ago it was disposed of by its congregation, and although utterly unfitted for the purpose, was transformed into a tenement, and so remains. It is five stories in hight, and calculated to house 40 families. The hallways do not exceed four feet in width, and in the lower stories are dark even at mid-day. Two windows are narrow and entirely inadequate to supply a sufficient amount of fresh air to the tenants, even were this building not entirely surrounded by others equally high, effectually cutting off all chance of ventilation. The suites of apartments consist of an outer or living room, and an inner or bedroom. These rooms are about 14 feet in length by 8 or 9 feet in width, and are occupied by from five to nine persons. The ceilings are about 8 feet in hight. There is but one main entrance to the building, and this is on the first floor. There were formerly covered ways or galleries connecting with the front building, but these have been converted by the economical proprietor into living rooms for those occupying the front building. As already stated, the building and fittings are of wood. Were a fire to break out in the night on one of the lower floors, it is difficult to conceive how a heavy loss of life could be averted, escape by the narrow hallways being simply impossible. Judging by the report of the Health Board regarding these tenements, one would suppose they were run in the interest of a burying ground. After describing the houses, front and rear, the report concludes as follows: "In this average population of 260 persons in the front and rear tenements together, there occurred, during the past 12 months, 27 deaths at home, besides several others that were buried from hospital wards, to which this place is one of the largest contributors in the city. Counting only the dead that were buried from this pile of tenements, which covers an area of less than 7,000 square feet, the rate of deaths to population living therein at the time is 78 per 1,000."

DONOVAN'S LANE.

Running through from Baxter to Mulberry-st. is a narrow passage-way known as "Donovan's-lane." On either side of it are tenements of the very lowest class. The apartments are about 12 feet in length by 10 in width, the ceilings 6 feet in hight, and the floors broken and damp. On the occasion of a heavy rain the water is sometimes six inches deep on the floors. For a room in this wretched den the occupants pay a monthly rental of $6, invariably in advance. The apartments on the floors above are wretched in the extreme. In the yard is a pile of ashes and garbage three or four feet in hight at places, and emitting a rank and pestiferous odor, even if the day be cold.

No. 53 Baxter-st. is one of the lowest lodging-houses to be found in this horrible neighborhood. The ceiling is on a level with the pavement and one foot below the level of the rear yard. One who comes here at 10 or 11 o'clock, p. m., especially if the night be rainy and the atmosphere outside close and oppressive, is forced to gasp for breath as he enters this subterranean den. It is no uncommon thing for 20 or more persons of all ages and shades of color to be found in here of a night. There is no distinction of sex. Each new comer selects the most available place he or she can find. Many of these lodgers are stupid with drink when they enter, and this combined with the foul atmosphere is in many cases sufficient to produce congestion of the brain. So common is it to find a corpse in the morning that it excites no special comment. The only wonder is that such cases are not more frequent when the surroundings of of the place are taken into consideration.

At No. 52 Mulberry-st. is another lodging-cellar, almost the exact counterpart of its neighbor opposite. The ceiling is 1½ feet above the level of the pavement, and just on a level with the yard.

No. 45 Baxter-st. is also a tenement and lodging cellar. In this instance the conditions are reversed, the ceiling being 1½ feet below the level of the pavement, and 1½ feet above the rear yard.

Opposite the Tombs Prison are two cellars, 6½ feet from floor to ceiling, and the latter on a level with the pavement. They are damp and unwholesome, and have on many occasions been complained of as dangerous to the health not only of the occupants, who are prostitutes of the lowest and most abandoned character, but of the occupants of the adjoining buildings.

At No. 87 Baxter-st. are two three-story wooden tenements, front and rear. It would be difficult to imagine more wretched habitations than these. The front one is bad enough, but the rear is really worth a visit to show the degrees of wretchedness that may be reached in this great city. The building was once a comfortable three-story dwelling, but time has materially changed it. The paint that formerly decked it has faded to a dingy brown, where it is visible, and has entirely disappeared in other places. Many of the clapboards are missing, affording a view of the interior, and there are apertures in the shingled roof visible from the yard. The building is divided by a narrow hallway, with stairs leading to the floors above. On either side of this are front and rear apartments, so that there are four families on a floor, or 12 in the building. Standing on the top floor, one can by the mere exercise of the muscles of the legs, and without raising the feet from the floor, shake the building from foundation to garret. There is not a floor where one cannot, through the cracks and crevices, see what is going on in the yard outside. The roof presents somewhat the appearance of a sieve, and the tenants say that on the occasion of a rain they might as well be out of the building as in it for all the protection it affords them. Those on the first floor pay $7 per month, and those on the floors above $6 each per month, so that this wretched hovel brings in $76 a month, or $912 a year, sufficient to rent a good house in Brooklyn, or even the upper part of the island.

