thought that an apprehension which made men bachelors should be removed.

The Rev. Dr. Robins of the Committee defended the report. He said that he had been fearful that the Assembly would come to the same conclusion that a debating society came to when once they were discussing the question: "Shall the poor be provided for by law?" After a wearisome debate, a member got up and settled the question. He said that he divided the poor into three classes, the Lord's poor, the Devil's poor and the poor devils. The Lord would take care of his own; the Devil's poor would be taken care of by their master, and he thought it best to let the poor devils take care of themselves. Dr. Rogers said that he had feared they were to be put under the last title, and left to shift for themselves.

Mr. Williamson hoped that while the general subject should not be overlooked, some immediate provision should be made.

The Rev. Mr. Gater of North Carolina indulged in some animadversions upon those radicals who sought only to find fault with the work of others.

The Rev. Dr. Thornwell withdrew his motion.

The Rev. Dr. D. X. Junkin moved to strike out that portion of the report which spoke of the connection between pastor and church as that of a business firm, and the resolutions and his motion passed. He then proposed resolutions providing for raising money, and dispersing it through the Presbyteries, and also for a general plan by and by.

A Member defended North Carolina generally. Down there they used to have a superannuated colored minister, and they footed his bills until he was taken home.

The Assembly took a recess until 7½ o'clock.

In the evening only about 75 members were present. The Committee on Leave of Absence reported that a large number of members had been excused.

The resolutions offered by D. X. Junkin, D. D., were taken up and adopted. A Committee of five were appointed to take charge of the permanent arrangement for the relief of disabled ministers and their widows and orphans, and the whole report and resolutions was ordered to be entered on the minutes.

Dr. Rogers of Philadelphia said that he had received a letter from the Secretary of the Philadelphia Corporation, which frequent mention has been made during the debate, stating that they would be happy to entertain any proposition to enlarge the sphere of their influence.

Committees were appointed to notify the elected Professors, and the Assembly, as the Court of Jesus Christ, proceeded to take up the Stillwater case. A motion to allow members of the Synod to remain was negatived, and they went out.

The Rev. Dr. Junkin supported the complaint, relieving himself of a speech which he said had been "laying on his stomach" over the week. He concluded by saying that the name of Stillwater was a misnomer; for it has been agitated water ever since he had known the place. It might perhaps be that kind of Still-water which they heard so much about.

Chancellor Jousset of Pennsylvania contended that the Synod did right in dismissing the case, as it was not at the time decided by the Presbytery.

For two hours various legal gentlemen gave multifarious opinions on the legality of the Synod's course, and at 10½ p. m. the Assembly, whose numbers had increased to 150, adjourned until this morning.

PRESBYTERIAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY—NEW SCHOOL.

This body met again yesterday morning agreeably to adjournment. After the usual devotional exercises the Moderator called the meeting to order.

Letters from the delegates to the Southern and German Reformed bodies were read. They expressed entire satisfaction with the courtesy with which they had been received, and the fraternal regard which has been manifested toward the Presbyterian body.

A resolution was offered to enter into correspondence with the General Synod of the Dutch Reformed Church; but it being understood that that body declined correspondence with the New School Church, the resolution was withdrawn.

The committee to whom were referred the reports of the Trustees of the Presbyterian House and Publication Committee reported that they believe there is an important duty to be performed by the Publication Committee, not met by any other, and offer the following resolutions substantially:

Resolved. That the reports be adopted.

Resolved. That for the purpose of securing uniformity in church psalmody, and for the purpose of paying for the Presbyterian House, a collection of $30,000 be taken on the first Sabbath in December.

Resolved. That the committee be empowered to purchase some hymn book, or books which shall meet the wants of the whole church.

Resolved. That application be made to the Legislature of Pennsylvania for a charter.

A motion to postpone was lost. A motion was made, but subsequently withdrawn, to fix the amount to be raised at $50,000. The entire day was occupied in a discussion of the subject, and pending its consideration the Assembly adjourned, to meet in the evening.

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIANS.

The Synod commenced yesterday morning and was opened by devotional exercises which continued an hour and a half.

The Rev. T. W. Wylie and the Rev. Dr. Heron, requested and obtained leave to enter upon the minutes their dissent to the call for a Convention for the purpose of taking into consideration the representative system of Synod government, which call was resolved upon by the Synod on Saturday.

The Rev. Dr. Ferris of the Reformed Dutch Church was invited to a seat as a consultative member.

The minutes of the Philadelphia Presbytery were reported correctly kept.

The report of the Committee on the Signs of the Times was presented by the Rev. Dr. Boles, and was adopted after some suggested amendments had been made.

The order of the day was taken up—the hearing the report of the delegates to the sister churches in Scotland and Ireland, and to the Convention of the Evangelical Alliance held at Paris in July last.

The report of the Convention at Paris, which was a document of considerable length, was read by the Rev. Dr. McLeod.

