esque objects of study are to be found. The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, passing through one of the wildest and most picturesque parts of the country, has already been made memorable by the artistic jaunts taken upon it. Three of our landscapists, Messrs. Gifford, Hubbard, and McEntee, are going off on a sketching jaunt on this Road next week. The Company supplies them with two cars, one of which is fitted with sleeping accommodations, and the other with the necessaries for a *menage*. They switch off at any picturesque point of view that may strike their fancy, and when they have exhausted its "capabilities" for artistic purposes, they hook on to a train and proceed as far as they choose. We believe they are to be joined by some artists from Baltimore.

—Messrs. Goupil & Co. have lately received some very choice pictures from Paris, among which are two exquisite subjects by Edouard Frère, two small landscapes by Lambinet, a small cattle piece by Troyon, a delicate domestic scene by Trayer, and a very fine *genre* subject by a new artist, Henneberg, a pupil of Couture's. At Goupil's, too, may be seen an exceedingly fine marine painting by De Haas of New-York, representing the steamship Vanderbilt entering the port of Havre. The translucency and motion of the waves in this little painting are rendered with extraordinary power.

—At the Crayon Gallery, on the corner of Broadway and Eighth street, are a couple of very fine miniature landscapes by Delissard, one of which is a view of New-York from Hoboken. Mr. Nichols, the proprietor of the Gallery, has received three pictures from Mr. Thom, the first he has painted since he has been under the pupilage of Edouard Frère. Two other pictures by this promising young artist are now on their way from Paris.

—Four very fine landscapes, representing the four Seasons, have been received here from our countryman Cropsey, who is still in London, and whose landscape representing an autumnal scene on the Hudson has elicited the highest commendations from all the leading London papers. English critics, however, who have never seen our autumnal woods, naturally enough regard the brilliant hues of the foliage as slightly extravagant.

PERSONAL.

—A most astonishing story has lately begun its travels through our exchanges, the scene of the tale being judiciously laid in a remote State. It is said that the Rev. A. Conley, who resides in Tennessee, not far from Dover, and whose house is situated in a deep valley, between two very high hills," as the local paper somewhat tautologically goes on to say, had been for three weeks previous to the 20th of the present month grievously annoyed by rocks flung at his mansion. These rocks appear to come from the hills on either side of the house, now from one, again from the other; they seem to come from a distance, "and," says the editor, "are evidently thrown by machinery." This bombardment had gone on for three weeks, with intermissions of not longer than three or four hours at any one time. As a consequence, nearly all the glass had been broken out of the windows, and a great many shingles and clapboards had been knocked off from the tenement. The neighbors, sacrificing their personal security in order to satisfy their curiosity, perhaps, too, through sympathy, have assembled in large numbers to see the phenomena and to search for the catapultist. No trace of the miscreant or miscreants has been found; but, with the rocks and the neighbors, the Rev. A. Conley seems not to lead a very gay life in Tennessee.

—Mr. Henry Cushing, for thirty-five years the Treasurer of the Providence (R. I.) Association of Mechanics and Manufacturers, died recently in Rhode Island, aged 83 years. He was a native of Hingham, Mass.

—A man in West Goshen, Penn., recently found in the road an English penny bearing date A. D. 1775. A tavern called the "Bird-in-Hand Inn" formerly stood close by, and it is probable that this coin was dropped there by some ale-loving customer of the old times.

—Mr. Enoch Baldwin, for twenty years the President of the Shoe and Leather Dealers' Bank in Boston, died on Sunday, at his residence in Dorchester, aged 73 years.

—Miss Mary Esty, a young lady residing in West Newton, Mass., disappeared from her home on Saturday afternoon, and has not since been heard of or seen. A crowd of people made a thorough search of the woods in the country about on Sunday, thinking that in the search for strawberries she might have been lost; but no trace of her was found. She was twenty-two years of age.

—At the last Drawing-Room in London the Queen wore a train of black silk trimmed with ruches of black crape. Her headdress was formed of a diadem of opals and diamonds, with black feathers and a black crape vail. The Princess Alice wore a train of rich white corded silk, trimmed with heartsease and bows of riband; the petticoat of white tulle, over glace silk, also trimmed with heartsease and bows of riband. Her Royal Highness wore a wreath of heartsease, with feathers and a silver vail, as a headdress.

—The *Wanderer* of Vienna publishes a letter from Ancona, dated the 6th, which says:

"The Irish yesterday had a fight among themselves, and wounded some of the gendarmes who interfered to separate them. The delegate has hitherto treated the Irish like princes, and their pretensions are, in consequence, unbounded. Every soldier insists on having his own room, table, &c. It is to be feared that, after all, the Pontifical Government will be under the necessity of requesting the Irish to go home again."

—A new journal of Palermo, *L'Unita Italia*, comes out with the following motto at the head of its programme: "One country—Italy. One king—Victor Emanuel. One hero—Garibaldi."

ARMY AND NAVY INTELLIGENCE.

