Is There Petroleum in California?

To the Editor of the N. Y. Tribune.

SIR: In *The Springfield Republican* there has recently appeared several notices, tending to throw doubts upon the existence of any valuable collections of petroleum near the Pacific Coast of the United States. Among these are the following papers.

Communicated to The Republican.
CAMBRIDGE, March 21, 1865.

DEAR SIR: I am in receipt of your letter of yesterday, making certain inquiries relating to petroleum, &c., in California. Some of your questions I can answer, others not. You ask: 1st: "Does petroleum occur in Southern California?" 2d: "What is the relation between petroleum and coal oil, and bitumen and asphaltum, substances understood to occur in immense quantities?" 3d: "Have any attempts been made to extract oil from the bitumen or asphaltum? If so, with what success?" 4th: "How extensive are asphaltum beds?" You ask further that I will give "any information that occurs to you (me) as interesting or important in this connection, and say whether you (I) would advise a friend to invest money in any of the stock companies above referred to," that is, companies which you have mentioned.

I can best answer your questions by taking the second first. As I understand it, petroleum is the term used to designate certain mineral oils which do not absorb oxygen and go through other spontaneous changes in free contact with the air, so as to harden into a solid mass readily. Such are the Pennsylvania and Ohio petroleums. In California a certain "oil," or as it has been there called, until lately, "mineral tar," rises from the rocks, which on exposure undergoes changes, the result of which is asphaltum, a solid mass, breaking like a soft rock. The asphaltum, as it occurs in deposits, and as it comes to market, is this hardened material, containing more or less sand. Specimens selected from the material in market in San Francisco, and which looked pure, contained over 50 per cent sand.

I am not aware that petroleum, in the sense in which that term is used in Pennsylvania, is found in California. But the bituminous matter referred to, mineral tar, more or less liquid, and asphaltum occur in immense quantities, the latter resulting from the former. It occurs in the Coast ranges, associated with certain tertiary rocks at intervals for 400 miles. There are many localities; the material seems practically inexhaustible. There have been several attempts to extract oil from both the viscous tar and the hardened asphaltum. A manufactory was in operation near Los Angeles in December, 1860. I do not know with what success. In 1861 I visited an "oil manufactory" at San Buenaventura. The material operated upon was sand from the bluffs of the sea shore, which was saturated with the viscous material. I know nothing of the success of this, and I was not allowed within the building. I was informed, however, that the process was not successful in a pecuniary point of view. Near Gilroy, in the same year, I visited another manufactory. In that case the indurated asphaltum was used. The process was not a success either as regards quality or cost of the oil. Similar statements have been made me since, to the same effect, but I have no proof of their truth or untruth. Again, another near San Pablo, in 1862; wells were bored and a manufactory built. Both were failures.

At the Fair of the Mechanics' Institute, held at San Francisco last September, there were exhibited samples of "illuminating and lubricating oil," purporting to be of California manufacture. They looked well, but no data were given of the cost of their production.

I think that at the present state of our knowledge, good illuminating and lubricating oils *cannot be profitably made* in California from the asphaltum or its kindred substances. I think this covers the ground you desired me speak of; if not, I will be happy to give any further information that I have from personal observation or experience. I will state that I visited many asphaltum localities before 1854, in that State, but none since the reported new discoveries. I do not advise friends to invest, or not to invest, in mineral stocks; but my opinion of the value of the stocks you speak of can be seen from the data I have given you. I am, Sir, yours, most truly,
WILLIAM H. BREWER.

D. L. HARRIS, esq., Springfield.

CALIFORNIA PETROLEUM.—*The Springfield Republican* says: "There is quite an agitation in Boston among the holders of stocks in California petroleum companies, owing to statements made by Prof. Whitney, State Geologist of California, and by Prof. Brewer of Yale College, who assisted Prof. Whitney in the exploration of that State. They agree in the positive statement that there is absolutely no evidence of the existence of petroleum in Southern California, the region covered by Prof. Silliman's reports. There is asphaltum enough there, but they say that petroleum is never found in connection with asphaltum, and that the small amount of oil which can be obtained from asphaltum is useless either for illuminating or lubricating purposes. This is a pretty broad difference, both in fact and opinion, between the distinguished savans."

As these disparaging remarks profess to come from the scientific gentlemen conducting the Geological Survey of California, they will certainly seriously affect the interests of many who have invested capital in expensive enterprises looking to the development of this product. Beside this, the conflicting views expressed by Prof. Silliman of New-Haven, and the California geologists, give an additional interest to this question. In these strangely contradictory statements it is curious to observe that those who are employed by the State to discover and make public its resources, should be found arguing against the occurrence of what would be a most valuable product, and this without professing to have ever seen the localities reported upon, and as there is reason to believe, without experience in this department or particular knowledge of the subject.

