lies. This partially accounts for the great difficulty now to be found in obtaining a single copy of either publication; and this is why, to the readers of American history, Denmark Vesey and Peter Poyas have been heretofore put the shadow of names.

A BOLD STROKE BY GOVERNMENT.

TREMENDOUS HAUL OF TELEGRAMS.

A MOUNTAIN OF EVIDENCE AGAINST TRAITORS.

At precisely 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon, by order of the Government, a descent was made by the United States Marshals upon every considerable telegraph office throughout the Free States, and the accumulated dispatches of the twelvemonth past were seized. The object was to obtain evidence of the operations of the Southern rebels with their Northern accomplices, which the confidential telegrams passing between them could most certainly furnish. The seizures in all the principal cities were made at precisely the same time so as to prevent the destruction of evidence which might have followed the receipt of a warning from any particular point. The whole matter was managed with the greatest secresy, and so well planned that the project was a complete success. By this bold maneuver the Government has obtained possession of a mass of evidence of the greatest importance. The secret operations of Northern traitors are laid bare, and those who have aided and abetted the rebellion are now completely at the mercy of the officers of the law.

In this city alone the dispatches in the hands of the Federal officers amount to many thousands, and include, of course, information in regard to the purchase of arms, ammunition and equipments, purchase and outfit of vessels, diplomatic and financial arrangements, the negotiation of rebel loans, the purchase and treachery of army and navy officers, the secret plans for dividing the people of the North, the progressive operations of Government toward suppressing the rebellion, and every other imaginable species of testimony which the "Pirates of the Gulf" would wish kept secret. To overhaul such a mountain of papers as this will require some time and much trouble but the work, in the hands of an efficient Marshal or Superintendent of Police, will be promptly, fearlessly, and thoroughly prosecuted.

DEATH OF COL. VOSBURGH.

The telegraph of yesterday announced the death at Washington of Col. A. S. Vosburgh of the 71st Regiment of N. Y. S. M., from this city. Col. Vosburgh was born in Ulster County, in this State, but has been for many years a resident and an influential business man in this community. He was engaged for some time in the storage and forwarding business in Broad street. His military career commenced when he was quite young, being appointed Aid-de-Camp to Gen. Storms in 1846. He was subsequently made Brigade Major, continuing in that position under Brigadier-General Spicer, after Gen. Storms resigned, until 1852. On the 4th of July in that year Major Vosburgh was chosen Colonel of the American Rifles, organized by Gen. Storms, and immediately entered upon the duties of that position. The American Rifle Corps subsequently became the 71st Regiment of infantry.

At the time Col. Vosburgh assumed command of the regiment it consisted of five companies only, numbering in all scarcely 100 active members. He brought all his youthful energies to bear in order to make his command worthy of the city, and in a short time infused a degree of pride into the men which led them to second him in all his efforts. Much time was spent in drilling, and the perfection attained by the regiment in the manual of arms soon made them the envy of other organizations. New members constantly flocked to the Colonel's standard, and he soon had eight full companies in his regiment. He still continued to give his time and energies to the work of making the 71st a superior regiment, and it is mainly owing to his unceasing labors and self-sacrificing devotion to their interests—often giving time and money, which he could illy spare—that they owe the position they now hold.

Col. Vosburgh was exceedingly democratic in his ideas, striving rather to enforce his commands through love than arbitrary means, and hence he became exceedingly popular among his men. He was considered an efficient officer in every respect, and one in whom the 71st Regiment reposed every confidence. His death has cast a deep gloom over the whole regiment, as well as a large circle of other friends. A widow and two children, living at No. 61 Lexington avenue, are left to mourn his loss. Mrs. Vosburgh had made arrangements to join her husband in Washington, and was to have left last evening, but the news of his death reached her yesterday morning.

Col. Vosburgh was 38 years of age, and though he had previously suffered from attacks similar to that of which he died—hemorrage of the lungs—he was considered a healthy and vigorous man.

The command of the 71st Regiment will now devolve upon Lieutenant-Colonel Martin, who is spoken of as an excellent officer, in every way competent to command, and who is much beloved by the men.

A meeting of the members and ex-members of the 71st Regiment now in the city was held at their Armory, in Centre Market, last evening, a very large number being in attendance. Colonel Pearson, who is in command of the companies now forming to join the regiment in Washington, was called to preside. The object of the meeting having been stated, Acting Quartermaster Corson spoke briefly in eulogistic terms of their late commander, and moved the appointment of a Committee to draft resolutions suitable to the occasion. The Committee having been selected by the Chairman, soon made the following report:

That which most appalls the heart in life is death, especially when it unexpectedly throws its destroying arm around those who are nearly connected with us in any relation of life, and the human heart when thus oppressed, if at no other time, bows instinctively in acknowledgment of the power of the Almighty hand. Thus to-night the members of the 71st Regiment at home feel that the greatest affliction with which they could possibly have met has fallen upon them, in the decease of him who for so many years has stood among its members as a brother and at its head as a commanding officer. But though neither tongue nor pen can adequately express that which fills our hearts, yet we feel that, feeble as the effort must necessarily be, a few words must be said by us in demonstration of the painful emotions which afflict us; therefore

Resolved, That we, the members and ex-members of the Seventy-first Regiment, assembled here to-night, do feel that in the death of Col. A. S. Vosburgh the regiment has sustained a loss which no human power can repair. Noble, frank, open-hearted in personal intercourse, in the discharge of official duty firm, yet kind and affable, what wonder that the respect which all felt for him should, in the closer intimacy of our social connection, become positive love?