Additional advices from Rio Grande City have been received, via Brownsville. They represent the four companies of United States cavalry there as totally inadequate to protect American citizens from the satellites of Cortina.

The officers of the recruiting service are now, in compliance with a periodical custom, being relieved. Before the 4th of July, considerable alterations will have been made in several rendezvous. Capt. Gibbs, Lieut. Sweeney, and Lieut. Winder, are at the head of the enlisting offices in this city at present.

Recruiting is vigorously carried on at all the army stations, notwithstanding the efficient state of the several regiments. In 1859, for the first time in twelve years, the "regulation number" of soldiers was registered on the books of the War Department. The mounted service is, just now, getting more men than the infantry. It is a singular fact, that of *twenty thousand* applicants for enlistment last year, *only eighteen hundred* were physically qualified for admission to the ranks. The average number of candidates accepted is about one to every nine rejected. Each rendezvous in New York sends monthly to Governor's Island about 60 recruits, or from 160 to 200 in all. Within a few months 350 soldiers from this station, and 200 from Newport, have been sent to the West, and requisitions for reenforcements are daily expected from New Mexico and other departments.

The Navy Department has detached from the steam-frigate Niagara six assistant master's mates, who have been replaced by midshipmen. The stores and provisions of the Niagara are intended for a nine months' cruise.

The following national vessels, homeward bound from foreign squadrons, will very soon be due. The sailing-sloop Marion, from the coast of Africa; the corvette Macedonian, from the Mediterranean; the brig Bainbridge, from Brazil, and the steam-frigate Powhatan, from the East Indies. These vessels will be all replaced except the Marion.

The following United States men-of-war, about to leave the United States for foreign squadrons, will take out gratuitously, letters and papers properly directed: Storeship Release from Brooklyn for the Home Squadron, to sail in a few days; steam gun-boats Pawnee and Richmond, to sail from Philadelphia and Norfolk for the Mediterranean, in a week or two; steam frigate Niagara, to sail from New-York to Japan and China, on the 1st of July, and the storeship Relief, to sail from Boston for the Coast of Africa.

Orders have been received at the Navy-Yard, Portsmouth, N. H., to fit out the frigate Constitution, "Old Ironsides," as a school ship. The desire of the authorities to preserve this vessel has induced them to detail her as a practice ship, on board which no heavy cannonading will be required.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

COMMISSIONERS OF POLICE.

At the meeting of this Board, at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon, George Bevins was appointed doorman in the place of Jacob Feist, Seventeenth Ward, removed for cause shown. In reply to a resolution passed by the Common Council, June 1, 1860, directing the Attorney to the Corporation to discontinue the prosecution of all suits or complaints against any and every person or persons for the violation of the ordinances in relation to awnings and signs, and also not to commence any suit or suits for penalties for violations of said ordinances, or either of them, until the further order of the Common Council, the Commissioners passed the following preamble and resolution:

Whereas, The Corporation of the City of New-York have virtually repealed the ordinances in relation to signs and awnings, by instructing the Attorney to the Corporation to discontinue the prosecution of all suits or complaints against any and every person for the violation of said ordinances, &c.;

Resolved, That the Superintendent of Police be directed to issue an order to the police force stationed in the City of New-York to refrain from making complaints for the violations of the ordinances of this city in relation to signs and awnings.

The ordinance of the Common Council prescribes a certain style of awning post for streets of various widths, a model of which is in the office of the Street Commissioner for the inspection of builders and storekeepers, and prohibits, under a penalty to be sued for and recovered by the Attorney to the Corporation, the erection of any flags or side-curtains to awnings. Within a month or two past, the Broadway squad was directed to clear Broadway of all incumbrances and report all violations of the Corporation ordinances in relation thereof, and particularly in regard to the construction of awnings, &c., the object being to establish uniformity in these matters along that thoroughfare. In accordance with said order the police reported numerous violations of the ordinances to the Attorney for the Corporation, whose books in a short space of time became filled up with the titles of various suits against shopkeepers and property-holders.

Notices of said suits were sent to all, and many who were ignorant of the law made answer thereto, and expressed their willingness to conform to the ordinance. Others, who had "friends at Court," appealed to them, and the consequence was that numerous resolutions were passed through the Common Council, authorizing said persons to continue their obstructions on Broadway, in direct violation of the law. And now, by the above resolution, all persons may violate the ordinance without the fear of prosecution. The Common Council have now a revision of the said ordinance in relation to obstructions before them, but no definite action has as yet been taken thereon.

THE QUARANTINE COMMISSION.

Yesterday at noon, the Quarantine Commission to investigate and estimate the damages to the Quarantine buildings by fire and riot, resumed their duties, all the members of the Commission being present, ELIAS W. LEAVENWORTH, presiding.

Mr. H. W. JOHNSON filed the claim of Dr. Thompson, amounting to $19,500.

Anna Joaquina de Jesus being duly sworn, testified as follows: I was in the family of Dr. Thompson for ten months; I was there at the time of the fire, in the capacity of general housekeeper; I have been examined as a witness in reference to this claim.

