NEW-JERSEY ITEMS.

EXHUMATION AND EXCITEMENT AT THE GRAVE-YARD.

Considerable excitement was caused in Jersey City, a short time since, by the announcement of the existence of a system of tenement graves, several bodies being buried in one grave, so that a small plot of cemetery ground is made to yield the largest amount of revenue. In one case, at least, it was shown that a whitewood coffin had been substituted for a mahogany one after the remains had been interred. The affair came to light in this manner: A few weeks since, two Germans, Christian Yost and Wm. Fautner, both residents of Jersey City, having lost children a short time previous, and buried them at the New-York Bay Cemetery, were talking about erecting head-stones and beautifying the graves.

Further conversation revealed the fact that both bodies were buried in the same grave. The next day, Yost and Fautner proceeded to the cemetery, and were then informed that it was customary in the "strangers' ground" to fill the graves with a number of coffins, the price being at a less rate than for a single grave. The parties ordered the remains of their children to be disinterred for the purpose of removing them to the Jersey City Cemetery. The third coffin taken out Mr. Wood, the Superintendent, informed Mr. Yost was that of his little girl. The latter said that could not be, as the coffin in which she was buried was a mahogany one, while this was a whitewood coffin. Mr. Wood felt positive, and procured a screwdriver with which he raised the lid, and Mr. Yost declared that it was the body of his child.

The bodies were then taken to the Jersey City Cemetery, and buried. Yost then brought a suit for damages against the undertaker, Mr. Edward Hope, jr., of Jersey City, on the above charge, which resulted in a disagreement of the Jury. A second suit has been commenced before Recorder Bedford, and is set down for trial a week hence.

Mr. Hope, in his investigations preparatory to the coming trial, came in possession of facts which led him to believe that Mr. Yost had removed the body of a little boy 16 months old, son of Joseph Olin of Greenville, which was buried on the same day or the following one, with that of the body of Mr. Yost's child.

Accordingly, it was decided that on Saturday morning, all the parties interested should visit the cemeteries and cause the bodies to be disinterred in order, if possible, to set the matter right. Accompanying the party was Dr. Morris, Mr. Speer, undertaker in Jersey City; Mr. Steward, undertaker at No. 137 Grand street, New-York; Wm. H. Jelliffe, counsel for Mr. Yost; Mr. Wood, Superintendent of the New-York Bay Cemetery, and a number of others.

On arriving at the Jersey City Cemetery, Mr. Yost declined to deliver the order for the exhuming of the coffin, without assigning any reason for so doing. Finally the grave was opened, and upon removing the entire lid Mrs. Olin and her husband at once exclaimed that that was their child, while the other parties said the child was not theirs (Yost's). Mrs. Yost, who is quite a large woman, thereupon became very frantic, and denounced Mr. Hope in a vehement manner, calling him a "d—d thief," "you are a grave-robber," "you have stolen our child," at the same time following him up and brandishing her fists, winding up by saying she would throw him down in the grave and then spit upon him. The body was very much decomposed, and to all appearance had never been removed from the coffin in which it had first been placed. Dr. Morris and Mr. Steward were very positive that such was the case. The coffin was a whitewood one, the same kind purchased by Olin, and from which Mr. Wood split a piece from the lid at the time Mr. Yost first caused the grave to be opened. The grave-digger says the grave has only been opened once since the interment—and that at the request of Mr. Yost, in order to procure a portion of the lid to be produced at the trial.

The party then proceeded to New-York Bay Cemetery, and took from the vault another coffin, which was exhumed on Friday, and, upon being opened, Yost identified the body, beyond a doubt, as that of his child.

The proof that the body could not have been changed from one coffin to another was more convincing than in the first case. A thick white mould was attached from the shroud and sides of the head to the coffin, which could not have been the case, had the body been disturbed, and in both cases the positions were natural, which does not seem to be possible in their advanced state of decomposition had they been tampered with.

The investigation before Recorder Bedford will probably take place.

On the other hand, Mr. Hope has suffered much from the publicity of the case, and signifies his intention to prosecute the proprietors of two or three papers that gave the matter premature publicity.

The coffin in which Mr. Yost's child was found was a mahogany one. The party returned to Jersey City about noon.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT ON THE RAILROAD TRACK.—About 10 o'clock on Saturday night, a man, whose name was understood to be E. H. Lombard, residing either at Binghamton or Elmira, was run over at the Greene-street crossing in Jersey City and dreadfully injured, having sustained a compound fracture of the right leg, the foot being completely crushed, and two severe contusions on the head. For the past three years the injured man has been in the habit of traveling back and forth on the New-York and Erie Railroad as a gold-pen peddler. On Saturday night he was a passenger on the Erie Road, and as the train stopped on signal just below the Grove-street crossing, Lombard got off the cars and walked toward the depot on the track.

