ORNAMENT AND BUILDING.

A LECTURE BY RUSSELL STURGIS, JR.

FAILURE OF THE GOTHIC REVIVAL—THE NEED OF MORE ORNAMENTATION IN BUILDING.

The fourth lecture of the course on Art was delivered at the National Academy of Design, last evening, by Russell Sturgis, jr. His subject was "Ornament and Building," and his address was illustrated by drawings, and contained comments upon the present lack of originality in architectural design, with suggestions toward the fostering of a love for ornamentation in building. He said among other things:

GENTLEMEN OF THE ACADEMY AND STUDENTS: I think you ought to be congratulated upon this fact, that the room in which we are assembled is contained in one of the few ornamental buildings of which New-York or America is as yet possessed of. You yourselves know how well it suits your purpose; but certainly it is one of the few in the original conception of which, decoration formed a part. It so happens that I knew quite intimately the architect who built this building. It was his first effort, and at the time, having nothing else to do, he concentrated his mind upon it for two years, and it is the result of a very profound conviction in matters of architectural art. It is the best specimen in America of the work of a school; and the school is that of the Gothic revival. One of the canons of the Gothic revival was that all decorations should be designed by the sculptor himself; that no sculpture should be designed on the drawing-board, as most do their work, but that each piece of carving should be designed by the sculptor himself, and if the superior architect had any thing to say about it it was merely in the way of general direction. This was so far carried out that Mr. White throughout the Summer would collect in the woods himself leaves, and flowers, and branches, and acorns, from which to form his designs. With these before them as their only models and suggestions the sculptors did their work. Concerning the excellence of the result, I think we need not trouble ourselves at present. There has never been an attempt at imitation, you must remember, but the intention certainly was a sincere one.

In this attempted Gothic revival there were three or four principal points. One was to use Gothic forms wherever possible; another was to use the Gothic system of ornamentation; and the third was to produce the ornament in the Gothic way—that is, have it designed by the workman. Now the work that has been done in England and France and Germany is very interesting, at least to a student of humanity; and much of it to a student of art; some little of it worthy of preservation; but the effort to restore the Gothic style, I think it is safe to say, has absolutely and forever failed. It once seemed to me the one proper course to pursue, and I was as interested in it as Mr. White himself. The reason I say it has failed is because that, in spite of 30 years of uninterrupted success in England, it still has not obtained anything like universal acceptance. The quarrel between Classical and Gothic is as unsettled as before. The success of the Gothic revival is one thing; the success of a totally different school is quite another. The Gothic is no more successful than before. It is merely that new Gothic buildings are building.

ACCEPTED PRINCIPLES IN ART.

Now the theory at the bottom of this Gothic revival was a perfectly sound one; and that was that all artists ought to be working according to the same received principles. It is notorious that that has been the case in the fine arts. Whatever it is, whether painting or weaving carpets, whatever fine art is carried on, it is a fact that all these artists have the same accepted principles according to which they work. The weavers of Persian carpets now have in their tents the same books which their ancestors had. In many manuscripts of the fourteenth or fifteenth century you will find descriptions of carpets identical in design with those you now see at Sloan's or Stewart's. This is more evidently true in architecture than in anything else. The study of Gothic architecture once invented in France rapidly spread over Europe, and you will find in the architecture of those days that they all had precisely the same notions of what ought to be done. The architect never sought to work out a new style, but labored to make a mere improvement on his neighbor's. When one of our wealthy friends wants a new yacht, you don't suppose he tries to make a new model of a vessel? No! he just deduces this from that idea, perhaps makes on the sly, new measurements of his neighbor's yacht, and a new model is made like what he imagines the perfect model made from the measurements of old ones would be. This is part of the principle of the Gothic revival, and it is a sound principle.

The Gothic system of decoration and building is the nearest to our present wants. That is obvious. The Renaissance was the beginning of the imitative styles which have been going on, alas, until to-day; and it is obvious to us now that they must have failed, men being what they are and the requirements of the present time being what they are. You remember how the books we used to study 15 years ago are almost wholly superseded. The artists of a recent style of art—the Renaissance—we cannot go to them now for any information that is worth having. All this movement of the Gothic revival was cotemporaneous with Archæological attainment. The whole field of archeology is a modern one. This Gothic Revival is one of the many systems of imitative architecture which have sprung up from it. The whole field of decorative design is cultivated only by a system of studious education, and that is the difficulty of attainining to any excellence in it. The vast majority of buildings are built in some style or other. One building is thirteenth century Gothic, another is twelfth century, another is Renaissance, another is Decadence; and you may see the same building illustrate several different styles. Is it not likely that something is to come of this? I think if we take the universal discontent of men who are engaged in the study of decorative art, it may be said that there is no promising look in it, unless we see it in the light of having had its share in the wealth of the city.

POST-OFFICE AND CITY HALL.