Mr. BRADLEY objected to the last question, as being irrelevant.

Mr. JOHNSON proposed simply to offer as her testimony a statement made by the witness upon a previous occasion, for the purpose of saving time, and of enabling his adversaries to economize in behalf of Richmond County.

Mr. BRADLEY said that he would see to the interests of Richmond County.

Witness—It is six years since I came to this country, and have lived out in different places previous to going into Dr. Thompson's family; my father's name was Francisco de Canka; my name came to be Jesus because at home, when a child is born, it takes the name of the father or mother, as it pleases, and also of the saint on whose day it is born; I was born on New-Year's day, which is Jesus's day, and took the name of my mother, which was Anna Joaquina, and I was always called Anna Joaquina de Jesus; I took charge of the table, received company, knew who came into the house, and handled most of the articles in the house so that I could know them; the house was fired at 2 o'clock in the morning; the second hospital and one of the shanties were burned first; the house was first fired at the back door, then at the dining-room wing; I heard Ray Tomkins come to the house and say, "Hurry up and get out your things—the house will be fired in a few minutes;" as soon as I heard it, I helped to take Mrs. Thompson out of bed, she being very sick; I also helped to take out the children; I then helped to save the things; there was no one else to do it; as soon as Mrs. Thompson was out of the house, it was set on fire; I don't know by whom; both Mrs. Thompson and children were out of the house before the fire commenced; I could not save anything, for the smoke; of the things saved there was a piano, which was broken; some of the things were taken out at the front door, and some were thrown out of the windows; the rest of the furniture which could not be saved was burned up; I told the doctor, three or four days after the fire, a list of the things in the house, and he wrote them down; I stated the articles correctly; the way in which I made out the list was by rooms, one room at a time; the first room was the south-east corner room in third story; I knew the stores on hand at the time; I knew about the liquors; I knew because I had access to the wine-closets; there were two storerooms in the house, one second-story and one down by the dining-room; up stairs there were 17 champagne baskets, 4 demijohns of brandy, whisky and rum, and a good many bottles of brandy, wine, and claret; 4 barrels of sugar, 2 powder, 1 lump, and 1 for coffee purposes; 7 balls of Dutch cheese, 1 Christmas cake, 1 box of Boston crackers, 1 bag buckwheat flour, platform scales and weights, 1 barrel flour and one almost finished, a quantity of Brazil and Madeira nuts, 1 hickory nuts, a good many cups and tumblers of jellies, 3 bags of coffee, and half bag roasted coffee, 1 box raisins, 1 box maccaroni; I packed the champagne bottles myself; down stairs there was one bottle white powdered sugar, 6 dozen large bottles of preserves, 150 cups, saucers, and other dishes of jellies and preserved fruits; 5 jars fruits from the West Indies, 7 lbs. isinglass, 2 boxes green and black tea, 2 stone pots of butter, a box of starch, 1 bottle sweet oil, 5 small demijohns of West India honey; there were 4 dozen boiled cider.

Mr. JOHNSON said he would rest the examination of that witness at that time, to be recalled if necessary, and, unless the counsel for the opposite side desired to cross-examine her, he would produce Dr. Thompson to prove the value of the articles.

Mr. BRADLEY cross-examined the witness, eliciting from her reasons why she knew about certain quantities, measures and weights of various articles, which she testified to having been in the store-rooms. She stated that it was impossible for Dr. Thompson to have written anything additional on the list without her knowing, as he was not aware of all the articles in the store-rooms. She swore positively to the list made out several days after the fire by her and Dr. Thompson. She begged the Commissioners to remember, however, that she could not remember the details so well as when they were fresh on her mind at the time of the fire.

The examination of Dr. Thompson was postponed till this morning.

BLONDIN'S WALK YESTERDAY.—Judging from the small number of persons who assembled at Suspension Bridge yesterday afternoon, to see Blondin walk across the Niagara River on a rope, the interest in the little foreigner is a good deal abated. Not over 2,000 persons witnessed his feats yesterday. About 4½ o'clock he left the United States side of the river, dressed in the usual tights of an acrobat, and crossed the rope in 9 minutes, having, during that time, made several extraordinary summersaults and divers wonderful gyrations, and rested three or four times to have photographs of him taken. After remaining for about an hour on the Canada side he prepared to recross, and perform the wonderful feat he had announced—walking blindfolded, and enveloped in a sack. He was not quite enveloped, however, for the sack did not reach far below his loins, though covering his head completely. It took him 13 minutes to recross. Among other things he stood upon his head, while in this state of obscuration, and walked backward. He reached the United States bank at five minutes past 5 o'clock. To those who had seen the active little Frenchman walk the rope before, and carry a man on his back—an operation which we certainly have no desire to see repeated—the performance of yesterday was not of any particular interest; to others it was a matter of considerable interest, as was testified in the repeated cheers with which each successive feat was greeted. His next crossing will take place on the 4th July when, no doubt, a vast throng will assemble to see him walk. [Toronto Leader, June 21.