The Erie train passed him, and, a moment after, the Newark train came down, the locomotive of which was cut loose, passing down on the track, while the train of cars were switched off to another track for the purpose of running them into the depot. Lombard, in getting out of the way of the locomotive, stepped in front of the cars, when he was struck and injured as above stated. Drs. Olcott and Quidor were called, and attended the injured man, after which he was sent to the New-York Hospital. Should he survive, amputation of the right leg will be necessary. The locality where the accident occurred is very dangerous, even in the daytime, as there are a number of tracks over which 106 regular trains pass daily, beside freight trains and drill engines. At night, the place is poorly lighted, there being but one ordinary gas-light at the end of the old depot, and a street lamp at the corner.

THE NEW-JERSEY LEGISLATURE.—*The Newark Mercury* of Saturday contains the following obituary:

"The Legislature has adjourned, whereat let all the people rejoice. Had the session closed two months ago, the State would not have been the loser. Its legislation has mainly been for the benefit of private corporations, and its labors, as a whole, have added nothing to the real honor of the Commonwealth. Among the Moslems, a dolt is an object of superior veneration. When he dies, there gathers around his bier a crowd of turbans, "like the leaves of the forest when Summer is gone." Did such a custom obtain in New-Jersey, it is clear that some of the members of the Legislature just adjourned would be regarded with eminent respect—treated, indeed, with the profoundest homage by their cotemporaries."

FIRE IN A TENEMENT HOUSE.—On Friday forenoon, about 11 o'clock, a fire occurred in a house occupied by several families, and situated at the foot of Bergen Hill, in Jersey City. Owing to a high wind and the distant location of the fire companies, the building was entirely consumed. The building was owned by Mr. Jackson, whose loss amounts to $1,500, upon which there was no insurance. An adjoining house was set on fire, but it was soon extinguished.

BROOKLYN ITEMS.

THE STREET COMMISSIONERSHIP.—Mr. Robert Furey, the regular Democratic nominee for the office of Street Commissioner, having declined, the Convention was called together on Saturday night, and nominated Mr. Charles Finney to fill the vacancy. Mr. Finney is now the nominee of both factions of the Democratic party. Mr. Finney is an Alderman, and according to the Charter is therefore incompetent to hold any other office of public trust during the term for which he was elected. Mr. John Williams is the Republican candidate for the same office.

FIRING CANNON IN THE PARK.—As will be seen by the following order from the Mayor to the Deputy Superintendent of Police, the practice of firing cannon in the Park at political meetings is to be prohibited hereafter:

"MARCH 24, 1860.

"JOHN S. FOLK, ESQ., *Deputy Superintendent of Police*: The practice of discharging guns in the City Hall Park, about the time of election, has been a frequent subject of complaint. You are therefore directed to prevent the practice entirely in the future, without regard to the parties or persons who may desire to engage in it. Yours, SAMUEL S. POWELL, Mayor."

CITY MORTALITY.—The total number of deaths in this city, last week, was 131; of which 22 were men, 23 women, 41 boys, and 45 girls. The principal diseases were: Consumption, 20; scarlet fever, 15; convulsions, infantile, 11; inflammation of the lungs, 11; croup, 9; dropsy in the head, 7; small pox, 3; heart disease, 5; marasmus, infantile, 4. Under one year of age 27. Natives of the United States, 95; Ireland, 20; England, 6; Scotland, 3; Germany, 1; Wales, 1; unknown, 5.

REPUBLICAN DELEGATES TO THE STATE CONVENTION.—The Republican Convention of the Fifth Assembly District met on Saturday night, and selected as Delegates to the State Convention Messrs. Charles Jones of the Ninth Ward, and Lucius C. Andrus of the Eleventh Ward.

DROWNED.—About one o'clock yesterday morning, Officer Ryder of the Third Precinct police heard a cry for help proceeding from the dock, foot of Warren street. On going to the place he found a man named Patrick Fay struggling in the water. The officer drew him out as speedily as possible, and conducted him to the Station-House, where everything possible was done in his behalf, but to no effect. He died a few minutes thereafter. Fay resided in Douglass street, near Bond, where he leaves a wife and family. He was employed as watchman at the pork-packing establishment, foot of Degraw street. The Coroner held an inquest, and a verdict in accordance with the facts was rendered.

SHOOTING AFFRAY.—An affray occurred in Hamilton avenue near Columbia street, between 12 and 1 o'clock on Sunday morning, in which a man named Peter Farrell was shot with a pistol in the hands of William Cummings. It appears that Cummings and two friends were on their return from a raffle in Gowanus, and were attacked and maltreated by some half dozen men. Cummings drew a pistol and fired at the principal assailant, Farrell, which had the effect of scaring his companions, who ran off. Cummings and his friends took refuge in a neighboring shanty, where he was arrested by Officer Hedger of the Harbor Police, who gave him in charge of officer Rourke of the Thirtieth Precinct Police. The pistol had grazed Farrell's forehead. The wound is not serious. Cummings was locked up to await a hearing.