After the report was read, Mr. George H. Stuart of Philadelphia, who was one of the Delegates, spoke of the reception and treatment in Ireland of the Committee. He said the American Delegation received every kindness and attention during their stay.

The Rev. Dr. Wylie also gave some account of the visit of the Delegates to France, Ireland, Scotland and Switzerland.

A memorial was received from the Reformed Presbyterian Church at Monmouth, Illinois, on the subject of Secret Societies. Referred to the Committee on Discipline.

A memorial was received from Dr. Smith of Chicago, which was laid upon the table, and the Clerk ordered to transmit to him the report upon his memorial of last year, made by the Committee of Discipline. Adjourned.

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE M. E. CHURCH.

From Our Own Reporter.

Indianapolis, Thursday, May 22, 1856.

I send you the report of the minority on Slavery. It will be seen that they oppose any action on the subject, and consider that contemplated by the majority as unconstitutional. If the report of the majority passes the Conference and becomes a law, it will inevitably result in another division of the Church, as the Baltimore, Philadelphia, New-York and New-Jersey delegations will not concur in the action. The report is as follows:

The undersigned, constituting the minority of the Committee on Slavery, not being able to agree with the majority in the conclusions to which they have come, continues in their report to the General Conference, but never respectfully to submit the reasons for their dissent, as follows:

1. The chapter proposed by the majority, in lieu of the one now in the Discipline on Slavery, is manifestly in conflict with the constitution of our Church. In the five answers to the question, "Why shall he done for the extirpation of the evil of Slavery?" it is proposed that "no slaveholder shall be eligible to membership in our Church hereafter, where emancipation can be effected without injury to the slave," which creates a condition of membership unknown to the Discipline, and which cannot be enacted under the General Rule, unless we add fiction to Slavery. This fiction is intended to bear upon applicants for admission into our Societies. The second answer reaches members now in our church, who "by any means" may become the owners of slaves, and also those who are at present slaveholders, if they should come into the possession of more. In either of these cases the party is to be brought before a Committee to "determine the time in which" the slaves "shall be freed," and in the event of "refusal" or "neglect" to comply with the decision of the Committee, he is to be "dealt with as in cases of immorality," thus clearly making emancipation, and, in effect, nonslaveholding a term of communion or church fellowship with us. Before this provision can be engrafted upon the Discipline constitutionally, the General Rule with respect to Slavery must be essentially altered, which can only be done by compliance with the proviso to the sixth restriction, which says: "Provided always, that upon the concurrent recommendation of three-fourths of all the members of the several Annual Conferences, who shall be present at and vote in such recommendation, then a majority of two-thirds of the General Conference succeeding shall suffice to alter any of the above restrictions, excepting the first article; and also, whenever such alteration or alterations shall have been first recommended by two-thirds of the General Conference, as soon as three-fourths of members of all the Annual Conferences shall have concurred as aforesaid, such alteration or alterations shall take effect." It is not proposed in the report of the majority of the Committee to ask their action to the operation of this constitutional method, but to carry it by a mere majority of this General Conference, leaving the General Rule as it is, which, it is evident, and the proposed chapter be placed in the Discipline, will be a palpable violation of the Constitution.

2. Because our Discipline, as we understand it, is probably now as strongly opposed to Slavery as the state and circumstances of the case will allow.

3. Because we are clearly understood to be, and are accepted and treated as a church opposed to slavery, yet having due regard to the authority of the State.

4. Because our practice under the Discipline is faithful, and fruitful of good, restraining the traffic, and working the conversion and the emancipation of many slaves.

5. Because we are deeply convinced that any increased stringency of the Discipline on the subject of Slavery, will greatly weaken, if not destroy our church in the slaveholding States, and on the border.

6. Because this reduction of our influence as a Church, instead of promoting what the majority desire, will very much retard the cause of individual and ultimate emancipation, and much endanger and diminish the welfare of the slaves, for, as regards the slaves, we are the only Church which exercises any permanent ministry and watch care over the colored population within those conferences which are to be affected by the proposed measures of the majority. We have many and populous churches among the colored people, and our access to them depends upon the good will of their masters. By the adoption of the measures proposed, we shall be to a great extent forbidden to preach to the slaves.

7. The reasons alleged above are founded on the universal testimony without any variation of our brethren who labor in the border work, and it is in accordance with current information; and we respectfully submit that such testimony ought to be admitted and be conclusive in the absence of all rebutting testimony. And we believe if the Church generally were rightly informed as to the true state of the case, she would not only be satisfied, but would approve of letting the Discipline remain as it is. And we suggest that the best way to inform the Church, is to publish the alleged facts under the authority of the General Conference. We are happy to perceive that the report of the majority agrees with the position herein assumed.

8. We respectfully suggest also, that in 1848, we repudiated the plan of separation, lest it should lead us to go to our brethren in the border work, and they received us exactly on the ground of the Discipline as it is, and because they were opposed to the policy of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, on the subject of Slavery. And it does not seem to us expedient, or indeed just, now to force upon them further measures, which, in their judgment, will very seriously cripple, if not extinguish the work among them.

