. The first case called was that of Lieutenant Sebring, of the Ninth Ward, charged with neglect of duty, under the following specifications: "That said Sebring did not, on the night "of February 25, ult., enter on the blotter the name "of Jane Evans, who had been arrested by Policeman "Bryan, or the disposition made of the prisoner, and "did not in any wise report the facts of the case to "Captain Ackerman, in violation of section 78 of the "Rules and Regulations." Ex-Judge BEEBE appeared as counsel for Lieutenant Sebring, and contended that, under the section named in the specifications, the defendant had been guilty of no violations of the rules and regulations. The Commissioners decided that the specification was incorrect, and dismissed the case.

George F. Stringer of the Fourth Ward, charged with neglect of duty in absenting himself from his post, was next tried. Sergeant Owens supported the charge, and testified that he rapped several times about Stringer's beat but could not find him.

The case of Capt. Walling, Eighteenth Ward, was next called. The captain is charged with refusing to protect the property of Bryan McCahill from injury by certain evil disposed persons, when required so to do by said McCahill.

The complainant, McCahill, was examined, and testified that Capt. Walling refused to protect his property, and said he would not send any officers to his place. Jalen Dowling was next sworn; he was present during the conversation, but could not definitively tell what took place. Lieut. Bennett, Policemen Sherwood, Cowan, Arnaux and Kiernan, were next examined on the part of Capt. Walling, and proved that the Captain had taken every precaution to protect the property of McCahill.

The case of Dennis Tracey was next called. He stands charged with sending an insulting letter to Judge Capron, impeaching the character of Recorder Smith.

Mr. BUSTEED appeared as counsel for the defendant, and after some preliminary arrangement of the case, which was as to who should sit in the matter, proceeded to address the Commissioners.

City Judge CAPRON declined sitting as a Commissioner in the case.

Mr. BUSTEED spoke at considerable length, commenting upon the letter sent by his client to Judge Capron, and the letter sent by the City Judge to the Mayor, both of which we give as follows:

NEW-YORK, April 8, 1856.

Hon. JUDGE CAPRON—*Dear Sir:* To my utter astonishment I am informed by the District-Attorney that judgment will be suspended on the parties who have robbed me of $120 worth of property and maimed me for life, on the public highway, in the discharge of my duty. Are they to go unpunished? If so, our criminal courts are a mockery, a delusion and a snare. It is my intention, if they go unpunished, to appeal to the unerring tribunal of public opinion who will find a just verdict.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,
Officer DENNIS TRACEY.

OFFICE OF THE CITY JUDGE, NEW-YORK, April 10, 1856.

Hon. MAYOR WOOD—*Dear Sir:* The inclosed note, superscribed to me, refers to some official action in which I could have taken no part, as I have no recollection of the writer or the facts to which he refers. As the Criminal Courts of the City are mentioned, I presume his Honor the Recorder must have heard the case designated—else the note would not have been directed to myself, who am associated with that office. After reflection on the subject of this note, it has seemed to me that the imputation it casts on the integrity of the Court of which I am a member, and especially the palpable injustice done to my associate the Recorder, and also to the District-Attorney, demand that I should place the note in your hands—the writer being a member of the Police Department, and having in his note taken especial pains to attach to his superscription the dignity of his official station.

Your own good judgment, my dear Sir, in which I have confidence, will enable you, better than any suggestions I could make, to determine what action on your part, as head of the police of the city, will be most appropriate.

With sentiments of respect, I am, Sir, yours, &c.,
E. C. CAPRON.

The argument of Mr. Busteed terminated the case, no evidence being adduced.

The case of Charles M. Vandervoort, Thirteenth, Ward, charged with disobedience of orders in refusing to report himself for patrol duty, was next called, and after a few remarks on the part of Judge BEEBE and Mr. SPENCER, was dismissed—the counsel showing that there was a misunderstanding on the part of Mr. Vandervoort. The Board then adjourned.

WHARVES, PIERS AND SLIPS.

The Committee on Wharves, Piers and Slips of the Board of Aldermen, Mr. CORWIN Chairman, held a meeting yesterday afternoon for the purpose of considering the various papers referred to them. It appeared from some of the papers that in a large number of slips on the North and East Rivers, minor slips and bulkheads were being constructed without permission from the Common Council. These slips were a source of great annoyance to large vessels, and as they were being constantly filled up with refuse matter, would ultimately cost the city a large amount for dredging. The Committee determined upon examining all the piers and slips preparatory to making their report.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

The Committee on Public Health, of the Board of Councilmen, Wm. P. Crane, Chairman, held a meeting on Wednesday afternoon, in the Council Chamber, for the purpose of considering the several petitions referred to them relative to the filling up of a large number of sunken lots in the Eastern section of the City. The Committee will probably report favorably to the prayer of the petitioners, who set forth that the stagnant water settling in these lots after rains, is exceedingly deleterious to the health of persons residing in the neighborhood.