TENEMENT HOUSE CROWDING.

Dr. Stephen Smith, one of the Commissioners of the Board of Health, a member of the Sanitary Committee, and one of the Faculty at Bellevue Hospital, has prepared an exhaustive article on the subject of tenement-houses, and the effect of overcrowding on the health and morals of those who occupy them, which will be incorporated in the forthcoming report of the Board of Health. He states that the tenement-house, as constructed and managed, is the curse of populous cities. It is the nursery not only of every form of contagious disease, and of perpetual endemics among the poor, but of every species of vice and immorality and crime. Human beings are herded together like brutes, men, women, and children; without the slightest regard to decency. All approaches of sun and fresh air are carefully excluded, and filth is allowed to accumulate on their persons, in their clothing, beds, and within and around their apartments to an incredible extent. Speaking of the majority of tenement-houses in this city, Dr. Smith describes them as old structures, built for other purposes, partitioned off within so as to give each family a living room 10 by 12 feet, and a bedroom 6 by 4 feet, while no regard is paid to ventilation or domestic conveniences; 20, 30, 40, to 150 such apartments are constructed, and into each a family of from 3 to 5 persons is crowded. Dangerous as is such over-crowding in individual houses, when exposed to the full play of the winds, it is increased one-hundred fold when such dwellings are as closely packed together in the block as are these tenants in their apartments. Rear tenement houses aggravate the evil beyond measure. They are built upon the rear of the yard, close to the rear tenement of the opposite lot, leaving a small, cold, and damp space between the rears and rear houses, not inappropriately called the wellhole. Not only are fresh air and sunlight thus effectually excluded from the living and sleeping apartments of most of the inmates, but the buildings become cold and damp, and in time are saturated with the poisonous and filthy excretes of the inmates. While the wood and other material of such structures undergo the process of dry rot, the wretched tenants waste and die from a disease expressively termed "Tenement-house rot."

The gradual depopulation of those wards lying below Canal-st., driven out by the needs of commerce, and the corresponding increase in those further up town, more especially in the Seventh, Eighth, Tenth, Eleventh, Thirteenth, Seventeenth, and Eighteenth Wards, which contain the vast majority of the tenement population, is shown by the following table:

Change of population during the interval between the years 1850 and 1870:

Wards.	1850.	1860.	1870.
I.	19,554	13,120	14,463
II.	6,665	2,507	1,312
III.	10,885	3,187	3,715
IV.	23,259	21,094	23,187
V.	22,686	22,341	17,152
VI.	24,698	26,608	21,153
Total	107,403	95,417	81,682
VII.	32,630	40,006	44,819
VIII.	34,012	39,722	34,915
X.	23,316	29,037	41,411
XI.	43,758	59,963	64,350
XIII.	28,246	32,917	33,365
XVII.	43,766	72,775	95,411
XVIII.	31,546	57,444	50,598
Total	237,934	331,904	373,747

The changes which have taken place in the number of dwelling-houses during the 15 years between 1855 and 1870 shows how, in the wards named, commercial buildings have usurped their places:

Ward.	1855.	1865.	1870.
I.	559	511	415
II.	266	81	41
III.	219	185	142
IV.	1,162	995	957
V.	1,620	1,251	....
VI.	1,133	938	....

The stores and business houses have increased in proportion as the number of dwellings have decreased.

The extent to which this overcrowding has been carried exceeds that of any other of the large civilized cities of the world. The following comparative table exhibits the population to the square acre of the tenement-house classes, or the poor of New-York and London, as shown by the census of 1870:

Ward.	New-York.		London.
XI	328	Strand	397
XIII	311	St. Luke's	269
XIV	275	East London	266
XVII	289	Holborn	229

The effect of this excessive overcrowding in badly-constructed dwellings is shown by the fact that this half of the population of New-York yields 75 per cent of the total sickness and mortality. Meanwhile a new feature has been added to the problem of providing suitable homes for the poor in the enormous rise in the valuation of lands over the entire island. This must result in preventing the extension of the area of tenement-houses in the upper part of the island, and consequently will be followed by still greater crowding and concentration in the present tenement-house districts. Between the high-priced lands in the upper districts and the encroachments of commerce in the lower districts the tenement-house population is being yearly crowded into narrower and narrower quarters, though that population is itself steadily on the increase. The degree of pressure of this class upon surface area in the Seventeenth, Eleventh, and other Wards, already frightful, must eventually, if no adequate remedy is provided, result in a death rate of enormous proportions. It is a fixed and unchangeable law that when the number of persons on a given area, living on the surface or in low buildings, exceeds a certain limit, the annual mortality will relieve the surplus. To prevent such consequences, the surface area must be diminished, or a larger cubical area must be obtained by elevation, with increased or adequate supply of pure air.

