LOCAL MISCELLANY.

THE CITY'S DEFENSES AGAINST FIRE.

THE CONDITION OF THE HYDRANTS REPORTED FROZEN—THE CLAIM THAT THEY ARE NOW IN WORKING ORDER.

In reply to the communication of the Fire Commissioners, relative to frozen hydrants in the dry goods district, G. W. Birdsall, Assistant Chief Engineer of the Department of Public Works, sent on Saturday a report to Gen. Tracy, Chief Engineer of the Department, in which he says that these hydrants were placed last year as an extra supply, all the former ones being left in place. During the extreme cold weather, each of these large hydrants has been salted, for the cold weather has in some cases so affected the large valves that they have leaked a little, and such large valves will necessarily stick more or less with frost. He examined all the hydrants spoken of on Friday personally, and found only two of the valve wheels broken, which were replaced by new ones; two other valve wheels were replaced during the week preceding. All the rest were in order, and only four of the valve wheels have been injured since the hydrants were put in. The few that were frozen on top, caused by the breaking of the valves, were thawed out, and were to be in good order on Saturday for use, only requiring the application of steam to warm up the large valves before they are opened.

Gen. Tracy states that the sole business of a portion of his department is to keep the hydrants in working order, and it is impossible for his men to have failed in noticing any such condition of the fire hydrants, had it been as bad as the Chief Engineer of the Fire Department has stated. None of them had been frozen so tightly as to require a half hour to thaw them out, and those reported as useless, by reason of the breaking of the valve wheels, had most probably been rendered so by the efforts of firemen to force them open when it was found that they would not work easily. The bands of all the hydrants are kept constantly packed with salt to prevent freezing. Mr. Tracy did not believe there was any occasion for alarm about the probability of a great conflagration owing to the condition of the hydrants. There was always a little trouble about frozen hydrants during a severe Winter, and there is no more complaint this Winter than usual.

ECONOMY IN STREET OPENINGS.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ESTIMATE—THE CITY DEBT LARGELY INCREASED BY AWARDS FOR STREET OPENINGS.

At a meeting of the Board of Apportionment on Saturday, a communication from the Controller to the Mayor was read. This set forth that the report of the Commissioners of Estimate and Assessment had been confirmed by the Supreme Court relative to the following public improvements, damages being awarded in each case: The opening of Tenth-ave. above One-hundred-and-fifty-fifth-st, damages, $92,626. The laying out a new street running parallel to One-hundred-and-fifty-fifth-st., in an easterly direction from the Kingsbridge-road, across Tenth-ave. to the Boulevard, near the Harlem River, damage $34,368 91; the laying out, widening, and straightening of Kingsbridge-road between One-hundred-and-fifty-third-st. and the Harlem River, damage $1,276,997 14. The Controller adds that under the provisions of law, one-half of the amount of damages awarded in these proceedings, and also of the expenses incurred, is made a charge upon the City of New-York, which is to be provided for by the issue of long bonds and an increase of the permanent debt; while the other portion is to be provided for by the issue of temporary bonds in anticipation of the collection of assessments. The damages are, he thinks, excessive, and the portion charged on the city much more than it should be, and will, if paid, be a very large increase of the debt of the city.

At the conclusion of the reading, President Wheeler offered a resolution that the communication be referred to the Controller with the request that he should prepare and submit to the Board such resolution as, in his judgment, may be necessary to authorize the issuing of such bonds as may be required to provide for and pay the damages and expenses awarded and allowed by the Commissioners of Estimate and Assessments and the Supreme Court, in reference to the said several public improvements. President Lewis offered a long preamble and resolution requesting the Controller to furnish the Board with whatever evidence he has on which to base the suggestions made by him in his communication as to the fact that said damages are excessive, with a statement in detail of the measures by the Controller taken, or requested or suggested to be taken, to prevent confirmation of the proceedings or allowance of the damages by the Supreme Court, with the name or names of the justice or justices of the Supreme Court who made or entered the order or orders so suggested to be improvident or unjust, and with the measures by the Controller taken, or requested or suggested to be taken, to appeal from such order or orders, or to cause the same to be received or rescinded.

Both resolutions were adopted, the Mayor and Presidents Wheeler and Lewis voting in the affirmative and the Controller in the negative. President Lewis submitted a detailed answer to the resolution offered by Controller Green at a previous meeting, relative to the number of street openings authorized by the Board of Aldermen since the beginning of the present year. The Controller objected that this was not the information he sought. He wanted to know the contemplated cost of the works proposed. He contended that the improvements were not desired by the residents. President Lewis said that when an Alderman introduced an ordinance or resolution authorizing a street opening, it was supposed that the taxpayers in his district had asked for it. The Controller thought it was a poor way to carry on the city government by suppositions. The Mayor said that the Charter gave the heads of departments the right to be present at and take part in any debate in regard to the affairs of their respective departments, and if the Controller was to avail himself of that right he could easily obtain all the information he desired of the proceedings of the Board of Aldermen. After some further desultory discussion the Board adjourned until 2 p. m. to-day.