9. Because we understand that our brethren of the Majority Report do not expect that the measures they propose will aid in our border work, or assist us in ameliorating the condition of the slave population; but we judge that they must feel convinced from the testimony in Committee, that their proposed measures will embarrass it much. We cheerfully do them the justice to say that they sincerely believe the measures they propose are right, and that therefore the border work ought to bear the embarrassments that may follow. It is for this reason, for this General Conference to judge and pronounce in the case.

10. Because we believe that all right-minded men who have had favorable opportunities to observe, or to become responsible pastors in our border work, have come to the conclusions expressed above; and hence, we respectfully submit that our brethren who sympathize with the Majority Report should accept such testimony.

11. Because finally, we are of opinion that the course indicated above is the proper way to exercise a healthful and legitimate influence on the question of Slavery, and, indeed, the only way in which it can be done. By taking this course we do not repudiate or assault the authority of the State, nor institute a course of moral discipline which, acting with the legitimate influence of the Gospel, will confer the greatest benefit upon both master and slave. Therefore

Resolved. That we non-concur in the action of the majority.

Respectfully submitted.

Signed in behalf of the minority of the Committee on Slavery. JOHN A. COLLINS, Chairman.

Indianapolis, Ind., Friday, May 23, 1856.

The Report of the Majority on Slavery was taken up this morning. The Conference proceeded to the consideration of the second resolution of the Report, as follows: "Resolved, by the Delegates of the several Annual Conferences in General Conference assembled, That the following be and hereby is substituted in the place of the present seventh chapter of our book of discipline."

The chapter as it stands in the Discipline reads as follows:

"What shall be done for the extirpation of the evil of Slavery? Ans. 1. We declare that we are as much as ever convinced of the great evil of Slavery; therefore, no slaveholder shall be eligible to any official station in our Church hereafter, where the laws of the State in which he lives will admit of emancipation, and permit the liberated slave to enjoy freedom. 2. When any traveling preacher becomes an owner of a slave or slaves by any means, he shall forfeit his ministerial character in our Church, unless he execute, if it be practicable, a legal emancipation of such slaves, conformably to the laws of the State in which he lives. 3. All our preachers shall prudently enforce upon our members the necessity of teaching their slaves to read the Word of God, and to allow them time to attend upon the regular worship of God on our regular days of divine service. 4. Our colored preachers and official members shall have all the privileges which are usual to others in the District and Quarterly Conferences where the usages of the country do not forbid it. And the Presiding Elder may hold for them a separate District Conference where the number of colored local preachers will justify it. 5. The Bishops may employ colored preachers to travel and preach when their services are judged, *provided* that no one shall be received without having been recommended by a Quarterly Conference."

The substitute proposed:

"Ans. 1. We declare we are as much as ever convinced of the great evil of Slavery. We believe that all men by nature have an equal right to freedom, and that no man has a right to hold a fellow being as property. Therefore no slaveholder shall be eligible to membership in our Church hereafter when emancipation can be effected without injury to the slave. But inasmuch as persons may be brought into the legal relation of slaveholders involuntarily, or voluntarily by purchasing slaves in order to free them, therefore the merely legal relation shall not be considered of itself sufficient to exclude a person who may thus sustain it from the fellowship of the Church. 2. Whenever a member of our Church by any means becomes the owner of a slave, it shall be the duty of the preacher in charge to call to aid a Committee of at least three members, who shall in view of the case and of the laws determine the time in which such slave shall be freed, and on his refusal or neglect to abide by the decision of said committee, he shall be dealt with as in case of immorality. 3. It shall be the duty of all our members and probationers, who may sustain the legal relation of slaveholder, to teach their servants to read the word of God, to allow them to attend the public worship of God on our regular days of divine service, to protect them in the observance of the duties of the conjugal and parental relations, to give them such compensation for their services as may, under the circumstances, be just and equal, to make such provisions as may be lawfully practicable to prevent them and their posterity from passing into perpetual Slavery, and to treat them in all respects as required by the law of love. 4. It shall be the duty of our preachers prudently to enforce these rules."

Dr. Raymond of the New-England Conference, who officiated as chairman of the committee and the author of the report, led off the discussion. The Dr. took the high, strong ground that Slavery was a sin, but the mere legal relation might exist without necessarily involving sin. He conceded that a man might, under certain circumstances hold slaves and be a thorough Christian. He answered the minority report in regard to the question that the resolution under consideration was unconstitutional, as it proposed a new term of membership, by stating that if the measure was an unconstitutional one, the Church should at once resort to those measures which would take the constitutional restriction out of the way. In reply to the question of expediency contained in the minority report, he was especially severe in his remarks on the doctrine of expediency, that the highest ecclesiastical body known to the Church; body men, representing that portion of the Christian Church, embracing within its pale nearly a million of members—pleading before that Church and the world the doctrine of expediency. There could be no question about the righteousness of legislating so as to purge the Church from the mercenary slaveholder and to come down from the throne of righteousness and stoop obsequiously to the Slave Power, and refuse to act because the slaveholding portion of the Church were opposed to it, was an exhibition of expediency and truckling to slaveholders unworthy of a body of Christian ministers.