Public attention was first directed to this matter by Prof. Silliman, who last year visited the district near the Coast Range of Southern California, and brought back glowing accounts of the occurrence of petroleum there in large quantities. His brother-in-law, Mr. J. B. Church, a gentleman who had been engaged in the petroleum business, and Mr. J. Wyeth of Philadelphia, who was also familiar with it, and who was engaged last year in explorations in California and Arizona, also visited the localities, and both fully confirm the statements of Prof. S. On the other hand, Professors Whitney and Brewer are reported in one of the above extracts as agreeing "in the positive statement that there is absolutely no evidence of the existence of petroleum in southern California," and the letter of Prof. B. certainly seems intended to establish this point by inference. Here is certainly a grave discrepancy, and it behooves these gentlemen quite as much as it does those who are pecuniarily interested, to have this matter cleared up. In the mean time we can only sift the evidence already before us, and examine some of the statements made by the light we already possess.

In the first place, the nature of the testimony of Prof. S., as to the occurrence of crude petroleum is direct and positive, while that of the other parties is of a negative character. The one states that he actually saw good petroleum in great abundance where the others do not profess to have been; and these, if not affirming there is none in California, leave this to be inferred, and argue to the effect "that, at the present state of our" (whose?) "knowledge, good illuminating and lubricating oils cannot be profitably made in California from the asphaltum or its kindred substances." Now, it is among these kindred substances, several miles back from the coast, that Prof. Silliman reports finding good petroleum. He caused samples of it to be brought from Santa Barbara, and several lots (one of ten gallons) were also forwarded by Wells & Fargo's Express, specially collected by other parties for gentlemen of unquestioned character and responsibility in this city and Philadelphia. These samples have been examined by Profs. Silliman and A. R. Eaton, and other chemists, all of whom have reported them to be petroleum, yielding both illuminating and lubricating oils in various proportions—one sample 50 per cent of the former, and 30 per cent of the latter—showing it to be equal to Pennsylvania petroleum of superior quality. Prof. S., in his recent lecture at the Cooper Institute, also exhibited a sample of what he stated to be crude California oil of such extraordinary purity, that it burned in a kerosene lamp like Pennsylvania refined oil.

Now as to the argument drawn in the letter from the assumed designation of the character of petroleum and its mode of occurrence in connection with asphaltum. According to the writer of the letter "petroleum is the term used to designate certain mineral oils, which do not absorb oxygen and go through other spontaneous changes in free contact with the air so as to harden into a solid mass readily." The designation found in scientific treatises is generally to this effect (as given in the article PETROLEUM in the New American Cyclopedia)—a substance of no definite composition, consisting of various oily hydrocarbons which hold in solution paraffine and more or less solid bitumen or asphaltum. When of the greatest fluidity it resembles naphtha. As the proportion of asphaltum increases, the mixture becomes thicker and darker, resembling tar in appearance; and at length, by further diminution of the fluid ingredients, it passes into asphaltum. Such effect is produced by evaporation conducted by heat; and thus tarry asphaltum is collected in the stills of the refineries. It is reasonable to believe that it would in like manner result from long continued evaporation in the dry atmosphere and under the hot sun of the region back from Santa Barbara. By this evaporation the petroleum is first deprived of its lighter component parts, and the residue is of little value for producing illuminating oils. These are, nevertheless, thus obtained in practice by subjecting the tarry matters to a second distillation at higher temperatures than at first; and in the refineries in Western Pennsylvania they are now thus profitably utilized. It is owing to this escape of the lighter oils by evaporation, that those left behind and collected from the surface are of greater density and less value than are those drawn up from considerable depths. Thus petroleum obtained from the surface, particularly in a hot climate, is expected to be very inferior to what the same locality would afford when properly worked. This fact is well understood at the oil wells of Pennsylvania, and no one would expect to obtain near the surface oils as good as some of those which have been brought from California.

As to petroleum being found together with asphaltum, it is well known that this is the case at several localities of the mineral oils. A short account is given of some of these in the article already referred to, as for example in the famous petroleum district of Baku, on the west shore of the Caspian, a region which for centuries has furnished almost the only illuminating material used throughout large districts in Persia. The bitumens, asphaltum and petroleum are there found over a district 25 miles long and half a mile wide, in strata of the tertiary period, which is supposed to be the age of those of the California oil region. "It is observed that the oil from the central portion of the tract is clear and pure, as if distilled, and by its faint yellow tint resembles Sauterne wine. That obtained nearer the sides of the tract is darker, gradually changing to a yellowish green, then reddish brown, and finally to asphaltum." There is no apparent reason why a similar association of these materials may not be found in California, the district near the coast producing inferior asphaltum mixed with sand, and that in the interior purer varieties of the same substance, as well as petroleum itself. The Island of Trinidad affords another well-known instance of the occurrence together of asphaltum and petroleum.

But it is not necessary to go to distant countries to find examples of the occurrence of petroleum in abundance associated with asphaltum. At the oil region of Canada West there is a tract of some 20 acres covered with asphaltum very similar, according to the description given of it by one long engaged in the oil business there, to the bituminous deposits of Santa Barbara. Wells were sunk through this, and they became spouting and flowing wells, producing great quantities of petroleum.