MEANS OF COAST DEFENSE.

RIFLING SMOOTH-BORE CANNON—THE RESULTS OBTAINED BY A NEW METHOD OF TUBING.

The recommendations of the President's recent message on the subject of rifled ordnance have aroused great interest among those interested in coast defenses. A pamphlet embodying a report from the Board of Experimental Guns has been issued, and it is believed by many to solve the problem how to convert into rifled cannon the smooth-bore guns now in use by the Government at various points along the coast. The Board, consisting of Col. Crispin, Majors Treadwell and Baylor, and Capt. McKee of the Ordnance Department, was ordered recently, by the Secretary of War, to test the eight-inch converted rifle, made from the common ten-inch smooth-bore. The gun is composed of two parts, the original ten-inch smooth-bore, drilled to an interior diameter of 13.5 inches, and a lining tube of coiled wrought iron welded. The breech of this lining, to a distance of 32.5 inches, is a double tube, the outer one being shrunk to fit closely over the inner, and having the same exterior diameter as the inner tube at the muzzle. A screw-collar attachment prevents the tube from being pushed forward by the compression of the wrought iron, brought on by repeated firings. The breech end of the tube is closed by a wrought-iron base or cup. The tube was adjusted to its place within the new bore of the cannon with great care, especial pains being used to bring the breech end of the tube in contact with the cast iron. After the insertion of the tube, it is fastened into place by the screw collar at the muzzle of the piece. The rifling consists of 15 grooves, with a twist of one turn in 40 feet. The weight of the tube and gun, when complete, is 16,160 pounds.

Trials were first made with charges of powder varying from 20 to 30 pounds, and with projectiles varying from 157 to 173 pounds, to note the resulting pressures and velocities and the effects on the gun, and were preliminary to the use of 35-pound charges, the weight selected for the test of the gun for endurance. Satisfactory results having been attained, experiments were then begun for testing the endurance of the gun, using 35-pound charges; 498 rounds were fired with this charge, and 6 rounds with a charge of 30 pounds, completing a record of 504 rounds; 513 rounds in all have been fired from the gun. The velocities were taken with the Le Boulengé chronograph. The Rodman pressure-plug, placed in the cartridge-bag, was used for ascertaining the maximum pressures. The calculated energy of a mean weight of projectile, 175.7 pounds, with 35-pound charge, shows a power about equal to the wrought-iron 8-inch English service rifle, and, as it was believed that the length of the bore would make it possible to advantageously burn little, if any, more powder, a charge of 35 pounds was fixed as a maximum in the tests. The mean maximum pressure with battering charges was 31,282 pounds.

Experiments which were made to test the accuracy of the systems of rifling and projectiles were considered highly satisfactory. The remarkably small horizontal deviations afforded indisputable evidence of the serviceable condition and good character of the rifling and of the satisfactory action and accuracy of the projectiles. After firing 513 rounds the maximum increase of bore was 0.04 inches, and at 22 inches from the bottom. By deducting the play of the tube at that point, the actual maximum enlargement was 0.0295 inches. This is found to be superior to English experiments with the best converted system. Impressions of the bore taken with gutta-percha show but little erosion from the gases, and this and a slight general roughness at the seat of the shot are the extent of the damage done to the surface of the bore in the entire experiments and tests. The table of comparison between the 8-inch converted and the English 8-inch nineton gun shows that gunners can calculate on a power from the former equal to that of the latter. The calculations are not carried beyond 1,800 yards, as at the more important harbor defenses of this country a greater range than this would not generally be required for their case-mated guns, which would probably be used in case of attack as powerful auxiliaries to the larger calibers of 10-inch and 12-inch rifles. The calculated power against armor plates (unbacked) is at the muzzle a penetration of 8.66 inches; at 600 yards, 7.87 inches; at 1,000 yards, 7.42 inches, and at 1,500 yards, 6.75. The Board believe that in some harbors, where the draught of water is comparatively light, guns of this power would have sufficient energy to afford by themselves an efficient armament. They here state that the nationalities of Europe include in their calibers for heavy ordnance as low as 7 inches. The record showed that an increase of power from two to threefold over the original smooth-bore 10-inch gun, at ranges varying from 1,000 to 3,000 yards, is gained by the conversion. The present armament for the United States sea-coast includes for the casement defenses 1,294 10-inch Rodman smooth-bore guns distributed in the harbors. These guns, the Board say, are entirely worthless unless changed to rifles by some process. In their present state they would be harmless to iron-clad vessels.

CHANGES IN FEDERAL SERVICE.

RETRENCHMENT IN THE CUSTOM-HOUSE—THE APPOINTMENT OF HUGH GARDNER IN THE POST-OFFICE—POSTAL IMPROVEMENTS.