The Dr. was followed by Mr. Coombe of the Philadelphia Conference. He started out with two positions: 1st, The Church had no power to change the Discipline of the Church as proposed by the majority; and, in the second place, there was no necessity for such a change. On these propositions he made a speech of half an hour—the rule limiting the speakers to that time. He believed that the Methodist Episcopal Church had done more for the extirpation of the great evil of Slavery from the world than all other agencies, political, social and religious, and that the Church stood up in peerless preeminence over all in its defense of freedom.

Prof. Mattison of the Black River Conference followed in favor of the report. He affirmed that the Methodist Episcopal Church had not to the extent claimed taken ground against Slavery. He declared that even the action of the Church, as contained in the discipline, was violated by constant practice; that it was clearly inferrable from the rules of the Church, which excludes all sinful slaveholding from the Church, none would deny, and yet the doors of the Church are open right and day to slaveholders. The friends of the oppressed and downtrodden wished to bring the Church up to the exercise of her Discipline, according to its legitimate interpretation. They wished to have the rule so specifically defined that the whole Church and the world might see that we were consistent. The Professor, in a clear and logical manner, reviewed the action of the Church from its beginning under Wesley. The "conversations" held in the Conferences of Mr. Wesley showed the strong denunciatory manner in which they treated Slavery. One quotation particularly the Professor dwelt upon, viz.: "We do hold in the deepest abhorrence the evil of Slavery." The Church then was Abolition in the most thorough sense. They did not for a moment entertain the sickly doctrine of expediency, and regarded the buying, selling or holding of human beings as "a complicated crime" in the works of Coke and Asbury, the first Bishops, who placed Slavery on the same ground with keeping concubines and divorcing wives. He asserted, if there be a God, and that there is none doubt, every principle and attribute of Nature was opposed to Slavery, and that this was the belief of the Church in other years. Prof. M. showed at what times changes had been introduced into the Discipline. In regard to the constitutionality of the measure proposed, he said that the restrictive rule which prohibits the introduction of a new term of membership had been changed four times; but now, when the question comes up which seeks to bring the Discipline back to the old platform of Methodism, the cry is raised, "Unconstitutional!" He showed how the General Conference, which held its session in the South, and there under the influence of Slaveocracy, changed the chapter on Slavery. The General Conference changed the language from a direct prohibition of Slavery in the Church to a weak declaration "that we are as much as ever opposed to the great evil of "Slavery." He cited further instances of change.

Mr. Disney of the North Ohio Conference spoke on the same side of the question. He replied to Mr. Coombe on the necessity of change, and remarked, that if the majority report was so clear in its admissions that the Church had borne testimony against Slavery, as that gentleman had remarked, and, therefore, there was no need of additional activity. Why not, said he, introduce the resolution of that report into that Discipline? He affirmed that there were merchant slave holders in the Church. The Discipline of the Church was antagonistic to slavery in its aggregate teachings, and it should distinctly and definitely proclaim that testimony to the world. He wished to have the old rusty screw of the Discipline in regard to Slavery now after the lapse of so many years, during which time the Church has been agitated and torn asunder, have given to it a turn, that the salutary testimony of the Church on this subject may be made more consistent and sound. He was fully impressed with the belief that the General Conference had the power not only to change the rules on the subject of Slavery, but it had the power to dissolve the Conferences in Slave territory, and prohibit the Bishops from crossing the line dividing Free from Slave territory.

At the close of Mr. D.'s speech, the Conference adjourned until the afternoon.

EIGHTEENTH WARD KNOW-NOTHINGS.

Our Reporter, not unmindful of his kind reception among the brothers of the Eighteenth Ward Council—a reception which has drawn tightly around him the bonds of paternal affection—could not resist the temptation to look in again among them. For reasons of railroad policy—disturbed by obstinate dirt carts and balky horses—he did not arrive until twenty-four minutes after the hour for assembling. Yet the Council was not organized. A serious few were in waiting for Bro. Edney. Ditto for the indispensable James. Earnest sadness was apparent, which reminded our reporter of the dismal stare he received from Bro. Herring, whom he saw as he came in, standing in solemn moodiness—back to the Council—opposite the card factory in Twenty-third street. Bro. Scofield, the inside guardian, stood near his post, ready for action. Bro. Whittaker, the secretary, was at his desk, examining and correcting his minutes. Bro. McNeil was in his place, intently looking over an alphabetical list of the members and checking the Taylor men with the stub of a bad pencil. Bros. Knapp and Bucklin were on one side of the room, and Bros. Vandewater and Lowden, in an adjacent corner, engaged in close conversation. From overheard snatches, our reported judged—rightly, too, as it afterward proved—that the Brotherhood was individually debating whether to sell itself to Joe Taylor! and at what price per head? In such a contest Bro. Herring, as a reasonable man, would not jeopardize his position as Teacher in the Sciools by taking sides. He seems to be perfectly aware of the power possessed by the Order over the educational interests of the city—a power which has fallen into most excellent hands!