Again, petroleum and tarry asphaltum are met with in numerous places in the tertiary or upper secondary formations throughout the Rocky Mountains; and in the southern part of Colorado there was a year ago, and probably is now, a refinery in operation which supplies Denver City with illuminating oils.

As to the probability of distilling asphaltum with profit to obtain illuminating and lubricating oils—this depends altogether upon the quality of the asphaltum. In one place it may be badly mixed with sand, while another locality in the same region may afford it comparatively free from such admixture. No one will question the adaptation to this use of the solid asphaltum of Western Virginia, or of the "Albertine" of New-Brunswick, which many claim to be asphaltum. In the article under this head, in the work already referred to, is noticed the patent process of Dr. Simpson of Edinburgh (who first applied chloroform as an anæsthetic agent) and of professor W. Thompson, of Belfast, for making a lubricating oil from asphaltum like that obtained from the pitch lake of Trinidad. These papers, ASPHALTUM and PETROLEUM, and that upon BITUMENS, may be convenient for reference to those seeking general information upon these subjects. That the asphaltum found in such immense quantities on the coast of California must become exceedingly valuable for various purposes, there can be no reasonable doubt. But that it is to be the chief dependence of that region for furnishing oils, is very unlikely; and from what we have been informed of the region, it would seem an idle waste of time and money to resort to it for this purpose, if any confidence can be placed in the reports of the flow of petroleum there.
J. T. H.

New-York, March 28, 1865.

Newark Methodist Episcopal Conference.

The eighth annual Conference of this body has just closed its eighth annual session. The following are the appointments of preachers for the year:

NEWARK DISTRICT. L. AYRES, P. E.—Newark: Halsey-st. and Fairmount, C. Larew; Franklin-st. and Houston-st., John Atkinson; Clinton-st., R. B. Yard; Union-st., T. H. Smith; Central Church and Asbury Chapel, L. R. Dunn; Quarry-st., J. R. Bryan; St. Paul, R. L. Dashiel; Warren-st., J. O. Rogers; S. Market-st., to be supplied; W. Broad-st., H. D. Opdyke; East Newark, I. Thomas; Roseville, to be supplied; Belleville, D. R. Lowrie; N. Belleville, to be supplied; Bloomfield, J. R. Adams; Mountclair, J. Gawans; Orange, R. Vanhorn; S. Orange and Jeffersonville, to be supplied; Irrington and Middleville, J. Scarlet; Springfield, W. N. Searles; Milburn, to be supplied; Chatham and Livingston, S. M. Stiles; Madison, J. N. Crane; Parsippany and Whippany, to be supplied; Boonton, W. G. Wiggins; Denville, Rockaway Valley and Greenville, to be supplied; Bloomingdale, H. Litts; Fairfield and Pine Brook, S. J. Morris; Little Falls, to be supplied; Verona, G. T. Jackson; S. T. Moore, Chaplain; J. M. Tuttle, Agent Sanitary Commission, Member of Central Church Quarterly Conference.

PATERSON DISTRICT—N. VANSANT, P. E.—PATERSON—First Church, R. Kelly; Prospect-st., H. A. Butts; Market-st. and Red Mills, J. M. Freeman; New Prospect, J. E. Switzer; Passaic, to be supplied; Hackensack and Bull's Ferry, to be supplied, J. W. Seran;

JERSEY CITY—Trinity, S. Y. Monroe; St. Paul's, William Tunison; Hedding Church, William Day; Bergen, Emory Church, J. I. Morrow; Greenville, Bayonne and Communipaw, A. S. Compton, one to be supplied.

HUDSON CITY—First Church, M. E. Ellison; Second Church, J. N. Fitzgerald; Hoboken, J. K. Burr; Fort Lee, to be supplied; Englewood, H. M. Simpson; Palisades, Piermont and Tappan, E. F. Hadley, one to be supplied; Nyack, B. O. Parvin; Rockland Lake, G. H. Winans; Haverstraw, R. S. Arndt; North Haverstraw, J. W. Barrett; Wesley Chapel, G. O. Carmichael; Mechanicsville, C. Clarke, sr.; Spring Valley and Saddle River, supplied by M. E. Reed.

J. W. Wiley, editor of Ladies' Repository and Member of Trinity Quarterly Conference.

Stephen L. Baldwin, Minister to China.

B. B. Simpson, member of Hoboken Quarterly Conference.

Circular from Bishop Potter in Regard to Drafted Clergymen.

The following circular from the Right Rev. Bishop Potter is of especial interest to Episcopal clergymen and churches:

REVEREND AND DEAR BRETHREN: It will be remembered that in the Diocesan Convention of 1863, resolutions were adopted requesting contributions from the parishes of the diocese, with a view to affording relief to such of the parochial clergy as might be drafted into the military service of the United States. The parishes kindly responded to that call, and a fund was provided, which has been the means of preventing much inconvenience and even distress among the clergymen and their families and the congregations whom they served.