FIRES.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE IN THE HARLEM AND NEW-YORK AND NEW-HAVEN RAILROAD DEPOT, IN CENTRE, ELM, FRANKLIN AND WHITE STREETS.

Yesterday morning, about 1 o'clock, a fire broke out in the large four story building occupying the block bounded by Centre, White, Elm and Franklin streets—lower part occupied as freight depots by the New-York and New-Haven and Harlem Railroad Companies; upper part by various parties for manufacturing purposes. One of the Sixth Ward policemen, while patroling his beat, first discovered smoke issuing from the windows of the engine-room, directly over the furnace and boilers, which were located about the center of the Elm street side of the building on the first floor. The alarm of fire was immediately given, but before the firemen of the district arrived on the ground and got their apparatuses in working order, the flames had extended from floor to floor until they reached the corner of Franklin street. At this time apprehensions were entertained that the entire building would fall a prey to the devouring element, but the firemen labored with great energy and continued pouring a large body of water into the premises. In about an hour after the alarm was given the greater portion of the wall on Elm street fell to the ground with a tremendous crash. The fire extended to the other end of the building bounded by White and Elm streets, but not with so much damage, only partially gutting it to the roof. The large cars in the lower part of the building, belonging to the New-Haven Company, which were full of freight, were dragged to the Centre-street side and escaped injury. Considerable freight lying about the depot was somewhat damaged by water. That portion of the structure on Elm street and about fifty feet on White and Franklin streets will have to be rebuilt above the first story. The reflection of the fire (which was for an hour or more very brilliant) upon the floating clouds could be distinctly seen in every part of the city. On Franklin street the fire was checked and finally extinguished in the premises recently occupied by McSpeddon & Baker.

LOSSES AND INSURANCES.

The losses and insurances of the various occupants are as follows as near as we could ascertain.

The entire upper part of the structure is leased by E. Anthony, who sub-lets to all the other tenants, and furnishes them, if desired, with motive power. The boiler, engine and machinery, valued at $15,000, are a total loss. Mr. Anthony occupied several rooms as a manufactory for Daguerrean apparatus. His loss is estimated at about $20,000, which is said to be covered by insurance in city Companies.

Peckham & Co., spectacle manufacturers and jewelers, who had just moved into the third story, lost their entire stock and apparatus. Their loss is estimated at about $10,000. No insurance.

S. C. Bishop, gutta percha manufacturer, lost about $8,000. Insured $2,500 in the Metropolitan Company, and enough in other companies to cover their loss.

Robinson & Richardson, button manufacturers, sustained damage be water to the amount of about $400. No insurance.

E. C. Eccleson, machinist, sustained damage to his stock to the amount of $200. Insured in the Mechanics and Merchants' Insurance Company of Philadelphia.

Loss of T. C. Harrison, optician and telescope manufacturer, about $4,000. Insured in the Rutgers and Fulton Insurance Companies.

Mr. Phyfe, ivory-turner, sustained $2,000 loss. Insured for $2,000 in the Jefferson Insurance Company.

Loss of C. B. Crafts, daguerreian-case manufacturer, about $400.

McSpeddon & Baker, envelop manufacturers, narrowly escaped being heavy losers. But a few days before they had removed the greater portion of their stock and valuable apparatus to their new establishment down town. Their damage will not exceed $1,000. Insured in the Lorillard Insurance Company.

The damage to the buildings is estimated at about $8,000. The New-Haven Railroad Company, to whom the building belongs, is fully insured.

There is little doubt but that the fire originated in the boiler or engine-room, from carelessness on the part of the fireman or engineer. A week ago last Sunday, a fire occurred in this building, and originated in the same place where the present fire first broke out—at which time negligence on the part of those in charge of the engine and boiler room was apparent, attention being called to the fact at the time in THE TRIBUNE.

FIRE IN SIXTH AVENUE.

About 10 o'clock on Thursday morning a fire broke out in the frame building No. 185 Sixth avenue—lower part occupied by F. & J. Boyland & Co. as a stove store and Van Doyle as a confectionery shop—upper part as a dwelling. The fire originated in the second story, back room, and was occasioned, it is said, by children playing with matches. The flames were soon extinguished by the firemen.

The building was damaged to the extent of between $200 and $250. The stock of F. & J. Boyland was damaged to the extent of about $300 by water. Insured in the Greenwich Insurance Company for $800. Van Doyle sustained but little damage.