The point before us is, of course, the application of ornament to our buildings. The absence of ornament is of course a great regret to all of us. If we look down the street and see what buildings are being erected for Government purposes, we shall see how bare they are of all ornament. See the new Post-Office. With what seemliness can the Government go to glorifying itself and the Congressmen who vote the money away without anything spent for art? Where works of art and sculpture would be so fitting and would be preserved forever, they are left out. Even in foggy London the Government could not finish a great Parliament House without covering it with decorations. Why? it seems to be accepted that if we build the most massive and grayest pile of granite, we have done all that could be expected of civilized beings. The old City Hall is the love and affection of all architects here. It is a noble piece of architecture of the school of Louis XV. It has good carving upon it, but it wants a high ridged roof with pavilions. Except for that it is a noble building indeed. But have you looked at the sculpture upon it? We never notice it, and, if we did, it would soon be forgotten. So with the New Post-Office—if it had been covered with carving it would have been the same; and this is because we feel the want of something; we need something.

Now let us look at the study of ancient art and the attempt to imitate it. It is very delightful to study ancient art, but this must not blind us to our own needs; and if one asks, "What is the use of studying ancient art?" I say it is precisely the same as the study of history, and as long as history is worth studying, the arts of the past are worth studying. But it is just here we must think for ourselves. I think we have a right to call upon painters and sculptors to lend their aid in designing the ornament to be put upon a building. If the design is to be adapted from past time, then the architects know what to do; but if new designs are wanted, where can he look but to the sculptor and the painter? Very few know about the duties of the architect, who has 30 buildings going on in his office all the time. In order to make a fine and noble design he must spend his time at it. No man whose mind is loaded down by details can do it. Some depute their work to persons not in the office. Others depute it to those in the office. As things are now constituted one or the other must be done. There are very few men in the position of architect's assistants who can possibly know enough to make fine decorative designs. That can only be done by men who know profoundly the thing which the design represents. I insist upon it that all decorative design must be superintended by people who have nothing else to do. How much more is this true with figure sculpture, or in the case of stained glass?

I know there arises in the minds of all of you the objection that the artist who paints in his study, who stands at the top of his profession, or the sculptor, who models a noble form, lowers his dignity if he lends himself to the designing of a building. But is that so? There are medallions, you know, which give birth to heads; there are a good many cases where floral carving is to be used. Could a sculptor think it beneath his notice to carve the surroundings of these as well as the figures themselves? The fact of their being in the building does not take away from their being works of sculpture. Suppose, for instance, the rooms over the new Post-Office, which I understand are to be fitted up as court-rooms, were to be decorated with paintings representing scenes in our country's history. The same painter who painted these subjects might certainly think it not unworthy of his brush to design the decorative borders which surround his own pictures, or to put leaves into the cove beneath the cornice. The decorative designs which surround these pictures should be designed by the man who makes the picture himself.

I assert, then, in the likelihood that such a consummation is not likely to occur soon, that the present outlook of decorative design is very mournful. I say that now those persons who undertake to do elaborate designs are incapable of doing it rightly, and I think they ought to feel willing—provided painters and sculptors would take an interest in it—to yield gracefully to them the task of decorating our buildings. Let us get rid of the word "architect," which means master builder. Of course what is required in an artist, and the power of fine, accurate drawing, and in fact a thorough acquaintance with half a dozen arts at the same time cannot be obtained in one man, but enough knowledge to have a controlling influence in the direction of buildings can be found in a single student. How all this is to come about nobody knows. We have got to let it come as it may. Students of the arts will furnish an occasional one out of their number every now and then who will be found to possess the necessary talents and requisites, who will model buildings which shall be the admiration of centuries to come.

WHAT IS TO HINDER?

MISS DICKINSON'S VIEWS ON WOMAN'S WORK.

Miss Dickinson spoke at Steinway Hall last night on Woman's Work. She chose for the title of her address the query, "What is to Hinder?" and her aim was to show what are the hinderances in the way of women's entering on a successful and independent career. It is urged that the barriers to woman's progress in the world of activities are all removed; that she may pass through the open door and work in the various fields of usefulness, honor, and profit which invite honest effort. If woman does not enter in—what is to hinder? Addressing herself to answer this question, Miss Dickinson seemed at first to charge the responsibility for failure upon woman herself. But she subsequently retraced the plan of argument, and showed that the fault is, after all, not primarily with woman, but with her training. She thinks that women chiefly fail in their independent careers because they do not enter upon them with heartiness and from choice. She thinks that they too much look upon employment of any sort as a temporary expedient at best, to be used as a staff through a time of present and dire necessity, but to be flung aside when full deliverance shall come from some vaguely hoped-for intervention. She thinks that this state of mind brings into the various activities of life too many listless, half-hearted and easily-discouraged women. Women, she observes, should pick and choose their calling, and make it theirs for a lifetime, just as men pick and choose theirs with a determination to put their life-struggle into it. So long as women take up these vocations only as floats to carry them over to-day's needs, with no serious intention of honoring their craft, so long will they be only as the sediment in the great stream of human effort. Men who have trained themselves to a life-long pursuit will excel them; they will get the best wages—the highest rewards.

