PRISON DISCIPLINE.

PRESENTMENT OF THE GRAND JURY.

The Grand Jury yesterday made the following presentment to the Court of Oyer and Terminer of the condition in which the public institutions were found at the time of their inspection last week:

The Grand Jury beg leave respectfully to report:

That in addition to the discharge of the duties specially imposed upon them they have of their own motion visited a number of public institutions and investigated their condition and management as carefully as their very limited time and pressure of other engagements would permit. The conclusions at which they have arrived they desire briefly to submit to your Honor and the public.

The establishments which they have examined are the following, under the control of the Commissioners of Public Charities and Correction, viz.: The City Prison, Bellevue Hospital, Nurseries on Randall's Island, Lunatic Asylum, the Almshouse, Infants' Bureau of same, Penitentiary, Charity Hospital, Work-House, and the Special Hospital for Paralytics and Epileptics; and the following, under the control of the Commissioners of Police, viz.: House for the Detention of Witnesses, Police Headquarters, and a number of Station-Houses.

"These several institutions will now be referred to in the order in which they are above enumerated. The City Prison, popularly known as the Tombs, is a disgrace to the metropolis, and none are more earnest in so proclaiming it than the public authorities charged with its administration. Its accommodations for prisoners are deplorably insufficient. The number that can be properly accommodated in it is 120; the average number actually confined there is 350, and during the Summer months, when the courts are not sitting, the number is frequently increased to 450. Five persons are sometimes placed in one cell, varying in dimensions from 9 feet by 5 feet 8 inches to 7 feet by 5 feet 8 inches. The moral evils of such a condition of things are as great as the physical, and both are too shocking to dilate upon and almost to contemplate. We were unable to detect any want of care or attention upon the part of the officers of the prison in doing all that can be done for comfort and cleanliness under such unfavorable circumstances. The fault does not lie with them but with the public of a great city who tolerates the continuance of such inadequate provisions for the accommodation of those charged with crime. The building, both from its construction and its location, being built upon piles, over the pond of water formerly known as the Collect, is unavoidably very damp. The lower tier of cells is infested with rats, which come in through the soil pipes. Their incursions may not be so numerous as have been represented in sensational newspaper statements. But we have the testimony of one of the Commissioners as to their existence, and as to the unsuccessful efforts which have been made by the introduction of cats and dogs into the prison to get rid of them. And yet we are unable to assert that the Tombs is necessarily an unhealthy place of residence. The vital statistics certainly do not show it. Of 42,621 persons confined there last year only 19 died, and the epidemics which have swept the city have always spared this establishment. Its medical administration is represented to be most excellent. The jury earnestly recommend the construction of a new and adequate prison in some other part of the city in place of the Tombs. During the first year after the construction of the Tombs was completed, 1838, the average number of persons confined within its walls was 50. The population of the city was then only about 800,000. In 1840 it was 312,852. The Five Points, in the immediate vicinity of the prison, was the center of crime. Crime, in large and rapidly growing cities, is migratory, and the present center of crime in New-York is remote from where it was 30 years ago. It is now probably west of Broadway, between Canal and Bleecker-sts. But if notwithstanding the views which we have presented the construction of a new prison is deemed inexpedient at this time, we insist that decency requires that at least the accommodation of the Tombs be extended and improved. This can be done by removing the Court of Sessions, &c., elsewhere, and appropriating the entire building to prison purposes. We are informed that suitable rooms for the use of that court and the police magistrates of the First District are easily obtainable in the neighborhood at a moderate expense. If the humane citizens of New-York much longer permit the present disgraceful condition of their city prison the responsibility and the shame will be theirs.

"It is a relief to turn from the consideration of such an institution to that of one presenting in every particular so agreeable a contrast to it as does Bellevue Hospital. We doubt if any other capital in the world can boast of such admirably situated, arranged, and managed charity hospitals as New-York possesses. At Bellevue we didn't obtain our information exclusively from commissioners, physicians, wardens or employés, but we conversed privately and freely with the inmates. We informed ourselves as carefully as possible about the food, attendance, sanitary provisions, &c., and there is nothing that we can speak of in terms other than those of praise. The experience of the late war has caused the introduction of many improvements in hospital management; and, in so far as they are applicable to a civil hospital, have been introduced at Bellevue. The number of beds here is 1,000, and the number of patients annually treated, medically and surgically, about 8,000. The halls, wards, kitchens, &c., are kept most scrupulously clean, and the atmosphere throughout the whole establishment is as fresh and pure as in the most fastidious gentleman's private residence, and yet it is full of people who, on their entrance, are reeking with every imaginable foulness. The nurseries on Randall's Island are probably better known and appreciated by our citizens than any other of our public institutions. Everything connected with them is so admirable that they cannot be spoken of on terms other than those of the highest praise. The system of moral, educational, and physical training seems to be nearly perfect, and a more gratifying and affecting visit, to a nature of sensibility, than that to Randall's Island, cannot be easily conceived; and we make all due allowance for the fact that we saw everything in its holiday aspect. The number of children there is about 800.

