THE MILL RIVER VALLEY.

JOHN PAUL AGAIN AT THE SCENE OF THE GREAT FLOOD.

PROGRESS TOWARD RESTORATION OF THE DEVASTATED VILLAGES—MILLS TO BE REBUILT—A NEW STORY OF THE FLOOD—MASSACHUSETTS VIEWS OF THE BROOKLYN SCANDAL—SOME REFLECTIONS ABOUT DAMS IN GENERAL.

[FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

WILLIAMSBURG, Mass., Aug. 1.—You have heard very little of Williamsburg lately. Fires and floods in other localities seem to have swept away all memory of the Mill River disaster; the seven days' wonder and compassion has long been over, and already several "nexts" have had their turn. The public curiosity seems satisfied as regards dams and a mention of Mill River just now unnecessary. But in some respects I am unlike most men—and some women. My interest or sympathy once excited is not easily allayed, and I was never known to desert a friend—so long as he had a cent left. Thus it was that, on hearing that the most eminent woolen manufacturer of this vicinity—the only one in the vicinity, in fact—still had a cellar under his feet as well as a roof over his head, to say nothing of credit at the grocery, I flew to share his fortunes—what remained at least. The report that there was still a small balance of the relief fund undisposed of, too, may have influenced my coming.

Very little change so far has been made in the face of the country over which the flood swept. Still it is scarred and seamed like the face of a man who has had a bad attack of the small-pox. The channels cut on every side by the turbulent waters are unfilled as yet. Sand and bowlders still make a wilderness of once pleasant lanes, streets, and fields, and but few houses are thus far building. Where houses once stood you find wooden crosses erected, on which are rudely painted suggestive legends like these: "Dr. Johnson's, all drowned (seven);" "Birmingham's, all lost (five);" "Seventeen swept away and drowned between here and the mill," &c. Naturally enough there is an indisposition to rebuild until property-owners know whether they are building on sand or on rock, and the question of boundaries and the future of the village are a little more definitely settled. The only mill really running in Williamsburg at the present time is the James Woolen Mill. You perhaps remember that just above this mill the swollen river cut a new channel for itself, and forsook its old bed, leaving the mill high and dry, the dam belonging to it filled with sand, its lower stories dismantled and disarranged, but the machinery comparatively uninjured. The boarding-houses for the operatives were swept away, as well as a large stock of wool, but this latter loss the enterprising proprietor remedied to some extent by claiming and gathering all the wool that could be found in the fields and pastures for ten miles round—not holding back from carting it off, I believe, even if the wool happened to have a sheep under it! That enterprise like this must have its reward sooner or later is evident enough. More, as soon as it became demonstrated to his practical mind that a pond full of sand was of very little use so far as running a mill was concerned, he set men busily about the work of excavation, and by an improvised dam of brush, junk bottles, and old bed-clothes very soon had enough of the stream turned back into its old bed to start the machinery with and again grind out cloth and flannel in strips of astonishing length. When I assure the world that there is no immediate fear of its being compelled to languish in an unjacketed and trowserless condition for want of the Champion Mill woolen goods, I do a service which can only be repaid by gratitude on the one side and the refraining from sending me a bolt or two of the goods on the other.

BUILDING UP THE WASTE PLACES.

It has been variously published that Mr. Skinner intended to build his silk works at Holyoke, deserting the old site at Skinnerville. I do not say rebuild, for of his mill, you must understand, there was nothing left to build over. His house still stood in a disconsolate and disjointed condition, and was susceptible of either repairs or transportation; but as for the mill, of that there was not even a foundation stone left—the work on such a structure would have to be done *de novo*. Everything seemed to be settled with the inhabitants of Holyoke, and the details even were published, but this morning I learn that Mr. Skinner has determined finally to build upon the old site. And I am heartily glad to hear it, for this of course improves the property all around, as well as redeems Skinnerville from the waste of desolation which would have settled upon it had a contrary decision been made. It seems fitting, too, that those who were associated in interests when the water-bolt struck, should abide together and stand shoulder to shoulder in the work of restoration. Thus, too, with Haydenville. My friends, Hayden, Gere & Co., after exploring and investigating in different directions, and ascertaining that no other county would give more than half the amount of its real and personal property valuation to have them build within its limits, concluded to build where their old works stood, and the new ones are already under contract; handsomer and better appointed buildings these are to be than were the old ones, and these latter were second to none in the State. Having seen the plans and fully approved them, I speak in this matter literally by the card. It was my intention, indeed, to give you details of the dimensions, but the memoranda furnished me by the architect, Mr. Luce, being lost, I can call to mind only one fact, gathered from a description in *The Springfield Republican*, and this, perhaps, would have been forgotten had it not been for the fine rhetoric in which it was stated. I allude to the fact that "the chimney of the new building will proudly tower 70 feet heavenward." From this I infer, and think the inference a justifiable one, that the chimney will be 70 feet high! As a further instance of enterprise under discouragement, you must know that the business of Hayden, Gere & Co. suffered no interruption, simply because of the unimportant incident of their foundery, patterns, and stock in store being all swept away. A few barns and shanties were left standing on the higher ground of Haydenville, and these were at once pressed into service, patterns were whittled out of the drift-wood floating around, ladles and soup kettles, and spinning wheels were borrowed from the neighbors, and in something less than 24 hours the work of molding, and casting, and silver-plating, and polishing was again going on, not as briskly as ever, but still with considerable vim.