At length Bro. Edney came in; also other brothers from over the way. Bro. Edney took the chair of state—sounded the gravel—ordered Jimmy to his post and the Pass to be taken. Ordinary formalities over, it was announced that another of the Joe Taylor stock was on hand anxiously longing to be inducted into the scientific mysteries of the Brotherhood. Bro Edney ordered his production. Enter Taylor No. 4, led by the Marshal. It was no less a youth than a brother of Joe Taylor, whom, together with another brother and the old paternal Taylor, makes three of them in this Council. Young Joe being a member of Council No. 15, makes three of the family antecedent to this new aspirant. Hence the propriety of styling him Taylor No 4—a goodly number of native Solons for one unaspiring family to furnish the Order. Our reporter could not learn whether it has more in course of training.

The Marshal led him to Bro. McNeil. Mc. surveyed him, arose to his feet, and read from a little-looking manual a sort of admonition, and supplication to Taylor No. 4, to keep profoundly secret the systems of government for States, Nations and Empires, he there might be permitted to learn. Taylor No. 4 bowed meekly. At the chair of Bro. Edrey he took the sweeping oath to submit to the will of the majority, and to devote himself to ruling America. Then, having paid Bro. Whittaker two shillings and signed the roll, Taylor No. 4 walked and breathed the impersonation of a native-born citizen.

In the order of reading communications, was one regretting the defection of many brothers, and beseeching all good and true members not be led away by the wiles of the Black Republicans, nor to join that "horrid band of traitors to our beloved America." It elicited no action. Twenty two long-drawn sighs from twenty-three statesmen, attested its deep-utterings. Brother Baldwin, the twenty-third brother, did not sigh. A half-uttered groan through his grated teeth, gave ample testimony to the presence of a very different emotion.

A proposition to elect a successor to Bro. Oliver on the Executive Committee, brought out a roaring tempest. No sooner had the brothers generally, and the teacher in particular, closed their encomiums upon Bro. Oliver, than Bro. Crane—malicious Crane—Superintendent-of-Wharves-Piers-and-Slips-Crane, exhibited the cloven foot of the Taylor dynasty, by moving a resolution requesting Bro. Cox, and the other member of that Committee, to resign. This was the Thunder Clap; but Bro. Cox was not afraid of such thunder. Six other brothers, in six fiery speeches, espoused his cause. The burden of their oratory was an accusation of dishonesty in pushing the Taylor family into this Council with the view of getting the same control of the Executive Committee which they supposed they had of the Council. Bro. Crane's resolution did not pass. This left the Anti-Joe party jubilant—Joe party sullen.

Bro. Edney, by way of ministering to the laceration of dignity in Bro. Cox, named him as one of the Tellers in the election of delegates to a Congressional District Convention. Unlucky kindness. On counting the votes the Joe party were found in the minority—their candidates badly beaten. This was too much for them. Two defeats so close upon each other were overwhelming. Taylor No. 4 could not hold in his infant anger. Belched out against the Council, and against the Tellers. Declared there had been foul play. Brother Knapp—philosophical Knapp replied. With provoking coolness stated his admiration for modesty, inasmuch as it was a rare but becoming virtue. Believed Taylor No. 4 would be more useful to his country and to the world at large by not being quite so fast. Concluded by advising him to keep quiet until he had got out of his short clothes, and had gone up into some of the more matured degrees of American manhood. Others followed him in more classic style. The raw being sawed all around mutual recrimination and alteration became the order. So disconnected and incoherent were these, that such words only could be caught as "Bellevue Hospital" "Insane Asylum," "Live Oak Club," "Corporation stealings," "Songs for crazy folks," and others of no sort of significance except up in the Eighteenth Ward. In addition to the insult by Taylor No. 4, Bro. Whittaker declared Bro. Cox to be the teller who had been guilty of fraud. This brought out a general roar of rage from the Anti-Joe party. Bro. Edney hammered to little effect. Quiet would not come. In fact, it never does come until the floods of imprecations and malediction have all run off. Every Council ought to have special seasons—say two, three or five, according to circumstances—to operate as vents to pent-up profanity. So soon as Bro Cox could be heard, he complained bitterly of the malignity of that spirit which, without provocation, had so meanly insulted him; referred to his labors in the Legislature and in the militia, in attestation of his fidelity to the cause; wished the brothers to decide what they thought of his honesty. Bro. Whittaker, not expecting this manly offer, and fearful of the result, backed out of his charge and apologized to Bro. Cox. This made the black look on the sullen visages of the Joe party a shade blacker. Their evening labors commenced and closed with defeat, where they supposed all was set to their liking.

Faithful Jimmy was not forgotten. For him the hat went round, and returned laden with the rich treasure of sixty-three cents. Then followed the adjournment.