Resolved, That in the fact, of which we know, that Col. Vosburgh died in the discharge of duty—fell a victim to his anxious solicitude for those under his care and command—we recognize the indomitable will and energy and the devotion of a man who deserves to receive the highest meed of praise that man can pay to man—the recognition that

"Twas his ambition, generous and great,
A life to life's great end to consecrate."

And as we are taught that the great duty of life should be to seek to do to others all we can to add to their comfort and happiness, so we can testify that, to the fullest extent, he discharged to those who came in contact with him, his duty in that regard; for we know that, from the hour he left us until the moment the hand of death snatched him from us, his course was one of unceasing devotion, not only to the common country which we all love and honor, but to the men who were under his command and guidance.

Resolved, That, with our companions now in Washington, in whose midst he died, we deeply sympathize, assuring them that their sorrow, great as it must be, is deeply responded to by those they left behind; while, for his bereaved family, we can only ask that the good God who "tempers the winds to the shorn lamb," will, in their affliction, take them in his word and keeping.

Resolved, That we recognize as a just tribute to the memory of the departed the resolution of the civic authorities to take in charge the obsequies of the lamented deceased and that a special Committee be appointed to consult with the Union Defense Committee, in whose hands the matter has been placed, with a view to such arrangements for our participating in the ceremonies of the reception of the remains and the funeral services as may be proper, of which arrangements and Committee is hereby authorized to give due notice in the papers.

Resolved, That in memory of the deceased the members of this regiment are requested to wear crape upon the left arm for thirty days.

The following gentlemen were appointed as the Committee of Confidence: Col. Pearson, Paymaster Sellis, Surgeon McMillen, Capt. Bunce, Capt. Webster, and Engineer Sandford.

One member from each company was then chosen to make the suitable arrangements for the funeral. The names of the Committee are as follows: H. A. McMurray, Wm. Dunlap, Theodore Copeland, J. W. Van Riper, James McFilley, J. Cooper, A. T. Stevens, Leonard King.

The resolutions adopted by the Common Council will be found in our report of the proceedings of that body.

It is expected that the remains of Col. Vosburgh will arrive in the city on Wednesday morning, when they will be received by the 55th Regiment, Col. Legal, who have volunteered to act as an escort.

The Constitution Guard, Col. Cocks, assembled last evening at their quarters, No. 632 Broadway, and adopted a series of resolutions, extending their sympathies to the members of the family of the deceased, and also to the 71st Regiment.

The Scott Life Guard 2d Regiment, Col. Ward, who now occupy the drill-room of the 71st Regiment, also adopted resolutions of condolence, and transmitted them to the friends of deceased.

UNION DEFENSE COMMITTEE.

At the meeting of the Union Defense Committee yesterday the Executive Committee of that body made the following report:

NEW-YORK, May 20, 1861.

In conformity with the usual practice of committees, and from a sense of duty to their constituents the Executive Committee respectfully submit the following

REPORT.

A mass meeting of the citizens of New-York was convened, on a general call of the people, at Union Park, on Saturday, the 20th day of April last.

The cause of this assemblage was both unusual and remarkable. A great exigency had arisen in the public affairs of the country. The Constitution and laws had been infringed; a contest had commenced which threatened the very existence of the national authority; civil war, in the shape of an armed rebellion, was about to be waged under such fearful auspices that every loyal citizen felt it to be his bounden duty to rally in some way to the support of his country.

The appeal for aid to the emergency came from the executive head of the nation, and the answer was that of a united people, jealous of the rights and faithful to the principles which had given to them a long career of prosperity and a name conspicuous among the nations of the earth.

The meeting of the citizens of New-York gave the impulse to a general uprising in the loyal States of the North and East, which, in connection with the patriotic spirit simultaneously evinced in the West, has already checked the progress of rebellion, and to a great extent restored the confidence recently so seriously shaken in the strength and permanency of our institutions. Millions of sympathizing friends of Constitutional Government have joined in this great movement of patriotism, and a strong array of loyal States and communities now stand side by side with New-York in a resolute determination to put down rebellion, and, despite all peril, at all hazard, at whatever cost, to maintain the honor and uphold the flag of the country.

A great change in public feeling and in the condition of public affairs has been wrought in one short month. It may not be deemed out of place or unprofitable to review briefly the causes which have led to this sudden reaction, out of which has grown so confident a hope for the future.