Of course, Miss Dickinson goes behind this discouraging picture and finds the reason for the gray tints which overspread it. Girls are not taught, as boys are, to be self-reliant, helpful, and strong. She would not have women made hard and masculine; but she would have them taught that the best training of brain and mind deserves and secures the best rewards. Many generations of false training have brought women to their present pass. They have been lifted where men have, in their boyhood, climbed; they have had their school-work done for them, where boys have been compelled to solve their own problems. In this kindly-meant but cruel nurture Miss Dickinson thinks she discerns the chief hinderance to woman's progress as a worker. To the complaint that even the heartiest endeavor finds no promotion, no career, she says that the demand for skilled labor constantly opens new avenues to women; and she shows, by citations, that women rise and shine in many lines of life.

Public opinion was alluded to by the speaker as one of the hinderances which women meet in their determination to win their way in the world. Many young women are deterred from doing the honorable and acceptable work which offers by their fear of what the little world of friends and neighbors may say. They are forced into unremunerative and distasteful employments because those employments are called "genteel." They are the few permitted to women. The tyranny of custom binds many willing hands with iron chains. Public opinion has left but two roads open for woman. One leads to marriage, the other to shame and dishonor. With rare exceptions the great majority of women have been taught to believe that in these highways they must walk. Women must learn that they can excel in their chosen pursuit among honorable callings of life. Public opinion must be educated to hold in equal honor the man or the woman who makes a way in the world and walks therein with steady and useful purpose.

The lecture was admirably delivered, and was pervaded throughout with a warm and generous enthusiasm for the cause of Woman's Work. Miss Dickinson pleaded that a wide prevalence of false views of life made necessary the utterance of these wholesome though unwelcome truths. The difficulty is not radically fatal; it may be compassed, though not speedily; and the address was concluded with a few inspiring sentences addressed to those who have aspirations for a high, noble, and useful life, but who sit dumbly waiting for some other career than that which opens through the ordinary duties of To-Day.

WORKING WOMEN'S HOPES.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROTECTIVE UNION—SPEECHES BY MAYOR HAVEMEYER, EMILY FAITHFULL AND OTHERS.

That sympathetic spirit which is always manifested by the people of this city whenever an appeal for a deserving purpose or a noble object is made to them, revealed itself again last night at Association Hall, the occasion being the ninth anniversary of the Working-women's Protective Union. The hour for which the meeting was called was 8 o'clock, but as early as 7:30 the hall was crowded. The entrance was by ticket and only a sufficient number to fill the hall was issued. The fact that large numbers of persons were turned away showed the hold the society has in the popular sympathies. Miss Emily Faithfull was present and spoke briefly but carried with her the sympathies of the large audience. About 8 o'clock the announcement was made that the crowd in the doorways was so great that the speakers had not been able to force themselves into the hall, and the indulgence of the audience was asked. Fifteen minutes later Mayor Havemeyer was introduced. He was received with applause and spoke as follows:

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: It gives me pleasure to be present with you on this the anniversary of the "Workingwomen's Protective Union," and to express sympathy with an organization which has for its object the amelioration of the condition of such of our people as are engaged in the various industrial pursuits from which this community derives so many substantial advantages. Among these classes are to be found in a marked degree the characteristics of morality and virtue, which underlie all civilized society, and without which no popular government can long endure. It is one of the remarkable features of the age in which we live that woman is advancing to take her place with the other sex, in the equal rewards of the various industries which are suited to her power; in the recognition of the results of cultivated intellects, and, in some respects, in influencing the affairs of government. While I am not quite willing to adopt all the modern theories which have been put forth in relation to this subject, I do not wish to leave any doubt as to my full accord and cooperation with every practical movement, like the one represented on this occasion, calculated to render the burden of life easier to bear, and thereby to gladden, comfort, and support households, of which women are and should be the chief ornaments and support.

After a prayer by the Rev. C. F. Deems, the Secretary and Treasurer's reports were read by M. S. Beach. Miss Emily Faithfull being then introduced, said, in substance:

I am very much interested in this society, because I am engaged in a similar work in London; not a society that redresses female wrongs as your does, for I find that new in this city, but a society that seeks employment for women and in that respect cares for them. But I shall take care when I return to London to see that my countrymen emulate you in this respect. When I think how many women are unprotected from the sufferings of adversity, I can imagine no institution which is qualified to meet the requirements of the case more than this society. I have always considered the matter and taken it to my heart of hearts, because work of some kind must be provided for women needing support, and better prices must be paid to them. But I think that women with domestic duties often have as much and more than they can do to take care of their husbands and children. If honest women are kept from work, however, when they need it, they are often driven into courses one shudders to mention. It is very well for those who are removed from want to ask, am I my sister's keeper? but the day will come, if they care nothing for the subject, when they will awake to the realization of a terrible curse. We must help trouble by our association—trouble in the mass; and helping only the few individuals we can singly reach, we shall be able to do only little good. Coöperation is needed; societies need to be formed in order that the suffering many may be reached. Those great, little heroisms that sanctify a whole life are performed by heroines in localities that do not figure in romances, but such have been found in London, and, I doubt not, they exist here. I am not familiar with them in this city, but I know they exist in all large communities, and this city cannot be exempt.