While at Haydenville I cannot resist the temptation of telling you an anecdote connected with the flood, which I heard from a bright lady yesterday. It shows that there are few events so terrible as not to have some thread of the ludicrous interwoven with them. A brother of the late Gov. Hayden was at the West on a visit when news arrived of the swift ruin which had come upon the family village. So company with his daughter he at once started for home. At one of the stations a newspaper was procured, containing full particulars of the disaster. Putting on his spectacles, the old gentleman proceeded to read the particulars aloud, with the most provoking deliberation, stopping to weigh and turn over every statement carefully in his mind as he went along. "Let me have the paper, father," begged the young lady, all impatience to know the extent of the calamity. "No, daughter, have patience; I will read it to you," said the old gentleman, and he went slowly on, almost spelling out every word. At last he came to a statement which arrested his attention: "The—boiler—of—the—foundry—floated—away—on—the—flood—and—was—deposited—very—near—the—door—steps—of—Gov.—Hayden's—house." This he read over very slowly, twice apparently astounded by the audacity of the thing, and unable to take it in its full length and breadth. "That means," he said, finally, turning to his auditor to emphasize his analysis by a solemn forefinger, "That means, that Joel's biler is in Ann Elizy's front yard!"

As yet little or nothing has been done in the way of rebuilding roads and bridges, but the first frosts will probably see that work completed. A hundred thousand dollars has been appropriated for its consummation, and $100,000 goes a long way in any direction when legitimately expended. The plans and specifications, prepared under the direction of Engineer Davis, seem very thorough and complete, and when carried out ought to make this wilderness blossom like a rose—or like one arisen. The contract was given out, indeed, a day or two since, but the contractor backed down from his bid on learning that business was meant and that only first-class work would be accepted.

A STORY OF THE TIME OF THE FLOOD.

I visited Goshen the other day and inspected the dams of the reservoirs up there. Inspected them, I say; that means that I walked around them and under them and over them. Apparently they were as nice looking dams as you would wish to see. But as for inspecting works of this kind, or speaking intelligently as to their strength and safety, one might as well attempt to judge of the wheels of a watch by feeling of the case, or of the safety of powder by sitting down on the keg. In this latter case you're safe till the thing goes off, and it doesn't go off but once. The first sign of danger shows itself only a minute or two after your head is off, but it's then too late to run. There at Goshen lies a great pond of water, quiet and peaceful as a clover-field. And I suppose the other reservoir looked quite as innocent just before it burst, but a moment transformed it into a raging, roaring demon. Before I could conscientiously make up my mind to camp under any reservoir I should want to take down the dam, stone by stone, and see just how it was put together; and having once taken it down and let the waters meander over the valley at their own sweet will, I don't think I'd be in any particular hurry about piling the stones up again to confine anything that wanted to be loose. I don't think that even the best civil engineer a going could dam even me with impunity.

THE TOPIC OF THE DAY IN MASSACHUSETTS.