But that fund is nearly exhausted, and the present draft adds to the number of clergymen needing the assistance it was designed to afford. It is believed that if each parish would contribute a sum equal to half of its former contribution, the means of relieving all who are likely to need relief would be obtained. I would respectfully request an early contribution from each congregation for that important object.

Commending you, reverend and dear brethren, to the Divine blessing, I am, affectionately, your brother in Christ, HORATIO POTTER, Bishop of New-York.

New-York, March 28, 1865.

P. S.—The original resolutions of the conventions were confined to a provision for drafted clergymen. But candidates for holy orders have been drafted, and if the clergy were inclined to set apart a small portion of their contributions for the relief of drafted candidates, aid would be afforded to those who have much need of it.

Deaths of Soldiers

IN THE HOSPITALS IN AND ABOUT NEW-YORK
For the week ending March 31, 1865.

REPORTED WEEKLY FOR THE NEW-YORK TRIBUNE, BY A. J. CASE, GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKER, NO. 397 GRAND-STREET, N. Y.

Agan, Patrick O., age 22; Co. H, 7th U. S. Infantry; residence when enlisted, Goodrich, Ct.
Beekley, Chas. F., substitute.
Beard, Alexander, 21st Michigan.
Carson, Ezra, Co. C, 15th Iowa.
Carpenter, Harding, Co. B, 145th Pennsylvania.
Champion, Ezra, age 19; Co. G, 21st Michigan; residence when enlisted, Berlin, Ottawa Co., Mich.
Cooke, John, drafted.
Drown, Zelotes, age 25; Co. B, 4th Vermont.
Hattin, John, Co. K, Ind. U. S. Infantry.
Harvey, Albert J., Co. G, 17th South Carolina; residence when enlisted, South Carolina.
Hill, Frank, Co. F, 7th Vermont; residence when enlisted, Highgate Falls, Vt.
Ivans, Wm. D., substitute.
Johnson, David, age 62; Co. A, 52d N. Y.
Leib, Louis, age 20.
Masters, Walter P., age 19; Co. C, 150th N. Y.; residence when enlisted, Pleasant Valley, N. Y.
Mitchell, Wm.
Moore, L. R., age 21; Co. B, 96th N. Y.; residence when enlisted, Bateman, N. Y.
McGraw, Wm., 97th N. Y.; died at Fort Columbus.
Roberts, George, age 22; Co. H 14th Michigan.
Reardon, Jeremiah, age 52; Co. H, 156th N. Y.; residence when enlisted, New-York City.
Smith, A. P., Co. C, 47th N. Y.
Smith, Jeremiah, age 37; Co. B, 143d Pa.
Smith, Alonzo M., Co. B, 1st Tenn. Art.; Rebel.
Shuler, George, age 35; 2d Ohio Battery.
Scott, Henry, Co. E, 14th Iowa.
Wilson, Bonaparte, age 29; unassigned.

HEAVY ROBBERY AT LOUISVILLE.—The particulars of the robbery on Monday last of Mr. A. Bland's banking house at Louisville, Ky., are these, as we find in *The Louisville Democrat*:

"There was no one in the office but Mr. Bland, who stepped toward the vault, the door of which was open, for the purpose of selling the silver to the stranger. In the bow-window near the street was about $8,000 in gold, which Mr. B. was in the habit of keeping there on exhibition. On the desk or shelf running along the wall was a pile of greenbacks, among which was one package containing $25,000, beside a large amount of silver.

"Mr. Bland was about to count the silver for the stranger, when he suddenly drew a pistol from his bosom, cocked it, and placing the muzzle to his head, said, 'Get in there,' and Mr. B. was soon compelled to get into the close vault. Scarcely had he entered when the thief closed the door upon him, and locked it, taking the key with him. In the twinkling of an eye two confederates entered the bank, and the three commenced a wholesale robbery. All the gold and silver, and all the greenbacks they saw, they carried off, amounting to between $50,000 and $60,000."

The robbery was discovered by a person who entered the establishment subsequently to the foregoing transactions. The proprietor being locked into the safe, locksmiths and machinists were called, and an hour and a half was consumed before Mr. B. could be extricated, being then in a very exhausted state, having narrowly escaped suffocation. There were no traces either of the plunder or the plunderers, at last accounts.

THE PRESIDENT ON THE BATTLE FIELD.—We learned from an officer who arrived from the front yesterday, that on Saturday morning, shortly after the battle commenced which resulted so gloriously for the Union arms in front of Petersburg, President Lincoln, accompanied by General Grant and Staff, started for the battle-field, and reached there in time to witness the close of the contest, and the bringing in of the prisoners. His presence was immediately recognized, and created the most intense enthusiasm. He subsequently rode over the battle-field, listened to the report to General Grant of General Parke, of the Ninth Corps, and added his thanks to those of the Lieutenant-General to the gallant General Parke, for the great service he had rendered in checking the fierce onslaught of the Rebels, and in capturing so many of their number.
[Washington Chronicle, March 29.