The Lunatic Asylum on Blackwell's Island contains about 800 patients. The building is an old one, and very inadequate to the accommodation of so large a number of persons. Complaint is also made that great difficulty is experienced in obtaining sufficient heat and ventilation at the same time during cold weather. We have no reason to believe that the management is other than humane and judicious and reasonably successful.

The Almshouse, on examination, was very superficial. Its inmates are mostly old persons, incapable of work. The diet is lower than that at any of the other public establishments. The number of paupers was 1,351 on the 1st of March, exclusive of children, in what is called the Infants' Bureau attached to the Almshouse or to the Charity Hospital. Of these there are now 210. The frightful mortality among these children has already attracted public attention. The percentages of death among the foundlings was last year as large as 83 5-10. It was explained to us that they are almost always in a dying condition when received; that the practice formerly obtained of sending them out to nurse; that the deaths under this system were so numerous that a change was made, and local nurses employed; that cows were kept especially for these infants, and that each was always fed with the milk of the same cow; but that, notwithstanding all that had been done, the death-rate continues undiminished. It seemed to us that most of the women employed to bring up these children on the bottle are too old and infirm, and one of these expressed to us the opinion that if more wet nurses were employed the mortality would not be so great. The subject is certainly one in which humanity is too deeply concerned as to arrest attention, and to call for a more thorough investigation than we have been able to make.

The Penitentiary is a model prison in construction, cleanliness, and ventilation. The cells seem small, but we are informed that their dimensions are the same as those of the State Prisons at Sing Sing. The discipline appears to be strict, but not unnecessarily harsh. The number of convicts was in March 31, 570. The youth of the larger number of convicts, both here and in our other penal institutions, is a very observable circumstance. Most of them are under 26 years of age.

Of the Charity Hospital we can speak in the same terms of commendation. The most captious persons could see nothing to find fault with. When we consider the loathsome nature of the diseases of most of the patients, the absence of anything offensive to the senses in any of the wards, or in any portion of the building, is very remarkable. The zeal and skillfulness of the medical staffs of our charity hospitals appear to be entitled to the highest commendation. This institution sheltered on the 31st of March 861 patients.

What has already been said of the Penitentiary may be substantially reported of the Workhouse. Persons are committed here for short terms for misdemeanors, principally for drunkenness and disorderly conduct. It is very noticeable that the proportion of females is nearly double that of males, while the number of men who commit crimes is larger than that of women. There was in the Workhouse, on March 31, 663 persons of both sexes.

The hospitals for paralytics and epileptics on Randall's Island have been recently established. They seem to be well conducted, and with that measure of success in treatment that can be reasonably expected in the case of these unfortunates.

In concluding this portion of the report the jury would recommend that all the boys sent to the Island as criminals or vagrants, be compelled to attend school some portion of the day, and that if no school exists, one be established as soon as possible. Excellent provisions are made for the education of the nursery children on Randall's Island by the School authorities of the Twelfth Ward, and a school has recently been established there for the tuition of idiots, which is producing marked improvement in their condition.

The jury made a very careful examination of the House for the Detention of Witnesses in Mulberry-st. They found it very ample in respect of accommodation. The largest number of inmates ever there at one time was 125. The present number is 11; nine males and two females. All testify to the sufficiency and the good quality of the food. The ventilation is perceptibly very bad and should be remedied. Complaint was made to us that there exists no provision for washing clothes in the house. Those who have friends or money can have their washing done outside. Those who have neither are compelled to do their own washing. The inmates have the privilege of a corridor, a sitting-room, and a yard until 9 o'clock in the evening, when they are compelled to retire to their rooms. The place is rather a gloomy one for the confinement of those who are not criminals, and the want of occupation seems to tell unfavorably upon some of them. There is what is called a library, composed of a few odd volumes of principally juvenile works—indifferent intellectual food for a matured mind. If the proprietors of our daily journals would distribute a few copies gratuitously to those persons it would be a good act. It would also be commendable if some benevolent private individual would furnish the institution with a collection of books of travel, adventure, popular science, &c. The jury devoted an entire evening to visiting a number of the Police Station-Houses in the city. They saw some of the best and some of the worst. The best are very good, and the worst are very bad. Among the former they may class those of the Sixth and Fifteenth Precincts, and among the latter those of the Third and Fifth Precincts. That of the Fifth Precinct Station, Leonard-st., is a disgrace to the city, and an unmitigated nuisance. The adjoining building is being torn down, and most of the cells are in a consequent state of dilapidation. The air is foul almost to suffocation. There are no water-closet accommodations for either officers or prisoners. It is absolutely inhuman to incarcerate a person not convicted of crime in such a place. The Station House of the Third Precinct, on Chambers-st., is not much better, nor is that of the Eighth Precinct, on Wooster-st., with its damp subterraneous cells. That of the Fourteenth Precinct, on Spring-st., is indifferent enough in every respect. These four are believed to be the worst in the city. The jury were anxious to see to the worst. In thus expressing their disapprobation of these places, the jury do not mean to reflect unfavorably upon any of the Captains, or their subordinate officers. On the contrary, it appeared to them that they were all zealous in doing the best they could under the circumstances. Whitewash and chloride of lime seem to be plentiful everywhere.