The order of the Secretary of the Treasury for the reduction of the force at the Custom-house will probably go into effect to-day, as it is the middle of the month. The local political leaders have been in consultation at the Custom-house for some time past, marking off the names of political adherents who were employed there, and whose services at primaries and elsewhere were no longer needed. These unfortunate persons will be discharged, and men of more political usefulness retained. It is expected that the total reductions will include between sixty and seventy persons, a large part of whom will be taken from the force of day and night inspectors, and the remainder from the clerical force in the building.

Ex-Police Commissioner Hugh Gardner has been appointed Superintendent of the postal sub-stations in this city, in place of Wm. Haw, removed. Postmaster James states that before receiving salary Mr. Gardner went to London and thoroughly examined the system of postal delivery there. On his return he made a report of the results of his observations, and upon the information which he furnished will be based some of the improvements to be made in the local delivery of letters in this city. To perfect the system of delivery a large number of additional carriers will be required.

Supervising Architect Potter of the Treasury Department visited the Post-Office on Saturday. He expressed his willingness to make any concessions the New-York officials may desire with regard to the internal arrangements of the new Post-Office building. His predecessor, Mr. Mullett, had refused to accept any suggestions in this matter. It is expected that some parts of the new Post-Office will be ready for occupation in May.

A SURE FOOTING FOR ARBITRATION.

LETTER OF THE HON. ABRAM S. HEWITT IN FAVOR OF THE AMENDATORY ARBITRATION ACT.

The Hon. Abram S. Hewitt has written a letter to Assemblyman Waehner, Chairman of the Assembly Judiciary Committee, in regard to the Amendatory Act in reference to the Court of Arbitration, advocating the act, and speaking of the importance of the system of arbitration. Following is the text of the letter:

I greatly regret being confined to my house by illness, and therefore unable to accompany the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, and appear before your Committee in behalf of the Amendatory Arbitration Act. The point of the proposed amendment is the payment of the salaries of the Arbitrator and Clerk of Arbitration by the Supervisors, the expense of the rooms, fuel, stationery, &c., being born by the Chamber.

The Arbitration Court has proved a great success, and it would be a public disgrace to suffer it to die. All commercial cities need such a tribunal, and in Europe they generally have them. The experiment has been made here, through the liberality of the Chamber of Commerce, and should now be publicly recognized and the Court put upon a lasting basis. There is and always will be a great amount of arbitration going on in this port, in irregular methods, in merchants' counting rooms, without counsel, without established precedent, without the warrant of authority. Shall these things continue, or will the Legislature see the fact and bring these arbitrations out of their hiding places, to a public forum, where all may obtain justice and the settlement of disputes without fine or punishment in seeking their rights?

The present Legislature have a golden opportunity, by accepting the offer of the Chamber of Commerce to institute a great public benefaction, and provide for a great commercial necessity, at the trifling expense provided for in this bill. Those who advocate and vote for the bill will deserve well of the public; and, certainly, every member from this great commercial heart of the country ought to stand by its commercial and mercantile interests which, for so long a time and so unanimously have demanded the establishment of this very arbitration court.

LEGISLATIVE POLICY OUTLINED.

THE COSTIGAN BILL TO BE MADE A PARTY MEASURE—THE MIDLAND RAILROAD RELIEF BILL LEFT OPEN—DISCUSSION UPON OTHER BILLS.

A meeting was held on Saturday at Tammany Hall by the Committee on Organization and the Democratic Senators and Assemblymen from this city. Speaker McGuire was also present, by invitation. John Kelly presided. The object of the meeting was to consider certain bills now before the Legislature, which materially affect this city. The Costigan bill was discussed at length, and very freely. The majority of the members favored the measure. There were some who could not see how the bill could receive the sanction of a Republican Senate, and there were others who expressed apprehensions lest the Governor should veto it on the ground of expediency. With reference to the Senate, the belief was expressed that enough votes could be obtained to overcome this obstacle. Finally, it was resolved that the Costigan bill should be deemed a party measure, and receive the united support of the Democracy.

The bill to remit the taxes of the New-York, Oswego and Midland Railroad was then considered. It was decided, after a short discussion, that this should be an open question, although several opposed it, on the ground that it would be establishing a dangerous precedent to extend State aid to corporations. The bill of Mr. Bergh, providing for the formation of societies for the prevention of cruelty to children, was discussed. Assemblyman Thomas Cooper Campbell favored the bill, while Assemblymen Daly, Costigan, and others, opposed it, claiming that its provisions permitted unwarranted interference with the rights of parents and relatives. In this connection the bill of Assemblyman Alvord, on the same subject, was taken up. Speaker McGuire was asked to give his views on the subject, and said he was opposed to special legislation of any kind, more especially of this arbitrary character. The further consideration of the bills was postponed, and the meeting then adjourned.

MUNICIPAL NOTES.