CITY GOVERNMENT.

Board of Aldermen.

STATED SESSION, FRIDAY, March 31, 1865, 2 o'clock p. m.

OFFICIAL.

The Board met, pursuant to adjournment.

Present—Aldermen Moore, Norton, Flynn, Shannon, Gedney, McKnight, Jeremiah, Brice, Masterson, O'Brien, Farley.

The President being absent at roll-call,

On motion of Alderman BRICE, Alderman Masterson was called to the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

PETITIONS.

By Alderman MASTERSON—

Petition for sewer in Fiftieth street, between Eighth and Ninth avenues.

Referred to the Committee on Sewers.

By Alderman FLYNN—

Petition of the Long Island Bone Laboratory for the offal contract.

RESOLUTIONS.

By Alderman OTTIWELL—

Whereas, The lease for the right to establish and maintain a ferry from the foot of Twenty-third-street, East River, to Greenpoint, Long Island, expired, by limitation, during the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one, has not, since that period been relet by authority or direction of the Common Council; and

Whereas, The manner in which said ferry is now managed and conducted is a source of great inconvenience, if not a positive annoyance, to that portion of the public having occasion to use it, caused principally by irregularity in the departure of the boats running on such ferry, and the insufficiency of other accommodation for passengers; be it, therefore,

Resolved, That the Comptroller be and he is hereby authorized and directed to advertise and sell at public auction, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven, the right to run the said ferry from Twenty-third-street, East River, to Greenpoint, Long Island, for a period of ten years, stipulating in the lease for the running, at all times, of two good and sufficient steam ferry-boats, in order to afford all the accommodation necessary or desirable for the benefit of the public; that a boat shall leave each terminus as often as every fifteen minutes, and oftener if required by the Common Council, and at rates of ferriage not exceeding those now charged by the Union Ferry Company.

Which was referred to the Committee on Ferries.

By Alderman NORTON—

Resolved, That the ordinance of April thirteen, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four, which directed that West street, on both sides of the railroad track, from Hammond to Hoboken-streets, should be paved with Belgian pavement, be and it is hereby amended, by erasing therefrom the words "one half at the expense of the property owners and one half at the expense of the city," and that the ordinance, as thus amended, be and it is hereby adopted.

Which was laid over.

By Alderman KELLY—

Resolved, That the Street Commissioner be and he is hereby authorized and directed to renumber Thirteenth-street, from Broadway to East River.

Which was adopted.

By Alderman OTTIWELL—

Resolved, That the Comptroller be and he is hereby authorized and directed to draw his warrant in favor of D. Stanton for the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars, for engrossing resolutions to Admiral Foote and Andre Froment, and charge the same to its appropriate account.

Which was referred to Committee on Finance.

By Alderman BRICE—

Resolved, That the Street Commissioner be and he is hereby authorized and directed to renumber Twenty-sixth street, from Fifth-avenue to Hudson River.

Which was adopted.

By Alderman NORTON—

Resolved, That permission be and hereby is given to Heath & Brose to exhibit signs in front of their place of business, (being engaged in obtaining recruits for the quota of the Fifth Ward,) number sixty-three Franklin-street, until otherwise ordered by the Common Council.

Which was adopted.

By Alderman MASTERSON—

Resolved, That permission be and is hereby given to William Maix to exhibit goods in front of his premises, number five hundred and nine Eighth-avenue, the same to remain only during the pleasure of the Common Council.

Which was adopted.

MOTION.

Alderman JEREMIAH moved that the Board do now take a recess for fifteen minutes.

Which was carried

AFTER RECESS.

Present, Aldermen Moore, Norton, Flynn, Shannon, Gedney, McKnight, Eyers, Jeremiah, Brice, Kelly, Masterson, Ottiwell, O'Brien.

COMMUNICATIONS.

A communication was received from the Chief Engineer in relation to the act passed establishing a Metropolitan Paid Fire Department.

Whereupon, Alderman JEREMIAH presented the following resolution:

Resolved, If the Councilmen concur, that a special committee of three from each Ward be and they are hereby appointed to take the matter in consideration included in the communication of the Chief Engineer of the Fire Department, in reference to the act of the Legislature constituting a new Metropolitan Fire Commission, with full power to take such action as the emergencies and proprieties of the subject may require.

Which was adopted.