In many of these places the cell accommodation is very inadequate. We think that there should be separate corridors of cells for males and females. As it is, with the indiscriminate herding together, the night is frequently passed in obscene badinage between men and women, with, perhaps, young boys arrested for a first crime as listeners or participators.

It is obvious to us that something should be done in the direction indicated. We think, too, that the cells should always be in a building detached from the station-house proper, as is the case in the Sixth and Fifteenth Precincts. More time and a more thorough investigation might lead to the suggestion of many more improvements. Attached to every station-house there is a lodging-house for the houseless poor. Here the shelter of a roof, a fire, and a wooden platform to sleep on are alone furnished. Food is never given, except at the direction of the Captain, to a famishing mother and children. There are always separate rooms for males and females.

Capt. Jourdan of the Sixth Precinct informed us that he has frequently as many as 200 applications on a Winter evening. Most of these he is compelled to turn back on the street to seek shelter in some other precinct, or to wander about the streets all night. It is a sad reflection that in this great city, so abounding in charities, public and private, there are times in the most inclement weather when the only means to obtain shelter is to commit a crime. It seems to us that this subject opens a wide field for judicious private benevolence. In conclusion, the Jury venture to express the opinion that such visits as they have made may be productive of great good. If they subserve no other purpose they assist the principal authorities in keeping their subordinates up to a proper standard of efficiency.

It is one year since the City Prison, and two years since the institutions on the Island, had been previously visited by a Grand Jury. It is respectfully suggested that it be enjoined upon grand juries to make these visits frequently and periodically, and that it be not left to their voluntary action. By order of the Grand Jury. Respectfully submitted. MARMSELL B. FIELD, Foreman.

JAMES REDMAN, Secretary Grand Jury.
FULTON CUTTING, Assistant Secretary.

THE LABOR MOVEMENT.

THE JOURNEYMEN HORSESHOERS' STRIKE.

In compliance with the call which was published by President Michael Bligh in yesterday morning's newspapers, the members of the Journeymen Horseshoers' P. U. and B. Society assembled in their hall at 8 o'clock yesterday morning to celebrate their anniversary. After the admission of candidates for membership, and the adoption of a resolution pledging the horseshoers to abstain from intoxicating liquors while on strike, the meeting was addressed by Mr. Bligh and others, and it was reported that the Third, Sixth, and Eighth-ave., and Hudson River Railroad Companies have complied with the Society's request, and that the Seventh-ave. Company will pay the scale rate, but will not employ Society men. Previous to going out on parade, the Society unanimously adopted the following address:

To the Journeymen Horse Shoers of New-York and vicinity:

We, the members of the Operative Horseshoers' Protective and Benevolent Society, numbering nearly 400 of the best workmen in the city, have resolved that our moderate scale of prices—namely, $2 50 for floormen, and $3 75 for firemen—which has been recognized in many of the workshops in this city, shall be not only recognized, but respected and paid by every shop in this vicinity, and that on all shops eight hours shall be the full day's work on Saturday. You, fellow horseshoers, saw us out on parade yesterday, and knew that we already have a majority of the trade in our ranks. We therefore appeal to you to join us. At once notify your employers that our scale must be conceded from to-day. Tell them that of less than 600 journeymen and perhaps 150 club apprentices in the business, we have nearly 400 pledged to maintain the scale, and bid them understand that you will strengthen us by adding your names to our rolls. Do this, and we will compel employers to pay the price from this date. To our fellow-craftsmen in the country we respectfully say, Stay where you are until we notify you, through the public press, that employers have yielded.

MICHAEL MCCANN, JOHN F. BENDON, THOMAS RUSSELL, WILLIAM MCGUIRE, JAMES WALLACE, Committee N. Y. O. H. P. and B. S.

At about noon the Society, bearing their fine banner and preceded by a band of music, formed in Third-ave., and marched through Twenty-second-st. to First-ave., to Fourteenth-st., to the Bowery, to THE TRIBUNE Office, Fulton-st., Broadway, Thirteenth-st., Sixth-ave., Twenty-third-st., Ninth-ave., Thirteenth-st., Eighth-ave., Forty-third-st., Fifth-ave., Forty-second-st., and to their hall, in Third-ave., corner of Twenty-second-st. Here it was voted that to-day every man ask his employer to adopt the scale of prices as fixed by the Society, and that all attend a meeting which is to be held this evening.

WORKINGMEN'S EIGHT HOUR CONVENTION.