Possibly you think me an incredulous John if not a doubting Thomas. But what do you imagine occupies the people of this valley just now? Of what, think you, they talk? Not of the breaking of their reservoir indeed, but of the apparent giving way of the great ecclesiastical dam over in Brooklyn, and the mad riot which the foul waters seem inclined to run. In traveling through Massachusetts I have found this the absorbing topic, met the same first question on all sides: "What do you think of it?" And for the credit of humanity, too generally aspersed, too generally reported as delighting in downfalls, eager for the worst, I am proud to record that I find but one hope expressed, but one fervent aspiration put forth, and this goes up like a prayer—that Mr. Beecher may be proven innocent. Coarse jests are not indulged in—men not renowned for refinement speak decently and solemnly when this subject is discussed. Never until now did I realize the hold which Henry Ward Beecher had on the popular heart. Even life-long Democrats—Massachusetts Democrats, at that—forbear their fling. Do you wish to know the prevailing sentiment at present? Briefly, then, it is one of sorrow; and this feeling increases as day after day goes by, and no satisfactory explanation is brought forth. In the first blush of the accusation an indignant cry went up from the people that it was false; that Mr. Beecher would arise on the morrow and rend asunder the thin web of calumny which surrounded him, emerging from the mist of accusation strong and spotless as an archangel. They listened for the indignant blast of that trumpet-voice which has so often echoed through the land, confounding wrongdoers and championing ever the interests of right when assailed. And when instead came the piping notes of lawyers, making special pleas, the people bowed their heads, and now they weep. That Beecher must be good because Tilton is bad; that it is not to be presumed that a clergyman in Mr. Beecher's position would do this or do that; that he must be judged by none of the rules which apply to other men; that Mr. Tilton's story is unworthy of credence because his brother died in an insane asylum, and he himself drinks ale or porter after retiring to bed and reads himself to sleep—all this the people feel to be ghastly trifling with the universal common sense as well as with a very serious subject. As for Mrs. Tilton's statement, it seems to be generally held that if this woman, to whose spiritual truth and deep religious life everybody testifies, would falsely accuse the pastor upon whose strong arm she leaned through all the dark valley of domestic affliction, of even attempted adultery—it is generally held that any subsequent statement made by her can have very little public interest. As for the "tripartite agreement" or covenant of peace, there seems to be a prevalent impression that the horse is not usually anxious to bargain with the hen that they will not step on each other's toes. And there seems on all sides an indisposition to believe that even under the sting of feeling that he had righteously advised a wife to do precisely what a wife ought to do under the circumstances, just what a brother would have advised her to do, Mr. Beecher signed his name in a dark room to a compromising paper in ignorance of its contents. And they cry, "Who is this dear friend Moulton? What are his antecedents? How came he to be the pillar upon whom the pastor of Plymouth Church leaned?" There is a feeling that—but why dwell on a painful subject further? Let me simply record in conclusion that there is now a feeling that it is time that lawyers were swept away from meddling, time that the Committee gave up the conundrum of endeavoring to guess what all these persons mean, when only one of them thus far has stated his meaning clearly; time that one party at least comes forward and explains what he did mean by wishing he were dead, and what was the peculiar sharp edge of that rugged anxiety on which he so long sat.

To return to our reservoirs. I distrust all dams, however carefully built, when it is attempted to dam up an elastic element, difficult of confinement. And the weakness of walls, perhaps, is not much more at fault than the folly of attempting to reverse natural laws. For water will not run up hill; neither can you dam up the Nile with bulrushes. JOHN PAUL.

ORANGE COUNTY MILK.

COMBINATION OF THE DAIRYMEN OF ORANGE COUNTY TO CONTROL THE PRICE OF THEIR PRODUCT.

GOSHEN, N. Y., Aug. 5.—The milk business of Orange County is well-known to be one of enormous proportions, and dairymen are beginning to appreciate the importance of combined action in its management. Statistics show that this county furnishes nearly one-half the milk consumed in New-York, Jersey City, and Brooklyn. The daily receipts in the city from all sources are rarely over 12,000 cans, and of this quantity there is shipped from the various creameries in Orange County over the Erie, 4,150 cans; over the Midland, 1,100 cans, making a total of 5,250 cans. There are also sent to market over the above roads 200 cans of cream, which are equal to 1,000 cans of milk, and which in reality make the shipments from this county over half of the total supply of the cities mentioned. The dealers in New-York have long had a combination which controls the price paid the producer, and measures are now on foot among the dairymen in the various milk districts to form a similar organization on the grange system. Six Granges have been formed and are now in working order—one each at State Hill, Otisville, Goshen, Howell, New-Hampton and Scotchtown. Another is to be formed at Westtown this week. The membership of these Granges now aggregates 200, and is increasing. To consolidate these lodges and make them efficient to carry out the plan for which they have been formed, a County Grange is to be organized in September, by which time it is expected that the number of Grangers will be almost doubled. Efforts are also making to secure the cooperation of the Granges in Westchester, Dutchess, and Queens Counties, recently formed, and those of other points along milk-carrying lines, so that the entire market may be controlled. The dairymen are determined if possible to have something to say about what the price of their products shall be. As an evidence of the importance to them of the bringing about of such a state of affairs, it is only necessary to state that a charge of one-half a cent per quart on the milk sent from Orange County in one year would make a difference of over $500,000 in the dairymen's receipts. They will make a strong effort to have their projected combination prove successful, and it will be a good test of the value of the Grange movement.

NEW-YORK'S FAIR.

THE PLANS MATURED—AN IMMENSE FOUNTAIN TO BE ONE OF THE DECORATIVE FEATURES.

The plans for the American Institute Fair in September are matured, and the preparations are going forward. Goods are arriving in large quantities, and are being stored away in the Institute building at Third-ave. and Sixty-third-st. One of the features of the Exhibition will be the decoration of the interior, which is now under way. In the middle of the building will be a large fountain, the lower basin of which will have a diameter of 40 feet. The hight of the structure will be 25 feet. In the first or main basin, on little pedestals, will be four mermen blowing streams of water through horns, while encircling them will be 16 streams pouring down into the basin. The second basin will be fed by six streams and will be upheld by a support consisting of storks with their young, and nests in high relief. At the apex of the structure will be a female figure, and above it will be a single jet of water spouting up to a hight of 15 or 18 feet above the structure. The building will be elaborately draped. Every arch will be decorated, and the whole drapery drawn to a canopy above the fountain. The boilers of 1,000 horse power are now being put in, and the foundations for the engines of 500 horse power laid.