The Dock Commissioners on Saturday presented to the Mayor their answer to the charges made by the Commissioners of Accounts, that they had not complied with the provisions of the charter in the purchase of supplies and in other ways. The Mayor will not begin the reading of the document, which is very long, until to-day, and he will not make its contents public for several days.

The Fire Commissioners have reduced the salary of the medical officer of the Department to $1,500, and of his assistant to $1,200. The Superintendent of Supplies had his salary reduced to $2,500, and several clerks to $1,300; a total reduction of $5,000. The new fire steam propellor is to be named William F. Havemeyer. The Bennett medal for 1874 was awarded to William Mitchell, of Truck No. 6.

The Controller on Saturday approved the sureties of J. Nelson Tappan, the new City Chamberlain and County Treasurer. They are as follows: William L. Andrews, Siegmund T. Meyer, Effingham H. Nichols, Solomon Metrbach, William R. Garrison, William Lalor, Edward Kearney, Jordan L. Mott, John W. Masury, John Hoey, James S. Thayer, William B. Dinsmore, for the sum of $200,000 each; Griffith Rowe and Louis J. Phillips for $400,000 each. Mr. Tappan will enter on his duties to-day.

Commissioner Van Nort during the week received for Croton water rents, etc., $12,809 61. He has transmitted to the Board of Assessors the certificates of the cost of regulating and grading, curbing, guttering, and flagging Seventy-seventh-st., from Ninth-ave. to the Boulevard, amounting to $59,692 11.

The Law Committee of the Common Council, to whom were referred the resolutions presented by Alderman Reilly relative to the official conduct of Controller Green, met on Saturday, but adjourned until Wednesday next. Tax Commissioner Wheeler and the Commissioners of Accounts have been summoned to appear before the Committee at that time.

A NEW CHURCH EDIFICE.

The Sixty-first Street Methodist Episcopal Church, situated between Second and Third-aves., is nearly completed. The lot is 100 feet front by 130 feet in depth, and is entirely occupied by the church and parsonage. The church is built in the Gothic style, with stained glass windows. In the front of the building is the infant class room, 75 feet by 48 feet, capable of accommodating 300 children. Above this apartment are six rooms for Sunday-school purposes. There are two church parlors, 26 feet by 14 feet, separated by sliding doors. The auditorium is 82 feet by 75 feet, and can seat about 1,200 persons. The infant class room is separated from the main audience-room by a screen, so that if needed the two may be thrown together. The organ is to be placed behind the pulpit. It was built by Jardine, and was formerly in St. John's Church, but has been entirely rebuilt. The material of which the church is built is Philadelphia brick, with trimmings and beltings of Nova Scotia sand-stone. It was designed by John Welsh of No. 261 Montague-st., Brooklyn. The seats are of black walnut, and the wainscoting of walnut and ash. The pastor is the Rev. Robert Crook, D. D. The church will be dedicated on March 14. On that occasion Bishops Janes and Andrews and the Rev. Dr. Dashiel will officiate. During the following week there will be preaching by the Rev. Drs. Foss, Talmage, and Tyng. The entire cost of the church and parsonage (not yet built) will be $75,000.

THE COLORED ORPHAN ASSOCIATION.

The thirty-eighth annual report of the "Association for the Benefit of Colored Orphans" shows that 65 boys and 29 girls were admitted to the institution in 1874. There were 271 inmates of the Asylum at the beginning of the year, making the total number of children protected 365. Of this number 81 left the Asylum, some being indentured, and some returning to their friends; 13 died, and 1 child was transferred to the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb. At present there are 196 boys and 88 girls in the institution—the largest number ever cared for. The teacher's report states that 339 children were taught during the year, and 270 are now receiving instruction. There are 36 in the alphabet class, 22 spell only, 61 read imperfectly, 151 read with ease, 115 are in the merited arithmetic class, 163 study geography, and 39 study history. The girls are taught the use of the needle, and have made many garments the past year. The ages of the children received in 1874 ranged from 2 to 12 years. Many were taken in a state of destitution, from the streets, or rescued from the haunts of the vicious. The receipts for the year were $43,464 04; expenditures, $35,909 72.

LABORS OF A NOTED REVIVAL PREACHER.

THE CAREER OF HENRY VARLEY—HIS POWER OVER MEN AS SHOWN IN ENGLAND AND CANADA.

The Rev. Henry Varley of London addressed a large audience at Association Hall last evening from the words of the 22d verse of the sixth chapter of Romans, "But now being made free from sin and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life." Mr. Varley has an acceptable manner in impromptu delivery, a fervent spirit of exhortation, a wonderful memory for the Scripture, and a boldness of utterance that peculiarly fit him for his work. He is about 50 years of age, tall, of commanding presence and dignified in bearing. Most of his life has been spent as a London butcher, in which business he has accumulated considerable property. Mr. Varley is the present pastor of the West London Tabernacle on Notting Hill. His visit to America is for the purpose of rest and relaxation from his pressing duties. He has spent some months in Canada, and comes to this city on invitation to hold a series of meetings during the coming week.

