consider that, having secured the election of a Reform Mayor, and one whom they could trust, that they would leave the matter altogether in his hands. Something, however, must be done; for if there was not a change in the charter, Mr. Havemeyer, who had been elected for the express purpose of reforming the local Government, would not be able to make a change in a single department of it, as the various Commissioners had been appointed for a specified term of years, which would not expire until he had ended his term, and during which they would not be amenable to him, although he would very generally be held responsible for them and for their actions. Mr. Stern was sure, however, that whatever action the Committee might take would be for the purpose of strengthening Mr. Havemeyer and facilitating his efforts. He (Mr. Havemeyer) would probably preside at their next meeting, and present his views for consideration, and if he desired the continuance of the Committee it would probably have considerable weight with them. As for himself (Mr. Stern) he believed that the existence of the Committee was now desirable only as a precaution against the dominant party in the Legislature, which sought possibly abuse its power, and seeking merely to transfer the emoluments and patronage of the local offices from the present possessors to others who were devoted to the Republican party, merely create a new set of officials under the same or some other equally pernicious system of government.

WILLIAM M. TWEED'S OPINION.

In conversation William M. Tweed casually remarked, on Saturday, that the success of the Reform movement compelled the party now in power in the city and Legislature to frame a new charter, and he believed it would be one of the first acts passed. At any rate, he said, a new charter was a necessity of the party, and he thought the change in the present administration of the Commissioners would be sweeping.

WHAT BROOKLYN WANTS.

SPECULATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE OF ONE HUNDRED—SECRET MEETING MONDAY NIGHT—WHAT WAS RESOLVED ON.

Much dissatisfaction exists among the people of Brooklyn at the present condition of the city government, and it is proposed to make an effort at the next session of the Legislature to have some of the evils complained of remedied. The matter was referred some time since to the Committee of One Hundred, which was recently formed to secure improvement in municipal affairs, to its sub-committee of thirteen on legislation, and by them allowed to rest during the excitement of the late political contest. Now that election is over, it has been brought up again, and a meeting of the Committee was held on Monday evening. Several propositions for amendment to the present charter were submitted by different members of the Committee, but they were all referred to the Committee on Legislation, which it was understood is to be increased from thirteen to twenty-three members. They are to hold an early meeting, when the propositions submitted to them will receive consideration, and a full report is expected by the Committee of One Hundred at the next meeting, which will occur on Monday evening. The prevailing feeling among the members seemed to be that all Legislative Commissions should be abolished, and that the general municipal government should be concentrated upon responsible heads of departments, who, while exercising grave powers, should be held to all consequent responsibilities. There is a nearly unanimous feeling in the Committee that the Board of City Works and the Board of Commissioners of Charities must give place to some better organized plan for discharging the duties which now devolve upon the members. The next meeting of the Committee will undoubtedly foreshadow the legislation upon those points which are desired by the best citizens of Brooklyn.

In interviews with several prominent members of the Committee, a reporter of THE TRIBUNE ascertained that, by general concurrence, the abolition of all commissions and a change in the method of electing the Aldermen were deemed the two most important reforms needed, and that various plans for obtaining these would be considered.

The Commissions, these gentlemen assert, with their multiplicate heads are too irresponsible, and should be supplanted by a single officer in charge of each bureau, who can easily be held personally accountable for what is done in his department. When, however, power is vested in the hands of a number of commissioners, as is the case now, the responsibility for any improper act can be readily shifted from one to another till it becomes impossible to determine where the blame should rest. But with a single head to each bureau, elected periodically by popular vote, they believe, many evils now prevailing may be avoided, or, at most, easily remedied from time to time. Concerning the Board of Aldermen, several changes are urged, both in the number and the method of electing the members. As at present constituted, disreputable and corrupt men often secure positions in it, and in some wards it is impossible to elect any others. These not only bring disgrace upon the city and their associates, deterring respectable men from accepting the office, but, having little or no interests beyond their own immediate localities, care nothing for the prosperity of the city at large, and are ever ready for any scheme of plunder which is likely to profit them. Then, too, only one-half being elected each year, it is difficult to reconstruct the Board as promptly as desired sometimes, when its action has become very objectionable, or its decision on a question of great importance ought to be determined by popular vote. To overcome these difficulties, it is proposed to reduce the number of Aldermen, which is now 29, and elect them all upon a general ticket at one time, when, it is thought, men who are honest and public-spirited can be chosen without much trouble—of, at any rate, a change could be made quickly if necessary. Another plan talked of, by which it is hoped to effect this object through a more even representation than the present unequally populated Wards give, provides for a redistricting of the city, apportioning the Aldermen—either the present number, more, or less, as deemed best—according to population, and electing them newly every year. It is feared, however, that altering the boundaries of the Wards would be productive of much inconvenience and complication to property-owners, by affecting the records of real estate transactions, and the first plan, in consequence, appears to meet with the most favor. In regard to electing the Aldermen on the plan of minority or complete representation, there is a diversity of opinion, some wishing to have it tried, while others think it best to await the results of the experiments making elsewhere. It is probable that in view of the many objections made to the scheme the Committee will not recommend it. A feeling is also prevalent that the office of Mayor should be made of more importance, so that it may be worthy of the aspiration of the best men in the city. Means of accomplishing this end will be considered, as one of which an increased salary is proposed.