MOIETIES OF U. S. POSTAL AGENTS.

MR. COMSTOCK'S SHARE PAID TO THE SOCIETY FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF VICE.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: In your issue of the 31st ult. your correspondent has led you into an error in your editorial in regard to the moieties received by Mr. Anthony Comstock as U. S. Postal Agent and agent for the "Society for the Suppression of Vice." I am satisfied that you will be glad to correct any mistake which may mar the usefulness of that Society.

The act of the United States provides that one-half of the penalty shall be paid to the informer, and this Society, sometimes through Mr. Comstock, and sometimes through other agents, is a frequent informer. The Society collects the one-half of the penalty when it can, and such moiety is generally collected by Mr. Comstock, but when so collected is always paid into the Treasury of the Society and is used by it for its various disbursements. In no case has this moiety been retained by Mr. Comstock. He is paid an annual salary by the Society, which is in no wise increased or diminished by the amount of the recoveries, and is in no wise dependent upon them, and never has been.

The Society is supported by voluntary contributions of gentlemen in New-York and Brooklyn, and its object is to suppress the publication of obscene books and pictures and instruments of degradation. The labor and expense required to do this to any extent is great and constant, and we desire the understanding cooperation of yourself and every thoughtful man in the community.

Yours, truly, CHAS. E. WHITEHEAD.
New-York, Aug. 5, 1874. President of the Society.

SOUTHERN DELICACIES.

HOW AN OLD DOMINION STEAMSHIP IS UNLOADED AND VIRGINIA PRODUCE BROUGHT TO MARKET.

The Old Dominion line of steamships are now laden with the products of the gardens of Virginia and North Carolina, the distribution of which at this port requires the labor of a large number of men at an early hour of the day. A TRIBUNE reporter visited Pier No. 37, North River, late one night, and remained until long after daylight. The steamship Wyanoke arrived at her pier at about 10½ p. m., and soon steamed into the slip on the south side, where she landed her passengers. As she was not very heavily laden with market produce, the unloading did not take place as early as usual. The drouth in the Southern States has greatly affected the production of many articles which usually reach the New-York market by this line in August. During June and the early part of July the average receipts of produce were 30,000 packages per week, the arrivals in June alone being 157,424 packages, consisting of crates, boxes, barrels, &c., filled with fruits and vegetables. The Wyanoke had—in addition to a large general cargo, consisting of tobacco in hogsheads and boxes, cotton, eggs, feathers, poultry, oats, peanuts, &c.—1,800 barrels of citrons, muskmelons, squashes, cucumbers, apples, &c.; 500 boxes of tomatoes, several boxes of Bartlett pears, a few crates of grapes, and about 6,000 watermelons, some of the last-mentioned being of unusual size. Each of the barrels, crates, and boxes was marked with a number, indicating the consignee for whom it was intended, the object of the numerical system being to save time in delivery, as numbers are more easily distinguished than names.

The time for unloading the Wyanoke having been fixed at 2 a. m., the steamship was laid lengthwise along the south side of the covered pier. Up to a quarter of an hour of the time set down for the beginning of the work, any belated traveler walking along West-st. would have been unable to detect the slightest sign of business, the pier being dimly lighted, the fire-hose spread along the whole length, with the nozzle pointed toward the steamships, on board of which there was not a single sign of activity to be seen; the timekeeper had been wide awake for some time, however, preparing for the work before him, and soon he appeared on the wharf. The delivery clerks, foreman, &c., had also been busy since before midnight making copies of the manifest for the use of the gangway men, sorters, &c., so that they might be enabled to expedite the unloading of the vessel when that work began. Precisely at 2 o'clock the pier bell was rung by the timekeeper in a peculiar manner, and long before the reverberations had died away about 100 men were on the pier answering to their names. The suddenness of their appearance was surprising, as no sign of them had been visible five minutes previous to the ringing of the bell.

The steamships of this line are fitted up with side portholes fore and aft, consisting of double doors, and communicating with the main cargo deck. These doors were almost as suddenly thrown open, and heavy gang-planks on wheels were next run in from the pier on the north side, and from the lighter on the south. These gang-planks having been regulated by means of hinge-bridges, to suit the rise and fall of the tide during the process of unloading, no delay can be occasioned through the required aftershifting of gang-planks. "Shutes" and other gang-planks were also run up to the level of the state-rooms and upper decks for the removal of such cargo as had been packed thereon, either for the purpose of keeping the articles cool or to relieve the hold. As each of the men knew his duty, and promptly set about it, only five minutes were occupied after the bell had been rung, before the loud rattle of truck wheels was heard as the truckmen wheeled out the first portion of the market produce from the cargo deck. Along the pier and in the shed were placed against the wooden walls a number of figures, ranging from 1 to 96, each number representing a consignee; as for instance, No. 1 stood for John Nix & Co.; No. 2, Woodruff, Merklee & Co.; No. 5, Wilkinson & Son; No. 28, Hines & Mansfield; No. 92, Wadley & Co., etc. As the packages were brought from the steamship, the sorters and gang-plank men directed the truckmen where to place them; the stenciled numbers on the barrels, crates, &c., having to agree with the figures on the wall near which the articles were to be deposited. A continuous line of rapidly moving men with loaded trucks left the ship on the right-hand side of the broad plank, while another line of men returned into the ship with the empty trucks for new loads. In this manner the cargo deck was soon unloaded from both sides of the vessel, fore and aft, the goods destined for the occupants of the shed leaving by way of the lighter, while those for the numbers on the pier left by the portholes on the opposite side. Meanwhile, crates, boxes, barrels, &c., were to be seen flying down the "shutes" from the upper decks, a man being stationed at the foot of each plank to catch the flying packages and help to load them on the trucks. They were then wheeled off to the proper places assigned to them. To a stranger it would appear that the men on the pier stood constantly in danger, but accidents rarely occur.

