THE NEW STATE ARSENAL IN RUINS.

FALL OF ITS ROOF AND WALLS.

About $25,000 Damage.

About 1 o'clock yesterday morning the roof of the new State Arsenal, situated on the north-east corner of Seventh avenue and Thirty-fifth street, fell with a tremendous crash, carrying with it the upper story of the northern, eastern and southern walls. The building was nearly completed, and would have been occupied by the State authorities in a few days but for this casualty. Workmen, to the number of twenty, had been employed the previous day in plastering the ceiling of the upper floor. The time of the accident was extremely fortunate, in view of the loss of life which must have resulted had the roof fallen in the day time.

The structure was authorized by the Legislature, and Adjutant-Gen. Townsend, Inspector-Gen. Bruce and Commissary-Gen. Ward were appointed Commissioners to select the site and receive proposals for plans for the building. The plan of Messrs. Cleveland & Backus was accepted, and to that firm was awarded the superintendence of the erection of the building. The contract for construction was awarded to Richard Calrow, jr., for $63,700. The building was 82 feet in the clear on Seventh avenue by 184 in the clear on Thirty-fifth street. A turret was erected on each corner of the building—the highest of which was 120 feet in hight. The walls to the second story were constructed of Hastings stone; above they were of brick, and double—each being eight inches in thickness, with a space of four inches between the two.

The cause of the accident was the imperfect support of the roof. The rafters were constructed of wood, and were designed to sustain the roof without any support in the center of the building. The span being 82 feet, to make it sufficiently strong became a problem, and the plan adopted by the architects, though it was pronounced by many practical men, and among them Mr. Calrow, the contractor, to be imperfect, was believed by them to be secure. The rafters were of frame work quite complicated in construction, being braced and girded at frequent intervals, and the whole held together by iron bolts. Eight of these rested on the northern and southern walls. Resting in iron sockets at the apex of the principal rafter on either end, were rafters which extended to the eastern and western walls, built on the same plan. It is believed that a joint of one of the rafters extending to the eastern wall was not sufficiently strong to support its own weight and the heavy slate roof above it—that it gave way, letting the roof fall upon the lower girders which rested upon the walls, and that the weight was so great as to force the walls out. One rafter having thus given way, the others followed in quick succession, throwing down the side walls and precipitating the roof and rafters in a mass of ruins on the upper floor of the building.

In the original plan of the rafters, the architects proposed to have an iron tie to extend across from the foot of each, but this was abandoned by them under the belief that the frame was sufficiently strong without.

The damage to the buildings will probably reach $25,000. Workmen are already engaged in removing the rubbish.

Adjoining the building, in Thirty-fifth street, was a small two-story building occupied by a Mrs. Armstrong and her daughter. When the crash occurred, a coping-stone about six feet long by two wide, and weighing more than half a tun, fell from the Arsenal wall through the roof of Mrs. Armstrong's dwelling into the bedroom occupied by herself and daughter, and landed on their bed. It grazed the lower limbs of Mrs. Armstrong, but inflicted no serious injury upon either her or her daughter. The stone, however, killed a dog which was lying at the foot of the bed. In the rear of this building, attached to it, stood a kitchen, which is utterly demolished and covered with an immense weight of ruins. Mrs. Armstrong has been strangely unfortunate, but a short time since having been robbed of about $50 worth of clothing. Her loss is about $400.

In the rear of the above dwelling, is a brick barn, belonging to the same property, in which was a valuable horse belonging to Mr. Caldwell, worth $300, and a quantity of oats and hay. The stable was completely demolished, and the horse killed. Loss about $1,000.

On the north side of the Arsenal, No. 409 Seventh avenue, is a three-story house, owned by Mr. Taylor and occupied by four families, all of whom had retired to bed. They were, however, suddenly awakened by the copings and bricks falling upon and around them, demolishing the roof, knocking large holes through the walls, literally strewing the rooms and stairways underneath with bricks, lumber, falling ceiling and walls, but injuring no person. On the upper floor resided a Mr. Benson, whose wife had a few days previously given birth to a child, and whose bed was surrounded by bricks and lumber, yet she escaped unhurt, although much frightened, which may produce relapse. Loss about $2,000. In the rear of these premises the yards, and the yards of the buildings on West Thirty-sixth street are completely covered with the debris of the catastrophe.

Immediately following the crash, the private watchman, McDonald, repaired to the Twentieth Precinct Station-House and gave information of the occurrence. Officers were sent to the scene of the accident, and after discovering the damage done they conveyed Mrs. Armstrong to the Station-House, and called in Dr. Watts of No. 215 Thirty-fifth street, to attend her, who pronounced her not dangerously wounded. After the falling of the stone on the bed of Mrs. Armstrong, her daughter Sarah was only aroused by her mother shaking her and asking if she could get out. So singularly had the stone fallen, that it lay across the bed without producing a shock sufficient to have awakened her.

THE LATE FERRY ACCIDENT.