CITY ITEMS.

STREET WIDENING AND OPENING.—Hitherto, very little has been done in the way of street widening and opening this Summer, but operations in this direction are now beginning. The Superintendent of Street Improvements has given notice to all the property-owners along the line of Chambers street and its proposed extension to James slip, on the East River, which cuts open a very degraded and unhealthy part of the city, that they are now to begin tearing down their houses. The grade through this new artery of public travel has not yet been fully decided upon. At present, under the direction of the Street Commissioner, a number of surveyors are employed in mapping out the various street crossings, and noting their respective grades. They are expected to report soon.

The Superintendent of Street Improvements will then make out a complete plan of operations, and the improvements will be hurried forward as fast as possible. It will be necessary to elevate or depress the grade at the various points to a considerable degree, as the part of the city embraced is uneven. At James slip it will be raised. In connection with the orders distributed among the property owners, those interested are informed that they can claim the amount of their damage in four months after date, provided they have complied with the law in tearing down their premises. After the houses have all been torn down, the Street Department will immediately proceed to grade, flag, curb, and gutter the streets, and the Croton Department will lay water pipes, and pave it. The complete job will take a long time before it is finished; but when once opened, Chambers street, by reason of its situation, will assume an importance hitherto scarcely thought of.

The project of widening Worth street is still pending before the Supreme Court. Though a most laudable movement, opposition of the most bitter kind has been organized against it. Those living west of Broadway are unanimously in favor of the widening, and have, in fact, already begun the matter of their own accord. A whole block of old buildings has been torn down, back of the Broadway Hospital, and the new building—an immense warehouse extending the full length of the block, now in progress of erection by the firm of Claflin & Mellen—is set back from the present curb a sufficient distance to allow of Worth street becoming, in that locality, after a few months more, not only a respectable but an attractive business street. Those opposed to the widening have organized themselves into a society to oppose the movement, for which purpose they have raised considerable money. The matter has been argued in the Supreme Court for several months past. The Judge has not yet rendered his decision, but is expected shortly to do so. Any opposition to the widening of Worth street can serve to delay, but will hardly avail to prevent it.

Duane and Reade streets were opened last Summer, but they remain unpaved. The people not long since petitioned to have the grade rectified, having finally come to an agreement on a matter that they quarreled about before the Common Council Committees all last Summer; and it went before the Common Council, in whom is vested the authority to make any changes deemed necessary, but there the petition was first passed without advertising for objections, which was illegal, and then taken up again, after all had been duly notified, and finally landed in the drawers of a Committee, where it remains for some unknown reason, keeping all further improvements on those streets *in statuo quo*.

The extension of Duane street, in a straight line down to Gold street, is talked of, but remains unacted upon for the present.

There is also a movement in progress for changing the grade of West Broadway.

A large number of the citizens of Grand street have on foot the widening of that street from Broadway to Varick street; but the opposing party, led by Thomas Sufferns, have got an injunction, which, however, is only temporary, and abiding the will of the Common Council.

The chief advantage claimed in favor of opening Grand street is, that a suitable highway would be opened from Williamsburgh across the city to the North River, Jersey City, and Hoboken, in the same manner as the extension of Chambers street will open direct communication between Brooklyn and those places.

Sixth avenue is about to be opened from One-hundred-and-twenty-ninth-street to the Harlem River, and the work will commence as soon as the legal time for advertising in the newspapers, for objectors, has been complied with. Seventy-eighth street is also to be opened, from Third avenue to the East River. In reference to the opening of these streets the Common Council have nothing to say, the Legislature having it in charge. The operations of the Common Council are confined below the streets formerly known as Arch and North streets, corresponding with our present First street, and the neighborhood of Washington Square.

THE NEW FRIENDS' MEETING-HOUSE.—Those who read our reports of the proceedings of the yearly meeting held last month, will remember that much dissatisfaction was felt and expressed with the accommodations at the Hester-street Meeting-House, and that a project for the erection of a new building was discussed. The yearly meeting, it will be remembered, finally adopted a proposition to make a donation of $10,000 to the monthly meeting of New-York, on condition that that meeting would purchase land and erect a building of the value in the whole of $100,000. Many of the Friends thought that this was altogether too large a sum, and that it would be found impracticable to raise it; but we are informed that the whole amount required has been raised without difficulty in the few weeks that have elapsed since the yearly meeting, and that the land has been already purchased. The amount raised by New-York monthly meeting was $50,000; $40,000 are to be raised in addition from the sale of the Hester-street property, which, with the $10,000 to be given by the yearly meeting, make up the total of $100,000. The land purchased is on the block bounded by Rutherford place, Fifteenth and Sixteenth street, and fronts on all three of those streets and on Stuyvesant square, is in the immediate vicinity of Dr. Tyng's Church (St. George's.) There are eleven lots, and the cost, as we are informed, was $65,000. The plat of ground being larger than will be required for the purposes of the meeting some portion of it will probably be sold. Much liberality was displayed by Friends in their subscriptions to the fund. One wealthy Friend in the leather trade gave, we understand, $6,000; another, the head of a hardware house, $4,000; and a large number of others sums varying from $3,000 to $1,000, and so on down to smaller sums. The building will be commenced as soon as a plan is adopted.