The main cargo deck, in which had been stowed barrels, boxes, crates, piles of watermelons, &c., having been partially cleared, the steam elevator was next employed for the purpose of raising the cargo in the lower hold to the deck on the level with the pier, after which it was placed on the trucks and wheeled on to the pier in the manner previously described. Meanwhile the donkey-engine on the upper deck was also employed to raise barrels from the forward hold, and soon after the barrels were to be seen flying down the "shute" to the pier, where they were disposed of according to their numbers.

For about an hour the hand-truckmen had the pier almost to themselves, although clerks and sometimes consignees were present to look after the freight. Among these consignees might be mentioned Mr. Merklee, of the firm of Woodruff, Merklee & Co., who, although 68 years of age, was the first on the pier, somewhat putting to shame the belated clerks of other firms, who, although half a century younger, were nearly an hour behind him in attending to their duty. At 3 o'clock, however, the long market wagons or trucks of these consignees, each drawn by two horses, began to arrive on the pier, and when several were there at one time, the hand-truckmen had not quite so much room to move in; although such is the systematic plan of operations that even with these incumbrances the work of unloading did not stop for even a minute. These market-trucks soon began to load up, and as each was filled, it moved rapidly off from the pier by the right-hand archway of the entrance; the delivery clerks checking off the packages before permitting the trucks to leave.

The rapidity of the movements of the various vehicles, both small and large, and the quick handling of the freight would, it might be supposed, create confusion and cause mistakes; but the former is prevented by the forbidding of any unnecessarily loud orders, or the use of abusive language, while the system of numbering is so distinct that each cartman knows, or should know, the goods he is required to carry, and takes none other. During the very busy season the shed on the south side of the pier is assigned to the special use of about half a dozen of the largest consignees; consequently their numerous two-horse trucks at these times do not incommode the operations on the pier proper, as the goods are loaded up in the shed and removed by one of the six doorways on West-st., the trucks passing in regularly by one doorway and leaving by another, without touching the pier at all.

When about one-half of the "market truck" had been unloaded from the vessel, a coal gang was set to work "coaling up" for the next voyage, a donkey-engine capable of raising a quarter of a ton at a time from a barge moored alongside, being employed for the purpose. In this way a portion of the work of preparing for sea was being performed while the vessel was unloading, and this left the men free to load up the outward bound cargo at the earliest possible moment. During the busy season a vessel has often been on her way out to sea with an outward cargo within 3 hours of her arrival with the Southern products. At the time of the reporter's visit, so rapidly was the work done that the greater portion of the freight was not only out of the ship but off the pier before the first West-st. car for the Battery had passed on its first downward trip.

The handing of watermelons is a matter that requires great care, for should any fall to the ground the fruit would be greatly damaged, if not broken to pieces, and thus rendered useless for the market. The Company, therefore, under the direction of Capt. Bourne, the General Superintendent, and Capt. Hodges, the Dock Superintendent, have had made a peculiar kind of hand-truck on wheels, in which a number of the melons can be removed at a time from the vessel without damage, thereby saving the necessity of passing them from hand to hand, as formerly. Most of these melons are taken by a few firms, who deal in them by the thousand.

ALLEGED EXTENSIVE FORGERIES.

ST. LOUIS, Aug. 5.—There was considerable excitement on 'Change to-day, caused by a report that Alexander Dorman & Co. had forged cotton warehouse receipts to the amount of $100,000 to $150,000, and that two or three banks of this city have been victimized to the extent of $40,000 or $50,000. Dorman and one or two other members of the firm have been arrested, and an investigation will be made.

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY STATE CONSTABLES.

PROVIDENCE, Aug. 5.—Chief Constable Northup to-day announces the following deputy State Constables:

George W. Burlingame of Warwick, James F. Wilson of Pawtucket, the Rev. A. B. Burdock of Westerley, Samuel B. M. Read of Providence, Jeremiah Peabody of Newport, Nathaniel S. Greene of Bristol. There is one vacancy.