BURGLARY.—On Saturday night the dwelling of Mr. Henry Pashley, on Division avenue, near Tenth street, was entered by burglars, who gained ingress by means of nippers. A number of articles were taken, in all of the value of $47. As yet the Police have obtained no clue to the thieves.

FIRES.—At 8½ o'clock on Saturday night a fire was discovered in the distillery of George Beits, situated in Nort First street, near Tenth street, E. D. Before the firemen succeeded in extinguishing the flames the stock was damaged to the extent of $300 and the building about $100. Both were fully insured.

An alarm of fire, about 1 o'clock on Sunday morning, was caused by the burning of the wood-house of John Carroll, No. 271 Myrtle avenue. The flames extended to the roof of tenement No. 269, owned by Mrs. Farrell, which was damaged to the extent of about $200. No insurance.

CAPTURE OF A BURGLAR.—A colored man named Peter Ferguson was arrested by officers Leick and Lyon of the Ninth Ward on Saturday on the charge of having feloniously entered the house of Mrs. George North in Bedford, on the night of the 16th inst. He was committed for examination.

BOARD OF TEN GOVERNORS.

A special meeting of this Board was held in the Rotunda on Saturday noon, President B. F. PINCKNEY in the chair. Absentees, Messrs. Gunther, Wm. T. Pinkney, Smith, and Townsend.

The PRESIDENT said that he had convened the Board in consequence of serious charges that had appeared in THE N. Y. TRIBUNE of the 23d instant, reflecting upon the public and private reputation of the members of the Board. In the article alluded to, specific charges had been made charging members with drunkenness, corruption, and malfeasance. If the charges were true he could not associate or even hold public communication with the guilty parties. The article, in his opinion, demanded some action on the part of the Board. He expected that Governors Gunther and Wm. T. Pinkney would be present directly, and regretted that in consequence of serious illness Governors Townsend and Smith would be unable to attend, as he desired a full representation. The Board, the same new as heretofore, courted a thorough investigation and in order to bring the matter before the Board he would present the following preamble and resolution:

Whereas, in THE TRIBUNE of the issue of March 23 grave and serious charges of corruption and malfeasance were made upon the members of this Board, reflecting upon their private as well as their public reputation, demanding thorough investigation, Therefore,

Resolved, That a Committee of Three be appointed to investigate the charges, and fasten responsibility upon the parties making the same.

Mr. BRUENINGHAUSEN—I make as an amendment, Mr. President, "and to furnish the name of the author."

The PRESIDENT remarked that the names of all concerned would appear upon the investigation.

Mr. OLIVER, having attained the floor, said that the article in THE TRIBUNE, so far as he knew, was untrue, and that it was a most outrageous attack upon the members of the Board. It was a recognized fact that every public officer, whether State or Municipal, was a fair subject for comment by the public press. Their acts were public property, and the press had a right to descant upon them. He had been in this Board nearly five years, and he defied any one to say aught in regard to his course as a public officer. Almost every word in the article in question was false and untrue as far as his knowledge was concerned, and the falsity of it would be made apparent upon an investigation. It had been concocted by some person who was under this Board, and no one but a mean, contemptible individual would lend his hand, or connive at the publication of such a scurrilous article. He felt assured that the principal person who had concocted it was one who had been discharged or degraded, and had thus sought, in a cowardly manner, to revenge himself. The article in question characterized the institutions as dram-shops. It was true that upon several public occasions wine had been drank upon the Islands, and he believed that the reporters were here at a meeting of the Board last Fall, when the liquor matter was brought up, and a resolution passed to prohibit any liquor or wine from being so dispensed. It was also asserted that each Governor had a private closet filled with the choicest wines, liquors, and cigars, which he kept under lock and key, where he and his friends went and debauched. It was charged that five Governors got drunk upon the Island, and slept under the table. This was new to him, and he did not believe there was a word of truth in such assertions. He would say unequivocally that the charges were false, and he would call for the proof, but he knew that no proof could be brought forward. The charges, he reiterated, were without truth, and entitled to no consideration whatever from the public. It was no doubt a matter of personal animosity on the part of one or more persons, who had been turned away by the Board for non-attention to their duties, or had been degraded by being assigned to inferior positions. These persons were desirous of having the law changed in a manner to suit themselves, so that they could obtain positions whereby they might control the public institutions. These men had furnished the facts, but he did not in reality think that the article had passed under the supervision of the recognized head of the paper. Why did not the projectors of the vile libel put their names to it—any anonymous attack was cowardly. The article, though not editorial, had been put in the paper in such a way that it was the property of the paper, and the proprietors he knew were responsible for it. He knew that the proprietors did not write it, but if there was any truth in the matter let it be made known. It was intended to have an effect upon the Legislature at Albany. If there was any truth in the matter the Board should be abolished, and if his record was not right, he was willing to be ejected. The author of the article had done a cowardly and mean thing in thus wholesaling away the characters of the members of the Board generally. He then reviewed many of the points set forth alluding to a race which it was said took place between the Penitentiary boats. He had never heard of any boat racing, and, even suppose, said he, the Governors should stimulate the boatmen to a trial of speed, he would ask if it was criminal? The document would show what he had done, and he for one would court public investigation.