By the action of the people of New-York, in mass-meeting assembled, a Committee was appointed, consisting of twenty-six citizens, to whose numbers six others were subsequently added. It appears to be fit to be accomplished by the appointment of this Committee, as stated in the resolution adopted by the meeting, were "to represent the citizens in the collection of funds, and the transaction of such other business in aid of the movements of the Government as the public interests may require."

At the moment of their appointment the Committee found a civil war raging; portions of the army and navy seriously demoralized; treason working its will upon the property and flag of the country, and the capital of the nation, with all its treasury of archives and history, lying almost at the mercy of an unscrupulous assailant. Arsenals had been pillaged; public vessels had been surrendered without a shot fired in their defense; bodies of troops had laid down their arms in dishonor, and in the judgment of the world serious apprehensions were entertained that an unjustifiable rebellion might become a successful revolution.

The Union Defense Committee entered upon their duties at this fearful juncture. Their first act was to invite the necessary contributions to sustain their efforts in the public service. The response was given with a cheerful alacrity and generous public spirit characteristic of the commercial community of New-York whenever a just appeal is made to its munificence.

But another response was promptly made to the call for aid, which struck the keynote of patriotism throughout the country. The City of New-York, in its corporate capacity, through the action of its municipal authorities, upon the recommendation of its chief magistrate contributed a million of dollars to be applied to the equipment and outfit of its soldiers for the field, and for a limited period to the support of the families of those who should go forth in the cause of the country. No citizen of New-York will ever turn the page which records that beneficent act without feeling more strongly than ever before his pride justified in, and his affection deepened, for the noble city which has thus honored its name and illustrated its annals.

The next act of the Union Defense Committee was to create of its number an Executive Committee of ten members, which was subsequently extended to thirteen. To this stated body was assigned the responsible trust of rendering available to the public service the large resources placed in the treasury of the committee. The confidence reposed by this proceeding calls for an acknowledgment to the constituent body, a faithful discharge of all delegated duties and responsibilities, and reports from time to time of the progress and results of their labors.

In this, their first formal report, the Executive Committee have deemed it not out of place to recur to the circumstances under which they entered upon their onerous duties, or to allude briefly to the success which has thus far crowned their exertions. Since their organization as a committee, twenty-nine days have elapsed, during which period they have held forty-eight meetings, the proceedings of all of which are matters of record. They have divided the various subjects of labor among their number, in sub-committees, from which special reports have been made in detail, and may be considered in connection with this more general statement of facts.

Three deputations from the Committee have at different times visited the seat of the National Government, to express with respectful deference the views they entertained, to communicate information of importance to the public service, and to perform other duties which could not safely be committed to other hands. They have at times employed special agents to obtain and communicate information, to stimulate and keep alive the growing spirit of loyalty, and thus to accomplish effectually the work intrusted to them.

But there is a view to be submitted which goes beyond the mere details of business, and becomes matter for grateful reflection and for the records of history.

The Executive authorities of the State, actuated by a similar impulse with that which marked the conduct of the City Government, had united with the moving masses of the people in giving their aid and encouragement to the patriotic efforts of the country. It will not, however, be deemed arrogant if the Committee state that, mainly owing to the exertions of the city and citizens of New-York, and to the zeal and efficiency of eminent military officers, an army has been placed in the field, armed and equipped for the defense of the national cause, in a shorter space of time, and with less expenditure of money, than, so far as any record shows, has ever before been accomplished by any government, no matter how great its power, how abundant its resources, or however powerful the motive for insection.

With a generous frankness which confers honor upon the exalted stations they fill, the chief executive officers of the National Government, and the distinguished commanding General of its army, have been pleased to say that the safety of the national capital and the preservation of the archives of the Government, at a moment when both were seriously menaced, may fairly be attributed to the prompt and efficient action of the State and City of New-York, united with the vigorous efforts of the noble Commonwealth of Massachusetts, devoted to the same disinterested and patriotic objects.

The condition of public affairs is now materially changed. The Military and Naval Departments of the country are in the hands of competent and loyal officers; order has been restored; vigor and a proper sense of the obligations of duty prevail in the public councils; the people, jealous of their own rights and liberties, are content to leave the duties of Government in the hands of trusted authorities; and the time approaches when the Union Defense Committee may properly consider the propriety of asking to be relieved from a duty which was unsought, yet cheerfully accepted.

The consciousness of having endeavored to discharge efficiently and faithfully a responsible trust more than repays the Executive Committee for the great amount of labor imposed upon them. While the cause exists which calls for continued effort on their part, the demand will be met, in the hope and expectation that, by vigor and prompt decision of action at any pressing emergency, the unjust and indefensible aggressions on the public authority of the country may be checked, and peace, order, prosperity, and national honor survive the dangers of an armed rebellion.