Coroner Gamble yesterday morning held an inquest at the Hospital upon the body of Richard Bishop of Hempstead, L. I., who came to his death by injuries received on the occasion of the late collision between the ferry-boats Niagara and Nebraska. The following evidence was adduced:

Elias B. Baldwin, sworn, deposes and says—I was the pilot of the Nebraska on the day of the accident; on Friday last, between 11 and 12 o'clock, while it was flood tide, and as I was on my downward trip, I saw the Niagara and another boat, belonging to some other company, backing away from the slip on the New-York side; I left my course and got sufficiently ahead of the Niagara to go into the slip safely; the Niagara was on the New-York shore and the Nebraska on the Brooklyn shore; I made a circular course, the position we usually take to get into the slip, and the Niagara headed me off to get into the slip before me; this she could not do, keeping that course, as the tide was coming very strong, and it would have been impossible to get into the slip in that position; it was the Niagara's turn to go in the slip, but, as I saw she could not get in in the position she occupied, I headed the boat for the slip; we both kept steadily on our course; I supposed the pilot of the Niagara would haul out into the river; he did not do so, and on the entrance, when I had got the forward part of my boat in the slip the Niagara came up and struck me about ten feet forward of my starboard wheel, slightly damaging the boat, and in about ten seconds afterward she struck against the quarter of the ship "Cultivator," which lay alongside of the slip; at this time the bow of my boat had entered the slip, but the moment he struck my boat I backed out, and gave him the slip; deceased was not injured on my boat, and the only accident to the Nebraska was the breaking of a few of the staunchions; the deceased must have been injured when the Niagara came in collision with the Cultivator; the stern of the Cultivator was nearly flush with the mouth of the slip; there is never any rivalry in getting into the slips, as we all take our turns; but my boat was in a position to get into the slip, and the Niagara was not; the name of the pilot of the Niagara is William Brownwell; I have been in the employ of the Company as pilot for two years and eight months.

William A. Brownwell deposes and says—I am a pilot in the employ of the Peck-slip Ferry Company; on Friday last, between the hours of 10 and 12 o'clock, I was on the Niagara; I left Williamsburgh for New-York, and was detained about 20 minutes in the mouth of the slip on account of a towboat being in the way; when this obstacle was removed I made for the mouth of the slip, and saw the Nebraska off on the Brooklyn shore heading down the river; it being my turn to go into the slip, as soon as all was clear I proceeded on my way; when I started I swung for the middle of the river partly, and as I swung again to the right to shape for the slip, bringing the Nebraska between me, or rather on my left, so that I could not see her without looking around; I supposed the Nebraska had stopped, as she had more room than I had; the first intimation I had that she was still coming was the jar I felt from her striking my boat, and then I had advanced so near the slip and being between the slip Cultivator and the Nebraska, which crowded me and jammed me near the slip, I came in collision with the stern of the Cultivator; I saw my position, and dared not stop, as my passengers were forward; I would have headed my boat right under the stern of the ship had I acted otherwise, which must have resulted in the death of several of my passengers; my only alternative was to keep on and clear the ship if possible; this I did not succeed in doing, the pressure of the Nebraska and the tide together impeded the headway of my boat; when I came in collision with the Cultivator my cabin and part of the wheel house were taken off; I succeeded in entering the slip, and the Nebraska fetched up against the end of the pier adjoining the New-Haven pier; the marks on my boat went to show that the Nebraska struck me six to eight feet forward of the port wheel; after I came on deck of my boat I saw a man in a farmer's wagon; he appeared to be insensible, and afterward I saw pieces of the wagon; this was on the after end of the boat.

George Caulfield, being duly sworn, says—I am marine reporter of *The N. Y. Herald*; I reside in Brooklyn; on Friday last about 11 o'clock a. m. I was a passenger on board the ferry-boat Nebraska from Williamsburgh to New-York; I stood on the forward part of the boat, outside; the Nebraska was heading for the slip in a direct course; I observed the Niagara nearer the New-York shore, coming down the river; it occurred to me that if these boats kept on we must have a collision, so I paid particular attention to their movements; neither of them slacked up, but kept on toward the slip; the bow of the Nebraska was twenty-five feet ahead of the Niagara when we were entering, and the side of the Niagara struck the Nebraska in the neighborhood of the wheel-house, and then struck the stern of the ship Cultivator, which lay alongside of the slip; after the collision with the Nebraska, neither of the pilots rang their bells to stop the wheels; I am positive about this; I am quite conversant with the manner of working these boats, and I am satisfied that both the pilots were to blame, as the accident could have been avoided with care; I looked upon the collision as a deliberate affair from the start, as neither appeared to give way to the other; the injury to the Nebraska was slight; when the boats came together, after the Niagara struck the Cultivator, I got on board the Niagara; I saw deceased after he was injured, his head being down; he appeared insensible, and there was a large clot of blood on his head; in explanation of my allusion to the ringing of the bell, I wish to state that the bells were not rung immediately ensuing the collision.