What action will be taken on these measures by the Committee is as yet uncertain, though it is understood that upon some of the points there is considerable unanimity as to the necessity of the changes suggested. It is expected, however, that considerable opposition will be met with from the politicians who were so potent before the last Legislature in defeating the charter of the Committee of Fifty, of which one of the prominent provisions, and one most strongly opposed, was that abolishing the Commissions; and some believe that the action of the Committee on Legislation will be influenced to a certain extent by this consideration, as it may be deemed advisable not to endanger the whole charter by pressing a measure that is doubtful of passing, even though it may be thought vital to the highest interests of the city.

INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM.

From The Chicago Tribune.

The most important part of Mr. Greeley's letter, published immediately after the election, is the announcement that THE NEW-YORK TRIBUNE will hereafter be an independent journal. Having contributed as much as any other agency to the overthrow of Slavery, and the establishment of equal political rights in all parts of the land; having fought with unsurpassed vigor for all the principles of the Republican party, and having lived to see them finally established, he can now, for the first time in the history of his newspaper, emancipate himself from party organship without fear of pecuniary loss. We doubt whether it would have been practicable for him to have taken this step at any former period; certainly not since the beginning of the war in 1861. It is now not only practicable, but is precisely what an advanced public sentiment demands. The country has already had a taste of independent journalism, and the demand is for more.

THE NEW-YORK TRIBUNE opposed its party during the last six months, and, notwithstanding it was in the midst of a Presidential election, the paper has suffered nothing in a pecuniary way. Possibly one-half of the subscribers voted against Mr. Greeley, but their confidence in his integrity was not shaken. In the recent election a large number of the members of the Republican party voted for the opposition candidate; an equal number of the members of the Democratic party voted for the candidate of the Republican party, and another large portion refused to vote for either candidate. The occasion is favorable to a new style of journalism, or, more properly speaking, for an emancipation of journalism from a despotism and a degradation unknown in other free countries. Mr. Greeley is not only taking a course which is dictated by truth and justice, but one which is demanded by a cultivated public taste. Freed from the obligation to hold that whatever is proposed by one set of politicians is necessarily right, and that whatever is proposed by another set is necessarily wrong, a public journal can discuss questions from an intelligent and truthful standpoint. It will be under no obligation to paint the devil in robes of light, nor portray honest men in the garb of ruffians. It can hold the scales justly, and, appealing to popular intelligence, obtain better results than by appeals to their passions and prejudices. Journals of that class may dispense with the vulgarity, defamation, and personalities which are the capital of the mere party organ, and we think the public will gladly welcome the relief.

We know we are not mistaken in the demands of the people, who have been surfeited with the slang-whang of party politics. Slowly, perhaps, but surely, there will grow up an independent but not neutral press, in which there shall be no advocacy of improper or dishonest measures or men, and no avoidance of discussing them for fear it may hurt one party and benefit another. Other journals beside Mr. Greeley's, including many of the strongest in the country, are prepared to adopt the same course, and it is likely that, in a very brief period, the independent press of the United States will include the greater part of the heretofore larger and more influential papers. This is certainly true of the great cities, and the success of these will in time liberate the better portion of the country press. When the revolution shall be complete, and when newspapers shall depend solely upon their ability and enterprise, it will be found that both the press and the country will be benefited by the change.

POLITICAL MISCELLANY.

ELECTION TROUBLES IN LOUISIANA.

THE RETURNING BOARD ORGANIZED AND REORGANIZED — EXTRAORDINARY COMPLICATIONS — AN EJECTED OFFICER PROCURES AN INJUNCTION.

NEW-ORLEANS, Nov. 13.—An extra of *The Times* this afternoon has the following:

Yesterday the Returning Board met, according to law in the Governor's office, to act upon the returns of the late election. There were present the Governor, Lieut.-Gov. Pinchback, Acting Secretary of State Herron, and Senator Lynch.

After organizing, it was moved that Lieut.-Gov. Pinchback, having been a candidate in the late election, be held ineligible to discharge the duties of a member of the Returning Board.