The methods of relief proposed are of two kinds—the reconstruction and improvement of existing tenement houses on the most approved sanitary principles, or the dispersion of this population, or its diffusion over a large area. The method of relief by improving the sanitary condition of existing tenement houses has occupied the attention of the Board of Health for the past six years, and the improvements that have been made were in accordance with the law for the regulation of tenement and lodging-houses. When the work began the mortality in the tenement-houses was about 75 per cent of the total in this city. It has steadily fallen, year by year, to 66 per cent, [illegible] during the past year an actual saving of 2,500 lives. The greatest reduction has been in the tenements, which were formerly in the worst condition, and where the improvements have been the most thorough. The improvements in the ventilation, cleanliness, etc., but mitigates the evil; it does not strike at its root and effectually eradicate it. Reconstruction of the old and imperfect tenements is what is needed, as is shown by numerous illustrations. A house in East Seventeenth-st., having a capacity for ten families, had fallen into a condition of extreme dilapidation and filth. It was occupied by the poorest and most depraved classes. In addition to other diseases, typhus fever began to prevail among the inmates, and in the space of six months 20 persons had this disease. The house was ordered to be vacated and thoroughly repaired; the privies and drains were placed in good order; the walls were scraped and replastered; the wood work was renewed; thorough ventilation of every room was secured, and the whole was newly painted. During the five succeeding years scarce a case of sickness occurred in the house. The Old Brewery, in the Sixth Ward, was formerly occupied by the lowest class of people living about the Five Points. It was in an extreme state of dilapidation and saturated with filth of every description. Every form of contagious disease here found a natural home, and diseases directly traceable to local causes prevailed throughout the year. The death rate was about 55 per 1,000, and the sickness rate was nearly equal to the total population. This building was taken possession of by the Methodist Society, and converted into a mission-house. The interior was entirely renovated, additions were made, and two stories of the old building were converted into living rooms for families, of whom there are on an average about 20 occupying apartments there. These are compelled to conform to the strict sanitary rules of the establishment, and keep their persons clean, and the result is that not more than one death occurs annually among these 20 families, and that from chronic diseases not traceable to the house. The tenement No. 33 Cherry-st. was one of the worst of its kind in the city. It was ordered to be vacated last Fall by the Board of Health, and entirely reconstructed internally by the owner at an expense of about $5,000. The increase in the rents since then has amply repaid the interest on the cost. No sickness has occurred in it since its reoccupancy. The immense double building in the rear of Nos. 34 and 38 Cherry-st., occupied by over 150 families, was the nursery of diseases of all kinds. It was one of the most repulsive sights of the Fourth Ward. This, also, was vacated by order of the Board of Health, and reconstructed internally at a cost of $20,000. It has recently been reoccupied, and Dr. Smith is of the opinion that the sickness rate will be decreased 75 per cent.

Much of the overcrowding in the tenement districts might be relieved by changing the unoccupied warehouses and stores in those districts in the lower part of the city, where commerce has left and gone further up town, into model tenement houses, for which they are admirably adapted, having lofty ceilings, wide frontage, and plenty of light and ventilation. Dr. Smith believes it would pay from 15 to 80 per cent on the outlay, and would to a considerable extent solve a problem that each year becomes more pressing and must shortly be met with decisive measures, if the health of the city is to be preserved. Were the stores of the Second Ward alone to be thus transformed into tenements, they would accommodate on an average 20 families, or 100 persons, giving a total additional population of 13,120, or a total, when added to the present population, of 14,432, and even then the surface area for each person would be nearly twice as great as in the Eleventh Ward at the present time. By thinning out in this manner, the population of the tenement wards could be reduced to what it was 15 or 20 years ago.

Cheap and quick transit, Dr. Smith believes, would not suffice to induce this class to move away. They prefer to remain in the city, crowded together. The only thing that can be done is to compel the erection of a better class of tenements, constructed on approved sanitary principles, and alter such as are at present in existence so as to make them conform to the new and improved standard.

MORTALITY IN TENEMENT HOUSES.

The whole number of tenement houses in which deaths occurred in this city, during the past year, was 8,224. The whole number of deaths in these houses were distributed as follows:

No. of Houses.	No. of Deaths.	Av'ge.	No. of Houses.	No. of Deaths.	Av'ge.
1	11	11	231	924	4
4	36	9	656	1,998	3
3	24	8	1,721	3,442	2
17	119	7	5,438	5,438	1
37	222	6	—	—	—
106	530	5	8,224	12,744	..