THE AMERICAN NOSOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

NEWPORT, Aug. 5.—The American Nosological Society convened this evening at the Aquidneck House. Delegates are present from many portions of the country. The convention will be in session three days.

HOME NEWS.

THERMOMETER, YESTERDAY, AT HUDNUT'S, IN BROADWAY. 9 a. m.—68° Noon—76° 3 p. m.—82° Midnight—69°

PROMINENT ARRIVALS.

Metropolitan Hotel—Bishop J. J. Conroy of Albany, John T. Ford of Baltimore, and Assistant Quartermaster-General L. C. Easton, U. S. Army....*Brevoort House*—Amédée van den Nest, Secretary of the Belgian Legation at Washington, and Col. Henry S. Mecomb of Delaware ...*Hotel Brunswick*—Olaf Stenersen, Swedish Minister at Washington....*New-York Hotel*—Judge William W. Crump of Richmond....*Sturtevant House*—Judge Albert S. Boles of Norwich, Conn....*Fifth Avenue Hotel*—The Hon. Robert Campbell of St. Louis.

NEW-YORK CITY.

The schoolship Mercury arrived at Hunt's Island yesterday from its Summer cruise.

By the steamer Russia, yesterday, 27,400 letters were dispatched, and 24,459 were sent by the Donau.

A small quantity of early sweet potatoes arrived in this market yesterday from the South, and, being of good quality, realized a high price.

Nearly 200 dogs were killed at the pound yesterday. About 3,000 have been suffocated since the establishment of the pound, and yet there seems to be as many dogs as before.

There are no new developments in the whisky debented by the Internal Revenue authorities. The matter has been reported to Washington, and all further information must come from there.

James Reef, age 35, of No. 165 Houston-st., was shot accidentally in the side yesterday morning by Wm. Coxford, at No. 41 Centre-st., while the latter was cleaning a gun. Reef was taken to the Park Hospital and died in a few moments. Coxford was arrested.

Dr. A. V. Etting, district physician of the Twenty-fourth Ward, has offered his services gratuitously as surgeon in charge of the new reception hospital to be erected at Tremont, and they have been accepted by the Commissioners of Charities and Correction.

The schooner Onward, from Calais for this port, came in collision with an unknown vessel in Vineyard Sound on the morning of Aug. 3. The Onward lost her mainsail, broke her mangaff and boom, and started the bulwarks on both sides. Repairs will be made at Edgartown.

The new steamer City of New-York, of Messrs. F. Alexander & Son's line of Havana steamers, made her last trip from Havana to New-York in 3 days and 11 hours, the quickest passage yet made between those ports. The City of New-York made her previous two trips in 3 days, 12½ hours, and 3 days and 13 hours respectively.

Manhattan Market was sold at auction yesterday, at No. 111 Broadway. The bidding began at $3,000 and after a brief contest Henry G. Harrison was declared the purchaser at $216,956 48. That sum does not include the interest on the first mortgage, the costs, or the auctioneer's fees, all of which must be added to the purchase money.

The annual Book Trade Sale at Leavitt's Salesroom will begin on Monday, Sept. 10, and will continue throughout the week. The first three days of the sale will be devoted to the offering of a large invoice of stationery belonging to D. Appleton & Co. of this city, who intend to relinquish their stationery department. They will close out their entire stock.

At a meeting of the Central Committee of the German Liquor Dealers' Association it was resolved to petition the Mayor to appoint an inspector to see that the beer and ale kegs supplied by the brewers are of the capacity fixed by law, as complaints have been made by dealers that many kegs in which beer is sold to them contain less than the required number of gallons.

Ellen Eikel, age 21, while looking out of a back window in her home at No. 208 West Fiftieth-st. yesterday, was struck by a large stone which was thrown with great force through the window, and had her right leg broken and received other injuries. It was subsequently discovered that several workmen had been engaged in blasting rock at Broadway and Fifty-first-st., and that the stone which entered the window came from that direction.

John Miles, age 55, of No. 572 Broadway, while talking with James Gordon of Towsontown, Md., in a saloon at Broadway and Fulton-st. last night struck him on the leg playfully with a cane. The cane struck a pistol in Gordon's pocket and the weapon was discharged. The bullet entered Miles's thigh, inflicting a severe wound. The wounded man was taken to the Park Hospital, where his wound was dressed, and he was then taken to the Commercial Hotel by friends.

A large quantity of miscellaneous goods, in 449 lots, which remain unclaimed at the Public Store, were sold at auction yesterday under the provisions of the law regulating the storage of merchandise, by order of the Collector of the Port of New-York. John H. Draper conducted the sale at Nos. 97 and 99 Water-st. The attendance of buyers was very large and the bidding spirited. All the different lots were valued in the catalogue according to their worth in the foreign market at the time of importation.

The regular monthly meeting of the Importers' and Grocers' Board of Trade was held yesterday, Wm. A. Booth presiding. A communication was received from a company at Indianapolis, requesting to be furnished with particulars as to the working of the city railroad system in this city. The secretary was instructed to send the annual reports of the different railway companies. Lyman R. Green was elected a member of the Board, and C. S. Gotenhofer an honorary member.