Lieut.-Gov. Pinchback acquiesced in this decision on presentation of the opinion of Chief-Justice Cudding that such was the law, and then retired from the Board. A like motion was made in regard to Senator Anderson. Thereupon Gov. Warmoth suggested that as Senator Anderson was absent it would be better to postpone action in his case until he could reach the city.

During the sitting Senator Lynch declared his purpose to be to reject all the returns from the Parishes and polls of the city which were charged to be fraudulent and illegal.

When the Board met to-day, Gov. Warmoth, Acting Secretary of State Herron, and Senator John Lynch being present, the Governor, after reading the minutes, presented the certificate of Auditor Graham to the effect that Secretary of State Herron being a defaulter, he had been compelled by the Constitution and the laws to suspend him from the exercise of his functions on charges which would be enumerated to the Senate.

Accordingly Secretary of State Herron was requested to withdraw from the Board, which he did. The Governor next presented the commission and the evidence of his qualifications for the office of Col. J. Wharton as the successor of Gen. Herron. Col. Wharton was in the ante-room, and on being sent for promptly appeared and took his seat in the Board.

Gov. Warmoth then proposed the name of P. H. Hatch as a substitute for Lieut.-Gov. Pinchback, which motion was adopted by the votes of Gov. Warmoth and Secretary of State Wharton, Senator Lynch voting "No."

It was further moved that Durant Dapoute be elected in place of Senator Thomas Anderson. These nominations were adopted by the Board, whereupon Senator Lynch retired. The Board being thus completed, will proceed to its duties.

This action created great excitement in political circles. Judge Dibble of the VIIIth District Court, this afternoon issued an injunction in favor of Herron against Wharton, Gen. Badger, and others, restraining them from interfering with Herron in the discharge of his duties as Secretary of State.

The Supreme Court having given an opinion that two of its members are ineligible, it is believed that it will sustain Gov. Warmoth in reorganizing the Returning Board.

THE INDIANA LEGISLATURE ORGANIZED.

SENATOR MORTON RENOMINATED IN CAUCUS.

INDIANAPOLIS, Nov. 13.—The Legislature organized at 2 o'clock this afternoon by the election of the Hon. Wm. K. Edwards, Speaker of the House, and the Hon. G. W. Friedley, President of the Senate. All the Republican caucus nominees were chosen in both branches. The Governor's message will be delivered to-morrow.

10 p. m.—The Republican caucus of the Legislature, to-night, unanimously nominated Senator Morton for re-election.

TEXAS ELECTION.

A DEMOCRATIC VICTORY.

GALVESTON, Nov. 13.—The Democratic majority in 49 counties is 8,775. It is generally conceded that the Democrats have elected all the Congressmen and have a majority in both branches of the Legislature. Austin has about 10,000—majority for Permanent Capital.

TENNESSEE FOR GREELEY.

NASHVILLE, Nov. 13.—Returns, official and reported, from all but a few counties in Tennessee give Greeley 17,000 majority, and Brown for Governor 16,500. The Congress delegation stands seven Republicans and three Democrats. Both branches of the Legislature are Democratic.

VIRGINIA FOR GRANT.

RICHMOND, Nov. 13.—Official returns from 101 counties, cities, and towns give Greeley 580 majority. Unofficial returns from seven other counties give Grant 2,088 majority. Only two counties have not been heard from. These gave Wells, Republican, for Governor in 1869, 360 majority. If these unofficial figures are not materially changed, Grant's majority in the State will be about 2,000.

There is a probability of the election of Davis, Democratic candidate, in the VIth Congress District. The seat will be contested by Thomas, Administration, on the ground that a number of votes have been thrown out in Halifax County by the canvassers for some alleged informality.

The election of Mr. Davis would make the Virginia delegation in the next Congress stand as follows:

Dist.		*Dist.*	
I.	*James B. Sener.*	VI.	Thomas Whitehead.
II.	*James H. Platt.*	VII.	John T. Harris.
III.	*Ambler Smith.*	VIII.	Eppa Hunton.
IV.	*Wm. H. H. Stowell.*	IX.	Rees T. Bowen.
V.	Alexander M. Davis.		

Conservatives, in Roman, 5; Administration men, in italics, 4.

PENNSYLVANIA.

WHAT THE OFFICIAL RETURNS WILL SHOW.

Notwithstanding the immense Administration majority in Pennsylvania, the vote for Grant, as shown by the full returns from all but five counties, generally runs below his vote four years ago. During the four years since 1868 the population of Pennsylvania has increased not less than 8 per cent. The vote of October, as compared with that of October, 1868, showed an increase of only 3 per cent, and now the official vote for President will show that over one-third of the Democrats took no part in the election.

The following table contains the reported official majorities of all the counties except McKean:

MAJORITIES FOR PRESIDENT BY COUNTIES.