YOUNG MEN'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN GENERAL COMMITTEE.

The members of this organization met last evening at Harmonie, corner of West and Courtlandt streets, Solomon B. Noble presiding. The Committee completed their arrangements for meeting in Cincinnati on Saturday next. It was announced that the Erie and Central Railroad Companies had agreed to take all delegates to the Convention, to and from Cincinnati, for $20. The Committee have not consulted upon whom they will support for the Presidency; but it is understood that they will go for Buchanan. The question of the legitimacy of the Hard or Soft organizations must be settled before the Softs will make known their preference.

NEW PLAY AT BURTON'S.

On Saturday this theater was signalized by the production of an entirely new play, in five acts by Mr. Dion Bouricault entitled Violet, or the Life of an Actress, in which the author himself appeared. It was most distinctly a success, and ought to have a run. The plot is as follows: *Julia* (Mrs. Parker) is a favorite actress with a lot of noble and military admirers. *Old Grimaldi* (Bouricault) comes to her lodgings while surrounded with three of them, a military Viscount included, and begs her to appear for his benefit as a brother artist; but his rank in that way being microscopically small, she declines, offering him, however, money, which he proudly refuses. At this moment Violet (Agnes Robertson) is heard singing without, and her voice is recognized by the officers as that of a certain ballad girl, and a beauty bustle, and one of them calls her in for the purpose of passing off a joke on Grimaldi, by offering her as a fit person to appear at his benefit and draw a house. He resents in terms the rash, unfeeling display of sport, and the girl reciting her desolation is having just lost her only friend, her dog, who had been killed in protecting her from violence by some unknown ruffian, and breaking down with emotion in attempting to sing for the company the ballad of Poor Tray, Grimaldi is so touched that he embraces her and adopts her as his child—Violet, it seems, being a foundling, so called from flowers of that kind having been found in a basket in which she was put when exposed. The second act reveals the interior of old Grimaldi's lodgings, after a year's interval, he being engaged in preparing breakfast, while Violet is sleeping in an adjoining room—the old man looking her door from the outside so that she should not discover what he was at, and abate her sleep to assist him in these duties, which he makes her believe are performed by an old woman assistant who comes before she is up. It seems that Grimaldi had been preparing Violet for the stage, to debut at his benefit; that the low comedian of the company (Setchell) who enters is in love with her; and that she, unknown to herself, is in love with the Viscount, who had frequently, of course with a design, thrown himself across her path. And this scene develops these facts, along with a stupendous playbill and the humbug of puffs preparatory that the old man was doing up through the Press. And allow us to say, parenthetically, about Mr. Bouricault's hard and sweeping slaps at the press that, though they may be true as regards a foreign press, they are not true as regards that of New-York, viewed as a class, as he must know—for, excepting one notorious sheet, to which all the theaters show a pecuniary subservience so absolute as to make one ashamed of human nature, the press of this city is not to be purchased by any manager or debutante. Mr Bouricault's next effort, we are of opinion, had better lug in the moral cowardice of New-York managers, and let the press alone, to the dignity of which he seems at present insensible.

But to the plot. As it develops itself we find the prime villain of the piece (who, we should not omit to state, assaulted Violet when her dog was killed) still bent on his bad design of circumventing her ruin. Without being too exact in our details, suffice to say that he extracts from the Viscount, after a drinking bout, his signature to a certain letter addressed to her. On reading this she goes off the stage, when flushed with the success of the first scene of her debut—a success inspired by the fact that she knew her lover was among the auditors—to see him at the stage door, he being suddenly ordered off for the Crimea (the Crimea now being what the Peninsula and India once were to playwrights). But instead of her lover being there our villain-friend awaited her, and putting her in his carriage suddenly, whirled her off to a desolate manse, twenty miles distant, where an old woman alone was the servant, and a lot of fierce dogs the guardians. But our low comedian having observed Violet enter the carriage, and the Viscount, too, having just entered behind the scenes, and learning of the deception practiced, pursuit was made and the intended victim rescued at the manse. The lovers are then privately married—he goes to the Crimea, she on the stage to fulfil her contract; becomes the rage, is presented to the Queen, appears at pic nic—said pic-nic on the stage, the Duke of Devonshire (?) presiding at it on his own grounds—pic nic winding up by the return of Viscount (wounded), just in time to frustrate our villain-friend, who is game to the last; winding up, too, by Grimaldi appeasing the rage of the Viscount's mother at such an alliance—Grimaldi proving himself an Italian duke, of a stock indefinitely older than the twopenny Norman fillibusters, and that Violet, by the Neapolitan laws, is ennobled by adoption—and so the lovers are made happy and villainy is at a discount.