At a meeting of the German property-owners of the Fourth Ward, at No. 263 William-st., last night, the following motions were carried: To appoint a Committee to consult with counsel as to the best means to abolish disorderly houses in that Ward; to appoint a Committee to petition the Police Commissioners to appoint as Inspectors of Elections in the Fourth Ward such persons as they recommended; to petition the Tax Commissioners to reduce the tax on property in the Fourth Ward 20 per cent.

Coroner Woltman held an inquest yesterday in the case of John Dunn, who was drowned while bathing off Ward's Island on July 21. Four young men who were boating near Dunn at the time he was drowned had been arrested by the Coroner on suspicion of being accessory to his death, but the testimony showed that the tide was running very strongly at that point, and that the men could not manage the boat. The jury rendered a verdict of accidental drowning and the prisoners were discharged.

The body of an unknown man was found floating in the Hudson River off the foot of One-hundred-and-forty-second-st. last night, and was conveyed to the Thirty-second Precinct Police Station. It is supposed that the deceased's name was Charles Edward Wolf, a Belgian, who recently registered the name "John Piffers" at the St. Denis Hotel. "Piffers" disappeared from the hotel on Saturday last, and his coat was found on the banks of the Hudson on Tuesday, near the spot where the body was found last night. The Belgian Consul received a letter from Wolf on Monday last declaring his intention of committing suicide.

The first excursion of the floating hospital of St. John's Guild took place yesterday morning. The barge Harvest Home left the foot of Tenth-st., E. R., in tow of a steamer, at 8 a. m. Five hundred poor, sick children, accompanied by their mothers, were on board. Plenty of good, wholesome food was provided for them, both in the morning and evening. The excursion was in charge of the Rev. Alvan Wiswell, Master of the Guild. The band of the Union Home and School for Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphans volunteered their services, under the direction of J. S. Johnson. Dr. Wm. F. Thoms acted as chief of the medical staff, and attended assiduously to the little ones. The excursion went some distance up the Sound. Its entire cost was $150. The next excursion will take place on Friday, Aug. 7.

Fresh cases of small-pox are reported from Harlem almost daily. Nos. 108, 110, and 112 East One-hundred-and-nineteenth-st. are all infected, and a new case is reported at No. 228 East One-hundred-and-twenty-first-st. A skirmish between the health authorities, aided by a squad of police from the One-hundred-and-twenty-sixth-st. Station, and the residents of the region known as "Snake Hill" took place outside the cabin of a man named Cahill, in One-hundred-and-nineteenth-st., between Third and Fourth-aves., yesterday for possession of the body of a small-pox patient, the fact of whose death had been kept secret. Dr. Fowler, the District Health Officer, being refused admittance to the cabin, led the assault by smashing the windows, and the corpse was finally secured. The doctor says he is resolved to root out the contagion from this nest of squalor, even if he has to pull down all the cabins in the neighborhood.

Thomas Barrett, the patrolman of the Sixth Precinct Police, who had the symptoms of hydraphobia on Tuesday, gained strength yesterday, and hopes are entertained by physicians of his recovery. The patient was visited at his house, No. 34 Madison-st., by Drs. Cook and Henry, several times during the day, and on each occasion was found to be improving. Barrett talked rationally and was very calm. He seemed to be anxious, however, concerning the wound of the dog's teeth on his hand, and frequently, despite the physician's advice, lifted the hand before his face and looked at the scar. Barrett's brother complained that when he informed the Sergeant at the Fourth Precinct of his brother's sickness that the Sergeant told him that he must go to the Sixth Precinct for an ambulance. He went to the Sixth Precinct, and thence to the Park Hospital to order the ambulance, thus losing much valuable time, and causing the sick officer's family much more anxiety than was necessary.

BROOKLYN.

Abraham Florentine, a veteran of the War of 1812, died yesterday, aged 83.

During July 139 permits for erecting new buildings and 103 permits for altering dwellings were granted by the Department of Fire and Buildings.

Property-owners along the line of Bordenave. are greatly excited and indignant at the action of Commissioner Moran in closing that thoroughfare.

Three miles of Metropolitan-ave. are yet to be graded and macadamized, but only $16,000 of the appropriation for the improvement remain unexpended.

A man who has represented himself as a Receiver of Taxes, has been collecting money in the Eastern District and giving fraudulent tax receipts therefor.

The expenses of the Brooklyn Post-Office for July were $6,444; the amount paid carriers $6,419; and the postage on matter put in the office for local delivery, $4,427 61.

Frederick Dorloah, proprietor of a saloon at No. 2 Hamilton-ave., was fined yesterday by Justice Delmar for violating the provisions of the Excise law on Sunday, June 28.

Ex-Judge Troy presented yesterday an application of Mary Hanley, who arrested Kate Stoddard, to the Common Council, claiming the reward offered for the capture of Chas. Goodrich's slayer.