The Committee which was appointed by the Workingmen's Union, to make arrangements for a Convention of delegates from all the workingmen's organizations in this city and vicinity, to consult with reference to the enforcement of the Eight Hour law, met last evening. The Committeemen are: Messrs. John Reid, John Ennis, John Clarke, Dennis Ryan, Fenton P. F. Mullins, and John I. Doane. After remarks by Mr. Ennis, who said that he had raised his standard for eight hours, and did not intend to lower it until eight hours for labor, eight hours for sleep, and eight hours for recreation shall be an accomplished fact, it was voted that every trade society, in and around New-York, be invited to send three delegates to a Workingmen's Eight-Hour Convention, to be held in Early Closing Hall on Saturday evening, June 15; that circulars explanatory of the objects of the Convention be printed by the Cooperative Printers, of No. 166 William-st., and sent to all workingmen's organizations hereabout, and that the Convention be advertised in all the morning journals.

OTHER LABOR MEETINGS.

At the meeting of Carpenters' Union No. 1, after routine business and the making of new members, it was voted that the first business next Monday evening be the discussion of the Eight-Hour Law. It was reported, at the meeting of the Ladies' Shoemakers Society, that employers have conceded the prices which were recently demanded, and thereupon a Committee of Arbitration was appointed, to prevent the necessity of future strikes. The Tin and Metal Roofers extended the time of the Committee whose duty it is to invite all journeymen Metal Roofers to join the society. Only routine business was transacted by the N. Y. P. House-Painters' and Waiters' associations last evening.

THE NEWMARKET MURDER.

TRIAL OF BRIDGET DERGAN FOR THE MURDER OF HER MISTRESS.

The trial of the servant girl, Bridget Dergan, who stands charged with having murdered Mrs. Dr. Coriell at Newmarket, N. J., on the night of the 25th of February last, was taken up in the Middlesex County Court of Oyer and Terminer yesterday morning, Judge Vredenburgh presiding. Messrs. Garnet B. Adrian and Wm. H. Leupp appearing on behalf of the prisoner, and Major Chas. M. Herbert, the newly-appointed and efficient Prosecutor of the Pleas, for the State. Nathan Vars was the first witness examined, who rendered testimony bearing mainly upon the fact of his having made a wooden model of the house where the murder was perpetrated, showing the apartments and furniture therein, and of having prepared a diagram of the neighborhood. Considerable time having been consumed in impanneling the jury, and the deposition of the Surveyor, the Court adjourned until 2½ p. m. Upon reassembling, Dr. Wm. W. Coriell, husband of the deceased, was called to the stand, and being sworn, testified as follows: I resided, on the 25th of February last, in Newmarket, Middlesex Co.; my family comprised my wife, my child, A. C. Bush, Bridget Dergan, and myself; my wife's name was Mary Ellen Coriell; I left home that day about 5½ o'clock in the evening; I left there my wife, child, Bridget Dergan, and I think Ellen Doyle; Bridget Dergan came to my house on the 22d of October last for the first time; she remained with me until about the 25th of February, with the exception of two or three days' absence in New-York, I think; she was in my employ up to that time as a domestic or servant; I discharged her—I told my wife to tell her to leave when the month was up (objected to, and the objection was sustained); I did not hear anything said about Bridget's discharge in her presence; I have never heard Bridget say anything about it since; when I left my house that night my wife was alive; (A wooden model of the dwelling was here shown to witness, who gave a description of the apartments, and explained the relative position of the different doors and passages.) The bedroom of the defendant was in the garret, over the sitting room; there is no connection between the bedroom of defendant and the main part of the house up stairs: in the room in which witness and his wife slept there was a bureau, upon which the lamp was usually placed; the bureau contained some papers, and some clothing; it contained on the 25th of Feb. last two or three books, a ledger, some miscellaneous books, and about $60 in paper money; I generally kept money in the secretary; I do not know whether that fact was known to the defendant; I do not know as I have ever taken money from the secretary in her presence; my child usually retired about 7½ o'clock at night. (A dress, ragged, dirty, and covered with small feathers, was here shown witness.) That dress I have seen before; it was my wife's dress; it was the dress she had on that day while pasting some paper; it had been thrown aside; when I left the house she had removed that dress. (A knife was presented to Dr. Coriell, the blade of which was about five inches in length, and considerably bent.) I remember I saw that knife on the 25th of February last; I used it that day to cut some ham with for cooking; at that time it was not bent as it is now; I had had it ground by one of the butchers to cut meat with; I left word when going away that if I did not return by bed time I would not return until morning; this was said in the presence of the defendant, who was in the kitchen, and the door was open; when I left home I went to Louis Cuff's, about two miles below Newmarket; I returned because I received word of the occurrence at my house; a lad named Rutan brought me word; it was about midnight; I returned to my house, and inquired for my wife; and was shown the bed; they said they had removed her to a neighbor's, Mr. Hillyer's; I went there, and saw the body of my wife; remained a few moments; my wife was then dead; when I went in I inquired for the child, and saw Bridget have the child in her arms; I inquired of Bridget about the murder of my wife; she told me that two men had called there about 7½ o'clock in the evening; they inquired for me; my wife told them I had gone down to Piscataway, and told them where I was; these men said they would go and find me; they returned at about 10½ o'clock; Bridget went to the door, and before she opened it Mrs. Coriell called for her to run for the doctor; I asked Bridget if she went back to the room after that, and she said no; I asked her if the same men returned; she said they did, and that she would recognize one of them; I had another conversation with her before daylight the next morning; her answers were very confused; I told her that she knew something about the murder, but she made no direct reply; I began to have suspicions that she knew something about the transaction; I was then at Mr. Little's house; they said there were marks of teeth on my wife's neck and face, and scratches and bruises, showing that it had been a long struggle, and the work of a woman; Bridget said the men were Barney Doyle and —— Hunt; I saw her on the following day, the 26th of February; she sent for me to come to her cell in the jail, that she wanted to make a statement to me; I went there with Mr. John W. Morris; I asked Bridget if she had anything to say; she simply told me that she did not say all; that there was another girl, Ann, who lived at the railroad station, who did the deed; I said, you told me that Doyle and Hunt were there, and now she said Ann was there too; she replied that Ann went and brought the knife; the others stood by; the last conversation was on the 26th, in the presence of Mr. Morris; she said that Ann had come for a drink of water, had gone to the pail, got a drink, seized the butcher knife, and then attacked Mrs. Coriell, and these two men were present giving encouragement to the transaction; I went to the prison on the 18th or 20th of March in company with Mr. Squire and Mr. Runyon; I asked Bridget where she had lived before, and she said in Brooklyn; I waited some time, but she only told the same story—that she met Doyle and Hunt in the street, that they had taken several oaths and kissed the Bible, that they would never divulge anything of that transaction; my wife was 32 years of age; had been married nine years, and had lived in Newmarket since I came from the army. Upon his cross-examination the witness said: Bridget had lived with us four months and three days; she was quiet and peaceable during that time; she had been quite sick with suppression of the menses; my wife had done everything for her, and I furnished medicine; we had talked of her leaving, and she did not want to go, she would rather stay at a lower salary; my wife did not like her, as she was too filthy in her habits; I told my wife to tell her she had better stay a few days longer, until she got perfectly well, before venturing to New-York; I had confidence in her honesty, and had left her several times in charge of my child and the house; I did not form my suspicions by anything I had been told, but thought from her actions, and hesitation in answering my questions, she knew all about the occurrence; she had been troubled with catalepsy, caused by the suppression, and if the flow was strong enough, the blood might have stained her skirts; she had five or six fits during the three days she remained with us, and after they passed off she was perfectly well again; I had visited her before she came to live with me, and she had the fits then, they were removed with slight remedies, and she recovered after two or three days; it may be that catalepsy might lead to insanity. A re-direct examination was held, to determine the condition in which these fits would leave the patient. Dr. Coriell thought it only produced a loss of muscular power and consciousness; it was an action by eccentric acts, and was produced by sympathetic irritation. After the conclusion of the Doctor's testimony, his cousin, Israel R. Coriell, was placed upon the stand, and deposed mainly of his being called up at 12½ o'clock on the night of the 25th of February last by Bridget, who said there were burglars ransacking the Doctor's house; that they had upset the bureau, and she was afraid they would kill Mrs. Coriell. Witness told her she had better go over to Mr. Little's house, and told her where Mr. L. lived. His Honor, after hearing this last evidence, adjourned the Court until 10 o'clock this morning. The court-room was filled to its utmost capacity, much interest being manifested in the trial, from the fact of the prisoner being a woman, and the entire circumstances peculiar in their detail.