William Layton, President of the Williamsburgh Ferry Company, testified as follows—It is one of the rules of the Company that every boat should take its turn upon entering the slip, unless in such cases where a boat is too far away or cannot get into the slip; the pilots of the Nebraska and Niagara were always looked upon as safe and reliable men.

Thomas Valentine, James W. Riggs, Le Grand Meher, Thomas C. Roche and James S. Truston, passengers on board the two boats at the time of the collision, were also examined, their testimony corroborating that above given.

After a brief charge from the Coroner the Jury retired, and soon returned with the following verdict:

"That the said Richard Bishop came to his death by fracture of the skull, caused during a collision between the ship Cultivator and the ferry-boat Niagara, at Peck slip, Nov. 12, 1858; and that said collision was owing to the culpable carelessness of Elias B. Baldwin, pilot of the ferry-boat Nebraska, and Wm. S. Brownwell, pilot of the ferry-boat Niagara, of the Williamsburgh Ferry Company."

The Coroner then discharged the Jury, and stated that he should be compelled to hold the accused for trial. The prisoners were held to bail in the sum of $2,000 each to await the action of the Grand Jury.

FIRES.

FIRE IN ESSEX STREET.

Yesterday morning, about 2 o'clock, a fire broke out in the cigar store kept by Abraham Simmons, No. 38 Essex street, and thence extended to the adjoining building, owned and occupied by James Devlin. The firemen were quickly on the ground, and extinguished the flames before they had made much headway. Mr. Simmons's stock was damaged to the amount of $100; no insurance. Mr. Devlin's furniture was damaged to the amount of $50, and his house to the amount of $100; insured for $250 in the Bowery Insurance Company on furniture, and $600 on building in the same Company. The grocery in the basement, owned by Henry Stalting, was slightly damaged; insured for $600 in the New-Amsterdam Insurance Company.

FALSE ALARM.

The alarm of Thursday was caused by smoke emanating from the Methodist Church in Willett street, but upon examination there proved to be no fire about the premises—except in the stove. The smoke came from pipe that had been carelessly fitted in the roof.

FIRE IN BROOKLYN.

About 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon, a fire broke out in a wooden building adjoining Wm. Wall & Son's ropewalk, at the corner of Marshall street and Bushwick avenue (E. D). It was extinguished by means of the steam force-pump belonging to the factory, assisted by a hose company in the vicinity. Damage trifling. It was probably caused by some boys who were playing in the building.

MR. TAYLOR ON LIFE IN THE NORTH.

Mr. Bayard Taylor on Thursday evening gave a lecture before the Hatfield's Young Men's Christian Association, in the church on the corner of Ninth avenue and Thirty-first street, which was crowded. Mr. Taylor's subject was "Life in the North." He commenced by an allusion to his visit to Egypt, seven years ago, where he formed his determination to visit the Polar Zone, and from which he derived a warm background for his Arctic picture. Our knowledge of the Polar Zone was very limited. We generally supposed that its inhabitants were Esquimaux and Samoyeds, and that the year comprised nine months of Winter and three months cold weather. Mr. Taylor said that he confessed to some misgivings at first as to his power to endure the severe cold of the North. He noticed the curve of the isothermal lines to the northward along the western coast of the Scandinavian peninsula, carried thither by the warmth of the Gulf-Stream, which kept the Norwegian ports open all the year, while the ocean in the same latitude on the American side was solid ice from October to June. It was no wonder that Russia coveted these ports; her geography was incomplete without either Turkey or Lapland. There was snow in Germany before he left it; he entered Stockholm in a snow-storm, and the thermometer gradually sunk as he went North, until at last he found the mercury and his nose frozen at the same time. He was especially surprised at the brilliancy of the Arctic skies, which were superior to anything he had seen in Italy. In Winter the forests seemed to be a world of alabaster, the glorified forests of the Norseman's Valhalla. They reflected, too, every hue of the sky. Their rose color at dawn deepened through all shades into orange at noon. When the thermometer stood at 25 to 30 degrees below zero, the sky was clear and there was no wind, riding was very comfortable; but when the sky was overcast and there was wind, it was dangerous. He had felt quite as cold at home as at any time in Lapland; and he remembered having heard Dr. Kane say, on his last return from the Arctic Sea, in a raw October day, that he suffered more then from cold than at any time on his voyage. Still, the cold was not to be smiled at. Sleep in it was death; the beard froze to the furs; the cheeks were sometimes covered with ice, and the eye-lashes cleared themselves only by incessant winking. The sensation of cold was felt mostly on going into a warm room. He had experienced the counterpart of this in the tropics, when, after having borne the burning heat of the day without difficulty, he found himself roasting in the diminished temperature of the night. He first began to find a difference in the Scandinavian people, due, as he thought, to the influence of cold weather, in the province of Norrland. The Norrlanders had splendid health and were finely-formed men, though not handsome. They were cold only through superior self-control. One rarely heard a word of affection from them. Love was silent, because eternal. He did not believe that they knew that they had such a thing as a nervous system. In Finland he found many things that were Oriental; among them the vapor bath, the love of pipes and coffee. The Finns were as moral as the Swedes. Although the two sexes used the vapor bath together, and the usual salutation was an embrace with the right arm, yet their sense of propriety was so acute that kissing was not tolerated. A Finnish woman expressed the greatest surprise on being told that in many of the countries of Europe men kissed their wives; and said that if her husband should kiss her she would box his ears so, and that he would feel it for a week. The Lapps were taller than they were generally supposed to be. Their Paganism left them 50 years ago, and the only man who was well acquainted with the old legends and superstitions, was now shut up in a Norwegian prison for having committed a murder while under religious excitement. The clergy had great influence over the Lapps. Most of them came from southern Sweden and Norway, and their lot was no enviable one. They lived in huts scarcely better than the average, and they officiated in churches in which fire never was kindled. Said one of the pastors to him: "The words seem to freeze as they leave my mouth, and they fall on the congregation like white snow." The reindeer, which was to the Lapp all that the camel was to the Arab, could never be tamed. They were always liable to turn round and stare at you, and there was no way to start them but by getting out of the sledge, turning them around, and taking one's chance to jump in as one could. But the Lapps had infinite patience with them. He had known a Lapp to start a reindeer fifty times in a day without losing his temper. Mr. Taylor concluded by a graphic description of the dwarf-life of the vegetable kingdom in the North, and the sudden coming of the northern Summer.