The question upon the resolution was called for, when Mr. GUNTHER came in and asked for the resolution to be again read, which was done. Mr. GUNTHER said he did not exactly approve of the resolution, and he thought that it would look very singular that a committee should be appointed from their own body. He thought that the matter should be referred to some one else, the Common Council, or some other body with equal powers. He would suggest the Legislature.

Mr. DUGRO—That's what I was about to do. Mr. President, I would offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Honorable, the Legislature of this State, be requested to appoint a committee to investigate the affairs of this Department, with power to send for persons and papers.

He thought that would be the best course to pursue, and both resolutions could be passed, as there were some matters there set forth that a Committee of this Board would like to investigate. His resolution would not interfere with, the other. At his request the Clerk had prepared a correct list of their aggregate expenditures for the past nine years. The number of inmates for three or four years had been unavoidably omitted, as the figures could not be readily got at. He desired to present the figures to the Board, and they were as follows:

	Buildings and Repairs.	Support.	Inmates.
1851	$62,979 02	$415,587 54	....
1852	62,901 89	438,994 29	....
1853	76,949 00	464 331 66	....
1854	87,000 40	572,705 48	....
1855	90,250 29	746,421 71	about 5,867
1856	79,554 73	618,494 33	6,921
1857	132,242 96	656 224 75	7,919
1858	169,071 21	696,157 01	7,613
1859	181,641 82	612,463 95	7,982

Both the resolutions were adopted, and after the appointment of Messrs. W. T. Pinkney, W. Smith, and G. G. Gunther as such Committee, the Board adjourned. The President, on motion, was added to the Committee.

FALSE PRETENSES.—A Brooklyn broker, named James G. Fountain, is accused of having obtained $25 from John P. Roberts of No. 340 Broadway, by means of false representations. It is alleged that, on the 22d of December last, the accused called on Mr. Roberts and stated that he had money deposited in the bank, and desired to borrow $25. Mr. Roberts gave him the money, taking Fountain's check on the St. Nicholas Bank for the amount. The check was presented and pronounced worthless, which prompted the arrest of Fountain on Saturday. Judge Kelly held the prisoner to answer.

ANOTHER MYSTERIOUS AFFAIR.

The Oyster Sloop Spray Sunk near Barnegat

The Captain and his Brother Missing.

Capt. J. Webb of the schooner Thomas E. French arrived on Saturday from Suffolk, Va., and called upon Capt. Weed of the Second Precinct, to inform him of a mysterious circumstance which had transpired during his voyage hither. Capt. Webb also narrated the facts to our reporter, and they are substantially as follows:

On the 21st inst., when about four miles north of Barnegat, he fell in with a sloop lying on her beam-ends, with apparently no one on board. A short distance to the windward lay a yawl-boat, anchored, containing a Chinaman. Though the sea was quite rough, he took things very easily, making no signs for assistance to any of the numerous vessels in the neighborhood. Capt. Webb motioned to him to cut his painter, which he did, and was taken aboard. He pretended not to understand English, and when asked what had become of his captain, made signs that he was drowned. After a while, however, when the men joked him, he became more communicative, and told a confused and suspicious story.

Although much of it is undoubtedly untrue, yet enough has been confirmed to present a striking coincidence with the facts connected with the horrible E. A. Johnson case, and to render it more than probable that a similar murder may have been committed in the present instance. The Chinaman's first statement was that he was a seaman on board the Spray, of Guilford, Conn., Capt. Leete, which was the sloop seen on her beam ends when he was picked up; that she had that day been in collision with the Lucinda of Rockaway, and had sunk in a few minutes after the collision, carrying with her the Captain and his brother, who were the only persons on board beside himself. Afterward he said the main sheet had struck the captain and knocked him overboard; at another time, that the captain was standing on the bowsprit at the moment of the collision, and was thrown over by its force; lastly, that the captain was sick in the cabin, and so went down with the sloop.

But Capt. Webb had occasion to run into Little Egg Harbor, and there found the sloop Lucinda, in a disabled condition. Her master stated distinctly that, at the time of the collision, he saw no one aboard the Spray but the Chinaman, and that the deck of the sloop was strewn with bedding, furniture, &c., as if the cabin had been plundered and the contents scattered on deck. Capt. Webb found, however, in the yawl-boat with the Chinaman, nothing but a compass, hatchet, and a few provisions, so that if any murder has been committed, it would seem to have been instigated by revenge, rather than by a desire for plunder.

In corroboration of this, it is said that the Chinaman, who is well known among our boatmen by the name of John Lord, or "Jackalord," has sailed with the missing captain, Leete, for several years; that over a year ago he stole a considerable sum of money from his superior and ran off to New-Haven, where he was captured and brought back to New-York. Capt. Leete, however, refused to appear against him, and again took him into service. He is said to possess the dogged, revengeful, Chinese disposition, and it is not unlikely that he never forgave the man whom he had injured.