Miss Matilda E. Toedt then performed variations on the violin, which were applauded and encored. A speech was then made by the Rev. Dr. Deems, who said that every year of this Association's life demonstrates more and more the need of its existence.

CHECKMATING DISHONESTY.

A LONG CHASE AFTER EXPRESS WAGON THIEVES.

As Detectives Kelso and Walling were crossing the square at the junction of Third and Fourth-aves., yesterday afternoon, they saw three thieves endeavoring to steal a box from an express wagon in front of a dry-goods store. The expressman came from the store before the thieves had succeeded in their desire, and not noticing them standing near the wagon he drove away. The thieves ran after the wagon to make another attempt when the expressman should again stop, and the detectives then followed. The wagon stopped in front of the Bible House, but the expressman was too vigilant and the thieves were again unsuccessful. Then followed a long chase, varied by occasional stops of the expressman and the continued attempts of the thieves to steal. The wagon at last went to the Home of the Friendless in Twenty-ninth-st., between Fourth and Lexington-aves. The expressman remained several minutes in the Asylum, and the thieves finally succeeded in stealing a large box from the wagon and made their escape. The thieves carried their plunder to Fourth-ave., and there took a car to go down town. One of the thieves left the car at Twenty-third-st., greatly to the regret of the detectives. On reaching Bleecker-st., a block from Police Headquarters, the detectives stopped the car and arrested the thieves, who had been placidly smoking on the front platform. The prisoners and their plunder were taken to Police Headquarters and brought before Superintendent Kelso, when they gave their names as James Campbell, age 19, and John Kelly, age 22. The stolen box was examined and found to be marked "No. 148 Eighth avenue." It was filled with fine boots, value about $100. The prisoners will be taken to the Tombs Police Court, to-day.

AN ALLEGED SAWDUST SWINDLER CAUGHT.

A fortnight ago the detectives arrested several swindlers of the class that pretends to sell counterfeit money, and in return for good money sends to the victims a box filled with sawdust. The officers took their prisoners before Justice Scott, at the Tombs Police Court, by whom the prisoners were set free and the officers severely reprimanded for arresting them. Capt. Irving of the Detective Squad was indignant at the action of the magistrate, deeming that there was ample proof of the swindlers' guilt. He therefore at once appeared before the Grand Jury, and laid before them the same proofs which had been rejected by Justice Scott. The Grand Jury immediately indicted James Hubbard, one of the accused, and the warrant was placed in the hands of Detective Reilly. That officer, after several days' search, at last found Hubbard walking in Broadway, yesterday, and arrested him. The detective took his prisoner to the District-Attorney's office, where Hubbard was told that he would be compelled to give $2,500 bail to stand trial else be committed to the Tombs. After an hour's detention Hubbard procured bail and was released.

ERIE DIVIDENDS.

THE RESULT OF REFORM—EXEMPTION OF RAILROAD PROPERTY FROM TAXATION.

A meeting of the Erie Railway Board of Directors was held, yesterday, at the Grand Opera House. President Watson submitted the following report of the earnings and expenses of the road for the year ending on Dec. 31, 1872, as certified to by the General Auditor of Company:

Gross earnings, in round numbers		$18,694,096
Working expenses for same period	$13,629,965	
Inter't on the funded and bonded debt	1,814,043	
Rental of leased lines, &c	1,223,712	
Total		16,667,711
Net results for the year		$2,026,585
Less dividend on the preferred stock paid to July 1, 1872	$298,792	
Leaving a surplus of		$1,727,598

The following resolutions were then passed unanimously:

Resolved, That upon the statement of the earnings and expenses of the Erie Railway, as submitted by the President, a dividend of 3½ per cent upon the preferred stock of the Company be and is hereby declared out of the earnings of the Company for the six months ending Dec. 31, 1872.

Resolved, That upon the statement of the earnings and expenses of the Erie Railway for the twelve months ending Dec. 31, 1872, as submitted by the President, a dividend of 1½ per cent upon the common stock of the Company be and is hereby declared.

Resolved, That the dividends on the preferred and common stock of the Erie Railway now declared be payable on March 15, and that the books of transfer be closed on March 1 at 2 p. m., and remain closed until the morning of March 16.

Of the amount set down as working expenses, $4,000,000 was paid for new work and iron. The securities and property turned over by Jay Gould to the Company, amounting to $9,000,000, are not included in the figures given above. Mr. Barlow stated that the proceeds of the property refunded by Jay Gould will be expended in time, in improving the condition of the road. The officers and directors of the road are much elated over the success of the new loan. The $10,000,000 authorized by the Board of Directors at its last meeting has already been taken, as announced by cable telegram yesterday, although it was only placed on the London market on Monday. The work of laying the third rail will be begun as soon as Spring opens.