FIRE IN SPRING STREET.

At 12½ o'clock Thursday morning as officer Roberts was patroling his beat he discovered smoke issuing from the second story of the building No. 149 Spring street. The officer immediately entered the premises and awoke the occupants. A bed was found to be on fire; it was thrown out of the window into the street and further damage prevented.

FIRE IN THOMPSON STREET.

Shortly after 1 o'clock Thursday morning, a fire broke out in the five-story brick building No. 62 Thompson street, occupied on the various floor by the following parties: Basement and first floor by Martin Roome, as a sash manufactory; second floor by F. Bohmer & Kremer, cabinet ware manufacturers, and C. Dobmaid, also cabinet ware manufacturer; third floor by Paul Myers, and Frelich & Paunder, chair and sofa manufacturers; fourth floor by John Myers, chair and sofa manufacturer; fifth floor by Ernst Franklin, cabinet-ware manufacturer.

The fire originated, it is said, on the fourth floor, in the establishment of John Myers, and thence extended to the premises of Ernst Franklin. The stock of Franklin was entirely destroyed, with his tools and machinery, valued at about $1,000; insured for $500 the Harmony Insurance Co.

The firemen of the district were early on the ground, and through their exertions succeeded in confining the flames to the fourth and fifth floors. The roof was destroyed. Loss of John Myers about $600; no insurance. Loss of Paul Myers and Frelich & Paunder by water about $300 each. Neither firm is insured. Damage to the stock of the occupants of the second and third floors by water about $250 each; no insurance.

The building is owned by Mr. Roome, and is damaged to the extent of about $300. Mr. Roome is insured $1,500 on stock in the North River Insurance Company. Damage about $500 by water. The building is insured for $3,500 in the St. Marks and Pacific Insurance Companies. The origin of the fire is unknown, but is supposed to have been caused by the carelessness of some of the workmen or boys employed in the shop.

CITY ITEMS.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—The production of "William Tell" was accompanied by the reappearance of Badiali, who was most cordially received. To night "Lucia" will be given for a single time.

Madame Anna de Lagrange and S. M. Gottschalk will give concerts at the following places: On Saturday, May 6, in the City of Newark, N. J.; On Thursday, May 8, in the City of Brooklyn, N. Y.; On Tuesday, May 13, at the City of Albany, N. Y.; on Thursday, May 15, at the City of New-Haven, Conn.

Mr. George Jordan will have a benefit at Laura Keene's Varieties on Saturday evening, when the "bleMar Heart" and "Novelty" will be performed.

We are requested to state that Mr. Dix lectures this evening, at Clinton Hall, Astor place, on "Russia and Constantinople."

WHAT THE CITY HAS BEEN CHARGED FOR INVESTIGATING THE NATIVITY OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE.—The Committee on Police of the Board of Councilmen to whom was referred the petition of Branch and others to be remunerated for services rendered in the matter of the Matsell Investigating Committee, met yesterday afternoon in the Council Chamber. The following are the bills which have been laid before the Committee for services in this matter. The first is that of the renowned Branch:

The Corporation of the City of New-York, to Stephen H. Branch, Dr.—For $1,720 (borrowed from Alderman J. H. Briggs, Ex-Alderman Thomas Christie, Chief Engineer Alfred Carson, Samuel Sneden, Geo. Steers, and William Curtis Noyes,) which was consecrated to the objects of the Special Police Committee, consisting of Aldermen Briggs, Tucker, and Hoffmire.	$1,720
For $200 which Mr. Branch devoted to the same object, and which was taken from his private purse	200
Total	$2,000

STEPHEN H. BRANCH,
Secretary of Police Committee.

The next is that of Mr. Noyes.

In the matter of the application of the Board of Aldermen of the City of New-York, by Aldermen Briggs, Tucker and Hoffmire, Committee, &c., for an attachment, agt. William McKeller and George W. Matsell and others.—Wm. Curtis Noyes, of Counsel for Applicant.—The Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the City of New-York, to Wm. Curtis Noyes, Dr.