Under the circumstances known to Captain Webb, it seems very singular that he did not closely confine the Chinaman, and bring him at once to the United States authorities in this city. On the contrary, he allowed him to come on shore with him in a small boat, ungarded, and, as soon as the land was reached, Jackalord made a spring and disappeared through the crowd, since which time he has not been seen. The sloop Spray now lies where Capt. Webb found her, exposed to the full force of the waves, and is now being stripped by the wreckers. The matter should receive an immediate and thorough investigation at the hands of the proper authorities.

LATEST PARTICULARS.

From our Marine Reporter.

In our edition of Friday we published a paragraph, stating that the pilot-boat George Steers, No. 6, came up the day previous, and reported that, when off Barnegat, at 2 p. m., she saw two sloops come in collision, one of which sank soon afterwards. The George Steers left again, the following day, for sea, and arrived at the city yesterday at 10 a. m., with a sloop in tow. Upon boarding the pilot-boat, we gathered the following information: On Wednesday, the 21st inst., at 2 p. m., when about four or five miles to the northward of Barnegat, the pilot on the Steers saw two sloops, sailing in opposite directions (one of which was quite small—the other was about 30 tons), come in collision. The small sloop, which was bound to the northward, had her bowsprit carried away, while the other ran near the beach and anchored.

They saw but one man on board the one that anchored, and he was in the act of lowering away the yawl, while the vessel was apparently sinking. Several vessels were at the time quite near to her; some standing south, and others north. The people on the Steers would have gone to her, but supposed she would receive assistance from some of the others. The Steers then proceeded to the city, and went to sea again the following day. On the 24th inst., at noon, they came upon a sloop anchored, sunk, and lying upon her beam ends (this was about four miles north of Barnegat). She had been completely stripped of sails and rigging. The pilots immediately resolved to make an effort to get her into port, so they made fast to the mast, which came out, and the vessel righted.

They set the mast adrift, and took the vessel in tow, and brought her to this city. They could not ascertain her name, as her stern was under water; but our shipnews reporter, upon examining the wreck, saw something floating in the cabin, which he fished out. It proved to be a portion of a table; under it was a large burgee, with the name "Spray" upon it, leaving no doubt as to the identity of the vessel. The Spray is a sloop of about 30 tuns, painted flesh color outside, with yellow and red streaks, bulwarks inside green, deck light lead color; she has flush deck, with center board; has had her port quarter stove and patched. There was about the half of a man's shirt clinging to the side, stained with something having the appearance of blood or iron rust.

VENTILATING SCHOOLROOMS.—A large number of persons interested in the heating and ventilation of schoolrooms attended on Friday afternoon the meeting of the Committee of the Board of Education, appointed to consider and report upon plans submitted for these purposes. Prof. Benjamin Silliman, jr., was first introduced to the Committee, as a scientific advocate of the advantages offered by a certain Patent Automatic Steam Heater and Ventilator. He alleged that it was incapable of explosion; that it was guarded against the possibility of setting fire to its adjacents; was self-feeding and self-regulating; that its radiator was the best that could be contrived, and almost the only one that supplies genuine "radiant heat"; that the system of ventilation involved with it was preferable to any other in use. On all these accounts he urged it upon the attention of the Committee. A Mr. Briggs argued that no radiator could equal, for economy and effect, the action of a simple wrought-iron inch pipe, such as we have in common use through the stores and offices of this city. He had been engaged four years on the ventilation and warming of the U. S. Capitol Extension, and the introduction of the large volume of air needed (50,000 feet per minute in the Senate Chamber alone) among a crowd of people had been a very difficult problem. He doubted if the complete solution of the question was attainable. He was dissatisfied with the various means of ventilation afforded by the apparatus now on exhibition. Prof. Silliman replied, and many questions were asked and answered among the parties present. Plans were offered by C. Pepper and others, pending the consideration of which the Committee adjourned.

A LAND SHARK.—William Shark, a young clerk in the employ of Thomas Martin, of No. 79 Baxter street, was arrested on Saturday, charged with having stolen $200 from his employer. It appears that Shark had been suspected of tampering with the money drawer, and accordingly some marked bills were left there for the purpose of detecting him. The bills were soon missing, and on arresting Shark they were found in his possession. He was committed to the Tombs to answer.

CITY ITEMS.

The Rev. E. Y. Robbins will will give the third lecture of his course on Sanitary Science this evening, at Clinton Hall. Subject—"Sanitary reform, as a means for the elevation of the lower classes, and the prevention of pauperism and crime."

AMUSEMENTS.—*Niblo's Garden.*—A new Irish drama is announced for to-night. It is called "Willie O'Reilly, or Not Guilty," and, of course, Mr. and Mrs. Williams have the principal parts.

Winter Garden.—"Evangeline" will be played every night this week.

Wallack's Theater.—"The Romance of a Poor Young Man" is still continued.