Liberal.	For Greeley.	*Administration.*	For Grant.
*Berks	2,400	*Fayette	1,218
*Clearfield	559	*Forest	205
*Columbia	992	*Franklin	1,185
*Elk	105	*Huntingdon	1,296
*Fulton	90	*Indiana	3,120
*Greene	936	*Jefferson	1,097
*Lehigh	279	*Juniata	41
*Monroe	1,418	*Lancaster	6,571
*Northampton	1,314	*Lawrence	2,484
*Pike	423	*Lebanon	2,0[illegible]
*Sullivan	131	*Luzerne	2,060
*York	454	*Lycoming	586
		McKean	200
		*Mercer	2,132
Total	8,996	*Mifflin	567
*Administration.	For Grant.	*Montgomery	2,967
*Adams	154	*Montour	51
*Allegheny	16,791	*Northumberland	919
*Armstrong	2,219	*Perry	819
*Beaver	1,720	*Philadelphia	43,446
*Bedford	736	*Potter	909
*Blair	2,068	*Schuylkill	1,674
*Bradford	3,889	*Snyder	888
*Bucks	1,468	*Somerset	2,112
*Butler	1,481	*Susquehanna	1,672
*Cambria	294	*Tioga	3,063
*Cameron	215	*Union	1,081
*Carbon	556	*Venango	1,794
*Centre	447	*Warren	1,552
*Chester	5,447	*Washington	1,911
*Clarion	254	*Wayne	511
*Clinton	244	*Westmoreland	693
*Crawford	2,068	*Wyoming	183
*Cumberland	338		
*Dauphin	3,633		
*Delaware	3,065	Total	148,454
*Erie	3,712	Grant's majority	137,597.
*Total			

KENTUCKY.

THE LATEST RETURNS.

The vote of Kentucky reveals a state of feeling among the Democrats similar to that in Pennsylvania. Full returns from 72 counties give Greeley 78,915 votes, against 90,279 for Leslie for Governor, in the same counties, last year, a falling-off of 20,364. The same counties give Grant 68,196, against 66,909 for Harlan last year, an increase of 1,287. Greeley's majority in the 72 counties is 10,719. There are 116 counties in the State. The returns are not complete enough to fix the Congress delegation with certainty.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN MISSOURI.

A WOMAN SUES FOR $10,000 DAMAGES BECAUSE SHE COULD NOT REGISTER.

Mrs. Virginia Minor of St. Louis, Mo., has brought suit for $10,000 damages against an election registration officer for refusing to enroll her name as a voter. She charges that the hard-hearted man, "well knowing that she, as a citizen of the United States and of the State of Missouri, resident as aforesaid, was then and there entitled to all the privileges and immunities of citizenship, chief among which is the elective franchise, and, as such, was entitled to be registered, in order to exercise said privilege; yet, unlawfully intending, contriving, and designing to deprive the plaintiff of said franchise or privilege, then and there knowingly, willfully, maliciously, and corruptly refused to place her name upon the list of registered voters, whereby she was deprived of her right to vote." The fair plaintiff dwells with much indignation upon the officer's assertion that she was not entitled to a vote because she was "not a male citizen, but a woman," since the Constitution of Missouri specifically declares that only such citizens of the United States shall be allowed to vote. She "protests against such decision, and declares and maintains that said provisions of the Constitution and registration law of Missouri aforesaid are in conflict with and repugnant to the Constitution of the United States, which is paramount to State authority." Mrs. Minor's husband unites with her in the complaint, and the suit promises to be an interesting one.

NEW-YORK.

ALBANY COUNTY—[Official.]

Liberal.		*Administration.*		Maj.
President	Greeley 13,781	Grant	14,521	740
Governor	Kernan 13,887	Dix	14,267	380
Lieut-Gov	Depew 14,116	Robinson	14,414	298
Canal Com.	Hubbard 14,178	Stroud	14,404	226
Prison Ins.	Brooks 14,163	Graves	14,410	245
Con-at-Lrge.	Cox 14,029	Tremain	14,468	439
District XV.	Perry 14,279	Adams	14,212	67
Treasurer	— 13,579	—	14,885	1,306
Coroner	— 13,418	—	14,173	755
J. Sessions	— 14,154	—	14,381	227
Assembly 1.	Baker 2,642	Schoomaker	3,626	980
2.	Simmons 3,455	Pierson	3,764	311
3.	V. Valkenburgh 4,092	Easton	3,704	388
4.	Mosher 3,486	Himes	3,350	136
For Funding Deficiencies	925	Against	22	903
For Ct. of Appeals, Am'nt	11,590	Against	130	11,460

The vote of Albany County in 1868 was, Seymour, 14,030; Grant, 13,137; Seymour's majority, 1,943.