Eleven years ago he began evangelistic work among men of his own class, and soon became known throughout England for the success which attended his teachings. His education in early life was such as the line of business he had chosen required. Four years ago he was admitted to the ministry, and with the assistance of his father-in-law mainly built the large church of which he is now the pastor. He still keeps up his labors among the butchers, holding periodically teameetings to which the butchers and their wives are invited. He holds to the Baptist form of faith, and when in London fills Mr. Spurgeon's pulpit in his absence. His services are called for in all parts of England as a revivalist. In Norwich, Eng., 1,800 persons were converted under his preaching, and the result of ten days' labor in Yarmouth, just before he sailed for America, was shown in 647 conversions. He walked the streets followed by crowds to whom he talked and preached. He possesses a strong influence over men, particularly of his own class. His method is exegetical, supporting his text by collateral quotations from the Scriptures.

Mr. Varley's work in Canada has been attended with remarkable success. The first general interest his preaching attracted was at the close of the Evangelical Alliance Conference at Montreal last Autumn. He held a series of meetings in Montreal which the Protestant denominations generally united in, and which resulted in many conversions. At Toronto a far greater interest was manifested in the meetings, which were attended twice a day for four weeks by congregations numbering from 1,000 to 4,000. Hundreds of persons professed conversion and joined the various Protestant churches. At Brantford, a small town of 10,000 inhabitants, Mr. Varley spent two weeks. During this time one-fifth of the whole population were, it is claimed, converted. The hotels were closed during the hours of meeting, the billiard-saloons and similar resorts were almost deserted, and in some cases public schools were dismissed to allow the scholars to hear Mr. Varley. In other places there was a similar show of interest and like results. It is worthy of remark that while this English revivalist is working in America, Messrs. Moody and Sankey, the American Evangelists, are leading in the greatest revival in England that has occurred for many years.

SALE OF SMUGGLED CLOTHING FROM PARIS.

The large quantity of costumes and ladies' fancy goods, imported from Paris by Mlle. Léonie Jouvin, and confiscated at the Custom-house as smuggled merchandise, were sold at auction at noon on Saturday, by Burdett & Dennis, at No. 29 Burling-slip. A large sensation-loving crowd, with many purchasers, thronged the establishment at an early hour—filling the doorway and walk, and making ingress and egress for a time nearly impossible. The attendance of ladies was very small, and no little disappointment was exhibited by the curious who had hoped to encounter here some of those for whom it had been reported these Parisian novelties were intended. The five trunks which Mlle. Jouvin brought from France contained almost every garment in the feminine wardrobe, and which French art could devise. Many of the costumes had a disordered and second-hand look, doubtless caused by the vicissitudes of the journey and the rough handling at the Custom-house. There were quantities of ball and street dresses of exquisite design; *robes de chambre* of varied colors; overskirts rich with lace and embroidery; a profusion of fancy silks, children's and infants' garments, and almost every article of female apparel.

The goods, in 271 lots, were chiefly purchased by dealers, and brought fair prices in the majority of cases. The following are a few of the sales and samples of prices: A brown silk and velvet suit brought $185; an embroidered black silk suit, $120; a purple silk skirt with trimmings of velvet, $120; a brown silk with velvet for ornament, $145; a black silk suit with overskirt and jet trimming, $115; a sacque with silver fox lining, $32; a white *matelasse* opera cloak, $40; a striped blue and white silk, $125; a merino and velvet morning dress, $125; a sacque and polonaise of cashmere, $42.

FIFTY YEARS OF DEVOTED WORK.

A service to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the American Tract Society was held last evening in the Madison Square Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Dr. John Hall presided. After the devotional exercises a statement of the work of the Society for the past fifty years was read by the Rev. G. L. Shearer, the Secretary. He stated that the Society was a grand Evangelical Publishing and Missionary Society with 25,000 Life Directors. In the 50 years of its organization it had sent out 507,000,000 copies of its publications. The Society issued daily 54,000 copies of its publications, 50,000 tracts and periodicals, and 4,000 volumes of books. It had printed 9,357 distinct publications, in 143 languages and dialects. It conducted six periodicals, two weekly and four monthly. The total cash receipts in 1825 were $10,000, and in 1875 $572,391 30. In 1825 the Society issued 8,000,000 pages of tracts, and in 1875 141,000,000. The gifts to the Society in 1825 were $7,000, and in 1875 $149,000. The sales of books, tracts, etc., in all had amounted to about $8,500,000, and the total gifts to $4,189,000. The business of the Society is self-sustaining, and the gifts are used exclusively for benevolent purposes. The colporteurs, 50 in number, have made over 11,000,000 visits to families.

Addresses were made by the Rev. Isaac Riley, the Rev. Dr. Henry Darling of Albany, and the Rev. Dr. Alexander McLean, Secretary of the American Bible Society. At the close of the exercises the Rev. Dr. Hallock pronounced the benediction.

SENATORIAL CONTESTS.