Laura Keene's Theater.—For two nights only "Jeannie Deans;" on Wednesday night a new Irish drama, by Mr. Bourcicault, called "The Colleen Bawn."

Bowery Theater.—To-night, the old favorite, Mr. Eddy, begins an engagement here. His first personation will be "Jack Cade"—the play of that name having been rewritten and adapted from Judge Conrad's drama.

New Bowery Theater.—Mrs. Farren and Miss Fanny Fitz Warren have been reengaged for six nights more, and appear this evening in the drama of "The Venetian."

Barnum's Museum.—It gives us much pleasure to state that Mr. Barnum has at last so arranged his crushing clock debts as to announce himself free from pecuniary embarrassment, and once more to resume the direction of affairs at the Museum. On Saturday evening he appeared on the stage between the acts of the play and delivered the subjoined speech:

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: The American Museum will be closed to-night for a week, in order to thoroughly renovate, decorate, and enlarge it, as well as to perfect important rehearsals which have been in active progress for months. My own personal connection with the Museum, as its sole proprietor, allow me to add, is now resumed, and I avail myself of the circumstance to explain why that proprietorship was ever interrupted. Never did I feel stronger in my wordly prosperity than in September, 1855. Three months later I was so deeply embarrassed that I felt certain of nothing, except the uncertainty of everything. A combination of singular efforts and circumstances tempted me to put implicit faith in a certain Clock Manufacturing Company, and I placed my signature to papers which ultimately broke me down. After nearly five years of hard struggle to keep my head above water, I have touched bottom at last, and here to-night I am happy to announce that *I have waded ashore*. Every clock debt of which I have any knowledge has been provided for. Perhaps, after the troubles and turmoils I have experienced, I should feel no desire to reengage in the excitements of business, but a man like myself, less than 56 years of age, and enjoying robust health, is scarcely old enough to be embalmed and put in a glass case in the Museum as one of its million of curiosities. "It is better to wear out than rust out." Besides, if a man of active temperament is not busy, he is apt to get into mischief. To avoid evil, therefore, and since business activity is a necessity of my nature, here I am once more, in the Museum, and among those with whom I have been so long and so pleasantly identified. I am confident of a cordial welcome, and hence feel some claim to your indulgence while I briefly allude to the means of my present deliverance from utter financial ruin. Need I say, in the first place, that I am somewhat indebted to the forbearance of *generous creditors*? In the next place, permit me to speak of sympathizing friends, whose volunteered loans and exertions vastly aided in my rescue. When my day of sorrow came, I first paid or secured every debt I owed of a personal nature. This done, I felt bound in honor to give up all my property that remained toward liquidating my "clock debts." I placed it in the hands of trustees and receivers for the benefit of all the "clock" creditors. But, at the forced sale of my Connecticut real estate, there was a purchaser behind the screen of whom the world had little knowledge. In the day of my prosperity I made over to my wife much valuable property, including the lease of this Museum building—a lease then having about twenty-two years to run, and enhanced in value to more than double its original worth. I sold the Museum collection to Messrs. Greenwood & Butler, subject to my wife's separate interest in the lease, and she has received more than $80,000 over and above the sums paid to the owners of the building. Instead of selfishly applying this amount to private purposes, my family lived with due regard to economy, and the savings (strictly belonging to my wife) were devoted to buying in portions of my estate at the assignees' sales, and to purchasing "clock notes" bearing my indorsements. The Christian name of my wife is Charity. I may well acknowledge, therefore, that I am not only a proper "subject of charity," but that "without Charity, I am nothing." But, ladies and gentlemen, while Charity thus labored in my behalf, Faith and Hope were not idle. I have been anything but indolent during the last four years. Driven from pillar to post, and annoyed beyond description by all sorts of legal claims and writs, I was perusing protests and summonses by day, and dreaming of clocks run down by night. My head was ever whirling with dislocated cog-wheels and broken main-springs, my whole mind (and my credit) was running upon *tick*, and everything pressing on me like a *dead weight*. In this state of affairs I felt that I was of no use on this side of the Atlantic, so, giving the pendulum a swing and seizing *time* by the forelock, I went to Europe. There I furtively pulled the wires of several exhibitions, among which that of Tom Thumb may be mentioned for example. I matured a variety of musical and commercial speculations in Great Britain, Germany, and Holland. These enterprises, together with the net profits of my public lectures, enabled me to remit large sums to confidential agents for the purchase of my obligations. In this manner, I quietly extinguished, little by little, every dollar of my clock liabilities. I could not have achieved this difficult feat, however, without the able assistance of enthusiastic friends—and among the chief of them let me gratefully acknowledge the invaluable services of Mr James D. Johnson, a gentleman of wealth, in Bridgeport, Conn. I placed myself unreservedly in his hands, and proud am I to say, to his credit and my own benefit, that he faithfully and honorably fulfilled every trust confided to him. Other gentlemen have been generous with me. Many have loaned me large sums, without security, and have placed me under obligations which must ever command my honest gratitude; but Mr. Johnson has transcended, as my best friends know, the ordinary conception of even a best friend's service. He has been more than a brother to me. Thousands and tens of thousands of dollars have passed through his hands, for all of which he has promptly and scrupulously accounted to the uttermost farthing. And when, at last, I desired to remunerate him, so far as a pecuniary consideration could recompense acts which a whole