By Alderman JEREMIAH—

Whereas, The Legislature of this State has just passed an act which substitutes the paid system in place of the present volunteer organization of the Fire Department in this city, and

Whereas, Some time must necessarily elapse ere this new system can be properly or efficiently placed in a position to meet all that would be required therefrom in respect to the full protection of the lives and property of the citizens, and

Whereas, In the interregnum that must exist between the present time and the arranging of said system in such way as to be at all equal in efficiency to the present volunteer organization, much suffering, and it may be loss of life, would ensue in case of a disastrous conflagration (since tenths of the community living and having their little all in places peculiarly subject thereto,) unless the present volunteer organization still continue in active service; therefore

Resolved, That the Common Council of the City of New-York would most earnestly urge upon the officers and members of the New-York Fire Department the public necessity of their still continuing their former energetic and humane efforts in attesting on all occasions as heretofore the progress of the devouring element, thereby not only preventing thousands of helpless women and children from being rendered homeless and destitute, but strengthen and tend the memory of the Volunteer Organization of the New-York Fire Department a record of fame and usefulness, of which both themselves and their children in after time may be well proud.

Which was adopted.

RESOLUTIONS RESUMED.

By Alderman EYERS—

Whereas, The Board of Supervisors have, in several communications addressed to this board officially, requested the co-operation of the Common Council to assist them in their endeavors to stimulate volunteering throughout the city; and

Whereas, The citizens in the several wards in this city have, in the most prompt and generous manner, come forward and pledged their time and their means to urge and assist recruiting in the various wards and districts, and, in the most patriotic and practical manner, have shown a determination to do all that lies in their power to accomplish such results; and

Whereas, The State bounty law only provides for the payment of the State bounty at the office of the Provost Marshals of the several districts, and no arrangements have been made by which the one hundred dollars hand-money promised by the county, in addition to such State bounty, can be paid in the several districts above referred to; and

Whereas, It is of the utmost importance that in order to encourage the efforts of our citizens by affording them every possible way to obtain recruits, and complying with the demands of Provost Marshal-General Fry that his deputies should be kept busy so that the drafted men will not be immediately called upon; be it, therefore,

Resolved, That the Board of Supervisors be and they are hereby most respectfully but earnestly requested to empower and instruct the County Volunteering Committee to appoint a Paymaster for each Congressional District, to be stationed at the Provost Marshal's Office of such districts, for the purpose of paying the County hand-money of one hundred dollars to such recruits as the citizens of the several ward organizations may offer, and to further encourage and stimulate the patriotic and generous efforts of the citizens to relieve themselves from the operations of the draft and assist volunteering.

Which was adopted.

By Alderman FLYNN—

Whereas, Several responsible parties have petitioned the Common Council for a contract for the collection and removal in and from the City of New-York of all dead horses and other dead animals, blood, offal, and other refuse animal matter, for a period of ten years, and at an annual compensation less than the amount now paid by the city, payable in equal monthly instalments, and have offered to give security for the faithful performance of the said work; and,

Whereas, The said work is now being performed by John Green for the sum of eighteen thousand dollars per annum, under a contract, which by its terms can be terminated upon twenty-four hours' notice in writing from the City Inspector to said Green, that the same is rescinded; and

Whereas, A saving to the city will be effected by terminating the contract with the said Green and accepting such offer; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the petition of the said ———— be granted; that the City Inspector be and he is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to notify the said John Green forthwith, in writing, that the contract with said Green is rescinded, annulled and vacated, and the said City Inspector is authorized and empowered, and he is hereby directed to make and enter forthwith into a contract on the part of the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the City of New-York with the said ————, for the collection and removal in and from the City of New-York of all dead horses and other dead animals, blood, offal, and other refuse animal matter, at a compensation of fifteen thousand dollars per annum, payable in equal monthly instalments, and for the period of ten years, from the fifteenth day of April, 1865, upon the said ———— executing a bond to the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the City of New-York, in the sum of thirty thousand dollars, with two sureties, to be approved of by said City Inspector, conditioned for the full and faithful execution and performance of the work in and by said contract covenanted and agreed by them to be executed and performed. The terms of the said contract to be executed by the said City Inspector to be the same as the provisions of the aforesaid contract with said Green, except that the contract hereby provided for shall be for a period of ten years, from the fifteenth day of April, 1865, and not be revocable in the same manner as said Green's contract, and, except that the amount to be paid annually shall be the sum of fifteen thousand dollars, in equal monthly instalments.

Which was laid over.

The President pro tem. here announced the Special Committee on Fire Department to consist of the following named members:

Aldermen Jeremiah, Eyers, Gedney.

MOTIONS.

Alderman JEREMIAH moved to discharge the Committee on Sewers from the further consideration of a petition of Frazier Weiner to construct a sewer.

Which was carried.

And the resolution afterward adopted.

RESOLUTIONS RESUMED.

By Alderman MCKNIGHT—

Resolved, That the curb and gutter stone be reset, and the sidewalks reflagged, in front of numbers one hundred and sixteen, one hundred and eighteen, one hundred and twenty, one hundred and twenty-two, one hundred and twenty-four, one hundred and twenty-six, one hundred and twenty-eight, one hundred and thirty, one hundred and thirty-two Willet-street, such work to be done under the direction of the Street Commissioner as soon as possible.