SUICIDE IN A GAMING HOUSE.

Shortly after 10 o'clock yesterday morning, Francis B. Fisher, who for the past two months, has frequented the gaming saloons on Broadway and elsewhere in this city, entered the gaming establishment of Charles Burt, located in Room No. 5 at No. 218 Broadway, corner of Fulton-st., in a state of considerable excitement, and apparently somewhat under the influence of liquor. Addressing Mr. Burt, he stated that he was aware that he (Fisher) was drunk, but that some one had slandered him, and he was bound to have satisfaction. He then invited those present to drink, and, on their declining, declared in a very violent manner that he was a gentleman, and produced from his coat-pocket an envelope containing his discharge from the army, a certificate of membership of Normal Lodge, F. A. M., and other papers. Becoming more excited, Fisher delared that before night they would hear that he had shot some one. The persons present endeavored to dissuade him from using such language. Walking to the center of the floor, Fisher took from his pocket a six-barreled revolver, and, before those present could prevent him, placed it to his right ear and fired, the ball passing inward into the brain. The unfortunate man fell backward upon the floor, and died almost without a struggle, the blood pouring in a torrent from the wound, and forming in pools upon the carpet. The startled gamesters at once gave the alarm, and Officer Hays of the Broadway Squad, who was on duty in the vicinity, and others, entered. Finding that the man was dead, the officer notified Coroner Gover, and that official at once proceeded to the place, and held an inquest. The testimony of the various witnesses corroborated the account given above. Officer Hayes added that the deceased met him at the entrance to No. 212, and after inquiring the number of the building, informed him that he would soon require his services. Before the officer could question him further, Fisher entered the building, and he saw him no more until called in after the act was committed. In one of the pockets of deceased was found a letter, addressed as follows:

MAY 20, 1867.