The whole number of deaths in this city for 1871 was 26,976, so that within a fraction of one-half of the total number of deaths occurred in tenements. The following is a comparative statement of the mortality in tenement-houses, public institutions, and private dwellings during the past four years:

	First Dist.	Sec'd Dist.	Third Dist.	Total.
1868..Tenement-Houses	3,645	5,823	5,092	14,550
Private Dwellings	1,778	986	3,261	6,025
Public Institutions	338	91	3,885	4,314
Total				24,889
1869..Tenement-Houses	3,359	5,192	4,734	13,285
Private Dwellings	2,370	1,429	3,948	7,817
Public Institutions	311	90	3,664	4,065
Total				25,167
1870..Tenement-Houses	3,017	5,596	4,533	13,052
Private Dwellings	2,426	1,632	5,120	9,178
Public Institutions	753	111	4,081	4,945
Total				27,175
1871..Tenement-Houses	3,020	4,832	4,892	12,744
Private Dwellings	2,327	1,889	4,827	9,043
Public Institutions	1,041	152	3,996	5,189
Total				26,976

The First District comprises the First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Eighth, Ninth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Wards; the Second District, the Seventh, Tenth, Eleventh, Thirteenth, and Seventeenth Wards; the Third District, the Twelfth, Sixteenth, Eighteenth, Nineteenth, Twentieth, Twenty-first, and Twenty-second Wards.

THE DEFEAT OF THE STEAMBOAT BILL.

To the Editor of the Tribune.

SIR: In February, 1871, Congress passed an "Act for the better security of life on vessels propelled in whole or in part by steam"—usually known as the Steamboat law of 1871. When the local inspectors commenced to enforce it, its provisions were found to be arbitrary, unjust, and irritating to all persons interested in steam navigation. It bore on its face the evidence of having been framed in the interest of certain joint stock companies owning patent appliances, which were forced upon owners of steam vessels, regardless of their merits. The feeling created by this law led to a National Convention of steamboat owners and managers, at Louisville, Ky., Nov. 8, 1871. Nearly 200 delegates, representing the Atlantic ports from Eastport to Galveston, and the inland lakes and rivers, and having millions of capital in steam vessel property, were represented, New-York State alone representing $80,000,000. The unjust law was thoroughly discussed, and an Executive Committee appointed to prepare a substitute. The Committee prepared new sections in place of the obnoxious provisions of the law, and went to Washington Dec. 9, 1871, and remained there until the adjournment. They worked hard and faithfully to get their amended bill through the House and finally in the hands of a Conference Committee.

The published proceedings of the last day of the Senate show that "Mr. Blair moved to take up the report of the Committee of Conference on the Steamboat bill.

The House resolution extending the session until 6 p. m. to-day was then concurred in.

Mr. Blair moved to take up the report of the Committee of Conference on the Steamboat bill.

Mr. Conkling gave notice that if the bill should be taken up he would speak at least two hours against it.

Messrs. Blair and Morton urged the importance of passing the bill at this session.

The motion to take it up was lost—Yeas 23, Nays 25.

The bill to authorize the issue of college scrip to Arkansas was amended and passed."

Having worked with the steamboatmen at Washington, and having acted as Secretary of the Philadelphia Steam Association from its organization, I claim to be familiar with the matter and with the state of feeling that now exists among the owners and managers and employés of steam vessels. This large class have been watching with intense interest the fate of their bill ever since Dec. 9. They have contributed liberally toward the expenses of their committee at Washington, composed of some of the most experienced and practical engineers and steamboat men in the country. Just at the point of success to see their labor and money nullified by the voice of Roscoe Conkling came particularly hard. Their minds are now made up—all along the Mississippi and Ohio, on the lakes and Atlantic coast, the steamboatmen feel that they can not vote with the party to which this man, Conkling, adheres. Among us his name is a by-word and a reproach. He is known to be Grant's fugleman and henchman, and is marked. Conkling might well employ his Summer vacation in estimating how many voters among the steamboatmen he has driven from his master. BARTRAM SNYDER.

No. 205 North Twentieth-st., Philadelphia, June 13.

"WOMEN CAN STAND!"

To the Editor of the Tribune.

SIR: "Can Women Stand?" is the heading of an article in a late TRIBUNE—an article to which the spirit moves me to reply that women *can* stand. They can stand hours looking in at a shop-window, gazing at some lay-figure, robed in the latest Parisian fashion, often dragging their small children by the hand; or they can, without apparent fatigue, spend an hour in arranging a pound or two, more or less, of artificial braids, curls, topsies, &c.; they can go into crowded assemblies, and stand for hours at bridal receptions; dance till midnight with those pretty little feet of which the writer of the article speaks. I say that woman can do all this, and more; and it is odd that she cannot stand in a ferry-boat for five minutes. Let her take off her high-heeled boots, let her go out into the fresh air and walk three or four miles a day, or go about her household duties in real, sober earnest, making the inmates of her home comfortable and happy; let her dress, in short, as a decent woman ought to do, not seeking to make a dromedary or camel of herself, then she may possibly be able to stand up in a ferry-boat without being subject to all "the physical disabilities unfelt by masculine humanity."