MR. ULLMAN ON THE PICCOLOMINI QUESTION.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

Sir: From the tenor of your article in to-day's Tribune, I think that you are not aware of the course pursued by Masseras and Trobriand as regards Mlle. Piccolomini. You will see that criticism has nothing to do with it. It is simply an unprovoked outrage, which you as well as the public must condemn.

I send you the card written before I saw your article, and I expect from your sense of justice that you will give it a place in your editorial columns as the other papers do. Very respectfully, B. Ullman.

New-York, Nov. 19, 1858.

MLLE. PICCOLOMINI—TO THE PUBLIC.

In answer to what the editors of the French paper call "mensonges ehontes," I must say that I would have given them credit for more sagacity—more editorial sagacity—than they display in prolonging a discussion in which public opinion goes so much against them. Facts are obstinate, and the manoeuvers of the small representatives of a grand nation have been known for years; but I will let those facts speak for themselves, and submit to public condemnation the following extracts from an article by Masseras, which appeared in Tuesday's paper:

FIRST EXTRACT:

"The princely title of Mlle. Piccolomini has been, as is known, the object of more than one doubt and of more than one controversy, but amid all these affirmations and negations, no precise information has transpired to solve this question until now. A word or two will do it. The father of the pretended Princess singer is only a simple citizen, like you or me, and he bore the modest name of Clementini until the day the nation seized him, to throw dust in the eyes of the public. On that occasion it was discovered that Madame Clementini, his wife, was descended, more or less remotely, from some branch of the Piccolomini family, and it was readily seen what advantage might be taken of this providential connection. I ought to add that this discovery and the mode of using it was less the work of the artiste herself," &c.

And again:

"Great talk has been made of the opposition that Mlle. Piccolomini met with from her noble family against her irresistible desire to go upon the stage. This opposition is not altogether an invention; but it had a very different motion and aim than the one ascribed. It was not the taste of Mlle. Clementini for the theater that was contested by the Cardinal Piccolomini, but simply the right to advertise a name that does not belong to her."

Cowardly as this attack against a helpless young girl must appear, it is nothing in comparison to the heartless proceeding of Masseras or Trobriand, and who did not hesitate to send the paper to Mlle. Piccolomini early on the day of its publication. And on what authority is this attack made? On that of an "old habitue," whom Masseras says it was his "good fortune" (!) to meet on the lobby of the Philadelphia Academy of Music.

The public will be rejoiced to hear that Mlle. Piccolomini's father, as a member of the princely house of Piccolomini, has, from a pardonable family pride, instituted legal proceedings against Masseras, and it is to be hoped that the reckless calumniator will meet with his deserts. In the mean time I offer as evidence Mlle. Piccolomini's original passport, as well as that of her father, from their own Government. Here it is:

In nome di sua altezza Imperiale e Reale

"LEOPOLDO SECONDO,

"Principe Imperiale d'Austria &c. e Gran Duca de Toscana, &c., &c., invitiamo a lasciare liberamente passare.

"S. E. la nobile Comtessa Maria Piccolomini, nativo di Siena, di anni 21," born in Sienna, twenty-one years of age, &c.

Now, it is well known that passports in Italy are only granted on exhibition of the certificate of birth, and of all requisite family papers. Her father possesses a similar passport, speaking of him as his Excellency the noble Count Charles Piccolomini, and both are signed by Bargagli, dated April 2, 1857.