DEAR CORONER: Please inform Normal Lodge, No. 323, of my untimely death, and of that I request that my poor wicked body be returned to the bosom of mother earth by them; and may the Almighty God have mercy on my poor soul, through Christ Jesus, our Savior. Amen.
F. B. FISHER.

P. S.—Please inform my poor old Christian mother of my death, Mary E. Fisher, Iowa City, Iowa.

The following was also written on a memorandum:

"Done by own wicked hand: cause intoxication, playing faro; and may Almighty God have mercy on my poor soul.
F. B. FISHER, No. 153 Laurens-st."

A verdict of suicide by shooting was rendered.

The army discharge paper mentioned shows that on March 9, 1859, he enlisted in Company D, 1st U. S. Cavalry, and served five years, at the expiration of which time he was honorably discharged. The paper bears the indorsement of the Captain, who states that he has always found Fisher a capable, and intelligent man, and pays him a high compliment for soldiery, promptness and, efficiency. In August, 1862, Fisher received from Gov. Fenton a commission as First Lieutenant in the 1st Regiment New-York Mounted Rifles, and served with his regiment until mustered out at the close of the war. Within the past few months he has frequented the various gaming saloons in this city, playing with varying success. Of late he has seemed rather depressed, and it is conjectured that he has been embarrassed in money matters. He was a native of the United States, aged about 30 years, of fine appearance, and fashionably dressed. The body will be taken in charge by Normal Lodge.

CITY ITEMS.

COOPER UNION.—The annual commencement will be held at the large hall of the Institute, on Friday evening, May 31. The recession of the Female Art Department will be held on Wednesday evening, the 29th inst.

CONTROLLER'S OFFICE.—Controller Connolly yesterday appointed Peter Farrell Deputy Collector of City Revenue, and Isaac Robinson Deputy Clerk of Washington Market.

JUMPED FROM A WINDOW.—Mary O'Meara, a native of Ireland, while visiting a friend at No. 365 West Forty-seventh-st. on Sunday evening, jumped from a fourth story window to the basement in a temporary fit of insanity. She received a fracture of the arm, dislocated her right shoulder, and sustained other injuries. She was taken to her residence, No. 342 East Ninth-st.

DISCHARGE OF HENDERSON.—Martin Henderson, the orderly of the Ward and Charity Hospital on Blackwell's Island, who had been charged with causing or hastening the death of a patient in the Hospital, was yesterday discharged by Justice Dodge, at the Jefferson Market Court, the evidence not being considered sufficient to hold him. The papers in the case have been reserved, however, for examination by the Grand Jury.

THE SOLDIERS' MESSENGER CORPS.—The corporators named in the act of the Legislature authorizing the incorporation of the Soldiers' Business Messenger and Dispatch Company, have elected the following officers for the ensuing year: President, Gen. Alexander Shaler; Vice-President, Gen. Henry A. Barnum; Treasurer, Col. J. Henry Liberson; Secretary, Gen. Patrick H. Jones; Directors: Gen. Joseph E. Hamblin, Gen. Geo. S. Batchelder, Gen. Chas. W. Darling, Gen. Campbell H. Young, Col. Ephraim A. Ludwig. This corporation was designed to furnish employment to discharged soldiers, and the children of those who served in the army.

BULL'S HEAD.—The cattle trade is less active this week, in the face of lighter receipts. People are now finding numerous substitutes in place of dear beef. Veal, mutton, pork, shad, eggs, peas, and lamb, and even strawberries, begin to crowd upon beef, and the 5,800 head were barely sold at ½@1c. decline, the market closing quite in favor of the buyer. There were 1,800 head offered at One-hundredth-st. yesterday. Many of the butchers held back for the anticipated large supply at Communipaw to-morrow. Sheep hold their own if in good flesh; otherwise they are held by the salesmen, butchers not wanting them. Some thin Western lots bring little more than freight and expenses, and then buyers are afraid to be detected selling what is put down as unhealthy meat. Hogs are drooping, with heavy arrivals. They have declined ½c. during the week, but all have been worked off.

REMARKABLE CASE OF HYDROPHOBIA.—On Saturday last, James Haley died at his residence, No. 13 West Forty-fourth-st., from hydrophobia. On the Tuesday preceding, Haley, when about to drink a glass of water, was suddenly seized with an insuperable aversion to the liquid, and on attempting to drink it, was seized with spasms. From that time forward the mere sight of water, or the sound of it when poured from a pitcher, would throw him into convulsions. The physicians who were called in pronounced it a clear case of hydrophobia. The most singular part of the matter is the fact that the patient could not remember having been bitten by any animal. He has been employed in a stable for some time past, and it is more than probable that he has been at some time bitten by one of the dogs there. A Coroner will hold an inquest in the case.