life of devotion cannot fully compensate, it was with the utmost difficulty that I induced him to receive even a nominal reward for his services. He has been above all, a "friend indeed," for he has been truly in every sense, a "friend in need." You must not infer, from what I have said, that I have completely recovered from the stunning blow to which I was subjected four years ago. I have lost more, in way of tens of thousands—yes, hundreds of thousands—than I care to remember. A valuable portion of my real estate in Connecticut, however, has been preserved; and as I feel all the ardor of twenty years ago—and the prospect here is so flattering—my heart is animated with the hope of ultimately, by enterprise and activity, obliterating the unpleasant reminiscences and retrieving the losses of the past. Experience, too, has taught me not only that, even in the matter of money, "enough is as good as a feast," but that there are, in this world, some things vastly better than the "almighty dollar." Possibly I may contemplate, at times, the painful day when I said, "Othello's occupation's gone;" but I shall more frequently cherish the memory of this moment, when I am permitted to announce that "Richard's himself again." There is one other point on which I wish to say a few words. Many people have wondered that a man considered so acute as myself should have been deluded into embarrassments like mine, and not a few have declared, in short meter, that "Barnum was a fool." I can only reply that I never made pretensions to the sharpness of a pawnbroker, and I hope I shall never so entirely lose confidence in human nature as to consider every man a scamp by instinct, or a rogue by necessity. It is better to be deceived sometimes than to distrust always," so says Lord Bacon, and I agree with him. Experience is said to be a hard schoolmaster, but I should be sorry to feel that this great lesson in adversity has not brought forth fruits of some value. I needed the discipline that this tribulation has given me, and I really feel, after all, that this, like many other "apparent evils," was only a "blessing in disguise." Indeed, I may mention *en passant* that the very clock factory which I built in Bridgeport, for the purpose of bringing 100 workmen to that city, has been purchased and quadrupled in size by the Wheeler & Wilson Sewing Machine Company, and is now filled with intelligent New-England mechanics, whose families add 2,000 to the population, and who are doing a great work in building up and beautifying that flourishing city. So that the same concern which prostrated me seems destined as a most important agent toward my recuperation. I am certain that the popular sympathy has been with me from the beginning; and this, together with a consciousness of rectitude, is more than an offset to all the vicissitudes to which I have been subjected. In conclusion, I beg to assure you and the public that my chief pleasure, while health and strength are spared me, will be to cater for your and their healthy amusement and instruction. In future, such capabilities as I possess will be devoted to the maintenance of this Museum, as a popular place of family resort, in which all that is novel and interesting shall be gathered from the four quarters of the globe, and which ladies and children may visit at all times unattended, without danger of encountering anything of an objectionable nature. The drama introduced in the Lecture-Room will never contain a profane expression, or a vulgar allusion; on the contrary, their tendency will always be to encourage virtue, and frown upon vice. I have established connections in Europe which will enable me to produce here a succession of interesting novelties otherwise inaccessible. Although I shall be personally present much of the time, and hope to meet many of my old acquaintances, as well as form many new ones, I am sure you will be glad to learn that I have rescured the services of one of the late proprietors, and the active manager of this Museum, Mr. John Greenwood, jun. As he is a modest gentleman who would be the last to praise himself, allow me to add that he is one to whose successful qualities as a caterer for the popular entertainment, the crowds that have often filled this building may well bear testimony. But, more than this, he is the unobtrusive one to whose integrity, diligence, and devotion, I owe much of my present position of self-congratulation. Mr. Greenwood will hereafter act as assistant manager of this establishment. His co-partner (Mr. Henry D. Butler) has opened the beautiful and successful Aquarial Gardens in Boston, and our patrons will still be indebted to his taste and skill for valuable additions to the Aquaria. Without going into further detail, I will simply say that the additions to the attractions of the Museum will be constant and numerous. Without alienating any portion of our present dramatic corps, it will be largely increased. It will include, moreover, among its additions, the names of your old favorites, Miss Emily Mestayer, and Mr. C. W. Clarke. The recess of a week will be devoted to the final rehearsals of Mr. Dion Bourcicault's popular moral Scotch drama, "Jeannie Deans, or The Heart of Mid-Lothian," which will be produced with all the appropriate music, new scenery, &c., Miss Mestayer and Mrs. Pryor sustaining the characters recently represented by Agnes Robertson and Laura Keene. Indeed, our new régime involves the engagement of a double dramatic company, in order that the attractions of the lecture-room may be equally strong on each week-day afternoon and evening. I have abandoned for the present all idea of changing the locality of the Museum, and for various substantial reasons; First, the present site is the only one on the island accessible by every horse-railroad and principal omnibus line in the city. Secondly, this is the only place of amusement below Canal street, and hence it is in closer proximity than any other to the large city of Brooklyn, not to mention Jersey City, Newark, and Hoboken, and the guests of the numerous down-town hotels. On Saturday afternoon next, the 31st of March, at 1 o'clock, I shall therefore reopen this establishment with a bill of attractions which I trust will prove worthy of universal admiration, and with a promulgation of wholesome rules and regulations calculated to secure the approbation of all lovers of chaste and innocent recreations. Until that eventful day, ladies and gentlemen, I bid you all an affectionate adieu.