There is a great deal of talent in the play. There are nice little touches, and some bigotes, too throughout. But it has some staring plagiarisms. For example, Grimaldi is a square copy of the old Frenchman with a daughter in *The First Night*; and all the debut business is about the same. So, too, in the stage scene, *Adrienne* is waylaid in the same manner. But, notwithstanding, it is alive with interest. It draws feminine tears, and extracts masculine shouts. It is a success, in a word. It defends throughout the good points of the theatrical profession—it rebuts the pride of caste and custom directed against them. So be it. But we apprehend "the prejudice" against the profession is just in the ratio of the known moral deflection of some of its prominent members. They are no worse than some other people; but they are better known, and hence more severely criticised. Let all the men be models of manly honor, and the women of severe virtue, and see then how the profession will stand.

As to the acting of the piece it was capital. Mr. Bouricault surpassed us with the excellence of his French-Italian painting. His intellectuality radiated sometimes. Miss Robertson was delicately beautiful in her delineation. Mrs. Parker shows a happy approach to a natural style of elocution; evidently criticism has been her guide. Mr Setchell proved himself a rising young comedian. Our wise-cut, villain and drunken dandy were good.

Installation.—The Rev. J. R. W. Sloane was last evening installed pastor of the Third Reformed Presbyterian Church in Waverly place, near the Sixth avenue. The installation sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. Christie, who also conducted the ceremonies usual upon such occasions. The exercises were unusually interesting, and were attentively listened to by a large congregation, the body and galleries of the edifice being densely crowded. This church is of wood and rather antique in style, having been erected many years ago, before that portion of the city in which it is located was built up. On every side it is now hemmed in by lofty brick dwellings, and its front on Waverley place presents no very attractive appearance to the passer by. The interior of the edifice is very plain and neat; no gilded baubles or carved work, nor pictures on stained glass, meet the eye; and the entire structure reminds one of old-fashioned village churches. Here the swelling notes of a grand organ are not to be heard; but upon the psalm or hymn being given out by the pastor, the song of praise is led by a plain old man who takes his place directly under the pulpit. An occasional resort to this plain, old-fashioned place of worship by some of our fashionables would be likely to inspire them with more of a feeling of devotion than they could get in a lifetime in the costly structures on the Fifth avenue and other streets.

PERILOUS ADVENTURES ON THE FISHING BANKS.

Great excitement was caused throughout the city yesterday morning by a brief telegraphic dispatch from Sandy Hook, to the effect, that the steamboat Robert L. Stevens, with about two hundred excursionists to the Fishing Banks, had been run into by a schooner, and was disabled and drifting out to sea.

Many persons who had relatives or friends on board were anxiously seeking to gain some tidings of the missing ones, believing that the steamboat had been blown far out to sea by the gale of wind or that she had gone down. Their anxiety was relieved about 9 o'clock by the announcement that the Robert L. Stevens was in tow of the steam-tug Achilles, and that the passengers were all safe.

We have gathered the following facts from Mr. George Laird, son of Mr. James Laird, doing business in Chatham street), who, together with his brother, was on board of the steamboat:

The Robert L. Stevens, an excursion boat to the fishing banks, on Sunday, had on board about two hundred passengers, including about twelve or fourteen women, and was lying at anchor about nine miles beyond Sandy Hook. About 20 minutes past 2 o'clock p. m. they were run into by the schooner Francis A. Goodwin, of New-York, laden with bricks and lime, and bound for South Carolina. The schooner struck near the bow of the steamboat, and stove a hole about two feet square, and about twelve inches above the water line. The schooner then raked along the side of the boat, stove in the wheel house and damaged the machinery to such an extent that it was entirely useless. The schooner having cleared itself, and outside of the steamboat being a complete wreck, the passengers were seized with consternation and commenced rushing about wildly, some shouting, some looking after their friends, and others tearing up benches or whatever they could get hold of, to buoy them up in the water. The flags of distress were raised and the bell was rung, in order to attract the attention of vessels within view. About this time the wind sprung up with great violence, which increased the danger. Shortly after, the schooner Margaret Mabie came along under the stern of the steamboat, and sixty-five of the passengers succeeded in getting on board when the schooner stood off. One or two other schooners attempted to get alongside, but were unsuccessful on account of the gale. Eventually, the schooner Francis A. Goodwin returned and took on board all the passengers, numbering about 200 persons, but Captain Anderson and the hands refused to abandon the steamboat. At 5½ o'clock the schooner cut loose and stood out to sea for one or two hours. When this fact became known to the passengers, they were clamorous to be brought to New-York, but the Captain declined and offered to set them ashore at the Breakwater, near Philadelphia. This the greater number would not listen to, and some of the more determined threatened to throw the Captain overboard unless he acceded to their request. The schooner was put about and returned again to the Stevens about 8 o'clock, where the pilot-boats No. 6 and No. 9, were found alongside of her. The schooner had received a shock which started the planking at the bow, and it was found necessary to keep four men constantly at the pumps, while those who were not at work were driven below by the intense cold. Here they regaled themselves upon a barrel of hard biscuit and disposed of themselves as best they could.

About 11 o'clock the passengers were again startled by the captain, who shouted for all hands to come on deck as the vessel was on fire. This caused another panic and a general rush for the deck. It was ascertained that the water had gained in the hold, and, coming in contact with the lime, set the barrels on fire. About 30 barrels of lime were thrown overboard in time to prevent any serious disaster.