New-York, June 7, 1872. COMMON SENSE.

ANOTHER NORTH RIVER FERRY NEEDED.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: It has long been felt by many of those traveling on the Central Railroad of New-Jersey that facilities should be afforded them for reaching the upper part of this city directly by a ferry. New-York is growing rapidly in a northerly direction, as everybody knows, and the only ferry which this railroad possesses is situated almost at the extreme southerly end of the island, being the furthest south of all the ferries to New-Jersey. It is somewhat remarkable that this place of assets should have existed so long, as the New-Jersey Central has always had the reputation of being a live and progressive corporation and it is to be hoped that the matter will soon be remedied by establishing another ferry to a point somewhere between Christopher and Fourteenth-sts. JUSTICE.

New-York, June 11, 1872.

THE RIVERSIDE PARK.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE ASSESSMENTS AND AWARDS.

The Riverside Park Commissioners met yesterday at the office of Geo. H. Purser in Nassau-st. Several persons filed objections to the amounts which they had been severally assessed "for benefit," among others, R. L. Scheiffelin, and Wm. B. Astor, the latter acting through his attorney, Abner Bartlett. Mr. Bartlett stated substantially that the persons who were first appointed by a "ring" judge to levy the amounts of assessments and grant awards were: Wm. M. Tweed, jr., James M. Sweeny, and Hugh Smith, and that they are persons known to be connected more or less intimately with the "Ring," and that their connection with this movement affects the scheme unfavorably, inasmuch as it has left a legacy to the present Commissioners and the people, through the establishment of a system entirely devoid of principle in its discriminations. He said:

There is no principle of justice or equity in making awards for damages after the land is under the influence of improvement, and when the market values of the property assessed are daily appreciating. There is only one way to establish the true valuation, namely, by taking the values ruling at the time the land was condemned and appropriated by the Central Park Commissioners. No taxes have been put upon the property since 1870, and I am at a loss to understand how the Commissioners can allow taxes since that time to be added to the value of the land. In striking contrast with the action of the present Commissioners, was the action of the Park Commissioners in the matter of the Central Park awards and assessments. The Commissioners valued the property taken and assessed on the basis of sales made when the property was condemned, and the rule they laid down should be followed by the present Commissioners.

Mr. Bartlett then asked Mr. Purser when the law was passed which states that property shall be appraised according to its value at the time it is presented by the Commissioners to the Court for confirmation. Mr. Purser replied that while no particular statute regulates the matter, usage has established the law. The Commissioners will continue to meet to hear arguments against the amounts assessed and awarded until next Saturday.

COMMODORE VANDERBILT'S INFLUENCE OVER THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

Aderman Connover offered, yesterday, at the meeting of the Board of Aldermen, a resolution, which he wished to have referred to a committee, directing the Corporation Counsel to take such legal measures as will effectually prevent Cornelius Vanderbilt, the Harlem Railroad Company, or their agents, from entering upon or taking possession of any city property, under any act of the Legislature, until the value thereof shall be agreed upon and secured, to be paid into the Sinking Fund for the redemption of the city's debt. In speaking on this resolution, Alderman Van Schaick said:

I hope this matter will receive due attention. I think it should be acted upon at once, and not referred to a committee, because it is well known that Cornelius Vanderbilt understands how to fix committees of this Board so that they will do just what he wants them to do.

Alderman Connover (excitedly)—I regard the remarks of the gentleman as an uncalled-for insinuation. I don't know of any committees of this Board that Vanderbilt, or any one else can buy up; if the gentleman knows of any, why don't he come out with their names.

Alderman Martin—I think the gentleman should expose these committees.

Alderman Van Schaick—I don't propose to do so now.

Alderman Connover—If you don't propose to expose such committees, you have no business to make such remarks among gentlemen.

Alderman Van Schaick—I don't make them among gentlemen.

Alderman Connover rose to reply, and the situation began to look rather stormy, when President Cochrane interfered, and, with some trouble restored order. The resolution was then laid over and ordered to be printed.

THE BROOKLYN COMMITTEE OF FIFTY AND SENATOR PERRY.