The Executive Committee, in placing before the Union Defense Committee of the citizens of New-York this general statement of their proceedings and the results obtained by them, venture to ask approval of their action, and feel no greater satisfaction than will arise from the sanction of the body from whom their authority was derived. Respectfully submitted,

SIMEON DRAPER, *Ch'm'n*, HAMILTON FISH, *ex officio*,
THEO. DEHON, *ex officio*, JOHN A. DIX,
ABIEL A. LOW, *ex officio*, JAMES S. WADSWORTH,
MOSES H. GRINNELL, ISAAC BELL,
A. C. RICHARDS, CHARLES H. MARSHALL,
RICH. M. BLATCHFORD, JOHN JACOB ASTOR,
SAMUEL SLOAN, P. M. WETMORE, Sec'y.

The report was unanimously adopted.

A report was then prepared, containing a detailed statement of all the business transacted by the Committee, and forwarded to the Common Council. That report is given at length in our report of the proceedings of the Common Council.

The Committee is using every endeavor to forward more troops to Washington, and it is expected that the 9th and 79th will depart this week. The following regiments have been ordered to parade at their quarters on Wednesday, at 12 o'clock, for inspection by the Committee, where, if found correct, they will be armed, equipped, and forwarded at the earliest possible moment:

Anderson Zouaves, Col. Riker; De Kalb Regiment, Col. Van Gilson; Mozart Regiment, Col. Ray; Tammany Regiment, Col. Kennedy; Garibaldi Guards, Col. D'Utassy; New-York Legion, Col. Adams; Firemen Zouaves (2d Regiment), Col. Graham; 11th Regiment, Col. Maldhoff; Scott Life Guards (2d Regiment), Col. Ward; 65th Regiment, Col. Le Gal.

The Committee have published the following as the conditions on which regiments will be accepted by them for immediate service, under the authority granted by the President of the United States:

UNION DEFENSE COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF NEW-YORK, }
NEW-YORK, May 18, 1861. }

Conditions on which regiments will be accepted for immediate service, under the authority granted to this Committee by the President of the United States:

I. Regiments designated, to be inspected on the same day, and as nearly as practicable, at the same hour.

II. Commissioned officers of all such regiments must signify their assent to these conditions by affixing their names to the printed regulations which accompany this notice, and also by strict compliance with the following:

1. The service to be for three years, or for the war, at the option of the President.

2. The roll of commissioned and non-commissioned officers to be delivered to the Inspector at this office before the hours named for inspection.

3. Company rolls, properly authenticated, to be exhibited to the Inspector.

4. Requisitions for clothing and equipments to be submitted in detail to the Committee for their consideration.

5. A statement of camp equipage, required in conformity with army regulations, to be furnished to the Committee as early as practicable.

6. Return of arms in possession of the regiment, and an accurate statement of the number and description required to complete the armament, to be furnished to the Inspector.

7. Estimates of the total amount of money required to place the Regiment in condition for immediate service, record being had, in every instance, to economy and efficiency, to be furnished for the consideration of the Committee immediately.

8. An accurate statement of all existing debts incurred in the equipment or outfit of the Regiment to be furnished previous to the inspection.

9. The roll of each Company to state the residence of each member for the last six months.

By order of the Executive Committee,
S. DRAPER, Chairman Executive Committee.

A series of resolutions highly complimentary to Major Gen. Dix, who was formerly Chairman of the Defense Committee, were adopted unanimously.

THE HARRIET LANE GOES TO CHARLESTON.

Advices received by private letter from Fort Monroe mention that the Harriet Lane had received orders to proceed to Charleston with dispatches for the United States frigate Niagara. She was to return immediately.

PUBLIC MEETINGS.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

REPORT OF THE UNION DEFENSE COMMITTEE.

The Board of Aldermen met last evening, the President, Mr. GENET, in the chair.

Mr. FROMENT offered the following preamble and resolutions:

Whereas, This Common Council has learned with feelings of unfeigned regret of the decease of Colonel Abraham S. Vosburgh, Commandant of the 71st Regiment N. Y. S. M., which melancholy event occurred this morning at Washington City, while engaged in active participation in according the efforts of the General Government in protecting the capital of the nation from threatened assault, and in suppressing the present unholy attempts of some of the Southern States to subvert the Government of the United States, and to forcibly sever the links which bind this Confederacy in a common and undivided destiny; and

Whereas, This Common Council, deeply sympathizing with the numerous friends and acquaintances of the deceased, tender them their condolence in their affliction, well knowing that their sorrow must be augmented from the fact that the deceased possessed, in an eminent degree, all those social, moral, and intellectual qualities which endear their possessor to all with whom he may become acquainted casually, while to those of his more intimate acquaintance, and in an especial manner to his relatives and the immediate members of his family a void is created by his death which can never be filled, and we can only bid them remember that "He who doeth all things well" has, in the dispensation of his inscrutable providence, deemed it wise at this time to remove the deceased from the sphere of his usefulness for his own wise purposes, and we earnestly entreat Him who "tempers the wind to the shorn lamb," and who has promised to be a father to the fatherless, to take the bereaved family of the deceased under His divine care and protection and to prove their solace and consolation in this their hour of tribulation; and *whereas*, it is but meet and proper that this Common Council should, in a becoming manner, testify their appreciation of the private worth and eminent public military services of the deceased; be it therefore

Resolved, That the subject of paying the last tribute of respect to the remains of the deceased officer and citizen be referred to the Joint Special Committee of the Common Council on National Affairs, with power to make such arrangements and of taking such action in the premises as in their judgment may seem fitting and proper; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of the foregoing preamble and resolution suitably engrossed, be prepared and presented to the family of the deceased.