RENSSELAER COUNTY—[Official.]

Liberal.		*Administration.*		Maj.
President	Greeley 8,663	Grant	11,971	3,308
Governor	Kernan 8,990	Dix	11,847	2,857
Lieut.-Gov.	Depew 9,229	Robinson	11,743	2,514
Canal Com.	Hubbard 9,254	Stroud	11,743	2,494
Prison Ins.	Brooks 9,262	Graves	11,743	2,481
Con. at Lar.	Cox 9,262	Tremain	11,613	2,351
Dist. XVI.	Thayer 9,378	Smart	11,475	2,097
Assembly.	1. Cleary 5,242	O'Loughlin	3,757	1,485
	2. Roucus 246	Snyder	3,607	3,361
	3. Cooper 2,495	Herrick	3,474	979

The vote of Rensselaer County in 1868 was: Seymour, 10,381; Grant, 10,551; Grant's majority, 170.

GENESEE COUNTY [Official].

Liberal.		*Administration.*		Maj.
President	Greeley 2,590	Grant	4,044	1,454
Governor	Kernan 2,596	Dix	4,061	1,457
Lt.-Gov.	Depew 2,646	Robinson	4,049	1,403
Prison Ins.	Brooks 2,650	Graves	4,047	1,397
Canal Com.	Hubbard 2,653	Stroud	4,045	1,392
Con. at Lar.	Cox 2,663	Tremain	4,012	1,349
Dist. XXX.	Southworth 2,678	Hoskins	3,995	1,317
Assembly	Fargo 2,586	Townsend	4,028	1,442

In 1868 Genesee County gave Seymour 2,847; Grant, 4,294; Grant's majority, 1,447.

SARATOGA COUNTY—[Official].

Liberal.		*Administration.*		Maj.
President	Greeley 4,733	Grant	6,955	2,222
Governor	Kernan 4,804	Dix	6,888	2,084
Lt.-Gov.	Depew 4,917	Robinson	6,931	2,014
Prison Ins.	Brooks 4,884	Graves	6,946	2,062
Canal Com.	Hubbard 4,862	Stroud	6,899	2,037
Con.-at-Lg.	Cox 4,829	Tremain	7,023	2,194
Dist. XIX.	Judson 4,738	Hathorn	7,185	2,447
Coun. Clerk	Smith 5,071	Horton	6,883	1,812
Treasurer	Hulburt 5,029	Mann	6,925	896
Sup. Poor	Partridge 5,010	Tripp	6,959	1,949
J. Sessions	Pruyn 4,982	Lewis	6,943	1,961
Assembly, 1.	—	West	3,482	3,482
2.	Holden 2,347	Batchelier	3,653	1,306

In 1868, Saratoga County gave Seymour 5,256; Grant 6,626; Grant's majority, 1,370.

COLUMBIA COUNTY—[Official.]

HUDSON, Nov. 13.—The following is the official vote of Columbia County as declared to-day by the Board of Canvassers: Parker, 6,647; Douglas, 5,452; Kernan, 6,109; Dix, 5,196; Depew, 6,110; Robinson, 5,437; Hubbard, 6,164; Stroud, 5,424; Brooks, 6,160; Graves, 5,426; Cox, 6,105; Tremain, 5,568. Representatives in Congress, XIIIth District—Whitehouse, 5,863; Ketcham, 5,788. Members of Assembly, 1st District—Benjamin Ray (Dem.), 690 majority; IInd District—Milton M. Tompkins (Dem.), 328 majority. There were 10 votes cast in this county for O'Conor and Adams.

ONONDAGA COUNTY—[Official.]

SYRACUSE, Nov. 13.—Grant, 12,705; Greeley, 9,754; Dix, 12,582; Kernan, 10,191; Robinson, 12,748; Depew, 10,051; Stroud, 12,279; Hubbard, 9,819; Graves, 12,747; Brooks, 10,033.

ALLEGANY COUNTY—[Official.]

PHILLIPSVILLE, N. Y., Nov. 13.—Electors—Grant, 3,150; Greeley, 2,951. Governor—Dix, 6,122; Kernan, 3,107.

CAYUGA COUNTY—[Official.]

AUBURN, N. Y., Nov. 13.—The following is the official vote of Cayuga County: Grant, 7,393; Greeley, 4,782; Dix, 7,253; Kernan, 4,958.

TOMPKINS COUNTY—[Official.]

Grant, 4,313; Greeley, 3,398; Dix, 4,391, Kernan, 3,422; Tremain, 4,361; Cox, 3,356; Platt, Rep., for Congress from the XXVIIth District, 912 majority.

BROOME COUNTY—[Official.]

The canvass of the electoral ticket gives Grant 1,426 majority. The gubernatorial ticket was not contested.