A delegation of citizens of Jersey City, headed by Major Pangborn, waited on the Board, and presented a memorial, setting forth the inequality of the State law which exempted from taxation the property of the Erie and Morris and Essex railways. The Legislature of New-Jersey has hitherto exempted all railroads in the State from municipal taxation, upon the condition that a tax of 1½ per cent should be paid from their earnings into the State Treasury. While Jersey City was in its infancy the result of this measure was not seriously felt. The different railroads, however, have purchased, in several years, large amounts of valuable property, which has consequently passed out of the limits of the assessment lists. The value of this property is at present estimated at about $20,000,000. As a result of this absolute freedom from local taxation by the railroads, the tax-payers of Jersey City have been called upon to make up the deficiency, and they have thus been compelled to pay a double proportion of taxation.

If no relief is obtained from the Legislature, it is said that the Board of Aldermen of Jersey City will be asked to insert in the tax-levy for the coming year a sufficient amount to be used in contesting the constitutionality of the charters of the railroads by which they are exempted from municipal taxation.

The Erie dividend was the subject of very general discussion "in the street." Various opinions are expressed, those who are adverse to the present administration declaring that the road has not justly earned it, and that the matter is a stock-jobbing operation, while those who have faith in the new directory say that it is a sign of the era of prosperity and honest dealing. The stock opened yesterday at 66, sold as high as 66¾, and as low as 65¾, and closed at 65¾ to 65¾.

AMERICAN FISH CULTURE.

EXPERIMENTS IN SALMON AND TROUT BREEDING REHEARSED.

The American Fish Culturists' Association held its second annual meeting, yesterday, at the office of George Shepard Page, at No. 10 Warren-st. Those present were:

George Shepard Page of Stanley, N. J.; William Clift of Mystic Bridge, Conn.; A. S. Collins of Caledonia, N. Y.; B. F. Bowles of Springfield, Mass.; M. C. Edmunds of Weston, Vt.; A. P. Rockwood of Salt Lake City, Utah; G. W. Chrysler of Kinderhook, N. Y.; E. B. Paxton of Detroit, Mich.; William G. Sond of Newark, N. J.; Garret Van Cleve of Corona, N. J.; John H. Barden of Rhode Island; Philip Brasher of Brooklyn, N. Y.; Thaddeus Norris of Philadelphia, Penn.; W. A. Fitzhugh of Genesee, N. Y.; B. B. Porter of Baltimore, Md.; Joseph Van Cleve of Newark, N. J.; and A. J. Beaumont of New-Hope, Penn.

After the presentation of the usual reports, the President, the Rev. William Clift, delivered the annual address. Mr. Clift, who is largely interested in the culture and propagation of fish, recounted the progress of the past year in pisciculture throughout the United States. Among the papers which had been promised was one by Prof. Spencer F. Baird, the United States Fish Commissioner, on "Deep-Sea Dredging," but it was not read, as the recent importation of salmon spawn from Germany has occupied his time. George Shepard Page read his "Notes on Fish Culture Abroad." Mr. Page referred to the culture of fish in China, which is of ancient origin and is principally carried on in submerged rice fields, fagots being placed so as to catch the spawn of fish. He spoke also of the early practice of the Romans in conducting fish by means of canals from the sea to the interior—a method which has been followed in Great Britain and Norway. In France the Government erected the first piscicultural establishment at Honingue in 1849. This establishment has been conducted on a larger scale by the German Government since the conquest of Alsace and Lorraine. In Russia the system of dry impregnation prevails. In England, Ireland, and Scotland 25 years ago salmon had become almost exterminated. The rivers of those countries are now bountifully restocked. On the Tay River, at the Stormontfield Works, 350,000 salmon eggs are hatched annually, and the rental of the Tay fisheries is $75,000 per annum.

A paper by Fred. Mather on "Natural versus Artificial Culture in the breeding of Brook Trout" was read. He advocated the natural impregnation of eggs. Mr. Collins excepted to Mr. Mather's view, and insisted that the artificial method by pressure or "stripping" was the better one. The following papers were also read: A. P. Rockwood's on the "Native Fish of Utah," and Charles Bell's on the "Zoosperm of Fish." A communication from Col. James Worrall on the fish restoration movement in Pennsylvania during 1872, showed that by the Governor's veto of the legislative appropriation of $73,000 very little had been done in that State, although he was still hopeful. He has 7,000 Sacramento, Cal., salmon and 6,000 salmon trout from Seth Green's hatching establishment, which are to be placed in the Susquehanna River.

A paper, read by George R. Dykeman, on the "Unsuccessful Taking and Impregnation of Trout Eggs," elicited discussion, in which the sentiment of the majority of the members seemed to incline to the belief that the want of success is due to inexperience. Mr. Paxton of Michigan referred to the great diminution of whitefish in Lakes Erie and Michigan. Six or eight years ago he caught 60,000 fish in a locality where he only caught 20 last season. He was contemplating starting a breeding establishment for whitefish at Windsor, Canada, where the authorities have offered water facilities at little cost, and for the support of which an appropriation from the Canadian Government is expected.