1856, May.—Counsel fee, examining into authorities relating to the right of Committee of Common Council to compel witnesses to appear and answer before them, and also attending before the Court several days prepared to argue the matter, and finally arguing the whole question before Judge Daly, involving the power of the Common Council to compel witnesses to answer under their charter	$250
Sept. 22.—For advice and consultation several times with the Committee and with Mr. Nash, associate counsel, in reference to compelling the witnesses to answer under Judge Daly's decision, and attending three days before the Court upon new application for an attachment	100
Sept. 29.—Again advising the Committee and attending before them, and before the Court, in reference to like application	25
October.—Again attending upon the Committee and advising thereon in reference to their right to compel Mr. Matsell to answer, he having appeared before them and refused to answer	50
Oct. 1.—Again advising with Committee and Mr. Nash, and preparing papers for an application for an attachment against him, and engrossing same and preparing order to show cause why an attachment should not issue, making motion therefor before Judge Ingraham	50
October.—Again advising the Committee in reference to the examination, and the whole matter on several occasions	50
Oct. 16.—Examining into the question as to the right of an alien to hold the office of Chief of Police, and preparing opinion thereon; and as to the right of the Common Council to remove him from office	100
Total	$625

The Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the City of New-York, to Wm. Curtis Noyes, Dr.:

1856, April.—To Counsel fee on the trial on behalf of the Committee before the Police Commissioner, of George W. Matsell, Chief Police—being occupied from December 31, 1855, to 23d of February last, on each Saturday, inclusive—and for advice and consultation with the Committee in reference thereto	$500

The next is that of Mr. Stoughton:

The City of New-York to E. W. Stoughton, Dr.

To counsel fees, on behalf of the Special Committee, &c., before the Police Commissioners upon charges preferred against George W. Matsell, Chief of Police, attending upon the trial upon Saturdays from the 31st December, 1855, to the 23d of February, 1856, inclusive, and to advice and consultations with such Committee	$500

And the next of three reporters:

The Common Council of the City of New York, to Hays, Hincks, Carey & Co., short-hand writers and reporters, Dr.

May 26, 1855.—To reporting, by direction of Judge Daly, and request of the counsel representing the Corporation, the argument of William Curtis Noyes, esq., in the Court of Common Pleas' Chambers, in the case of the contumacious witnesses, Mackellar and others, say 12 columns, at $5 per column, furnished to Mr. Noyes	$60
Duplicate, at $2 per column, furnished to Mr. Brady	24
Report of Mr. Nash's argument on behalf of the Common Council, in the like case, (furnished June 16, 1855)	20
Total	$104

Still another:

The City of New-York to Selah Squires, Dr.:

To Counsel fees, and going to Perth Amboy to take the evidence of the Collector of that port, on behalf of the Special Committee, &c., upon charges preferred against George W. Matsell, Chief of Police, and expenses on such trip	$25 00

And another:

Corporation of New-York to Edward Van Ranst debtor. To Carriages, &c., furnished Special Committee on Police of Board of Aldermen, for carrying witnesses, &c., viz:

1855, Dec. 29—To carriage hire	$18
1856, Jan. 3—To carriage hire	5
1856, Jan. 4—To carriage hire	5
1856, Jan. 5—To carriage hire	13
1856, Jan. 12—To carriage hire	18
1856, Jan. 15—To carriage hire	10
1856, Jan. 16—To carriage hire	5
Total	$74

EDWARD VAN RANST.

And another:

The Corporation to C. Lamb, Dr.

1856—January 17, to sleigh hire employed by the Special Police Committee in case of G. W. Matsell	$15

The bill of Counselor Nash for $681 93 is the last, but not least.

RECAPITULATION.

Branch	$2,000	Van Ranst	$74
Noyes	1,125	Lamb	15
Stoughton	500	Nash	682
Reporters	104		
Squires	25	Total thus far	$3,525

What action the Committee will take in reference to the matter remains to be seen. Several of the gentlemen interested in the matter appeared before the Committee yesterday and asserted the justness and legality of their claims.

SMALL-POX, YELLOW FEVER AND MEASLES.—Small-pox continues to be developed among the emigrant passengers who were landed at Quarantine from the Empire State. Twenty new cases have made their appearance since the passengers were landed. The ship is being thoroughly cleansed, ventilated and fumigated, under the direction of the Health Officer.

The brig Franklin, Mate Putnam, from Ponce, P. R., arrived at Quarantine on the 1st inst., having lost her captain of yellow fever during the passage. The mate reports that the fever and small pox are prevailing at Ponce and St. Thomas.

The ship Saratoga, from Havre, Capt. Trask, arrived at Quarantine on the 1st inst. During the passage she buried at sea fourteen persons, most of whom died of measles of the most malignant type. Several of her seamen were sent on shore to the Seamen's Retreat Hospital.

QUARANTINE REGULATIONS.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

SIR: Owing to the great anxiety of the public mind respecting the diseases that prevail at Quarantine, it may be well to let the people know what rules are enforced at this establishment; I therefore inclose a copy of the Regulations that are now in force, and which are *strictly obeyed*.

No disease by infection,