MONROE COUNTY—[Official.]

Grant, 12,023; Greeley, 9,369; Dix, 12,814; Kernan, 9,502.

THE WEATHER.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Thursday, Nov. 14—1 a. m.

Synopsis for the past twenty-four hours.

The barometer has fallen, with south-easterly to north-easterly winds, threatening weather and rain on the lower lakes; cloudy weather, south-easterly winds over the New-England and Middle States.

In the South Atlantic and Gulf States, south-easterly to south-westerly winds and partly cloudy weather in the North-West, thence to Lake Huron and the Ohio Valley, north-westerly winds and clearing weather, with occasional snow and rain, generally.

Probabilities.

The barometer will rise in the north-west, with north-westerly winds and light snow, but cold clearing weather extending to Michigan and the lower Ohio Valley; in the Gulf and South Atlantic States north-westerly to south-westerly winds, clear weather.

On the lower lakes clearing weather by the p. m., with rain and north-west winds extending to West Virginia; in New-England and the Middle States, south-easterly and easterly winds, and threatening weather and rain.

Warning signals are ordered continued at Duluth, Chicago, Milwaukee, Grand Haven, Detroit, Toledo, Cleveland, Buffalo, Rochester, and Oswego.

A SEVERE STORM IN MAINE.

BANGOR, Nov. 13.—A severe gale began blowing here at 11 a. m., yesterday, and raged throughout the night with great fury. The schooner Scraph was blown ashore, and carried away her rudder posts. It is reported that two or three others are ashore below. An unfinished house in Glenburr was completely demolished.

AUGUSTA, Nov. 13.—The Kennebec River has been rising rapidly during the afternoon and evening. The wharves are covered. No damage has as yet been reported. The water is still rising.

FIRE AND WATER.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: A letter in your paper of this date, under the head of "How to Prevent Conflagrations," gives utterance to a not uncommon fallacy in respect to the failure of water as supplied by our fire engines to quench great fires, by attributing it to the decomposition of the water. The letter says:

> As inadequate quantity of water upon an intense fire is instantly decomposed into its original elements, which in their combination give out all the heat it required to decompose the water. That is not all; the gases which would otherwise pass off in smoke, uncondensed, are thus ignited, the carbon burned to acid instead of coke, and thus the intensity of the fire is increased many fold.

Now this looks scientific, but it is not quite scientific enough. The heat required to decompose water is precisely that which its elementary gases give out when burning and uniting to form water. This is the hottest combustion known, and gives out a much higher degree of heat than the combustion of carbon, whether the latter take place in air or oxygen. It follows, first, that water thrown upon a fire is not decomposed, because the combustion of carbon cannot give out heat enough to decompose it; second, that if it could be decomposed when thrown on a fire, its elements in re-combining could give out no more heat than was absorbed in separating them; third, that if the liberated oxygen should combine with carbon instead of the hydrogen from which it was liberated, it would give out less heat in so doing than was absorbed in decomposing the water. As this fallacy always makes its appearance in the newspapers after a great fire or boiler explosion, in the form of suggestions by correspondents, I am of the opinion that it has its basis in a widespread misconception of the laws which govern matter; and there is need that somebody should say, once for all, that it is as impossible for fire to be intensified or boilers exploded by the decomposition of water, as for a human being to construct a perpetual motion machine that will work, or to raise himself in air by tugging at his boot straps.

New-York, Nov. 12, 1872. PIKESTAFF.

THE INDIAN QUESTION.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: The Indian is always with us. In the East he is perpetually being petted, feted, and stared at; in the West he is continually being credited with robbery and murder, turning, it is said, the weapons given him by the Government against the peaceful citizens and the soldiers on the frontier. They do some things better on the other side of the water. Birmingham, England, is the gunshop of the world; every kind of lethal weapon is manufactured there, and among others a gun for what is known as the African trade. A tube of iron, not always quite straight, is fitted to a rough stock, water is poured into the barrel, and if it does not leak it is considered good. Retailed at about a dollar each, these weapons are exported to Africa's golden sands, and there traded with the heathen for much ivory and precious metals. When the deluded heathen comes to use his new purchase it generally bursts, and he does not require another gun, as Birmingham goods are of no use in the place where he goes. Now, if this tale which comes to us from the town of gunsmiths is even moderately true, our Government should contract for a supply of these useful weapons, and furnish such to the wild tribes, instead of Ballard and Remington rifles, and in a short time the Indian question would be settled through the entire absence of the Indian. PEACE BY ALL MEANS.

New-York, Nov. 8, 1872.