STREET DEPARTMENT—AWARD OF CONTRACTS.—Mr. George W. McLean, Street Commissioner, yesterday opened proposals and awarded contracts for the following street improvements: Regulating, grading, curbing, guttering and flagging Sixty-sixth-st., between Third and Fifth-aves., the contract was awarded to Thos. Gearty at $15,942 52; time nine months. Same in Seventy-seventh-st., between Eighth and Ninth-aves., the contract was awarded to J. S. Masterson at $60,890; time two years. Curbing and guttering Seventy-third-st., between Third and Fifth-aves., the contract was awarded to R. J. Cunningham at $1,536 27; time 30 days. Flagging Twenty-sixth-st., between Second-ave. and the East River, the contract was awarded to Thomas Gearty at $1,431 06; time 30 days. Flagging Thirtieth-st., between Sixth and Seventh-aves., the contract was awarded to M. Gavin at $2,081 40; time 25 days.

NEW-YORK ASSOCIATION OF SUNDAY-SCHOOL TEACHERS.—The monthly meeting of this Association, which has been in operation for 51 years, and is the oldest organization of the kind in the United States, was held at the Reformed Dutch Church, Fifth-ave., corner of Twenty-ninth-st., last evening, at 7½ o'clock. In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Ralph Wells, the meeting was presided over by Mr. R. G. Pardee, the Vice-Chairman of the Association. Set speeches were not delivered, but several questions of interest relating to Sunday schools, to children, and to teaching were discussed in a colloquial manner. Repetition of previous lessons, as in secular subjects; catechetical instruction—that is, question and answer, instead of lecturing, and the great Dr. Bylands's method of "Simplify and repeat," as the secret of the teacher's power, were insisted on by various speakers. An interesting account was given of the great good accomplished by Mr. Wells who, gathering in his Sunday-school the roughest children of the East River, taught them so effectually in eight months that they gave a thorough analysis of St. John's Gospel in two Sabbaths "in a way," said the speaker, "that no minister in this city could do." The Chairman, in some very able remarks, vindicated education as the highest of all sciences; religious instruction as the highest education, and teaching as the highest of all arts. The work of Sunday schools was progressing wonderfully in the West, and Illinois, he believed, was far ahead of all the States in the Union in the work of training teachers for the Sunday School Institute had there been carried into 89 counties of 100, in the space of five months. The meeting was commenced and concluded by singing.

PAPERS APPROVED BY THE MAYOR.—During the past week, Mayor Hoffman has approved of the following resolutions: The ordinance making the annual appropriations on account of the County; resolution of the Supervisors, fixing the salaries of the officers of the Superior Court, Court of Common Pleas, and Marine Court, at $1,200 per annum; resolution of the Common Council, that the Counsel to the Corporation, and the Clerk of the Common Council be, and they are hereby instructed, and Dr. E. B. O'Callaghan, J. Powyn Brodhead, LL. D., Geo. Henry Moore, esq., Henry B. Dawson, esq., and John Paulding, esq., be, and they are hereby severally requested to ascertain and report to His Honor the Mayor, the character and extent of the various rights, franchises, and properties of which the corporation of the City of New-York has been and is now legally the proprietor, whether the same shall have been derived from the ancient charters, or either of them, or from subsequent purchase or gift, when, and in what manner, and by what authority, in law, if at all, any or either of such rights, franchises, and properties have been invaded or seized; to what extent, if at all, they, or any of them, have been threatened; and what effect, if any, such seizures, or threatened seizure, or invasion, will have on the contracts which the city has entered into with its creditors or bondholders; the ordinance making the annual appropriations on city account, as adopted by the Legislature; resolution of inquiry as to the authority of a ferry being run from the foot of Liberty-st., N. R., to the Jersey shore; resolution that the Corporation Counsel be authorized and directed to take, or cause to be taken, such action as he may deem necessary, against the party or parties who have assumed the right or authority to close the street known as Little Water-st., or Mission-place, in order to restore the street to public travel, and to prosecute the party or parties who have assumed this right in trespassing upon the corporate rights and privileges of the corporation.

[Announcements.]

SHEET WAX, best quality, 25c. per dozen, at SCHOONMAKER & SON'S ARTISTS' SUPPLY STORE, No. 494 Grand-st.

READ "WILKES'S SPIRIT OF THE TIMES" on the Downfall of the Excise Law. Just out.

THE BURGLAR ALARM TELEGRAPH has had an experience of seven years without a failure. No family should fail to see it in operation at the Office, No. 291 Broadway. E. HOLMES.

LOOK AT THE RUINS!—Aye, look at the ruins of what were once magnificent sets of teeth, to be seen everywhere in society. Look at them, and ask yourself if it is not marvelous that such destruction is permitted, when, by simply using SOZODONT, *any teeth, however fragile*, may be preserved from decay or blemish as long as life lasts?