ANTE-MORTEM EXAMINATION.—An application was made at the Coroner's Office yesterday for a Coroner to hold an ante-mortem examination in the case of Thomas Raftery, who now lies in a very critical condition at the New-York Hospital, in consequence of stabs received on the 18th inst. It appears that Raftery and a man named O Niel were in William Miller's saloon, No. 23 Laurens street, on the night of the 18th, when a difficulty occurred between them, which resulted in the stabbing of Raftery. O'Neil was never arrested, and it was for the purpose of having him taken into custody that the father of the injured man desired the examination to be made. Coroners Gamble and O'Keefe were on duty yesterday, but neither of them attended to the request. The consequence of their neglect will probably be that the man will die, and his murderer escape. The business of the Coroner's Office has been conducted of late in a most outrageous manner. Cases are reported at the office for the Coroners to attend to, but are not noticed for one, two, or perhaps three days. We are supposed to have four Democratic Coroners, and if they all attended to their duties, no case need be delayed for over twelve hours. There are but two of these officials, however, who do any business worthy of note. Coroners Jackman and Schirmer do very nearly all the work, and have ever since they were elected to office. Coroners O'Keefe and Gamble are seldom to be found at the office, except on salary days, and for six months at least have not held more than one inquest in five. By a very unfair arrangement entered into by the four Coroners, the whole amount of money received from the city for holding inquests is equally divided between them, so that Gamble and O'Keefe, who do nothing, pocket quite as much of the city's funds as Schirmer and Jackman, who work all the time. But that is a matter of their own. What we complain of, is the fact, that after the two working Coroners have taken four or five cases each of a morning, there is no one left to hold the other inquests that may be called for in the course of the day, and dead bodies remain unburied till Jackman or Schirmer can find time to attend to them. In this way business accumulates so that it is now a rare thing that an inquest is held on the same day that the case is reported. These negligent officials are both politicians, and so interested in the minute workings of the Democratic machine as to care little for the duties of the office to which they were elected. Now that the warm weather has fairly set in, a little more promptness in the matter of holding inquests becomes absolutely necessary. If Coroners Gamble and O'Keefe are unwilling to perform their duties they should give way to persons who can and will do the work.

PICKPOCKETS AT THE JAPANESE BALL.—A number of well-dressed and expert pickpockets attended the great Japanese ball at the Metropolitan Hotel, on Monday night. They managed to pick up a number of gold watches, various specimens of jewelry, and other valuables, without detection. One gentleman connected with the Police Department having (most unexpectedly) quite a large sum of money in his possession, and a valuable gold watch, took a good view of the assembly, and at once retired to a corner, where he stuffed all his money into his boots, and his watch into the deepest recesses of his pockets for safety. He then strolled about promiscuously for a few minutes, but soon left for fear the thieves would rob him of his clothes as well as his money. He says he recognized in the crowd many thieves of his acquaintance, both male and female. Others who were less cautious than he have to mourn the loss of their favorite watches.

ELEVENTH REGIMENT, WASHINGTON RIFLES.—The companies composing this Regiment will parade in full uniform, with white pants and gloves (without knapsacks), on the Fourth day of July next, to celebrate the anniversary of our National Independence. The Regimental line will be formed in Great Jones street, right on Broadway, at 6 o'clock a. m., precisely. The Field and Staff officers will assemble at the Colonel's quarters (mounted) at 5½ o'clock a. m., and report for duty.

TRIAL OF THE LONDON FIRE-ESCAPE.—The London Fire-Escape, of the kind long in use in that city, recently imported by Gen. James L. Graham, and by him placed at the disposal of the New-York Fire Department, will be exhibited by Hook and Ladder Company, No. 12, A. J. Garvey, Foreman, in the Park, to-day, at 4½ o'clock p. m.

TENEMENT HOUSE FIRE-ESCAPE.—Since the new law went into operation, the first fire-escape attached to tenement-houses has been placed on the rear of the five-story tenement-house, No. 122 East Twenty-sixth street. It is simple in its construction, and affords means of escape from the highest to the lowest story. The whole expense is about $100. It has been examined by the Superintendent of Buildings, who approves of the same.

THE GREAT EASTERN.—Perhaps before this paragraph is read this morning that great uncertainty, the monster steamship, will be paddling over the bar at Sandy Hook. There seems to be little doubt now that she would start from England on the 16th, in which event she will be quite due here to-day. She comes hither just in the nick of time—for, in the language of a youngster whom we overheard yesterday, "the Japanese is played out," and we are already dying for a new sensation. In anticipation of her arrival, Messrs. Grinnell, Minturn & Co., her consignees, will dispatch a steam-tug at 9 o'clock this morning to meet her. If she does not disappoint us this time, we think her owners may expect to make a mint of money by showing her to the curious. The berth at the foot of Hammond street will be ready for her to-day, and the Committee of the Common Council are waiting to do up her officers after the style of the Japanese Embassy.