A SAN FRANCISCO HARBOR MASTERS' RING.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 13.—Great interest is felt on the subject of the alleged frauds in the office of the State Harbor Commissioners, which are said to have extended over a period of several years and to amount to many thousands of dollars. Gov. Booth and Commissioner Rosenfeld are active in their endeavors to unearth the frauds. Several wharfing collectors have already been removed. The County Judge, to-day, charged the Grand Jury in very strong language to probe the matter to the bottom, and not to be satisfied with punishing "the castpaw thieves," but to reach the principals, regardless of wealth or social or political standing. Ex-Mayor Selby is foreman of the Grand Jury, which is also charged with the investigation of affairs in the Sheriff's office, particularly with reference to the escape of the Brotherton forgers.

LOCAL MISCELLANY.

STRIKE OF PATERSON SILK WEAVERS.

The broad-silk weavers of Paterson, N. J., have struck on account of a reduction of 20 per cent in their wages. This branch of silk manufacture is carried on to a greater extent in this city than in any other place in the country. The largest establishment is that of Tilt & Son, where 150 men, 40 apprentices, and a number of women are employed. Sixty broad-silk weavers are employed in Collins's Mills, 25 at Hamil & Booth's, and 25 at Byard's Market. The men are paid 50 cents a yard, and six yards are regarded as a fair day's work. The women are paid 45 cents, and the apprentices from 25 to 37½ cents per yard. The work is not, however, always to be obtained, and during the year the wages of the men do not average more than from $12 to $15 per week. Last week the men received notice that a reduction of 20 per cent would be made, and immediately quit work. After two days of idleness they were informed that they might resume. This they did, expecting that the old rate would be paid. As fast as their pieces of weaving were finished, however, they were discharged, and apprentices were employed in their places. Yesterday the men all refused to go to work, and the apprentices also joined in the strike, arguing that it was useless to learn a trade if, when the knowledge of it was obtained, they too were liable to be supplanted by apprentices, or reduced to apprentices' wages. A committee was appointed to wait on the employers and another to wait on the employés at Greenpoint, L. I. A general meeting of the employés in the trade will be held to-night in Vreeland's building.

AN EASTERN MERCHANT ARRESTED.

Charles W. Hovey, a Boston merchant, in 1870 purchased $48,000 worth of liquors from the firm of Cummings & Co. of No. 69 Cortlandt-st., in this city. He subsequently failed in business and was not able to meet the claim of the New-York firm. Cummings & Co. appeared before the Grand Jury, and that body indicted Hovey on a charge of having obtained goods upon false pretenses.

An attempt to get a requisition from the Governor of Massachusetts failed, and Hovey remained at liberty. On Tuesday Hovey came to this city, and while walking down Broadway was met by a member of the firm of Cummings & Co. Not knowing that an indictment had been found in the case, and supposing that there was only a civil process against him, Hovey was persuaded to go to the store of the Messrs. Cummings, and was there detained in conversation for a long time.

Meantime, a bench warrant for his arrest was obtained, and Detectives Tilley and Heidelberg were sent for from Police Headquarters. As Hovey was about to leave the store the detectives entered and arrested him. The officers took their prisoner to the District-Attorney's office, where Hovey was placed under bonds for $6,000 to appear for trial.

Mr. Hovey denies the charge of having obtained the goods by false representations, and asserts that he can prove his innocence.

PROF. WIER ON COLOR.

Prof. Wier delivered a lecture on "Color" before a large audience, at the Brooklyn Art Association, last evening. He began by explaining the creation of secondary and tertiary from primary colors. To be seen unqualifiedly, color must be without the influence of direct sunlight or of shade. The character of a landscape under a bright May sky is necessarily that of extreme cheerfulness. Light and dark tints are sometimes considered sources of contrast; for example, the dark browns of a foreground as contrasting with the light bluish tints of a distance. This, however, is not so much a difference of color as of light and darkness, which should be considered by itself in regard to light and shade. In considering color, it should be first thought of merely as either primary, secondary, or tertiary; then as weak or strong, and then as light and dark. The tertiaries are not distinct colors, as they are the admixtures of secondaries. The primaries, red, yellow, and blue, neutralize one another and become black, but the predomination of either of these three prevents the obliteration of color. The preponderance of yellow gives citron; of red, russet; and of blue, olive.

Color has the most intimate relation to the beautiful in life. The innocent expression of the child, the brutal leer of the voluptuary, and the indescribable appearance of death, all owe their effect to color. Titian was the Shakespeare of art; Angelo and Raphael were his pupils. The Professor said that since his study of the spectroscope he had begun to believe in the old vagaries of [illegible] wathless. Red was the hottest color, the next, orange; and the lowest, as a warm color, red-purple. Yellow may be said to occupy a medium position, while blue is decidedly cold. Green is less cold than blue, and purple is the least of the cold colors. Harmony of color is the connection formed between a variety of tints, so that they appear to blend gradually together, giving to the eye the idea of breadth in the general effect. The most harmonious effect is produced when one color gives tone to the whole picture. This occurs sometimes in nature, as at sunset in hazy weather. Ornamentation is an intrinsic feature of art. It is an outgrowth of the love of the beautiful.