Masseras, however, is not satisfied with that, and he goes on in the following manner:

"It would appear that there is a piquant odyssey which might be written of the true career of Mlle. Clementini, and of all the fantastic triumphs that have been got up for her. For instance: At Florence she received, it was asserted, a double ovation, as an artiste and a countrywoman. Followed to her house by the crowds, she was called out upon the balcony, when she was reported to have said, in the style of an ancient Roman, 'Italians, reserve you enthusiasm for the emancipation of our country!' It is only necessary to reflect that this is said to have occurred under the paternal regime of the Austrian Government, to be convinced that it is too grand to be true. Inflexible history, however, goes further. It assures us that, unwisely appearing before a Florentine audience in the powerful role of Lucrezia Borgia, Mlle. Clementini obtained, on that occasion, a very different result than that of a triumph."

This is another gross fabrication. The ovation alluded to did not happen in Florence, but in Central Turin, where the expressions quoted were quite apropros. Mlle. Piccolomini was then singing "La Traviata," under the management of Signor Ronzani, who is now in this country, and cheerfully will bear witness to the fact.

The malicious distortion of facts by Masseras may be seen by comparing what he relates of the performance of Lucrezia Borgia, at Florence, by Mlle. Piccolomini, with what really occurred. She was just sixteen years of age at that time. Despite of her extremely youthful appearance, her intensness of acting, her passionate and correct conception of the role carried her through the first act amid enthusiastic applause. But, when in the celebrated Duo in the second act with the Duke, she said to him, with tragic gesture, the menacing words of the poet, "Remember, you are my fourth husband," the audience could not resist giving way to laughter, especially as a wag in the gallery, in a loud tone of voice, inquired of her, "At what age did you marry the first?" This was too much even for the young artiste herself, who, with a quick conception of the ludicrous and a love of fun, forgot the seriousness of her rôle, and joined the general laughter.

She subsequently played the part of Lucrezia twenty-four consecutive times during the two months of the season, which does not look at all like a "fiasco."

In conclusion, I announce that Mlle. Piccolomini, previous to her departure, will appear as Lucrezia Borgia, when the public can judge for themselves. B. ULLMAN.

THE BIBLE IN SCHOOLS.

INTERESTING CORRESPONDENCE.

New-York, Nov. 15, 1858.

George B. Cheever, D. D.—*Rev. and Dear Sir:* The question of the "Right of the Bible in our Public Schools" has begun again to attract general attention, and as you have heretofore made it a subject of careful investigation, the undersigned respectfully request that you will deliver a discourse upon it at your earliest convenience.

HORACE GREELEY,	ERASTUS BROOKS,
WM. M. EVARTS,	E. W. CHESTER,
WM. CURTIS NOYES,	JOHN D. SHERWOOD,
CHAS. ABERNETHY,	BENJAMIN N. MARTIN,
CHARLES BUTLER,	SAMUEL HOTALING,
MARSHALL O. ROBERTS,	HENRY A. HARTT, M. D.,
JOSEPH HONIE,	THOMAS RIGNEY,
W. E. DODGE,	SIMEON DRAPER,
R. H. McCURDY,	CHAUNCEY W. MOORE.

New-York, Nov. 18, 1858.

To Messrs. Horace Greeley, W. M. Evarts *and Others.*

Gentlemen: I have received your kind request this day, and shall be happy to preach a discourse on the very important subject proposed next Sabbath evening.

Very respectfully yours, GEORGE B. CHEEVER.

In accordance with the above request, the Rev. Dr. Cheever will deliver a discourse on the "Right of the "Bible in our Public Schools," in the Church of the Puritans, on Union square. Services at 7½ o'clock.

THE AMERICAN SUNDAY-SCHOOL UNION

In arranging the missionary work of our Society for the current year, it was assumed by the Committee having this matter specially in charge, that our receipts, in the form of donations and collections, would amount, at least, to the sum left at our disposal last year, after paying the salaries and expenses of collecting agents; and, therefore, it was considered safe to conduct this much-needed pioneer work upon the scale adopted in former years.

The commissions of a number of our collecting agents did not expire until August 1, so that but three months have passed since the full adoption of our new system, during which time our receipts have not materially fallen off. The most conclusive evidence has been received, showing that the position recently assumed by our Board in regard to the collection of funds has met with general favor and we have no doubt of its ultimate success. But as it is absolutely necessary that our current receipts should equal our expenditures, and as we cannot think of dismissing our estimable corps of missionaries now in the field, or of turning a deaf ear to the daily calls for the gratuitous supply of books, and as our fiscal year closes February 29, less than four months from the present date, and it is possible that, in some instances, the claims of our Institution may be overlooked or pushed aside by the multiplicity of causes, importunately asking assistance, it is thought proper thus publicly to remind our friends of our wants and expectations, and most earnestly to invite their prompt and liberal cooperation. The organization of about *two thousand new Sunday Schools a year*, in places a majority of which have no church organizations or other means of religious instruction, and the gratuitous supplying of several thousands of poor and needy schools with libraries and other Sunday-School requisites, is a work which commends itself to all Christians and patriots, and should not be arrested for the want of money to sustain it.