The resolutions were referred to the Committee on National Affairs, but subsequently adopted, and sent to the Board of Councilmen for concurrence.

The following communication, in reference to the same subject, was received from the Mayor:

MAYOR'S OFFICE, N. Y., 20th May, 1861.

To the Honorable the Common Council:

GENTLEMEN: It is my painful duty to announce to the Common Council the decease of Colonel Abraham S. Vosburgh, commanding the 71st Regiment of New-York State Militia. He died at Washington City this morning in the discharge of his duties as an officer and soldier.

The distinguished position of Col. Vosburgh, his unblemished character, and his gallant and chivalric spirit command our sincere respect and admiration. Failing as he does a sacrifice to his zealous labors in the cause of his country, his death becomes ennobled with the laurel of the hero.

In view of this melancholy event, I recommend the Common Council to make suitable arrangements in honor of the deceased, and to pass resolutions expressive of the public sorrow and of the sympathy of his fellow-citizens, with the family of the distinguished soldier, who has passed away in their bereavement.

FERNANDO WOOD, Mayor.

Mr. BOOLE offered an ordinance, amendatory to an ordinance making appropriations for 1861. The following are the items of the ordinance:

Hebrew Benevolent Society, for the erection of an Orphan Asylum, to be paid by the Controller whenever satisfactory proof shall be furnished that a corresponding amount has been raised by private contributions for a like purpose..... $30,000
Old claims—Printing and binding Charters in 1855, for Charles W. Baker, with Kent's Notes..... 4,200
James Monk, for services as Messenger to the Superintendent of Unsafe Buildings..... 360

And also the further sum of $22,365 67, which shall be paid to the Chamberlain of said city appointed on the 24th December, 1860, in whose favor the Controller of said city is hereby authorized to draw his warrant for that sum, to reimburse the said Chamberlain for expenses incurred by him in procuring the transfer of the books, securities, and funds of said office from his predecessor therein, and in defending and establishing the title to said office.

Referred to the Committee on Ordinances.

Mr. BOOLE offered a resolution that the Street Commissioner be directed to have a set of colors made for the Seventh Regiment, New-York State Volunteers, the cost not to exceed $500. Referred to the Committee on Arts and Sciences.

A resolution offered by Mr. Frear, to present a stand of colors to Col. Kerrigan's regiment, was referred to the Committee on National Affairs.

The petition of the New-York Union Rangers, stationed at the foot of West Forty-ninth street, was referred to the Committee on National Affairs.

The resolution of the Councilmen, discontinuing *The Daily News* and *Day Book* as Corporation papers, came up, when

Mr. FARLEY moved that the Board of Aldermen non-concur.

Mr. FROMENT offered as an amendment that the resolution be referred to the Committee on Advertising. Mr. Froment said that he very seldom read the papers referred to. It was said that they sympathized with the enemies of the country. We were sending our fathers, brothers, husbands, and sons to fight the battles of the country; and he could not see but that if the papers were pursuing the course charged against them, then the Common Council was rendering aid and comfort to the enemy by supporting them. The papers had but a small circulation, and by publishing in them the proceedings of the Common Council, justice was not done the city.

Mr. Froment's motion was lost, and that of Mr. Farley to non-concur was adopted without a division.

A communication was received from the Union Defense Committee, which was laid over. The communication is as follows:

To the Honorable the Mayor and Common Council of the City of New-York.

The Union Defense Committee of the City of New-York have the honor to report to the Mayor and Common Council of the City of New-York that in the administration of the trust reposed in this Committee in and by the ordinance of the Common Council approved by the Mayor on the 23d of April, 1861, in the disbursement of the sum of $1,000,000 appropriated in and by said ordinance, they have expended for the uses and purposes prescribed by the terms of said ordinance the amounts hereinafter stated:

Under the direction of the Sub-Committee on Application for Provisions and Supplies, for provisions and water-proof blankets, the sum of $4,100.

Under the direction of the Sub-Committee on Purchase of Arms and Ammunition, for these articles, $155,479.

Under the direction of the Sub-Committee on Aid to Regiments, they have made, under four principal heads, as follows:

1. For the subsistence of the soldiers while the process of organization and formation of regiments for acceptance by the State or by the General Government was going on.
2. For clothing to the indigent destitute volunteers;
3. For the expenses of recruiting stations;
4. For uniforms, generally fatigue uniforms, and equipments and accoutrements.