A TEMPERANCE CONFERENCE.

The thirtieth annual session of the Grand Division of the Sons of Temperance of Eastern New-York was held at 10 a. m., yesterday, in Tremor's Lyric Hall, in Sixth-ave. near Forty-second-st. After the opening exercises, 75 new members were admitted, and the charters of [illegible] rebotte were received and referred. In the afternoon, in addition to the usual routine business, a committee of seven was appointed to confer and act with the committees of other organizations for the purpose of pushing forward the general temperance work in the State. A resolution was also adopted to rescind the former action of the Grand Division, authorizing the formation of divisions composed exclusively of colored members. In the evening, officers were elected and installed for the ensuing year, as follows:

G. W. P., Charles F. Gildersleeve, No. 7; G. W. A., William H. Ray, No. 187; G. Scribe, Evan H. Hopkins, No. 2; G. Treasurer, Albion P. Higgins, No. 20; G. Chaplain, the Rev. W. C. Steel, No. 2; G. Conductor, James Boice, No. 2; G. Sentinel, Hugh Fleery, No. 12.

The session was well attended. The reports show a loss during the past year of about one-ninth of the membership of subordinate divisions, attributed mainly to the distraction of the Presidential contest. A rapid revival during the coming Winter and a prosperous year are anticipated, however, by the members.

LONG ISLAND BIBLE SOCIETY.

The 57th annual meeting of the Long Island Bible Society was held at Astoria, Tuesday, the Hon. John A. Lott presiding. Large delegations were present from Kings and Queens Counties, and a few delegates from Suffolk County. The Society's field of operations covers the entire island outside of Brooklyn. Contributions of $3,000 had been received during the year. One thousand copies of the Bible were distributed last year, mostly through the local auxiliary societies, the parent association employing only one paid agent who works in the more sparsely settled districts. Officers were elected as follows:

President, the Hon. John A. Lott; Vice-Presidents, John A. King, Wm. Burgess, Josiah Blackwell, Adrian Bergen, Chas. Lott, Wm. Sidney Smith, Wm. R. Post, Henry P. Hedges; Corresponding Secretary, the Rev. B. F. Stead, D. D.; Recording Secretary, Gilbert Sayres; Treasurer, Henry Onderdonk, jr.

Interesting addresses were delivered by the Rev. E. W. Gilliman, Corresponding Secretary of the American Bible Society, and the Rev. C. L. Wells of Flatbush.

LECTURES AND MEETINGS.

The Rev. Oscar Hugo will lecture on "Hungary," at the Brooklyn Tabernacle, to-night.

The Rev. David Inglis, D. D., was installed pastor of the Reformed Church, Brooklyn Heights, on Tuesday evening, the Rev. Dr. Ormiston preaching.

The first of three free lectures upon "French as a Spoken Language" will be delivered by Prof. Etienne Lambert, at Association Hall, at 11 a. m. to-day.

Dr. Ludwig Buechner will lecture, to-night, before the Palette artists, on "Brain and Soul." To-morrow night he will address the New-York Turn Verein, at Turner Hall.

Maurice Neville will lecture on "Dramatic Art," with illustrations from Shakespeare, at Cooper Union, on the evening of Nov. 21, the proceeds to go to the suffering working girls of Boston.

A large audience assembled last evening at the Quaker meeting house in Twentieth-st., opposite Gramercy Park, to listen to a lecture by Prof. Thomas Chase of Haverford College, Penn. The subject of the evening's lecture was "The Mission of Letters."

At the monthly meeting of the Medico-Legal Society of New-York, at the Medical College, at Fourth-ave. and Twenty-third-st., to-night, addresses will be made by the retiring President, Stephen Rogers, and the President elect, Clark Bell. The paper for the evening, on "Juries and Physicians on Questions of Insanity," will be read by R. S. Guernsey of the New-York bar.

POLICE NOTES.

The fines on patrolmen for disobeying orders during October amounted to $1,993.

Edward Coleman, age 50, of No. 786 Ninth-ave., fell dead in the Eighth-ave. Railroad depot, last night.

Henry K. Jennings, age 35, was arrested, yesterday, for passing a bogus check of the City Bank of Brooklyn, for $95, on a Fulton-st. jeweler of that city.

David Lenon and two others, the reputed proprietors of a policy-shop at Fulton and Sands-sts., Brooklyn, were arrested, yesterday, for swindling David Clerk of Clinton