Some discussion was had as to the number of eggs to be procured from trout, and a difference of opinion seemed to exist. It was claimed that a trout of one pound weight would not produce more than 500 eggs, and this was met by an assertion that the yield would be double. The following officers were reelected:

President, William Clift; Secretary, A. G. Collins; Treasurer, B. F. Bowles; Executive Committee, Seth Green, E. A. Brackett, M. C. Edmunds.

The Association, after an informal discussion, adjourned to meet in this city on the second Monday of February, 1874.

CRIMES AND CASUALTIES—BY TELEGRAPH.

....John Morrill, the billiard player, who was convicted of arson and sentenced to the Clinton Prison for seven years, escaped from the Plattsburg Jail Saturday night, with three others. A reward of $500 is offered for the recapture of Morrill.

....One of the boilers of the Warren Manufacturing Company's No. 2 Mill in Warren, R. I., exploded yesterday, scattering the boiler house, injuring four other boilers, and fatally scalding the watchman, George O. Ashworth.

HOME NEWS.

THERMOMETER, YESTERDAY, AT DICKINSON'S, IN PARK-ROW.

9 a. m.—27° Noon—34° 3 p. m.—36° Midnight—37° Average—32°.

PROMINENT ARRIVALS.

Astor House—Bishop O'Reilly and the Rev. C. E. Burke of Springfield, Mass., ex-Mayor Fargo of Buffalo, and Lieutenant-Commander A. T. Snell, U. S. Navy....*Brevoort House*—The Hon. J. V. L. Pruyn of Albany and W. O. Charlton of the British Legation....*St. James Hotel*—Gen. William Myers of Washington....*Sturtevant House*—D. J. Williamson, U. S. Consul at Callao....*Albemarle Hotel*—B. F. Bowles of *The Springfield Republican*....*Grand Central Hotel*—Capt. Kennedy of steamship Baltic....*Fifth Avenue Hotel*—Thomas H. Canfield of Vermont, and William Mason of Taunton, Mass....*Gilsey House*—Alfred Gaither of Cincinnati, S. M. Shoemaker of Baltimore, and J. M. Thompson of Springfield, Mass....*St. Nicholas Hotel*—Judge John K. Ewing of Uniontown, Penn., and E. R. Morgan of Aurora, N. Y.

NEW-YORK CITY.

Daniel Foster, a member of the New-York Produce Exchange, died at Danbury, Conn., on Monday.

Commissioner Barr reported to the Board of Police, yesterday, that in his capacity of Treasurer he had received $3,538 70 for dirt removed from the streets by the Street-Cleaning Bureau and sold for filling in lots.

Peter Cooper, in a recent letter to Wm. B. Ogden on Rapid Transit, proposes to solve the problem by means of an endless chain of eight-wheel cars, drawn by a wire rope, and propelled by stationary power at both ends of the line.

The counsel for Rosenzweig claim that while Recorder Hackett suggested on Monday the propriety of a grand jury's indicting their client for murder in the first degree, he could not be tried because the statute of 1869 makes his offense manslaughter.

According to one of the street rumors of last night, a petition will be presented to Gov. Dix, to-day, asking for the commutation of Foster's sentence to imprisonment for life. Influential merchants and prominent clergymen are said to have signed it.

The following are the new directors of the Sixth-ave. Railroad Company:

Richard Mortimer, G. W. Burnham, Frederick De Peyster, Jonathan Thorne, T. R. Butler, Waldo Hutchings, Wm. R. Stewart, Abraham R. Van Ness, Edward Minturn, Robert T. Woodward, Henry Demarest, Josiah Jex, Stephen Wray.

The Committee from the Bar of the United States Circuit Court for the Southern District of New-York, appointed to present to Justice Nelson resolutions and an address upon his retirement from the Bench of the Supreme Court of the United States, will go to Cooperstown, to-day, to perform that duty.

Gen. George B. McClellan, President of the Atlantic and Great Western Railway, announced yesterday that Gen. George B. Wright had resigned the Vice-Presidency of the railway, and that James B. Hodgskin, Treasurer, had been appointed Vice-President and Treasurer, with entire control of the affairs of the company on the lines of its road.

John B. Dyer of Brooklyn, entered the auction store, No. 256 Broadway, yesterday, and purchased $15 worth of jewelry, which the auctioneer represented to be gold. Dyer, soon after leaving the store, discovered that the articles were not gold, and he thereupon caused the arrest of the owner of the store, who was taken before Mayor Havemeyer. Upon refunding the $15 to Dyer, the proprietor was discharged with a reprimand.