VINUM BONUM BONUM SANGUINEM FACIT.—SPEAR'S PORT GRAPE WINE makes good blood and imparts new life and tone to the whole system. Excellent for kidney affections, and the best tonic for ladies, weakly persons and invalids. Sold by A. SPEAR, No. 243 Broadway, N. Y.

CIVIL COURTS.

UNITED STATES COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE—MAY 20.
Before Commissioner OSBORN.

AN ALLEGED ILLEGAL SHIPMENT OF BENZINE.
United States agt. Demas Barnes.

The defendant is a member of Congress from Brooklyn, and is the senior partner in the well known patent medicine firm of Demas Barnes & Co.

Under a statute of 1852 it is a criminal offense to ship any inflammable or explosive article on board any vessel or vehicle propelled by steam and used for the transportation of passengers, unless the package containing such article shall be so marked as to indicate the nature of its contents.

The defendant is charged with having, some time last Fall, shipped to the firm of Rice & Rising of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, four boxes, containing bottles of benzine, which were transported part of the way by a steamer carrying passengers, and which were not so marked as to indicate their contents.

It seems that in transferring at Milwaukee the boxes from the steamer to the landing, one of the bottles broke, and the nature of the article it contained being betrayed by its peculiar odor, an investigation took place, which led to the discovery of the inflammable nature of the contents of all four of the boxes, and, the proper authorities being informed, originated the proceedings in this case.

It was shown on behalf of the defendant, that, although his firm have been engaged in a business during the last five years, which necessitated the shipment of large quantities of benzine and other inflammable and explosive articles, no complaint of any kind, of this nature, had hitherto been made; and further, that defendant had issued strict orders to all his clerks, from the very commencement of his business, to properly mark all packages containing such articles, previous to leaving the establishment for shipment.

It was held by the Commissioner that the above facts, taken in connection with all the circumstances of the case, tended strongly to show that there had been no attempted criminal evasion of the law, and even admitting that it was proven that the article in question had been shipped, as represented by defendant, without the proper marks, there was nothing in the developments of the case tending to show that such shipment was other than purely accidental, the whole tenor of the evidence for defendant making the latter conclusion a fair inference.

The defendant was accordingly discharged.

SUPERIOR COURT—TRIAL TERM—MAY 20—Before Justice BARBOUR.

THE NON-ATTENDANCE OF JURORS—ALMOST A BLOCKING OF THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE.

The regular panel of Jurors for the Trial Terms is 104, the great majority of whom are regularly served. The non attendance of Jurors has led to repeated remark, and is a very serious inconvenience to the administration of justice. Yesterday but six Jurors were found in Part II. of the Superior Court who were without valid excuses for non-service. After fining the absentees, Judge Barbour remarked as follows: Two weeks ago there were 104 Jurors directed to be summoned, and I think I got six out of that panel. I ordered a new panel of 104, and I think I got ten more. To-day we have a new panel of 104, and we have six. The Chief Justice had about that number also. He has sent them to me, so that one branch of the Court can go on with a full panel of Jurors. I mention this to show there is something decidedly wrong. Two hundred and eight men have been summoned, and only 16 have attended. I have never while on the bench excused a Juror for favor, and no other person about the Court has the right to excuse, nor has the Commissioner of Jurors that right before the Court has passed upon it. It is almost blocking the wheels of justice.

COURT CALENDAR—THIS DAY.

SUPREME COURT—CIRCUIT—PART I.—MILLER, J.

271—Bouton agt. Bouton.
945—Dunlap agt. Brower.
951—Waring agt. The Hoffman Fire Ins. Co.
1081—Crocker agt. The Long Island R. R. Co.
851—Tucker agt. The Long Island R. R. Co.
852—Tucker agt. Same.
248—The Irving Bank agt. Dubois.
852—Vierock, jr., agt. The Third-ave. R. R. Co.
541—Kiersted agt. Clerke.
1430—Gordon agt. Lenderman.
891—Kaylor agt. Jenkins.
1262—Gilbert agt. Maitland.
1429—Baker agt. Webster.
641—Dufais agt. Andrews.
1279—Ripley agt. Dunbar.
847—Polhamus agt. Ward.
1103—Cornelly agt. Crane.
959—Buchanan agt. Macy.
1297—Manuel agt. Holbrook.
730—Curtiss agt. The Mayor, &c.

PART II.—Adjourned to Wednesday.

SUPREME COURT—SPECIAL TERM.—WELLS, J. Demurrers.

6—Staples agt. Dunning.

Issues of Law and Fact.

195—Kelly agt. Cushing.
199—Egleton agt. Pratt.
136—Belden agt. Armour.
196—Slade agt. Slade.
201—Kelly, Sheriff, &c., agt. Howland.
127—Cogill agt. McAlooey.
210—Van Nostrand agt. Reader.
215—White agt. Morganthau.
146—Holmes agt. Mead.
216—Ferris agt. Van Valkenburgh.
219—Treadwell agt. Sackett.
163—Nicoll agt. Nicoll.
69—Campbell ag