The fare on the new horse railroad to Calvary Cemetery has been reduced to seven cents during the day, except in the morning and evening, when, for the benefit of laboring men, it will be only five cents.

James Lawlers, who, at a recent meeting of the Tax-Payers' Association of Queens County, asserted that Peter G. Van Alst was "robbing poor people," was arrested for libel, and was released yesterday on $1,000 bail.

Judge Pratt, in the Chambers of the Supreme Court yesterday, granted permission to the St. James Methodist Episcopal Church at Pearsall's, in Queen's County, to mortgage its property for the purpose of building a parsonage.

Controller Schroeder estimates the deficiency in the collection of the present year's taxes at $1,000,000. To provide for the expenses of the city government a temporary loan of $500,000 will have to be negotiated. This the Controller has asked the Common Counsel to provide for.

The hearing of the motion for a permanent injunction to prevent Contractor Clark from depositing offal and offensive matter at the Wallabout, came up yesterday in the City Court, before Judge Reynolds, who postponed consideration of the matter until a week from to-day.

Michael Connell, age 65, who has been under the influence of liquor for some time past, attempted to commit suicide last evening by cutting his throat with a razor at his residence at No. 95 Partition-st. He was seen to do the act, and a physician was called who succeeded in stopping the effusion of blood and saving his life.

Senator Coe has been investigating the case of the death of Patrick Reid who died of delirium tremens in Raymond-st. Jail on July 10. He claims that Reid should have been taken to the hospital and received proper treatment, and condemns the Board of Health for granting a burial permit upon the certificate of Dr. Shephard instead of investigating the matter.

Mrs. Isabella Graham, age 26, of No. 54 Ryerson-st., attempted to commit suicide yesterday afternoon by jumping from the South Ferry boat Hamilton into the river. She was rescued by deck hands Wilson and Golden and taken to the First Precinct Station-house. She stated that family troubles induced her to attempt to kill herself. Her friends were informed, and she was taken in charge by them.

Judge Pratt of the Supreme Court appointed a receiver of the Asbury Life Insurance Company last April, and in May the General Term vacated the order. Yesterday Chauncey Schaffer renewed the motion on additional affidavits alleging the insolvency of the Company. Ex-Judge Fancher, for the Company, read affidavits denying the statements, and after argument Judge Pratt took the papers and reserved his decision.

A meeting of the Commissioners of Charities was held yesterday afternoon at the Almshouse in Flatbush. Owing to the absence of President Wheeler, the chair was occupied by Mr. Rabee. The only business of importance transacted was the acceptance of the proffered resignation of the entire medical staff formerly attached to the Lunatic Asylum. The staff was composed of Messrs. C. F. McDonald, A. M. Campbell, and Mr. Twombly. Their reasons for resigning were expressed in a voluminous communication, which was read to the Board. The principal ground was dissatisfaction with Mrs. Cunningham, the matron of the institution, whom the physicians characterize as entirely incompetent. No provision was made to fill the vacancies. This will be left with the Committee on Asylums.

LONG ISLAND.

GREENPORT.—The mysterious death of Mr. Miller, the fisherman, causes a great deal of excitement among the residents of this place. It will be recollected that he was found lying dead in a fish-pond used by him about one mile west of the village, on Friday morning last. The news of his death was first conveyed to the village by a fellow fisherman named Ashbury. Upon going to the place the authorities found the door fastened on the inside. When access was gained to the premises, the body of Miller was found with the head lying toward the door. Upon examination of the body there were found to be a number of stabs about the neck and chest, some two or three of which would each have been sufficient to have caused death. A pile of paper was found near the body, upon which was found several stains of blood, as though a bloody knife had been wiped upon it. A coroner's jury was summoned, which, after investigation, found a verdict that the deceased had met his death by violence, but at whose hands was unknown. From the conditions under which the corpse was discovered it was judged that there had been an attempt to conceal a murder, and suspicion naturally turned to the man Ashbury, who first brought the news of the murder to the authorities, and he was accordingly arrested, and is now held to await examination.

NEWTOWN.—John Scott, whose examination was concluded before Justice Vanderveer yesterday morning for the alleged shooting at Timothy O'Connell with intent to kill, was held under $500 bonds to await the action of the Grand Jury.

RIVERHEAD.—The foundation of the new County Clerk's office of Suffolk County is already completed. It is substantial and gives good satisfaction.

STATEN ISLAND.

EDGEWATER.—About May 1, last, the Village Assessors gave notice that they had completed their assessments, and that at a certain time the roll would be on exhibition for correction, the assessment being at the same rate as in previous years. This roll, however, it appears was given up as worthless, and a new one has since been made, which the tax-payers have been called upon to criticise and amend. There is a question as to the legality of the last roll, which will probably be tested in the courts, unless the Assessors conclude to forego their latest actions, in which case it is probable that no assessments can be made until next year. Meantime the question of raising the rate of assessment, in accordance with the recommendations of the State Assessors, is being seriously considered, and will be further discussed by