Which was referred to the Committee on Streets.

Resolved, That the resolution passed directing that a sewer be built in the Eleventh-avenue, from the sewer in Forty-seventh-street to the south side of Forty-eighth-street, be reconsidered.

Which was adopted.

Resolved, That the sidewalk in front of number two hundred and thirty-two Stanton-street be reflagged, under the direction of the Street Commissioner.

Which was referred to Committee on Streets.

REPORTS.

The Committee on Finance presented a report donating a sum sufficient to pay an assessment against the consistory of the Reformed Dutch Church at Bloomingdale.

Which was laid over.

The Committee on Streets presented a report to remunerate Miss Mary Masterson for losses and damage done her property in Worth street.

Which was laid over.

MOTIONS RESUMED.

Alderman EYERS moved that when this Board adjourns, it do so to meet on Monday, third instant, at two o'clock.

Which was concurred in.

COMMUNICATIONS.

A communication was received from the officers of the Sailors' Snug Harbor, transmitting the annual report of the Treasurer of that institution.

Which was ordered on file.

A communication was received from the Street Commissioner, transmitting an apportionment of assessment in the matter of paving Thirty-second-street, between Sixth and Seventh avenues.

Which was ordered on file.

A communication was received from the Harlem Gas-Light Company, giving notice to the Corporation of the City of New-York, that on and after the first day of April next it will demand an increase of pay for lighting the public lamps.

A communication was received from the Street Commissioner, relative to creating the office of General Surveyor, and so forth.

A communication was received from the Street Commissioner, transmitting apportionment of assessment for the work of flagging Broadway, between Fiftieth and Fifty-second-streets.

Which was ordered on file.

MOTIONS RESUMED.

Alderman NORTON moved that this Board do now adjourn.

Which was lost by the following vote:

Affirmative—Aldermen Norton, Shannon, Jeremiah, O'Brien—4.

Negative—Aldermen Moore, Flynn, Gedney, McKnight, Ryers, Brice, Kelly, Masterson—8.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR.

A message was received from His Honor the Mayor, recommending that the corporation apply to the Legislature for permission to borrow twenty million dollars for the purpose of raising means to secure volunteers for this city.

Which was referred to the Committee on National Affairs.

RESOLUTIONS RESUMED.

By Alderman OTTIWELL—

Resolved, That the Street Commissioner be and he is hereby authorized and directed to discontinue the use of one-half the number of lamps now in use in the district lighted by the Harlem Gas Company.

Alderman EYERS moved to amend the resolution by striking out the words "one-half of the number of," and insert the words "each alternate."

He then moved further to amend by adding the word "forthwith" after the word "discontinue."

Which was carried.

The resolution was then laid over.

On motion the board adjourned, and the PRESIDENT pro tem. then announced that the board stood adjourned until Monday, the third proximo, at two o'clock p. m.
D. T. VALENTINE, Clerk.

Board of Councilmen.

STATED SESSION—Friday, March 31, 1865, 2 o'clock p. m.

OFFICIAL.

The Board met, pursuant to adjournment, in their Chamber, No. 16 City Hall.

Present—James Hayes, esq., President, in the chair, and the following members:

Councilmen Keenan, Healy, Robinson, Stacom, Hagerty, Koster, Kinney, Brinkman, Brady, Houghtalin, Leavy, McGrath, Green, Lent, Smith, O'Callaghan, Russell, Joyce, Reilly and Cook—21.

The reading of the minutes of the preceding meeting was dispensed with.

RESOLUTIONS.

By Councilman KOSTER—

Resolved, That permission be and the same is hereby given to John Tweddle, Junior & Company, to receive and deliver goods in front of their premises, numbers six (6) and eight (8) Broome-street, and thirteen (13) Tompkins-street, to continue during the pleasure of the Common Council, providing the same does not interfere with the public travel.

Which was adopted.

By Councilman HAGERTY—

Resolved, That permission be and the same is hereby given to J. P. Lansdown to erect a tin awning in front of his premises, number two hundred and sixty-four Greenwich-street, the same to remain only during the pleasure of the Common Council.

Which was adopted.

MOTIONS.

Councilman KEENAN moved that the Committee on Streets be discharged from the further consideration of resolution, as follows:

Resolved, That permission be and the same is hereby given to Gilbert S. Dye to erect a wooden awning in front of his house, number four hundred and fifty Grand-street, the same to remain only during the pleasure of the Common Council.

Councilman LENT moved to amend said resolution by striking therefrom the word "wooden," and inserting in lieu thereof the word "tin."

Which was lost.

The resolution was then adopted.

REPORTS.

In favor of adopting resolution that the Comptroller be and he is hereby authorized and directed to draw his warrant in favor of O. & J. Mowbray, in the sum of three hundred dollars, the same to be taken from and charged to the appropriation for City Contingencies, such amount being in full for damages sustained by them by reason of the apparatus of Hook and Ladder Company number Eleven being run into the show window of the premises occupied by them, upon the occasion of the fire at Chrystie-street, December 18, 1864.