REPUBLICAN MEETING AT IRVINGTON.—A large and enthusiastic meeting of the Republicans of Irvington, Westchester County, was held at the Railroad Depot on Saturday evening. The meeting was organized by the appointment of W. D. Morgan, esq., as Chairman, and Theodore McNamee, esq., as Secretary. The Chairman then introduced the Hon. Owen Lovejoy of Illinois, who addressed the meeting for about an hour in a stirring and convincing argument in favor of the principles of the Republican party.

COLUMBIA COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT.—The 106th Annual Commencement of Columbia College was celebrated yesterday, at the Academy of Music, with the usual exercises by selected members of the Graduating Class. President King presided, and Chancellor Ferris was also present. A brilliant audience, composed mainly of the friends of the College students, filled the lower portion of the house. The orations and other exercises lasted from 10 a. m. till 2 p. m., interspersed with music, and occurring in the following order:

Prayer by the Chaplain. Greek Salutatory Poem, William F. Whitehouse; Latin Salutatory Oration, J. H. Van Amringe; English Salutatory Oration, Egerton L. Winthrop; German Salutatory Oration, Edward L. Greenwood; Oration, F. A. Tracy; Oration, Robert Goelet, jr.; Oration—"Astronomy"—John W. Jenks; Oration—"American Influence"—Joseph Greenleaf, jr.; Oration, J. Haven Emerson; Oration, Abraham Suydam; Oration—"Chivalry of Commerce"—Pierre W. Wilder; Oration, Eugene H. Pomeroy; Oration—"The Modern Hero"—David Lydig; Master's Oration, Daniel S. Tuttle; Valedictory Poem, Robert D. Nesmith; Valedictory Oration, Robert Troup Pell.

Prior to the delivery of the last oration, the degree of A. B. was conferred on the members of the graduating class. The following are their names:

Richard G. Benjamin, Clarence S. Brown, J. Lorillard Cammann, Howard Clarkson, Walter L. Clarkson, Edgar M. Cullen, Charles De Ruyter, Eugene Du bois, J. Haven Emerson, George R. Fearing, Robert Goelet, jr., Joseph Greenleaf, jr., Edward L. Greenwood, L. Gardner Hopkins, Edmund A. Horry, John W. Jenks, Edward R. Jones, Herbert Kettell, Augustus F. King, David Lydig, Samuel K. Lyon, Thos. H. Messenger, George M. Miller, A. Newbold Morris, Richard L. Morris, Robert D. Nesmith, Thos. L. Ogden, Robert Troup Pell, Eugene H. Pomeroy, Edward P. Robbins, James S. Satterthwaite, John W. Southack jr., Abraham Suydam, Frederick A. Tracy, J. H. Van Amringe, George Waddington, Pierre W. Wilder, Wm. F. Whitehouse, Egerton L. Winthrop.

CONTRACTS AWARDED BY THE STREET COMMISSIONER.—Proposals were opened and contracts awarded by the Street Commissioner yesterday, as follows:

Alterations and additions to house to be occupied by Hose Company No. 22; 5 bids; awarded to Charles Vandervoort at $3,015; time, 3 months; sureties, Wm. A. Smalley and Wm. Webb, in $1,000 each.

Setting curb and gutter stone, and flagging 4 feet where not already done, on the south side of Sixty-ninth street, from Third avenue to 460 feet westerly therefrom; 5 bids; awarded to Thomas Crimmins at $474 50; time, 40 days; sureties, Alex. Bradley and Michael Cronin, in $1,000 each.

Alterations and additions to house to be occupied by Hose Company No. 30; 5 bids; awarded to Charles Vandervoort at $765; time, 2 months; sureties, Wm. Webb and Wm. A. Smalley, in $700 each.

Building a house in Marion street for the use of Engine Company No. 5; 8 bids; awarded to Wm. Coulter at $4,493; time five months; sureties, F. Meunisch and Stephen O'Hara, in $3,000 each.

Repairing and altering the house to be occupied by Hose Company No. 36; 4 bids; awarded to Chas. Vandevoort at $507; time three months; sureties William Webb and William A. Smalley in $500 each.

Repairing and altering the Twelfth Precinct Station House; 6 bids; awarded to Watson & Haw at $2,890; time 30 days; sureties John McAuliff and Charles Hoffman in $2,000 each.

Alterations and additions to house to be occupied by Engine Company No. 12; 4 bids; awarded to Charles Vandevoort at $1,812; time three months; sureties Wm. A. Smalley and Wm. Webb in $1,000 each.

Regulating and grading Forty-fourth street from First to Third Avenue; 2 bids; awarded to Peter Meehan at $16,925 25; time 18 months; sureties Owen McGovern and John McGraw in $8,000 each.