FOURTEEN REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES IN MINNESOTA—THREE BALLOTS ON SATURDAY.

ST. PAUL, Feb. 14.—In joint convention of the Legislature yesterday, Lochren, Democrat, received 63 votes for United States Senator, being within one of the full Democratic strength, and within 10 of the vote necessary to a choice. The following was the vote for the Republican candidates:

Gordon E. Cole	23	Horace Austin	12
W. D. Washburn	22	W. R. Marshall	2
S. J. K. McMillan	9	S. P. Child	6
E. F. Drake	2		

The rest of the Republican votes were scattered among the different candidates. The joint convention of the Legislature adjourned after taking two more ballots for United States Senator, with the following result:

Whole number of votes cast			145
Necessary to a choice			73
Lochren	63	Washburn	31
Cole	35	Scattering votes	16

In all 14 candidates have been voted for by the Republicans to-day.

THE REPUBLICANS DEMORALIZED AND THE OPPOSITION CONFIDENT.

ST. PAUL, Minn., Feb. 14.—Both Davis and Ramsey withdrew from the Senatorial contest yesterday, which action has completed the demoralization of the Republican party. All the factions are mad, distrustful and jealous of each other, and any compromise by which the election of a Republican can be accomplished is believed to be impossible. It is doubtful whether the deadlock will be ended this session. Three ballots were taken in yesterday's joint Convention. Republicans scattering badly and the Opposition for the first time uniting solidly upon Lochren. The Opposition is buoyant and expects to carry off the prize.

THE DEADLOCK IN WEST VIRGINIA UNBROKEN.

CHARLESTON, W. Va., Feb. 14.—In the joint session of the Legislature yesterday the name of J. N. Camden, nominee for United States Senator, was withdrawn, and J. J. Jackson was nominated as the new candidate. A vote was then taken, with the following result:

Whole number of votes cast			75
Necessary to a choice			38
Jackson	32	Walker	23
Price			20

STATE PROPERTY CAN NOT BE SOLD UNDER EXECUTION.

RICHMOND, Va., Feb. 14.—Judge Wellford of the Circuit Court of Richmond has rendered a decision that no execution can be made to sell property of the State for debt. The decision was given on a motion of the Attorney-General of the State to quash an execution sued out by the executrix of David Higginbotham upon a judgment entered in the Circuit Court in obedience to a mandate of the Court of Appeals, reversing a previous judgment of the Circuit Court, and adjudging the plaintiff entitled to recover from the State of Virginia $2,220, with interest from the 1st of July, 1871, till paid. The Sheriff of Richmond had been ordered to levy on the Law Library of the State, and the furniture in the Governor's residence. Hence the motion of the Attorney-General.

HOME NEWS.

THERMOMETER, YESTERDAY, AT HUDNUTS, IN BROADWAY.
9 a. m.—19° Noon—22° 3 p. m.—22° Midnight—7°.

PROMINENT ARRIVALS.

Grand Central Hotel—Vice-President Henry Wilson of Massachusetts....*Clarendon Hotel*—Mlle. Albani....*New-York Hotel*—Capt. W. H. Hains of the steamship Abyssinia....*Fifth Avenue Hotel*—Ex Congressman Jacob Benton of New-Hampshire, ex-Gov. Robert McClelland of Michigan, Col. Michael Sheridan, U. S. Army, and Assemblyman James Mackin of Fishkill, N. Y....*Metropolitan Hotel*—Ex Congressman John Rogers of Black Brook, N. Y....*Windsor Hotel*—J. M. Walker of Chicago.

NEW-YORK CITY.

The foreign mail on Saturday consisted of 30,821 letters and 56 paper bags, all of which was taken by the steamship Baltic.

Bishop Cummins will preach at the First Reformed Episcopal Church at Madison-ave. and Forty-seventh-st., to-morrow evening.

The exercises of the thirty-fourth annual commencement of the Medical Department of the University of the City of New-York will take place at Steinway Hall to-morrow evening.

Judge Lawrence, in Supreme Court Chambers, granted on Saturday an order of publication of summons against Henry W. Genet, in a suit brought against him and others, by Leroy Knight, to foreclose a mortgage for $50,000.

The building of the Andrew Jackson Club is advertised for sale next Wednesday, under a foreclosure of a second mortgage, for $5,000, held by G. P. Wetmore. There is still a third mortgage on the premises, for $25,000, held, however, by a trustee for the club.

Prof. P. W. Bedford, Professor of Pharmacy in the College of Pharmacy, New-York, will begin a course of lectures on Pharmacy at the New-York Free Medical College for Women at No. 51 St. Mark's-place next Wednesday, and will continue the course on succeeding Wednesdays.

As recorded at the Central Park Meteorological Observatory the highest point of the thermometer last week was 46°, and the lowest 0°; the maximum of the barometer was 30.494, and the minimum 29.516. The total of snow and rain fall was .89 inch; and the distance traveled by the wind 1,696 miles.