Of the 286¾ miles of sewers in this city, Superintendent Van Nort states that 219¾ are built of brick, and 67¼ miles are of vitrified stone pipe. It is estimated that 110 miles of the old sewers are unserviceable. To replace them with brick sewers would cost at least $32,000 per mile, or $3,300,000 in the aggregate, provided no additional excavation should be required. To replace them with pipe sewers would cost $17,160 per mile, or $1,716,000 in the aggregate.

An inquest was held by Coroner Kessler, yesterday, concerning the death of Frank Neid, age 12, of No. 158 Rivington-st., who was fatally injured by a blow on the head from a stone or a piece of ice, thrown by an unknown person, during a boys' fight in Tompkins Park, on Jan. 23. A verdict was given calling "the attention of the authorities to the reprehensible and prevalent practice of boys throwing missiles and stones in the streets," and recommending that "the police arrest and punish all such offenders."

Chief-Engineer Perley issued a general order to the Fire Department, yesterday, announcing the death of Assistant-Engineer George A. Erlacher, and informing the members of the Department that the funeral services will take place at 12 m. to-day, at the late home of the deceased, No. 54 Sixth-ave. The following officers were detailed to act as pall-bearers: Assistant Engineers Furlong, Brandon, Gicquel, and Rhodes. A detachment of firemen will also form part of the funeral cortège. The body will be buried in Greenwood.

Assistant District-Attorney Russell told a TRIBUNE reporter, yesterday, that the large number of bail cases or "pigeon-hole" indictments, which have accumulated, will be immediately placed on the calendar for trial, the fullest notice being given to the defendants, their bondsmen, and counsel. Should the persons indicted fail to appear a *nolle prosequi* will be entered. In cases where the defendant on an indictment is already undergoing punishment for crime, the indictment will be tried or not, according to his behavior in prison. Frequently there are three or four indictments against habitual criminals, which are not touched usually unless the defendant returns to his old avocations on his release.

BROOKLYN.

Prospect Park visitors last week, 52,723.

The Scandinavians residing in this city have determined to raise a militia company to be attached to the 14th Regiment.

The sum of $3,356 33 is to be deducted from the gas companies' bills for unlighted street lamps during the past eight months.

The brick church edifice in Ormond-place, formerly occupied as the Central Congregationalist church (Dr. Scudder's charge), has been purchased by the trustees of the Episcopal Church of the Mediator for $30,000. Old St. Ann's Church, at Sands and Washington-sts., now occupied by the Episcopal congregation, will soon be pulled down, as it is on the line of the East River Bridge.

Hugh Barr was brought from Raymond-st. Jail, and taken before Coroner Jones for voluntary examination, yesterday, a jury having found him guilty of causing the death of Alice Baker by pouring burning kerosene over her clothing, at No. 48 Front-st., in December last, while he was intoxicated. The prisoner stated to the Coroner that it was not kerosene, but whisky, with which deceased was burned, and that he had attempted to throw the liquor into a coal scuttle, but that the woman seized his arm, and thereby caused the pail in which the liquor was to fall over upon the stove.

LONG ISLAND.

LITTLE NECK.—John and Thomas McCreary, who claim to be half-brothers of the shoemaker, James Graham, murdered on Friday night last, applied yesterday to the Queens County Surrogate for letters of administration on Graham's estate. The estate is valued at between $5,000 and $6,000, and not $10,000 to $15,000, as at first reported. No evidence throwing light upon the circumstances of the murder or its perpetrators has yet been discovered. The inquest will be resumed to-day before Coroner Reimer. A man was found near Jamaica on Monday afternoon, with his face badly scratched and his clothing bloody. He was arrested on suspicion of being the murderer of Graham, but the examination proved him innocent, and he was placed in charge of the Overseer of the Poor.

LONG ISLAND CITY.—The examination of William H. Dunning, for felonious assault on Garret Kavanagh, will be continued to-day before Recorder Parcells.

RIVERHEAD.—The people of this village propose to ask of the Legislature an act authorizing an annual tax of $300 for fire purposes.

ORIENT.—The Suffolk County Temperance Society met in convention yesterday, and will close its session to-day.

OYSTER BAY.—An arrangement has been effected lately, giving Glen Cove two daily mails.

HUDSON RIVER COUNTIES.

WESTCHESTER.—A fire broke out at 8 o'clock, yesterday morning, in the married soldiers' quarters at Fort Schuyler, and destroyed the row of buildings consisting of 15 tenements.

POUGHKEEPSIE.—Egbert B. Kiely, editor of *The Dutchess Farmer*, of this city, died suddenly at his residence of heart disease.

NEW-JERSEY.

JERSEY CITY.—Michael Arbeck was committed by Justice Shaskelton, yesterday, for trial in the Court of Sessions, on a charge of stealing a ham from John Burke's grocery, in Newark-ave....The Superintendent of Schools reports the registered number of teachers and pupils during the past month, 7,896; average attendance, 6,711. The Board of Education has adopted a resolution requesting the Board of Public Works to grant the use of the Wayne-st. pack-house for a primary school, to be called No. 19, and requesting that the Superintendent of Schools, with the Committee on Teachers and Salaries, take action in the matter.... The Hudson County Lunatic Asylum, a temporary wooden structure, erected at a cost of $10,000, will be opened on Feb. 20. A more substantial edifice of iron, stone, or brick, will be constructed as soon as permission can be obtained from the Legislature....Charles Henry McGill, of Bayonne, was thrown from his horse in Communipaw-ave., and seriously injured, on Monday night. ....A warrant was issued yesterday, for the arrest of James Green, colored, charged with obtaining goods under false pretenses from F. Payne, of No. 251 Newark-ave.