The Brooklyn Committee of Fifty has made public a special report of its Sub-Committee on the Permanent Board of Water and Sewerage Commissioners, reviewing the record of Senator John C. Perry in the last Legislature; but as the main facts have been embodied in a previous report a comprehensive summary of the amended statement is here presented. Messrs. Bull and Wells state that they were appointed last Fall by the Council of Vigilance to wait on Senator Perry and his political opponent and to ascertain their sentiments in regard to a pledge binding the nominee to advocate a charter election in the Spring, the abolition of all Boards and Commissions, an extension of the powers of the Mayor, so as to give him full supervision over the departments, a repeal of the law authorizing the issue of bonds for street improvements, and various other measures of municipal reform. Senator Perry assured the Committee that he heartily coincided with the views expressed in the pledge, and at no time thereafter withdrew his verbal approval. It is further alleged that in February Senator Perry assured three residents that he would never consent to any legislation which would permit any Democratic appointment to the Water Board or any other local commission. The report avers that the Senator, in violation of his pledge and repeated assurances, contributed his deliberate assistance to the reappointment of Mr. Fowler to the Water Board Commission, the proceedings of the Legislature being cited in support of the allegation. The report also alleges in confirmation of the Senator's influence with the Ring that he offered to put a prominent Republican on the Fire Commission.

BROOKLYN'S GOVERNMENT.

The Brooklyn Board of Aldermen, at its meeting yesterday, received a communication from Mayor Powell, setting forth that he had appointed James O'Brien Special Warden, as provided for by Chapter 773 of the Laws of 1865, for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of the law in regard to the manufacture, storage, and sale of explosive oils. The Board confirmed the nomination. The Board of City Works made a report in reference to its requirements for the next fiscal year. The advances from the past year are as follows:

Salaries of Commissioners	$3,200 00
Printing, stationery, and office expenses	3,452 00
Ridgewood Engine-House	2,750 00
Ponds, Conduits, and Reservoirs	4,350 00
Distribution and repairs	21,450 00
General contingencies	5,000 00
Total	$50,018 86
Deductions for Prospect Park Engine-House and taxes	$8,761 00
Net increase	$42,057 86

The Committee on Water and Drainage reported that it could not decide on the necessity of some of the items which occasion the increase; for instance, $17,300 of the amount required for the Ridgewood Engine-house is for repairs and the erection of new buildings, and the total increase for distribution and repairs amounts to $21,500. The Committee recommended that $272,817 96, or less, be set apart from the water revenue for the expenses of the Water Department proper for the year ending April 30, 1873. The report was approved. The Law Committee reported in favor of paying to the trustees of the Union Cemetery $2,770 as remuneration for land taken by the city in the opening of Palmetto-st. Alderman Dawson opposed the report, and said that the trustees of the cemetery had made intermments on the line of Palmetto-st. as a speculation, for the purpose of compelling the city to pay them. The report was adopted.

The Finance Committee, to whom has been referred the claims of the several Gas Companies for lighting the streets and public buildings of the city for November and December, 1871, reported in favor of paying out of the Deficiency Account sums as follows:

People's Gas Light Company	$9,087 94
Citizens' Gas Light Company	12,552 43
Brooklyn Gas Light Company	17,700 18
Nassau Gas Light Company	11,459 44
Williamsburgh City Gas Light Company, Nov.	13,129 68
Williamsburgh City Gas Light Company, Dec.	14,740 76
Total	$94,670 62

POLICE CHANGES.

The Board of Police made, yesterday, the following transfers: Sergeant John F. Maloney from the Central Office to the Twenty-first Precinct; Sergeant Patrick H. Pickett from the Central Office to the Seventeenth Precinct; Sergeant F. B. Randall from the Central Office to the Twenty-sixth Precinct; Sergeant Wm. H. Lefferts from the Seventeenth Precinct to the Sanitary Company; Sergeant George W. Barrett from the Twenty-first to the Thirtieth Precinct. Sergeant F. S. Wemyss and Patrolman Jotham Wilson of the First Precinct were placed on the retired list. Sergeant Edward P. Whitcomb of the Nineteenth Precinct was detailed as Street-Cleaning Inspector of the northwest district; Sergeant A. B. Warts of the north-east district; Sergeant W. F. Bergholz of the south-east district; James Lee of the south-west district. Jackson P. Gunn was appointed Foreman of the Twentieth Ward, vice Patrick Toole, dismissed; Henry B. Stephens, Foreman of the Twenty-first Ward, vice Wm. Whalen, dismissed.

CHAMBERLAIN PALMER'S STATEMENT.

The following is City Chamberlain Palmer's statement of balances, receipts, and payments for the week ending June 15, 1872:

	Balances June 8, 1872.	Receipts.	Payments.	Balances June 15, 1872.
City Treasury	$5,520,149 03	$2,116,239 74	$617,543 23	$7,022,845 44
Sinking Fund Redemption	263,841 75	31,160 18	44,400 00	250,601 93
Sinking Fund Interest	239,145 06	35,704 07	.....	274,849 13
Interest on City Stocks	149,643 43	.....	19,504 27	121,144 16
Board of Apportionment	182,140 96	9,882 60	.....	192,022 96
Co. Treasury	460,910 67	325,104 87	126,710 81	1,017,304 73
Totals	$6,916,835 80	$2,576,090 56	$818,158 01	$8,974,768 35

THE NEW POSTAGE RATES.