Which was laid over.

Report of Committee on National Affairs, to pay bill of Walter Roome, for music furnished on the occasion of the reception of the Eighty-first, Ninety-sixth and Ninety-eighth regiments, New-York Volunteers.

Which was laid over.

MESSAGE FROM HIS HONOR THE MAYOR.

A message was received from His Honor the Mayor, suggesting that the Common Council make application to the State Legislature for authority to enable the Corporation to issue bonds and raise means for the relief of drafted men.

Councilman LENT moved that the same be referred to a Special Committee of three.

Which was carried.

And the PRESIDENT appointed Councilmen Lent, Brinkman and Healy such Committee.

GENERAL ORDERS.

Report of Committee on Wharves, Piers and Slips of the Board of Aldermen, with resolution as follows:

Resolved, That the Street Commissioner be and he is hereby authorized and directed to advertise for proposals and contract for the work of making the necessary repairs to the inner portion of Pier number thirty-seven, North River.

Which was concurred in by the following vote:

Affirmative—Councilmen Robinson, Hayes, Koster, Kinney, Brinkman, Brady, Houghtalin, Leavy, McGrath, Smith, O'Callaghan, Russell, Joyce, Reilly and Cook—15.

Negative—Councilmen Keenan, Healy, Stacom, Hagerty, Green and Lent—6.

Report of Committee on Assessments of the Board of Aldermen, with resolution, as follows:

Resolved, That the Comptroller be and he hereby is authorized and directed to draw his warrant in favor of William Fitzpatrick, for the sum of forty two dollars and twenty-six cents, to be as a donation; the said amount to be applied in payment of an assessment imposed upon lot known as lot number six hundred and four, block number one hundred and ninety-two, map number two hundred and thirty-one, ward number twenty-ix, on the map for opening Seventy-sixth-street, from Fifth-avenue to the East River, and charge the same to the account of "Donations."

Which was referred to the Committee on Assessments.

Report of Committee on Finance, in favor of adopting resolution as follows:

Resolved, That the Comptroller be and he is hereby authorized and directed to draw his warrant in favor of William Flynn for the sum of two hundred dollars, being in full for loss of horse on the pier foot of Harrison-street, North River, and charge the same to the account of "City Contingencies," or any other unexpended appropriation.

Which was adopted by the following vote:

Affirmative—Councilmen Keenan, Healy, Robinson, Stacom, Hagerty, Hayes, Koster, Kinney, Brinkman, Brady, Houghtalin, Leavy, McGrath, Green, Smith, O'Callaghan, Russell, Joyce, Reilly and Cook—20.

Negative—Councilman Lent—1.

MOTION.

Councilman KEENAN moved that the Board do now adjourn.

Which was lost by the following vote:

Affirmative—Councilmen Keenan, Healy, Brinkman, Brady, Green, Reilly and Cook—7.

Negative—Councilmen Robinson, Stacom, Hagerty, Hayes, Koster, Kenney, Houghtalin, Leavy, McGrath, Lent, Smith, O'Callaghan, Russell and Joyce—14.

GENERAL ORDERS RESUMED.

Report of Committee on Roads, in favor of adopting resolution as follows:

Resolved, That the sidewalk on the north side of Forty-seventh-street, between Eighth and Ninth-avenues, be flagged full width, under the direction of the Street Commissioner, and that the accompanying ordinance be adopted.

Which was adopted by the following vote:

Affirmative—Councilmen Stacom, Hayes, Koster, Kinney, Brinkman, Brady, McGrath, Green, Lent, Smith, O'Callaghan, Russell, Joyce, Reilly and Cook—15.

Negative—Councilmen Keenan, Healy, Robinson, Hagerty, Leavy and Lent—6.

Report of Committee on Roads of Board of Aldermen, with resolution, as follows:

Resolved, That the Comptroller be and he hereby is authorized and directed to draw his warrant in favor of William Fitzpatrick, for the sum of forty two dollars and twenty-six cents, to be as a donation; the said amount to be applied in payment of an assessment imposed upon lot known as lot number six hundred and four, block number one hundred and ninety-two, map number two hundred and thirty-one, ward number twenty-ix, on the map for opening Seventy-sixth-street, from Fifth-avenue to the East River, and charge the same to the account of "Donations."

Which was referred to the Committee on Assessments.

Report of Committee on Finance, in favor of adopting resolution as follows:

Resolved, That the Comptroller be and he is hereby authorized and directed to draw his warrant in favor of William Flynn for the sum of two hundred dollars, being in full for loss of horse on the pier foot of Harrison-street, North River, and charge the same to the account of "City Contingencies," or any other unexpended appropriation.

Which was adopted by the following vote:

Affirmative—Councilmen Keenan, Healy, Robinson, Stacom, Hagerty, Hayes, Koster, Kinney, Brinkman, Brady, Houghtalin