Will not Pastors, in view of these facts, take this matter in hand, and forward to our Treasurer whatever their congregations may contribute in aid of this cause?

Will not Sunday-school Superintendents and Teachers interest their Schools in this blessed mission to neglected children, and turn their contributions into this highly appropriate channel?

Will not individuals, who have not made their donations this year, forward them, whether large or small, without delay, by mail or otherwise?

Let all who read this paper remember that their present decision and future conduct, in regard to this call for voluntary contributions, may have a most serious influence in settling two great questions:

1. How much shall be done in the future by the American Sunday-School Union in providing religious instruction for three or four millions of neglected children and youth in our own country, now ready to perish for lack of knowledge? 2. Shall the first of our National Union Societies, that has resolved upon the abandonment of an expensive, and in many other respects objectionable, system of collections be sustained, and the whole subject of Christian benevolence be put upon a proper basis; or shall the old and justly odious collecting agency system be practically admitted to be a necessity?

While we most earnestly appeal to our friends for prompt and liberal pecuniary aid, we no less earnestly ask an interest in the prayers of the pious of every name, that God's blessing may rest upon our institution in all its beneficent operations, and affectionately invite all lovers of the Sunday-school cause to join with us in most devout thanksgivings for recent blessings, and for our present enlarged prospective usefulness.

By order of the Committee on Missions,

R. S. WESTBROOK, Secretary of Missions.

J. H. BURTIS, Associate Secretary.

Philadelphia, Nov. 10, 1858.

N. B.—All moneys should be directed to W. T. Chenev, Treasurer, American Sunday-School Union, Philadelphia.

Nothing was done in the Mayor's Office yesterday, as the Mayor was sick, and unable to attend to business. He started to go to the City Hall, but was overtaken by dizziness, and could do no business, and so he was compelled to go home.

CITY ITEMS.

Philharmonic Society.—The first concert of the seventeenth season takes place this evening at Niblo's Garden. The pieces to be performed are a symphony in D minor by Yade; overture, "Siege of Corinth," by Rossini, and a stringed quartet by Spohr. Miss Anden, Mr P. Mayer, Louis Schreiber, E. Mollenhauer, J. Noll, and F. Bergner will assist. Conductor, Carl Bergmann.

Mechanics Society Lectures.—The regular course of this society for the Winter, will be commenced at the Cooper Institute, on Monday evening, by the Rev. Dr. Bethune, whose theme is "Common Sense." The list of lecturers engaged presents some of the best names in the country.

Memory.—Madam L. Parker advertises in another column a lecture on "The Philosophy of Memory," at the Cooper Institute on Monday evening next.

Among the passengers who go out in the Kangaroo for Liverpool to-day are Philo Hurd (late President of the Harlem Railroad), lady and daughter. They leave on a pleasure tour to Europe.

"A Thanksgiving Offering" for the poor woman who was burnt out at Crystal Palace, mentioned in this morning's Tribune—$1.

Also,

In aid of the poor widow of the Crystal Palace—$1.

FRANK.

We also heard of "a check for $50," which our informant thought would take the same direction. Who can tell the sum of happiness that these "offerings" will bring to that desolate home? Who can tell the power of a kind word? What if the little word of truth uttered in The Tribune on "Thanksgiving morning" should bring aid sufficient to enable that unfortunate woman to establish herself again in business that would once more support her family. Parties may refer to John H. White, the Receiver of the late Crystal Palace, or to S. R., Tribune Office.

Alleged Outrage and Robbery of a Young Girl.—On Thursday evening Miss Mary Galloway, a young girl 17 years of age, residing at No. 242 East Fourteenth street, and an employee in a mantilla store in Broadway, called upon a young lady friend, corner of Grand and Elizabeth streets, and remained until nine o'clock, when she set out for home. While passing through Avenue A, she was followed by half a dozen rowdies, in order to avoid whom she walked some distance out of her way, but they still kept close behind her. In Seventeenth street, near Avenue A, one of the ruffians ran up and seizing her by the arm, with the assistance of the remainder of the gang dragged her into an old unoccupied stable, and threw her violently upon the floor. She screamed loudly for help, upon which one of the ruffians said, "choke the d——d vagabond." Whereupon another of the gang placed his hand over her mouth to prevent her from making any noise, and held her down by placing his knees upon her breast. The same fellow tore open her dress to search for money, but finding none, he took her mantilla or victorine, and secreted it under his coat. She was still held upon the floor and gagged while each of the ruffians in their turn outraged her.

After satisfying their passions the ruffians ran off, leaving the poor girl in a state of partial insensibility. In a little time she recovered somewhat and crawled into the street where she was soon after found by a policeman who conveyed her to the Station-House, where she told the story of her wrongs.