These appropriations have been in aid of 54 different regiments, complete and incomplete, and in the whole amount to the sum of $717,915 73.

On account of which, requisitions upon the Controller to the amount of $224,893 63 have been issued, leaving a balance of such appropriations not yet drawn of $43,082 10.

The aggregate amount of the disbursements of the appropriation of the city actually made by the Committee under all the foregoing heads of expenditure is $434,472 63, not including the unexpended sum of $18,027 19 appropriated by the Committee.

Under the other branch of expenditures contemplated by the ordinance that of "aid and support of the families of such officers and men as may require the same," the Committee, up to the evening of May 18, have disbursed the sum of $21,300, applied to the use of 5,020 families dependent upon volunteers connected with 43 different regiments, complete and incomplete.

The number of families now receiving aid from the Committee is such as to require an expenditure, at the present rates of supply, of about $5,000 per week; and, in the opinion of the Committee, additions will shortly be made, in all probability, to the number of beneficiaries, which will increase the weekly expenditure under this head to about $6,000.

In respect to the future requirements of the Committee, for the continuance of their action in aid of "the necessary equipment and outfit of the military force of the City of New-York," the Committee have come to the following conclusions:

1. That it is inexpedient for this Committee, or for the corporate authorities of the city, or for the citizens at large, to give any further aid in any form in favor of any regiment or other organization of troops which is not to enlist for the period of three years or the war, or which the Government of the United States is not ready to receive into its service immediately on the completion of such organization.

2. That beyond furnishing such aid as may fairly fall within their duty in the administration of the funds intrusted to their charge toward putting in the field the fourteen regiments to be selected by the Committee under the order issued by the Secretary of War, on the —— day of May instant, this Committee should take no part in assisting further organizations of troops in this city until a further call for troops shall be made by the General Government, which shall give some new occasion for the action of the Committee.

If the action of the Committee in respect of the organization and movement of troops be limited, as above suggested, the further expenditures of the Committee under this head, as near as they can estimate, will require about the sum of $20,000.

In regard to that branch of expenditures contemplated by the Ordinance which relates to aid to the families of volunteers, the Committee beg leave respectfully to present, for the consideration of the Common Council, the following suggestions:

At the time that this ordinance was passed, the only call for troops for the service of the General Government which had been made was that of the President's proclamation of the 15th April, which provided for only three months' service. The sudden emergency which led to the issue of this proclamation required that its call should be instantly obeyed, and the people of the loyal States, as well as the public authorities of these States, responded to this call, showed that the public necessity was well understood.

It was apparent that to be of any benefit to the Government in this moment of need, the troops that should be supplied for this three months service would need to be put upon their march instantly, and that existing organizations of troops for the most part, with such supplements of volunteers as could be rapidly furnished, would alone be available for the emergency. It was obvious, therefore, that many soldiers, having families dependent upon their earnings for support, would be obliged to throw down their employments at the call of the country, without time or opportunity to make any arrangements for those dependent upon them—and all this for a military service of the brief duration of three months. It became, therefore, and was so recognized, a plain duty of the city authorities and patriotic citizens by private contributions to justify this instant sacrifice of the interests of their families by the citizen soldiery by an immediate and efficient provision for their present support. This, in the opinion of the Committee, was the motive upon which the appropriation of the City Government for aid of the families of volunteers and the contributions of citizens to the same object were prompted, and which led to their uniting the duty of disbursing the same with the other principal duties of facilitating the organization and movement of troops assigned to this Committee by the generous confidence of their fellow-citizens.

It is not, perhaps, for the Committee to say how far, or in what shape, this principle of public or private aid to the families of volunteers should become a part of the more permanent military forces of the State or Federal Government, under the later proclamation of the President, calling for a three-years' enlistment, should be maintained or applied. It is apparent that the circumstances of a less sudden enlistment, and of the more permanent employment of this latter levy, distinguish the case of these volunteers from that of the first instantaneous rally of volunteers under the proclamation of April 15. The Committee, however, are of opinion that if a general and permanent system of aid to families of volunteers is to be maintained and applied to the more permanent organization of forces from appropriations to be made from the City Treasury, the disbursement of such funds, involving the distribution of something like $2,500,000 per annum of public moneys, through a possible period of several years, would be a subject unsuitable for continued administration by this Committee.

If, however, the Committee should continue to administer the disbursement of the aid to the families of volunteers, a further appropriation for that purpose would be required from the City Government, as the balance of the $1,000,000 appropriated by the ordinance of April 23, not already expended, or not required under the above estimate for putting the 14 regiments in the field, would be exhausted in a few weeks, at the rate of supply to families afforded by the Committee.

In estimating any probable sum that may be required for further aid to the families of needy volunteers, the Committee are decidedly of the opinion, and beg leave respectfully to represent to the Hon. the Mayor and Common Council, that the principle should be adopted of extending such aid in no case beyond the period of three months after the volunteer's enlistment.