An official telegram received by Postmaster Jones, yesterday, from the Post-Office Department at Washington, sets forth the new and reduced rates of postage, as follows:

On all pamphlets, occasional publications, transient newspapers, magazines, handbills, posters, unsealed circulars, prospectuses, book manuscripts, proof-sheets, corrected proof-sheets, (passing between author and publisher), flexible patterns, sample cards, photographic paper, letter envelopes, postal envelopes and wrappers, cards, plain and ornamental paper, photographic representations of different types, seeds, cuttings, bulbs, roots, and cions, a postage of one cent for each two ounces or fraction thereof on packages to one address, to be prepaid by postage stamps affixed.

On all books (other than those printed by order of Congress), postage at two cents for each two ounces or fraction thereof, limited to four pounds in weight.

On samples of merchandise, metals, ores, and mineralogical specimens, two cents for each two ounces or fraction thereof, envelope limited to twelve ounces in weight.

THE COURTS.

THE STOKES CASE.

JUDGE INGRAHAM SETS THE TRIAL DOWN PEREMPTORILY FOR TO-MORROW.

The adjournments of the Stokes trial have been so numerous that the public curiosity concerning it has subsided into something very like apathy. The Oyer and Terminer Court-room, yesterday, was scarcely filled—certainly not crowded—although the daily news-papers had announced another appearance of Stokes and a probable early trial. The change in Stokes's looks, although he has been over five months in prison, was scarcely perceptible, and he was as well-dressed and smooth-shaven as in his fortunate days, when restriction of his liberty was a catastrophe not dreamed of. District-Attorney Garvin was accompanied by Messrs. Fullerton and Beach as private counsel, while the prisoner was represented by John McKeon, John D. Townsend, and Henry Daly.

Judge Ingraham adjourned the Court last month until yesterday, setting down the trial of Stokes peremptorily for that day, all pleas for delay having been overruled, and a plea of not guilty being entered for Stokes on his refusal to plead. A commission was also issued to take the testimony of Dormon B. Eaton and Marcus C. Stanley, the former of whom is in England, and the latter in Paris. The announcement that the commission had not returned helped to cause the small attendance in the Court-room yesterday, the impression prevailing that another adjournment would be inevitable.

As soon as District-Attorney Garvin announced his readiness to proceed Mr. McKeon moved a postponement for two weeks, on an affidavit which he read alleging that the presence of Mr. Tremaine of counsel for the defense was required in Albany in the Court of Appeals, and that every means had been used to procure a return of the commission, but that they had been unable to send the commission until the 5th instant, and that they had not received information by telegraph of the completion of their mission. Mr. McKeon said, also, that it would be seen, by his asking but two weeks' delay, that he intended to take the risk of the return of the commission. Their calculation was that they would perform their business this week and return about the first week of July.

Judge Garvin—It is not entirely clear, from the facts set forth here, and from my own observations, that, whatever the answers to these interrogatories may be, they can be of any avail to the prisoner on this trial. Besides, if this trial goes on, it is pretty apparent to anybody that knows anything about cases of this description that the interrogatories will be answered, and the answers here soon enough, even if the case is begun at once.

The commission issued in Paris refers to a witness simply upon the character of the accused. It has been decided over and over again that no court will postpone the trial of a case for the mere purpose of ascertaining what the general character of the prisoner may be. The prisoner has had since the 6th of January last for preparation. He occupied 13 days on the trial of a preliminary question—the organization of the Grand Jury. He has had postponement after postponement, until finally his case was set down peremptorily for this day. There is no pretense that any witness who can know anything about the shooting of Col. Fisk is absent. They have had ever since that shooting to prepare, and when everything is ready to be tried they go off to Albany to employ counsel, and now they want a further delay. I don't think this case should go on trial to-day. Is it to be postponed forever? Are we to be run down into July or August with this trial? We are not to blame for postponing this trial. If he is guilty, let him be so understood. If he is innocent he ought to be acquitted and discharged.

Mr. McKeon—The District-Attorney usually refers to the 6th of January to show how long a time we have had to get ready in. He will do me the justice to say that I have done nothing but to take such steps as the law allows us. The case was kept along in consequence of his having joined issue with us in relation to the plea we put in, and it was his joining issue which made difficulty. I don't blame him for that. It was a necessary step. In the next place we have gone to Albany to employ counsel. I have studiously avoided putting in anything about the withdrawal of counsel. There was a delicacy about it which compelled me to be silent, and the District-Attorney is unfair in alluding to it at all. The first counsel whom I could get after the withdrawal was Mr. Tremaine, in Albany. There has been no delay on our part, and I do not ask that the case be postponed till the Fall, but only for two weeks, to give an opportunity for the return of the commission during the trial, and to secure the presence of Mr. Tremaine.