PATERSON.—James K. Powers, who was confined in the County Jail on a charge of burglary, has been released in $6,000 bail.....The Paterson Scientific Association will hold its first meeting to-morrow night.....A memorial from the Mayor and Board of Aldermen will be presented to the New-Jersey Legislature to-day, protesting against the passage of Assembly bill No. 124, known as "An act to prevent the contamination of the Passaic River," which prohibits persons or corporations from discharging poisonous or deleterious matter into the Passaic or Hackensack Rivers. It is represented that the bill, if passed, will be ruinous to the interests of the manufacturers.

NEWARK.—The trial of Hirsch, alias Herman Harris, for the robbery of Krements & Co.'s jewelry factory last April, was begun in the Court of Quarter Sessions yesterday afternoon. Testimony criminating Harris was given.

HOBOKEN.—An affray occurred last night at a saloon in Adam-st. near Newark-st., in which Charles Klapping, the bartender, was seriously injured by John Fisher and Sabastine Gannon. The assailants were arrested and locked up to await examination.....The Board of Police Commissioners, by request of a number of German citizens will hold a special meeting on Friday night to investigate the charges made against Sergeant Burke, who is accused of illegal action in the case of Charles Berger.

LECTURES AND MEETINGS.

Mr. Favarger will lecture on "Means of Speaking Tongues," in the Chapel of the Theological Seminary, No. 9 University-place, this evening.

The letter-carriers of the General Post-Office entertained their friends at Irving Hall last evening, the second annual ball being even more successful than the first.

Jerome Buck will read Washington's Farewell Address, and the Hon. L. D. Kiernan and H. B. Perkins will make speeches on Feb. 22, at the rooms of the Boulevard Club.

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Street delivered a lecture on "Scotland" last evening, at the Fourth Presbyterian Church in Thirty-fourth-st., for the benefit of the West Side Mission.

The Rev. Dr. R. S. Storrs, jr., presented, last evening, "A few Notices of European Libraries," at a stated meeting of the Long Island Historical Society at the Packer Institute, Brooklyn.

The students of Columbia College held their regular "Semi-Annual" at the Academy of Music, last evening, S. M. Stilwell, jr., presiding. There was a good attendance and the addresses were well considered.

In the Hudson County Court of Oyer and Terminer, Judge Bedle presiding, the trial of John Doris, accused of the murder of Thomas Donellan, on Nov. 14, 1872, was continued yesterday. John Doris, the prisoner, testified in his own behalf, and the evidence in the case was closed.

The Committee of Ten of the Apollo Hall Executive Committee will meet to-morrow and make arrangements for holding primaries in the various wards the latter part of next week. A meeting of the new General Committee will be held in Apollo Hall on the evening of Feb. 26.

An interesting sale of books took place at the Clinton Hall Saleroom, last evening. The audience was small, and the books sold very cheaply, though the collection was a fine one. Dodsley's "Annual Register" of 67 volumes, from its beginning in 1758 to 1825, sold for 25 cents per volume. Beaumont and Fletcher's Dramatic Works, 10 vols., brought $6. The cheapest sale of the evening was the "Galerie Militaire," 7 vols., which sold for as many cents. The sale will be continued this evening.

The second lecture of a course given at the Pilgrim Baptist Church, in West Thirty-third-st., was delivered last evening by Dr. J. G. Holland. The subject was, "The Social Under-tow," and the lecture was an able argument in favor of the educational and moral training of children as the only true method of progress in virtue and morals. The next lecture will be given at the same place next Tuesday evening by the Rev. W. H. Felix, upon "Our visit to Jerusalem."

A meeting of members of the American Institute favorable to a reform in its administration was held last evening in Room No. 24 Cooper Union, under the auspices of the Reform Committee. D. J. Whitney was chosen Chairman, and Mr. Ormsby, Secretary. The latter read resolutions, which set forth in brief the grievances of which the disaffected members complain. They were received with applause, and after some debate were adopted, with another series which had been offered by Mr. Ormsby as a substitute. The following officers were then put in nomination, to be voted for at the annual election to be held, to-morrow, at the rooms of the Institute, in Cooper Union, between 3 and 8 p. m.

President—James L. Jackson. *Vice-Presidents*—Charles P. Daly, Dudley S. Gregory, Edward Cooper. *Recording Secretary*—William E. Parish. *Corresponding Secretary*—James A. Whitney. *Treasurer*—John S. Giles.

Directors—Abram S. Hewitt, Thomas M