SIMEON DRAPER, Ch'n, HAMILTON FISH, *ex officio*,
THEO. DEHON, *ex officio*, JOHN A. DIX,
ABIEL A. LOW, *ex officio*, CH. H. RUSSELL, *ex officio*,
MOSES H. GRINNELL, JAS S. WADSWORTH,
A. C. RICHARDS, ISAAC BELL,
RICH. M. BLATCHFORD, CHAS. H. MARSHALL,
SAMUEL SLOAN, JOHN JACOB ASTOR,
PROSPER M. WETMORE Secretary.

In connection with the foregoing subject, Mr. BOOLE reported from the Committee an ordinance appropriating $500,000 for arming and fitting out troops for the General Government, and also to provide for the families of volunteers. It provides that the Controller shall pay vouchers which have been approved by a Committee, to be composed of the Mayor, the Controller, the President of the Board of Aldermen, the President of the Board of Councilmen, the Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Board of Aldermen, the Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Board of Councilmen, and the President of the Union Defense Committee. Laid over.

On motion of Mr. BOOLE, the Board adjourned to Wednesday, at 5 o'clock, when the above communication and ordinance will be taken up.

BOARD OF COUNCILMEN.

There was a pretty full attendance at the meeting of the Board on Monday afternoon. Mr. JONES, the President, occupied the chair.

A copy of the communication from the Mayor in relation to the death of Col. Vosburgh, of the Seventy-first Regiment, was received, and ordered to be printed in the minutes. At a later stage of the meeting the resolutions of sympathy and condolence adopted by the Board of Aldermen, were received and concurred in.

A communication was received from the Controller transmitting copies of the certificates of the City Inspector, upon which he drew warrants under the contract for cleaning streets. The paper was ordered to be printed on the minutes, and referred to the Committee on Streets.

The Committee on Salaries and Offices reported in favor of authorizing the heads of departments to employ extra clerks to supply the places of those who are absent in the war.

The report was recommitted to the Committee to report the names and positions of those who are now on leave.

The Board concurred in the resolution to purchase a steam fire-engine for Engine Company No. 21.

Adjourned to Thursday.

THE GENERAL SYNOD OF THE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church met again in the Rev. Dr. McLeod's Church, in Twelfth street, yesterday, the venerable MODERATOR in the chair.

The Synod was addressed on the progress of Evangelical Protestantism in France, by the Rev. Pastor FISCH of Paris.

They were also addressed upon the objects and aims of the African Civilization Society, by the Rev. A. A. CONSTANTINE.

According to a resolution adopted at one of the early sessions of the Synod, a hearing was given to the Rev. Mr. Cook, the Secretary of the New-York Sabbath Committee.

The Synod adopted resolutions recommending the various objects thus brought before them to the Presbyteries and Churches.

They then went into Committee of the Whole on the Report of the Committee on Domestic Missions.

In the afternoon the Rev. Dr. THOMPSON addressed the Synod on the subject of Missions in Africa.

In the evening the Tri-centennary discourse on the Scottish Reformation was preached by the Rev. Dr. WILSON, of Cincinnati. He chose as his theme "God in History." He surveyed briefly the principal events which had transpired since the Creation of Adam and Eve down to the most recent occurrences which were transpiring in our own time and in our own country. He asserted that the liberties which we had enjoyed, and the liberties yet to be enjoyed, and by us extended to every human being on earth, had sprung from that power which had been planted by Luther, Calvin, Knox, and Cromwell—had been preserved by that wholesome Presbyterianism which had taken root from the Covenanters who had been thrown on this Continent in banishment from their native land. He said that God would overturn until he was acknowledged in all the ends of the earth. The enemies of the Cross might burn down bridges over rivers to defeat his purposes, but his will would be fulfilled, even though streams were bridged over with dead bodies, that an army with righteousness as its watchword might march on to victory.

CITY ITEMS.

PERSONAL.—Mrs. Lincoln, wife of the President, returned to this city from Cambridge, Mass., yesterday afternoon, and is now at the Metropolitan Hotel. It is her intention to return direct to Washington, and she will doubtless leave this afternoon.

DEATH OF AN OLD CITIZEN.—The Hon. Henry Meigs died in this city yesterday at 10½ o'clock, at the residence of his son, Henry Meigs, jr., corner of Thirteenth street and Seventh avenue, at the advanced age of 79 years. Mr. Meigs has been confined to the house since the 8th of November last, with varicose veins in the leg. His mind during the time has been as vivid as usual, and he departed this life peacefully and in the full hope of a glorious resurrection. He was born at New-Haven in 1782, graduated at Yale College in 1799, and studied and practiced law in this city more than 50 years. Mr. Meigs has occupied some very important positions in the city and country. He was a member of the XVIth Congress, and voted for the admission of Missouri into the Union. He also represented this city in the State Legislature. He was President of the Board of Aldermen in 1832-33, and strongly advocated the introduction of the Croton Water into our city. He was a Judge of one of our Courts, and was afterward appointed Clerk of the Court of General Sessions. The American Institute in 1835 elected him Recording Secretary; he was likewise Secretary of the Farmers' Club, and held both positions at the time of his death. The Transactions of the Institute show his labors in the cause of Agriculture, to which he was ardently attached. Judge Meigs was an educated gentleman of the old school, and was familiar with nearly every language. His acquirements in Oriental Literature were beyond the average of scholars devoting themselves to those acquirements.