About midnight Officers Fuller, Cummings and Arson of the Eighteenth Precinct were sent in search of the ruffians, and in the course of their explorations of their district, heard a noise in a house in Sixteenth street, near Avenue A, in the rear of the stable where the outrage was committed. As the officers entered for the purpose of quelling the disturbance two fellows (who answered the partial description given by the girl) fled into the street. This circumstance excited the suspicions of the officers and the fellows were pursued, arrested and taken to the Station-House, where they gave their names as Patrick Gunning and Archibald Brown. They were confronted with Miss Galloway, who at once identified them, and recognized Gunning as the fellow who first seized her and who subsequently held his hand over her mouth and his knee across her breast. The prisoners at first denied in the most strenuous manner all knowledge of the affair, but subsequently Gunning admitted that he knew the party who had the victorine. The remainder of the brutal gang are still at large, but as they are known there can be little doubt but that they will be arrested.

The prisoners were taken to the Jefferson Market Police Court and committed for examination. Gunning in his examination said he was guilty of the rape but not of the robbery.

The Late Assault upon a Sheriff.—Thomas Kelly, Captain of the steam-tug Fulton, and Bryan Kenney, arrested on Thanksgiving-Day for an aggravated assault upon Mr. Beatty, Sheriff of Hudson County N. J., and his deputy, Philo Snow, were yesterday taken before Justice Connolly at the Lower Police Court. Sheriff Beatty and Officer Snow appeared at the Court and made affidavits against the accused, setting forth that some nights ago the steam-tug Fulton, then in their custody by virtue of two writs of attachment issued out of the Circuit Court of Hudson County, N. J., was stolen from them, and that, on the 18th inst. they came to this county to repossess themselves of the boat. On going on board for that purpose they were attacked by the accused, who beat them with their fists and a club, cutting and bruising both seriously. The case was adjourned until Monday next for examination. The accused contend that Sheriff Beatty transcended his authority in coming into the State of New-York to seize the craft.

Those Twenty thousand Complaints.—The Annual Report of the General Superintendent of Police, just issued, announces the humiliating fact that 19,902 complaints for the violation of the statute against the Sunday liquor traffic have been lodged with the District-Attorney, *not one of which has been prosecuted.* Is the law an obsolete affair? On the contrary, it is a part of the statute under which the Metropolitan Police force was organized. District-Attorney Hall, in his "instructions to patrolmen," says he is "charged "by law with a duty whose disobedience renders him "liable to a prosecution for misdemeanor himself." Eighteen months have gone by, and twenty thousand out of the millions of actual violations of the statute are filed in the Attorney's office—unheeded. Is not this shameful? Is there a remedy? Must the District-Attorney be "prosecuted for misdemeanor" in order to reach the offeders ranged in such formidable numbers behind his bureau?

An Old Trick.—Some eight or ten days ago, a young man, calling himself James W. Benjamin, called at the boarding-house of Mrs. Voorhees, in Amity street, and engaged board for himself. Benjamin was put in a room with Martin Mahony, and for aught known both got along very comfortably together. About 5 o'clock Thursday evening Benjamin came home and went to his room, and while there the servant girl, who had occasion to enter the apartment, saw a large bundle lying upon his bed. Soon after Benjamin came down to supper, and it was not long thereafter that Mr. Mahony discovered that some of his clothing had been stolen. Benjamin was at once accused of the robbery, and given into the custody of an officer. A few minutes before suppertime the landlady saw a bundle lying upon the sidewalk which corresponded with the description of the one the girl saw on Benjamin's bed. Benjamin was committed to prison to await his trial at the Court of Special Sessions. Mr. O. H. Hubart and Mr. P. A. C. Allen also lost some clothing from their rooms, and suppose that it was taken by Benjamin.

Arrest of a Broker.—Detective officers Wilde and McDougal, yesterday evening arrested John B. Meader, a broker doing business at No. 5 Hanover street, charged with forging the name of Mr. G. M. Hoyt, to a promissory note for $700, dated August 19, 1858, and made payable six months after date. Meader sold the note to A. E. Loring of Broadway, and upon its maturity it was presented to Mr. Hoyt, who pronounced it a forgery, stating that he did not sign his name to the same, or authorize any one so to do. Meader says he received the note to get it discounted, but it did not appear from whom he obtained it.

The broker was taken to the Jefferson Market Police Court and held for examination.

Arrest of a Stage-Driver for Causing the Death of a Lady.—Martin Fagan, a stage-driver, was arrested on Friday, charged with homicide in causing the death of Mrs. Harriet Fazan, late of Greenwich street, by carelessness with his stage. It appears that on the 3th ult. Mrs. Fazan, while getting out of Fagan's stage, got her dress entangled in consequence of the driver not waiting long enough for her to get out, and was dragged for nearly the length of a block before the driver stopped his stage, and when he did so he started his horses again as soon as possible, and drove rapidly away. Mrs. Fazan was so severely injured that she died on the 10th inst., and a Coroner's Jury charged Fagan with gross carelessness. On his arrest yesterday he was required by Coroner Connery, to give bail to await the action of the Grand Jury.