Judge Ingraham said that he had already intimated by his refusal of a stay that he should not consider the absence of a commission cause for a stay. Nor did he think the absence of Mr. Tremaine sufficient cause for a two weeks' postponement. If postponed for that time it must go over to the Fall. He had been working continuously for nine months, and could not allow his necessary vacation to be so trenched on. He had applied to other judges for aid, but had not been able to procure it. Personally, it would please him to have the case go over, but he thought it right that it should be tried now. To give Mr. McKeon an opportunity of communicating with Mr. Tremaine he would adjourn the case to Wednesday next, when it must go on. That, with the ordinary delay in impaneling a jury, would enable Mr. Tremaine to complete his argument in Albany and be present at the real trial.

Mr. Townsend asked to be heard on the question of time. When he came into the case he supposed that the bulk of the work was done, and the depositions of witnesses already in writing. But in this he was mistaken; he had had to work night and day, and had not even yet completed the work. He asked at least another week.

Mr. McKeon asked for even a day, and that the Court would at least make the day of trial Thursday instead of Wednesday, as that would give a greater chance for Mr. Tremaine's presence, which he desired in the impaneling of a jury, as many important questions would then be raised with which Mr. Tremaine was familiar.

Judge Ingraham replied that the counsel present were undoubtedly competent to discuss all the questions that might arise, and as to Mr. Townsend's request they would probably be occupied several days in procuring a jury. He then set the case down peremptorily for to-morrow at 10½ a. m., and adjourned the Court.

AN EXECUTION AGAINST THE CITY.

SEIZURE OF PUBLIC PROPERTY BY THE SHERIFF.

In January, 1871, John L. Brown sued the city for $5,000, and recovered judgment, but could get no money from the Controller, who refused to pay. An execution was accordingly issued and a levy threatened on some of the fire apparatus. A stay of Sheriff's proceedings, however, was procured from the court, but no amicable settlement being reached, plaintiff's counsel finally moved to vacate the stay. This motion was opposed by Mr. Dean, on behalf of the city, but Judge Brady, in his decision, announced yesterday, allows the Sheriff to proceed. Judge Brady says:

This motion would have been considered and passed upon within a few days of its submission, but for the belief resting upon representations from the financial department that the claim would be provided for. The judgment herein has not been appealed from or assailed in any respect, so far as I am advised, and is therefore a just and established demand against the city. A levy upon the property of the corporation of the City of New-York, subject to execution, to satisfy a valid judgment, is a proceeding much to be regretted, and should not be permitted unless the resources and power of the corporation, through its various departments to provide for its payment, are exhausted.

The stay originally granted is based chiefly upon the act of 1871 (Laws 1871, ch. 593), which declares that "no judgment shall be paid unless an appropriation has been made for the same," and which, if it have any legal force, means voluntarily paid by the Controller. It has no other signification. What was the precise design of the Legislature is not readily determined, but it may be said that the chief object was to prevent the application of special appropriations to subjects not embraced within them. It has no relation to executions either directly or by implication, but if it had it could easily be shown to be entirely nugatory as unconstitutional, and therefore void. It can not be seriously asserted that the Legislature has authority to pass laws staying the collection of judgments until an appropriation has been made to pay them. It is not necessary, however, to consider that question. It is sufficient for the purpose of this motion that the act referred to does not provide for a stay of execution. It relates to voluntary payments as suggested and not to those forced by the process of the courts which are not only not voluntary but necessary for the protection of the property of the city and matters of duty.

I do not hesitate now to vacate the stay and direct the Sheriff to proceed, justified as I am in believing that the judgment will not be immediately paid. In consideration of the alleged embarrassment in the financial department of the city, arising, as alleged, from a variety of causes, it was proper to allow reasonable opportunity to liquidate the judgment herein, and save the credit of the city, which could not be improved by the levy and sale of its property. The responsibility now rests upon that department. Motion to set aside execution denied, and motion to vacate stay granted.

Later in the day, the Sheriff, in accordance with the permission conveyed in the decision, seized four safes in the Controller's office, and all the pictures in the Governor's room in the City Hall, including the picture of Washington by Trumbull. Engine No. 7 was also levied upon, and cannot be removed from the engine-house. The sale of the property will take place on Monday next, at 11 a. m., unless the money is paid in the mean time.

THE LIABILITIES OF KEEPERS OF SEIZED GOODS—A DEFECTIVE INDICTMENT.

George A. Lawrence and Floyd Field were indicted some time ago in the United States Circuit Court for accepting, as keepers of certain goods seized under the Internal Revenue law, a bribe of $100 to release such goods. The indictment being found under Section 98 of the Revenue law of July 20, 1868, and Section 62 of the Revenue law of July 13, 1866, a