THE HOUSTON MOVEMENT.—We have received the following official report: The Houston Executive Committee met at their rooms on Tuesday afternoon, ex-Mayor Mickle in the chair. Reports were received of the progress of the movement in various parts of the State, and also from Mississippi, Maryland, New-Jersey, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana, Georgia, and Texas—all of the most cheering character—evincing a steady determination to run Gen. Houston as the People's nominee, irrespective of Conventions.

In accordance with the resolutions passed at the Houston mass meeting in Union Square, on Tuesday evening, May 29, the Executive Committee adopted the following call:

The friends of Gen. Sam Houston in the State of New-York, as the People's candidate for the Presidency, are invited to meet in Convention on Wednesday, July 18, 1860, at the City of Schenectady, at 12 m., to place in nomination a Houston Electoral Ticket for this State, and also to designate a candidate for Vice-President, to be supported by the electors in connection with Gen. Houston; and for this purpose all Houston Clubs and organizations are requested to send three delegates, as above.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE.—Archbishop Hughes has sold St. Joseph's Seminary to the Jesuits of St. John's College, and, as a consequence, that institution has been abolished, and the Rev. Fathers who compose the Faculty have all been removed; some of them have already left, and the remainder will depart at once. The amount received by the Archbishop for the seminary, the church, the buildings, &c., is said to be $50,000. The parish will be under the charge of the Jesuits, and a noviciate will be established at Fordham. The Seminary will be removed to this city, but the present Faculty will be transferred to other charges; some will be sent to Rome, others to Montreal and other places in America and Europe. One of the conditions attached to the sale is that the purchasers shall take charge of the parish and build a church. The new establishment will be under the charge of the Rev. Dr. McGlynn from Rome.

LIGHTNING.—THE NEW-YORK TRIBUNE of June 16 contains some remarks entitled "Lightning—Disarming a Thunder Cloud," in which it is suggested that lightning is not more frequent in late than in former years, and that cities are comparatively exempt from lightning disasters. My record of lightning phenomena, of deaths, fires, and other results of lightning, extend over a long period of time, and over a large geographical expanse, containing many facts which are instructive. The comparison of the abundance of lightning of late years with that of former years is difficult. In the month of July, 1854, lightning was active and engaged in its usual occupations within the field of my research on twenty-four of the thirty-one days of that month, and it is probable that in the seven days of which I have no record of its presence it might have been engaged on some parts of the earth's surface beyond the field of my investigations. Since that memorable period when the presence of the thunders and the lightnings was required to attest the promulgation of the laws of Sinai, these witnesses have been constantly on the earth, delivering their testimony of the continuance of that law; but like all other created agents of the Almighty, the thunders and the lightnings have their alternate periods of labor and of rest, and such labor and such rest are in accordance with the great laws of nature.

The home of the lightning is in the clouds of the atmosphere, and that great meteorologian of antiquity said of the cloud that it was obedient to the commands of the Most High, was turned about by His government, was sometimes sent for correction, sometimes for mercy, and sometimes for the invigorating of the land. Sometimes it unites its labors with those of the solar ore in producing the rainbow of the cloud, where is seen in bright colors the autograph of God. Some cities are comparatively exempt from lightning shocks, and within the time covered by my observations, no case of death by lightning in Boston appears in my records, and it is rarely that the lightning strikes in that city, while in the neighboring towns around Boston it is a frequent visitor, and in Essex, near Salem, comes so frequently as to excite alarm. In New-Haven, New-York, Brooklyn, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Mobile, New-Orleans, Cincinnati, and Buffalo, lightning strikes frequently, and I have recorded many deaths by lightning in each and all of those cities. In Greenwood Cemetery, occupying four hundred and fifty acres of land, the lightning has struck but five times during a period of nineteen years. If our continent were divided into sections of four hundred and fifty acres each, and a record kept of the number of times the lightning struck in each during a long cycle of years, the means of comparison would be afforded which would enable a person to form a tolerably correct judgment in relation to this branch of the subject.