THE CROTON MAINS.—After the break in the Fifth avenue main had been mended on Sunday, it was found that a small stream of water kept trickling down near the pipes. It is not known whether this proceeds from another leak or from an old drain. Mr. Craven has given instructions for workmen to follow up the pipes, and ascertain where this little stream, which is damaging the foundations of the mains, comes from. As the pipes are uncovered new stone supporters are placed under them, and the earth is carefully tamped about them, to prevent a recurrence of these accidents. The matter is so important that something besides half measures should be adopted, otherwise the city may be left in a helpless condition with millions of property in flames and no supply of Croton to check the conflagration.

ARRIVAL OF ARMS.—Arms from the other side of the Atlantic have as yet arrived only in small lots. Eleven cases of Enfield rifles—weapons of a most exquisite model—came in the Kangaroo, and were taken from on board yesterday. It is expected that the Canadian and Persia, now due, will bring a large quantity of the best manufactured arms of England and the continent.

THE STEAMER COLUMBIA.—This steamer sailed yesterday at 4 p. m. for Havana, between which port and New-York the agents, Messrs. Spofford & Tileston, have determined to keep up a regular line. The Columbia was armed against privateers, carrying, in addition to the ordinary 6-pounders used for salutes, two 12-pound carronades and an extra quantity of men, who may be relied upon. The Columbia was well laden with freight.

The steamship Matanzas, ashore on the mud flats, near Stapleton, Staten Island, was got off yesterday afternoon after discharging a quantity of shot, and proceeded to the city.

WARNING TO LIQUOR DEALERS.—The commissioners of excise for this city and county, will this day hold their first meeting for the purpose of granting licenses for the current year. Already several liquor-dealers who have no desire to incur the risk of wilfully violating the excise law, and who are determined to avoid being sued, arrested and imprisoned, have made early application for license, and thus evinced their good sense and foresight, as the commissioners are determined this year to prosecute, with the utmost rigor of the law, all who sell liquor without license. As the commissioners have liberally construed the act, and been as lenient as it was consistent with a proper discharge of their duties to be, the liquor-dealers have had no cause to complain; nevertheless, last year, a large number of them either neglected or refused to take out license, and unless they make an early application this year, they will be taught a severe but well-merited lesson.

[Advertisement.]
THE PATRIOTIC DRAMA, ANDERSON, representing the Scenes in Charleston Harbor is played every AFTERNOON and EVENING at BARNUM'S MUSEUM, and with all the other attractions is drawing crowded houses.

[Advertisement.]
PILES, PILES, NO. 17.
Taken with decided benefit, relief and cure. Call for DR. GIFFORD'S Homeopathic Curative No. 17. Price 35 cts. Sold by Rushton, John Meakim and all Druggists, or should be. Address PHILIP LEE, No. 156 William-st.

[Advertisement.]
PRICES OF ENGLISH CARPETING REDUCED!—A great opportunity now offered for bargains in new SPRING CARPETING; English Medallion and Velvet Carpets, 6-4 wide; Brussels, Three-ply and Ingrain Carpeting, Rugs, Mats, Matting, Window Shades, Table and Piano Covers, Drugget, Stair Carpets and Rods, Dutch Carpeting, &c., displayed in the spacious salesrooms at HIRAM ANDRUSS'S, No. 93 Bowery. Housekeepers and Carpet buyers are invited to call.

COURT CALENDAR—THIS DAY.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT.—No calendar today.

SUPREME COURT—GENERAL TERM.—Non-enumerated calendar continued.

SUPREME COURT—CIRCUIT—Part I.—The Oyer and Terminer will be in session.

SUPERIOR COURT.—Part I.—Nos. 1543, 537, 1177, 1611, 1369, 1775, 1793, 1799, 1740, 1750, 1769, 1781, 1157, 1797, 1717, 819. Part II.—Nos. 1530, 698, 1514, 1548, 1574, 1576, 1578, 1580, 1582, 1584, 1586, 1588, 1590, 1592, 1594, 1596, 1598, 1602, 1604, 1606.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS.—Part I.—Nos. 238, 820, 1315, 843, 1054, 780, 809, 1291, 1096, 1253, 1258, 1256, 1257, 1261, 1262. Part II.—Nos. 177, 713, 935, 881, 557, 535, 1092, 1186, 1263, 1264, 1265, 1267, 1269, 1272, 1273.

BROOKLYN CITY COURT CALENDAR.—May 21.—Nos. 72, 75, 21,