Very interesting services were held yesterday morning at the Episcopal Floating church, on the East river, at Pike-st. Twenty persons, including several seamen, were confirmed by Bishop Potter. The Rev. Mr. Millet and the Rev. Mr. Walker assisted. A short address was delivered by the bishop.

John Brennan, a lad of 15, residing at No. 700 East Twelfth-st., was sent two weeks ago to the House of Refuge, for petty larceny. He died yesterday, suddenly, and an investigation showed that his skull had been fractured. Upon inquiry, it was learned that he had received the fracture from a fall on the ice in the yard of the House several days before his death.

The sale of the furniture and other property in the Astor House was continued on Saturday. Rooms Nos. 53 and 54, formerly known as President Grant's rooms, were gone through and their furniture disposed of. A large number of people were in attendance, and the bidding was brisk. The sale will be hashed about the end of this week.

The Rev. Father Byrne, President of the Catholic Total Abstinence Union of America, has written a letter to Mr. Patton, President of the Metropolitan Union, advising that the organization should not take part in parades on St. Patrick's Day. This advice is based partly on the ground of excessive expense, and partly on the reason that parades detract from the religious associations of the day.

The Lincoln Club, which numbers among its members Taurlow Weed, Sheridan Shook, John D. Lawson, Assemblyman Frederick W. Seward, Alderman Morris and Cornelius Van Cott, held a meeting on Saturday evening and made arrangements for celebrating the anniversary of its organization on Feb. 22. It was decided to give a dinner in the parlors of the Club and to invite prominent speakers to respond to the toasts.

The New-York District Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church will hold its session in the St. James M. E. Church, at Madison-ave. and One-hundred-and-twenty-sixth-st., the opening services beginning at 2 o'clock this afternoon. The meeting will continue through Friday. Besides the regular routine business, there will be addresses by the Rev. Drs. Dashiell and McClelland, and an essay will be read by the Rev. A. D. Vail.

Last Saturday evening there was a large attendance of pupils and visitors at Wood's Gymnasium, to witness an exhibition of athletic skill, consisting of sparring matches, performance on the flying trapeze, and bouts at single-sticks. Among the audience were Count Boliseo of the Russian Legation, W. B. Astor, jr., Edward Leavitt, John Brooks, W. H. Scheffelin, Dr. George Peters, Campbell Stewart, R. C. Cornell, and Dr. Snelling.

John Conroy, a laborer, of No. 20 Cherry-st., became engaged in a quarrel on Saturday with Edward Jennings, of 115 Union-ave., Brooklyn, at Bridge and Whitehall-sts. He struck at Jennings, who made no motion to return the blow, but ran away. A few moments later, Conroy was found in a fit, and was taken into a liquor-store near by, where he died. Deputy Coroner Marsh made a post-mortem examination yesterday, and found that death had ensued from valvular disease of the heart. Jennings, who had been arrested, was released.

Fully 5,000 persons were fed from St. John's Guild in Varick-st. on Saturday, and an equal number were supplied with food on the day before. Clothing was in great demand by the hundreds who were shivering half-clad in the cold winds. The supply of both food and clothing is reduced till there is hardly a shred of the latter and only a small quantity of the former left with which to begin the week's work. The volunteers of the Guild ask for aid from the charitable of all creeds, everywhere, and say that unless it is received promptly many of the sufferers will have to be abandoned to their fate.

Col. G. W. Wingate, President of the National Rifle Association, has received a letter from Major Arthur B. Leach of Dublin, Ireland, who was present with the Irish team at the International match of last year. Maor Leach writes; "We have an annual match shot in Ireland for the 'All Ireland or Leach Challenge Shield,' open to Irish Clubs only. I have, however, reserved to myself the right to alter the rules, and accordingly I see fit to alter them now, and in favor of the Americans. The ranges are 1,000 and 1,100 yards, each team to consist of four men, and the shield to remain in the country of the winning team until the next match. No other nationality can engage in the match. Of course I will formally announce it to you."

A chart prepared by a gentleman in this city in regard to real estate values, and now on exhibition in the Register's Office, gives in epitome the history of the city's growth. The chart purports to depict a few blocks of ground between Seventy-first and Seventy-fourth-sts. and Fourth and Fifth-aves., forming part of what was formerly known as the Harlem Common. This area forms six blocks of ground containing 198 city lots, which were purchased in 1818 at the average price of $2 23 per lot. The average value per lot of this property in 1874 is stated at $30,600. It is said that this piece of property, purchased for so small a sum, has had the largest increase of value—in proportion to its size—in the shortest space of time of any property in the city.

LONG ISLAND.

FREEPORT.—A memorial chapel is to be erected here for the use of the Presbyterian Sunday-school, and to be used as a lecture-room on week-day evenings. It will be built near the present church, and will cost about $4,000 or $4,500. The entire cost will be borne by Mrs. G. W. Bergen, wife of the present Treasurer of Queens County, who erects the chapel in memory of her mother, the late Mrs. Thomas Carman.