A Child Killed by Falling upon a Pair of Scissors.—Coroner Gamble held an inquest on Friday at No. 19 Ganzevoort street, upon the body of Mary Stammens, a girl 12 years of age, who died from the effects of a wound received on the 10th inst., by falling upon a pair of scissors which pierced the jugular vein. The Jury rendered a verdict of "Accidental death."

Watch Robberies.—A young man named Dennis Diegan was arrested on Thursday night, charged with stealing a gold watch and chain from Edward Purcell, residing in Eleventh avenue, near Forty-first street. It appears that Purcell was lying asleep upon a sofa in the back room of Mr. Fitzsimmon's house, in Forty-second street, when Diegan entered the apartment, and sat down near him. In a little time thereafter, Diegan went out, and was followed by Fitzsimmons, who suspected something wrong. The accused attempted to escape by running, but was overtaken and captured, and the watch found in his possession. Justice Quackenbush, yesterday morning, committed Diegan to prison in default of $1,000 bail.

On Thanksgiving Day, Mr. Thomas Hand set out to celebrate the occasion after his own fashion, and toward night became somewhat "illuminated," but not entirely oblivious to passing events. At 6 o'clock p. m. he left the store of Wm. Pender, corner of Twenty-second street and Third avenue, to go to his house, No. 93 East Twenty-fifth street, when one Wm. Williams, alias George Sampson, offered to do the agreeable and escort him to his residence. The two accordingly left arm in arm, but were followed by James Tuite, who had, it would appear, some suspicions in regard to the character of the accommodating escort. In a little time Williams, as is alleged, put his hand into the pocket of his companion and took therefrom his watch. Mr. Hand discovered what Williams was about, and accused him of the robbery. Both entered a store, where Hand reiterated the charge, Williams solemnly protesting his innocence, and at the same time throwing open his coat and asking all present to search him. Several present believed him innocent, but Hand said he was the thief, and insisted upon detaining him. Williams broke away from his grasp and ran into the street, whither he was pursued by Tuite and arrested, after an exciting chase, corner of Forty-third street and Eighth avenue. The watch was subsequently found in the street near where Williams was taken. The accused was yesterday morning taken to the Second District Police Court, and committed by the Magistrate, in default of $1,000 bail, to await his trial.

Burglary.—Yesterday morning Mr. Charles Wenkenbach, proprietor of the Gymnasium Nos. 53 and 55 West Thirteenth street, was awakened by some person opening the door of his sleeping apartment on the premises above mentioned, and immediately thereafter he saw the reflection of a light through the opening. Mr. Wenkenbach cried out "who's there," upon which the light was extinguished, and he heard the footsteps of some person, in stocking feet retreating down stairs and overturning chairs in the hall. He jumped out of bed and pursued the burglar into the street, where he shouted "stop thief." Officer Garthwaite of the Ninth Precinct, being in the neighborhood, heard the alarm, and seeing a man running, pursued and captured him. The person was taken to the Station-House and searched, when a lot of matches and about $2 in small change was found. Subsequently the officer ascertained that the Gymnasium had been burglariously entered, and Mr. Wenkenbach identified the accused by his stocking feet, the fellow being in that condition when captured by officer Garthwaite. The prisoner gave his name William Jones, and said he was born in New-Jersey and was 23 years of age. He pleaded not guilty. Jones was yesterday morning taken to the Jefferson Market Police Court, and committed by the magistrate in default of $2,000 bail.

Robbery by Boys—Charge of Receiving the Stolen Property.—Two boys, named Frederick Lowe and George Romer, were arrested yesterday on a charge of burglary and robbery, in having feloniously entered the premises of Messrs. Smith & Sons, Stereotypers and Electrotypers, No. 81 Beekman street, and stolen therefrom a large quantity of type. The boy Romer was in the employ of Mr. Smith, and obtained the key on Thanksgiving Day from a store where it was usually left for safe keeping, and with the assistance of his companion, carried off the type in form, and sold it for old metal to one Edward Henry, who was also arrested on a charge of receiving the type, knowing the same to have been stolen. Justice Welsh committed the boys for trial, and held Henry to bail in the sum of $1,500 to answer.

Correction.—The notice that the Rev. T. Starr King would lecture on the 19th inst was an error. It should have been Wednesday evening, Nov. 24. See advertisement.

[Advertisement.]

Grand Gala Day at Barnum's Museum.—A glorious time to-day at Barnum's. Fascinating entertainments This Afternoon and Evening. Thidobon's Mimic World, and its astonishing scenes and models. Dr. Valentine, the prince of humorists, with his magazine of funniments. The Indian Giant; the American Dwarf Lady; the Aquaria, and a million of curiosities beside, all open to admiration.

[Advertisement.]

The Metallic Tablet Strop—Invented by Geo. Saunders, A. D. 1816.—This, the genuine article, has never been equaled for producing the keenest possible edge to a razor. Can be obtained of the subscribers and sole manufacturers, J. & S. Saunders, No. 7 Astor House.

[Advertisement.]

Gas—Gas—Gas Fixtures.—A large assortment of beautiful and entirely new designs will be