In my juvenile days I journeyed extensively in the great West when it was a great wilderness, and I searched and made inquiries of the trees in the forest in relation to the frequency of their being scathed by lightning. In one section of the country I found an unusual number of trees which had been visited by lightning, and named the place Thunder and Lightning Ridge, and then supposed that it contained iron ore, and this ore had invited the lightning upon the trees, but subsequent observations convinced me that my conclusion was erroneous, for I found the scathed forest occupied the apex of a water shed, and hence its being subject to frequent visitations of lightning. In my tours to the tops of high mountains I have sought for trees that have been struck by lightning, but have never found even one upon high mountain peaks at a great elevation above the sea. In the Mammoth Cave of Kentucky I never saw the light of an electric discharge nor heard the voice of the thunder, and I have made inquiries of laborers who have worked in that cave for many years in digging nitrous earth, with which that cave abounds, and none of them had ever seen lightning or heard thunder within the cave. The atmosphere of that cave is dry and of the uniform temperature of 59 degrees of Farenheit throughout the year. The laborers in that cave were exempt from sickness; its atmosphere is easy of respiration and eminently supports combustion. In that atmosphere putrefaction and decomposition are unknown. Beneath the surface of the great ocean we cannot follow the lightning in its rapid flight, nor can we tell whether it burns within the bosom of the mighty deep, or is extinguished by the saline fluid the moment it passes beneath the surface of the briny flood. I am, however, inclined to believe that it exerts no power beneath the surface of the water, or within its body. Whether the lightning is a solid, or a fluid, or a vapor, or an ethereal substance, we have no means of knowing, but the perforations it sometimes makes in solid bodies, in all cases where I have had an opportunity of examining, were always of a circular form, and sometimes numerous, proving its ability to assume divisibility like mercury in small globules. The lightning sometimes sleeps in volcanic fires, and has been known to be a companion of iron when in a state of fluidity produced by intense heat. Lightning sometimes performs the office of the load-stone in magnetizing steel and cast iron, and it possesses the ability of sublimating metals, and thus producing some of the most beautiful colors known in nature.

Lightning, like ice, may possess the ability to change from a solid to a fluid, from a fluid to vapor, and that vapor may become ethereal. Such is nature, mysterious and wonderful, and yet, water and ice and vapor, in changing and recharging, present simple and instructive illustrations. My long companionship with the records of lightning phenomena have made me familiar with its habits, its labors, and its powers. It oftentimes exhibits a power of discrimination that would be a bright adorning to the best faculties of the human mind. I do not think it has, like the earthquake, any quickening power, but I have a record of a thunder storm, the lightning of which produced insanity, and of another thunder storm which followed it, the lightning of which restored the insane mind to a state of sanity. It would extend this communication to too great a length to say more in relation to this wonderful meteor, for, were I to follow my records in the order of time, and speak of the doings of the lightning, I should impose upon myself and the reader a great labor. But I cannot conclude this article, long as it is, without saying that, in my humble opinion, no lightning rod, properly constructed, ever failed to protect against lightning, and if I could get no other I would use a wire not larger than a knitting needle, and feel safe during a thunder storm, relying upon its ability to protect me.

E. MERIAM.

PLEURO-PNEUMONIA.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

SIR: I am rejoiced that "A Mathematician" of Brooklyn has so ardently espoused the cause of your recent Homeopathic Correspondent, who cured his own horse of pleuro-pneumonia; and particularly so, as it affords a reasonable supposition that the physician himself knows his own potencies, and may not feel personally aggrieved, if his champion be shown to be ignorant and in error.

The writer in your paper of to-day (Thursday) is welcome to all the pleasure afforded him by my former article, but if he be really what his signature imports, he may readily prove by a careful but "laborious" calculation that mine in your last Saturday's issue, however, surprising and funny, was neither ridiculous nor "altogether wrong."

Hahneman in his Arganon, page 200, first American edition, paragraph 270, says:

"if two drops of a mixture of equal parts of alcohol and the recent juice of any medicinal plant be diluted with 98 drops of alcohol in a vial capable of containing 100 drops, and the whole twice shaken together, the medicine becomes exalted in energy (potenzirt) to the first development of power, or, as it may be denominated, the first potence. The process is to be continued through twenty-nine additional vials, each of equal capacity with the first, and each containing 99 drops of spirits of wine, so that every successive vial after the first, being furnished with one drop from the vial or dilution immediately preceding (which had just been twice shaken) is, in its turn, to be shaken twice, remembering to number the dilution of each vial upon the cork as the operation proceeds. These manipulations are to be conducted thus through all the vials, from the first up to the thirtieth or decillionth development of power (potenzirte decillion—verdunnung x) which is the one in most general use."

Our Mathematician, if forgetful, may refer to the Arganon for the correctness of the quotation above, and taking a drop of aconite juice, go through the several manipulations up to the twelfth vial—truly no formidable affair—an easy process, requiring merely 1,200 drops, and constituting the *simple* dilution in question. No quarnillion drops are necessary or possible in the operation, and yet each drop of this dilution theoretically contains a quarillionth part of the original one. If he adopt Hahneman's ancient method of enumeration, and understandingly calculate the strength of the dilution, he cannot fail to perceive that 1,000000,000000,000000,000000, (a quartillion) drops of it are only equivalent to, or contain the single one of aconite juice! In regard to the magnitude of the above he can satisfy himself that my statement was within the truth. Let him do so, and then in any future attempts to serve his friends, he may save *them* from an imputation or ignorance of real Hahnemannic potencies, and *himself* from the charge of having assumed a title to which he has no claim.

Let him satisfy himself by a patient calculation, and then if he please, let him assert that a horse has been cured of pleuro-pneumonia by four doses of the twelfth and the few subsequent exhibitions of the decillionth potencies!

Let him calculate the above powers—or, if he no time nor patience so to