After day-light the captain attempted for nearly three hours to make land at Fort Hamilton, but finally was compelled to cross over and anchor about three-fourths of a mile from Staten Island, and the passengers were conveyed to the shore in safety, with the exception of two women and a boy who fell overboard, but experienced nothing more serious than a cold bath. These passengers arrived in New York by the Staten Island ferry-boat at 11 o'clock a. m., and hastened home to inform their friends of their safety.

The passengers on the schooner Margaret Mabie arrived at Keyport yesterday morning after a dreary and comfortless night, nearly all of them being drenched by the spray which was constantly breaking over the vessel. They arrived by the Keyport boat at 10½ o'clock a. m.

The collision is said to have been the result of carelessness on the part of the captain of the Francis A. Goodwin.

MARINE AFFAIRS.

The United States sloop-of-war St. Louis, Commander J. W. Livingston, sailed from Monrovia March 18 for Port Praya.

The ship Albion, of Tapscott & Co.'s line, sailed on Saturday, May 24, with 10 cabin and 110 second cabin passengers for Liverpool.

CITY ITEMS.

New-York Harbor Encroachments.—Yesterday morning, Prof. A. D. Bache, of the U. S. Coast Survey, laid before the Commissioners and a number of other prominent gentlemen, his plans and suggestions for the further prosecution of the survey of this harbor. Prof. Bache proposes to commence operations immediately, and complete the survey, not only of the harbor, but of the adjacent shores, according to the maps lately prepared by, and which are now on file in the office of the Commissioners, No. 30 Broadway. The Professor's plans and suggestions were unanimously adopted. Arrangements are also being made for completing the surveying of the Harlem and East Rivers, Hell Gate, Midtown Creek, Sandy Hook, etc., and parties are being detailed for the work under Professor Bache's superintendence. Surveyors have likewise been detailed for ascertaining the topography of the adjacent streams, and it is expected that the work will be commenced in the course of a week at the farthest. The Commissioners, during the morning, heard the claims of a number of individuals, regarding the extension, building, repairing, &c., of wharves.

Central Park.—The Commissioners of the Central Park, appointed by an ordinance of the common Council, consisting of the Mayor and Street Commissioner, have, in order to proceed at once in laying out this important work, invited the following named gentlemen, to constitute a consulting Board, with whom to advise as to the best method of accomplishing that object: Hon. Washington Irving, Hon. George Bancroft, Wm. C. Bryant, esq., James Lenox, esq., Stewart Brown, esq., Robert J. Dillon, esq., Charles A. Dana, esq., Charles F. Briggs, esq., James E. Cooley, esq., James Phalen, esq.

Dr. Horwitz of this city, has received from the Howard Society at Norfolk a large gold medal for his services during the late yellow fever. On one side is a relieve of the Good Samaritan, and on the other appropriate emblematic figures and inscriptions. About one hundred physicians went to Norfolk during her sorrows, and of them upward of fifty died martyrs to the great cause.

Opening of Laurens street to the Fifth avenue and Sixth avenue to West Broadway.—The Committee on Streets of the Board of Councilmen met yesterday afternoon in the Council Chamber, City Hall, for the purpose of hearing argument for or against the opening of Laurens street through to Fourth street, and then regulating a thoroughfare across Washington square to the Fifth avenue. Also, argument on the counter proposition to widen Laurens street for the distance of two blocks, as far as Broome street, and then to open a street directly across to the junction of Carmine street and Sixth avenue. Ex-Ald. Mott, Mr. Dillon, Mr. Levy, and several other gentlemen, addressed the committee. It was stated on the one side that the city required this improvement—that of widening Laurens street to Fourth street—and it was the only true proposition that had ever been introduced to give Broadway relief. It was contended that $9,000,000 of property were represented among the property-owners on Laurens street, and that Sixth avenue was sufficiently accommodated at present. The old tune of relieving Broadway was sung by the projectors of the scheme. There was a fair sprinkling of property holders from Fifth avenue and vicinity present, several of whom opposed the project of widening and extending Laurens street to Fourth. They did not want cabs and all sorts of vehicles rumbling past their doors, and they contended that the improvement, so called, was not required, and showed that the property on Laurens street would be unable to pay the taxation and that it would involve the city in an immense outlay. The Common Council had no right to desecrate Washington square, as that belonged to the private citizens, and the right was vested in them. These gentlemen argued that it would be better to extend the Sixth avenue as projected, and stated that all of the property holders on the avenue were in favor of such an improvement. The Committee will probably hold another meeting on the subject before making a report.

The Young Men's Christian Association held their annual election for officers for the ensuing year, at their new rooms in the University building, Waverley place, last evening. The result was as follows:

President—J. W. Stebbins. *Vice-President*—Charles Selden. *Corresponding Secretary*—Richard C. McCormick, jr. *Treasur