Christy's Minstrels.—The touching drama of "The Toodles" every night this week, together with the usual musical entertainments.

Bryant's Minstrels.—Dan Bryant has gone to England, but the noted performer Eph. Horn takes his place. A good performance every evening.

Van Amburgh's Menagerie.—This is the last week of this exhibition. Palace Garden.

Dusseldorf Gallery.—Open day and night. No. 548 Broadway.

Mr. W. V. Wallace's new Opera of Lurline—words in English by Mr. Fitzball—is much praised in the London journals. It was produced at Covent Garden with Miss Pyne as the first character. We have the piano arrangement. Wm. Hall & Son are the New-York publishers—and so far as we can judge from a hasty reading it seems to us an elaborate work, destined to increase the reputation of the composer. Of the effect of the melodies on the popular ear—and therein lies the prosperity of the dramatic composer—we of course have no means of offering an original opinion.

COMMITTEE ON ROADS.—The Committee on Roads of the Board of Councilmen met at 3 o'clock on Saturday, and a number of property-holders of Fifty-first street, between Second and Fourth avenues, were before them to demur against the assessment of the whole expense of paving that part of the street with Belgian pavement upon the property-holders. They had petitioned for Belgian pavement, and were first to have been assessed two-thirds of the expense, next one-half, and at last the whole. They now desired to get rid of the whole expense, but ascertaining that it was the rule to assess property-holders for half, those present agreed to pay half, as others do. But the rule of paying half the expense does not apply, the Committee said, to streets that have never been assessed for any pavement whatever, as was the case with them; it applied only to cases where cobble-stone was replaced by the trap-blocks at the instance of the citizens. The trap-block is more expensive, but also much superior, to the other pavement. Mr. Decker, the Chairman, promised to see that justice was done, and the Committee adjourned for two weeks.

ORDER OF THE SONS OF TEMPERANCE.—This Order is said to be on the increase in various parts of the State. A Division at Sandy Hill, Washington County, numbers 400 members in its ranks. Two new Divisions have lately been established by Mr. J. N. Stearns, G. W. P.: one at Glenn's Falls of 43 members, another at Fort Edward, numbering 36. The lately-introduced plan of admitting the fair sex is said to add much to the popularity and efficiency of the Order.

A JEALOUS HUSBAND.—On Sunday afternoon, John McNamara, an aged man living at No. 476 Pearl street, had some trouble with James Kelly; a quarrel ensued, during which McNamara stabbed Kelly three or four times, inflicting severe wounds in his side, face and arms. The wounded man rushed to the street, where he met a Sixth Ward officer, who conveyed him to the New-York Hospital. Search was made for McNamara, and he was found concealed in the garret of the house. He was taken to the Station-House, and placed in the cells for the night. The prisoner has a young wife, to whom Kelly is alleged to have paid considerable attention. This state of things roused the ire of the old man, and is said to have been the cause of the trouble yesterday. Kelly's wounds, although severe, are not considered dangerous.

THE DIAMOND WEDDING AGAIN.—LIEUT. BARTLETT NOT YET "SATISFIED"—RUMORS OF ANOTHER DUEL.—In *The Home Journal* of March 17, a lively article appeared, referring to the engagement and to-be-expected marriage of the senior partner of a famous French champagne house—the gentleman now being on a visit to this country. It devoutly and very properly expressed a hope that the good sense of the public would not be shocked, on the approaching occasion, with a repetition of the snobbery attendant upon the celebrated Diamond Wedding. On the perusal of the article, our doughty friend Lieut. Bartlett rose to his ancient pitch of excitement, and proceeded, in that condition, to the office of the obnoxious journal. It is rumored that he there demanded an apology of the genial resident editor, though it does not transpire whether the latter was required to sign as absurd a recantation as the one presented Mr. Stedman. At all events, Gen. Morris declined acceding to the Lieutenant's demand, and the latter went off more angry than when he came in. It is said that he is now in search of "a friend," and a hostile message either has or will soon be conveyed to the author of "Woodman, Spare that Tree." Pharphrasing the quoted line, we would earnestly say, "Bartlett, spare that Bard!" The continued determination of the Lieutenant to get into quarrels with members of the Press reminds us of the judicious course pursued by the hero of the nursery rhyme:

A man there was within our town,
And he was wondr