JAMAICA.—At the annual meeting of the Queens County Local Visiting Committee for the Public Institutions of Charities and Correction the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, W. H. Onderdonk of Great Neck; Vice-President, Miss Cornelia King of Jamaica; Secretary, Miss Henrietta Titus of Old Westburg.

BABYLON.—The bill introduced in the Legislature by Mr. Schurman of Oneida, at the instance of the State Commissioners of Fisheries, to prevent pound-fishing in the Great South Bay, is regarded with great disfavor by the fishermen, who contend that it is absurd to suppose that the supply of salt water fish can be regulated by legislation.

AMITYVILLE.—The Sunday-school Convention of Suffolk County is to be held here on March 16 and 17. Addresses are to be made by the Rev. W. W. Knox, the Rev. H. Aston, J. H. Tuthill, the Rev. H. C. Woodruff, and the Rev. J. W. Home.

FRANKLINVILLE.—The Suffolk County Temperance Convention appointed to be held in Greenport on Feb. 16 is to be held in this place instead, on the same date.

STATEN ISLAND.

PORT RICHMOND.—An election of three trustees of this village is to take place early in March. A nominating convention is called for Feb. 27....The annual report of the President of this village shows that the amount of money received during the past year was $12,137 12, and that the disbursements amounted to nearly that sum, $122 63 still remaining in the treasury. The village has no debt of any kind, except a bonded debt of $12,000, and there are no outstanding and unpaid vouchers.

CLIFTON.—About $400 was netted by the charity ball at the German Club-room in aid of the Smith Infirmary and the Orphan Asylum....Capt. William Carry has been chosen President of the Irish societies on Staten Island for the ensuing year. A meeting of the delegates of the various societies, to make arrangements for the St. Patrick's Day parade, will be held to-day at 3 p. m., at Duff's Hotel, Tompkinsville....The Staten Island Railroad last week withdrew four of its daily trains. The reason alleged for this is a scarcity of water for locomotive purposes, occasioned by the severe weather. It is further said that the suspension is only temporary.

FACTORYVILLE.—A mass meeting of the members and friends of the Young Men's Christian Association will be held in their hall this evening to hear the report of a committee appointed at a former meeting to suggest measures for its benefit.

NEW-JERSEY.

JERSEY CITY.—The trial of Frederick Scheik, charged with the murder of Jacob Schultze, at Floral Park, West Hoboken, on Oct. 21, 1874, will begin to-day in the Hudson County Courts....C. A. Pratt of Somerville, N. J., was arrested in this city on Saturday, on the charge of stealing 12 watches, and was carried back to Somerville by Detective Kilcauley....A bill has been introduced in the Legislature designed to abolish the office of justice of the peace in Jersey City and Hoboken, by substituting a higher court for the trial of small causes. A petition asking that the bill be indefinitely postponed has been signed by the justices of the peace in Hudson County, and will be sent to the Legislature to-day.... In the Hudson County Court of Quarter Sessions, Saturday, Frederick Dodine, a young boy, was held in $1,500 bail on an indictment charging him with an assault on Frank Block, a friend, whom he shot a few weeks since. .....Thomas Leonard, the canal boatman who was arrested last October on a charge of attempting to murder Eli Schoonmaker, was convicted Saturday of atrocious assault and battery and remanded for sentence. ....John Keenan was held in $1,000 bail on Saturday charged with an atrocious assault on James Kilenan, to whom he owed money, and whom he beat in a brutal manner when asked to pay his debt.... A number of prominent Baptist clergymen have been invited to preach a series of sermons in the North Baptist Church, Jersey-ave. and Fourth-st. The first of the course was delivered by the Rev. J. F. Elder of the Madison-ave. Baptist Church, last night....Daniel Donahue of Coles-st., was arraigned before Justice Roberts on Saturday, charged with beating his wife, but the latter interceded for him and he was released on furnishing $200 bail to keep the peace....Persons in charge of the canal boats in Harsimus Cove have been ordered to remove their boats as soon as the weather will permit, in order to make room for the new tracks of the Erie Railway. The filling in will begin as soon as the ice breaks up.... The suit of Jacob Weart, administrator of the estate of Bernard McMahon, to recover $20,000, alleged to be due from Matthiessen & Wiechers, was concluded Saturday, in the Hudson County Circuit Court, by a verdict of $13,461 07 for the plaintiff. The defense will carry the case to the Court of Errors and Appeals. The deceased, who was formerly a wealthy cooper, became indebted to the defendants in the sum of $14,000. The defendants subsequently removed all of Mr. McMahon's stock, valued at $28,000, to satisfy their claim. Suit was brought to recover the value of the stock in excess of the sum due defendants.

NEWARK.—The seventh anniversary of the Clinton Avenue Reformed Church Sunday-school was observed yesterday afternoon with inter