LOCAL MISCELLANY.

PROPERTY-OWNERS' COMPLAINTS.

PROTESTS AGAINST BURDENS FOR UP-TOWN IMPROVEMENTS—PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD FOR THE REVISION OF ASSESSMENTS.

A meeting of the Board of Revision and Correction of Assessments, which consists of the Controller, the Corporation Counsel, and the Recorder, was held yesterday in the Controller's office. A large number of tax-payers protested against alleged extravagant assessments for up-town improvements, and against the system of doing work by special contract and day's work. It was alleged that the prices allowed in some of the special contracts were fourfold greater than present prices for the same kind of work, and that the contracts were not given out by fair competition, but to favorites. In regard to the day's work system, it was alleged that a very small amount of work was done in a day, and that on account of having inexperienced foremen and men, poor work was done.

John Ely, who appeared on behalf of F. W. Lasah, protested against the exorbitant assessment of property of his client for the filling in of Eighty-fifth-st., between Eighth and Ninth-aves. The work was done by special contract and the assessment complained of amounted to about $2,500. Charles A. Miller, representing the Academy of the Sacred Heart, protested against the alleged over assessments of the property of that institution for the grading of St. Nicholas-ave., the assessment being $30,257 76. Mr. Miller asserted that the Board of Assessment had advertised to assess only half way from St. Nicholas-ave. to the adjoining avenue, but had laid the assessment on the whole width of the lots. Mr. Pierce, who appeared for Mary G. Pinckney, entered similar protests against over assessments for the same improvement. Mrs. Pinckney was assessed $29,143 55. Mr. Pierce asserted that the day's work system was extravagant and the assessments illegal. Thomas Faye, represented by William C. Whittemore, jr., entered a similar protest against an assessment of $6,000 for the same improvement. Henry A. Crane, through an attorney, claimed that he had once paid an assessment of $1,563 for the grading of Sixth-ave., at St. Nicholas-ave., and had been reassessed for the same work. Martin Zaroonski asserted that he had been assessed over $30,000 for improvements on Ninth-ave., between Eighty-second and Ninety-third-sts. The work had been carried on by an unjustifiable and ruinous system of private contracts. William H. Gebhard protested by letter against alleged unjust assessments laid on his lots fronting on St. Nicholas-ave., between One-hundred-and-fortieth and One-hundred-and-fifty-fourth-sts. and on One-hundred-and-fourteenth and One-hundred-and-fifteenth-sts. He held that the Board of Assessments had no vouchers by which to apportion the assessment, but had inequitably divided the assessment, only having the supposed gross amount of disbursements made by the Department of Parks and Public Works. The work had not been let publicly to the lowest bidder, but had been done extravagantly and recklessly. He also protested against paying for the extension of the avenue north-west of One-hundred-and-twenty-third-st.

The Corporation Counsel said that the Court of Appeals had decided that the Commissioner of Public Works had power to proceed in such manner as he might deem proper in having these improvements carried on. Controller Green said the work should be let publicly, and that private contracts were not lawful. A very large number of these complaints had been filed, and the Board would have to take the facts as they arose and act upon them. He had repeatedly opposed private contracts, which had resulted in the complaints and abuses now to be considered. A large number of other persons were present to make complaints, but the Board had not time to consider them. The matter was laid over until the next meeting.

NEW-YORK INFANT ASYLUM.

THE ANNUAL BALL—EXPECTATION OF A BRILLIANT SOCIAL FESTIVAL—WORK OF THE ASYLUM.

A leading theme in fashionable circles at present is the New-York Infant Asylum Ball, which is to take place on Jan. 13 at the Academy of Music. The lady managers of the Asylum, having the affair in hand, announce that the tickets are selling rapidly. Only a few boxes are now left, and those who desire them must apply early. Gov. Tilden will be present as President, and has promised to open the ball. Bernstein and Grafulla have been engaged for the music, and Delmonico will prepare one of his finest suppers. Theodore Moss is responsible for the general arrangements, and the floor committee is composed of young gentlemen prominent in social circles. Nothing has been or will be omitted that can contribute to render the ball an affair long to be remembered for social brilliancy.

A glimpse of the work of the Asylum during the last year may be given, since the report for 1875 furnishes a few fresh memoranda. The institution has under its care no less than 300 women, and as many little children. A new wing has been added to the Sixty-third-st. building during the year, but so heavy is the tax on the resources of the Asylum that it is now filled with inmates, and there are not as many available vacancies in either the Sixty-third-st. or the Clinton-place House of Reception as are required to meet the increasing influx of applicants. The country house at Flushing, L. I., which was formerly the Patriot Orphans' House, serves to keep the two New York establishments from overflowing, and will be enlarged during the year. But the accommodations of the Asylum are scarcely equal to the demand, and will have to be increased within a few months. This will be done probably by opening a new house of reception in another quarter of the city. Although every precaution is taken in the matter of adoption, and no inmate can be removed from the institution without strict guarantees, there are often more mothers than infants in the Asylum—a fact due mainly to the eagerness with which the latter are sought by respectable families, but partly to the applications of mothers to reclaim their offspring. No mother is permitted to leave the place until employment has been found for her, and an opportunity can be offered her to start once more in life, removed from temptation and from the conditions under which vagrancy and pauperism are produced.

POLICE MEASURES.

THE APPROPRIATION FOR 1876—SERVICE OF POLICE COURT WARRANTS.

At a meeting of the Police Board yesterday, the request of C. E. Waring of Yonkers for permission to give Detectives Holly, Lyon, and Richard King $50, as a reward for the arrest of two thieves and the recovery of stolen property, was referred to the Committee on Rules and Discipline. The resignation of Patrolman Rufus E. Choate was referred to the same Committee. It was stated that Choate obtained his money without signing a voucher, resigned, deserted his family, and cannot be found. An application on behalf of the Cercle Français de l'Harmonie, asking permission to give their annual masked ball was placed on file, the Board having already decided not to permit the holding of masked balls. The dog ordinance was ordered to be promulgated to the force. The appropriation for the Police Department for 1876 was reported to be as follows: Salaries, $3,202,400; rents and repairs of police stations, $82,075; supplies, $50,000; Street-cleaning Department, $725,000; total, $4,059,475.

At a second meeting of the Board Mr. MacLean, counsel to the Board, reported, in reference to the proper service of warrants and the duties of the police at the courts, that the proper performance of the duties required of members of the squads detailed to the several courts would be best secured by adhering to the present practice of holding the officers in command responsible for the action of the individual members under them. In regard to the communication of W. C. Barrett, counsel for the Bank of British North America, relating to the surrender of $300 that was alleged to have been stolen from that bank, Mr. MacLean reported that the Property Clerk had acted legally in giving up the money as he had.

NEW FACILITIES FOR THE SUGAR TRADE.

One of the business interests of New-York which embraces a very large amount of capital and is carried on with close sales is sugar refining. Competition and the discrimination of the principal trunk lines in favor of Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Boston have seriously crippled business with the West. Barks with sugar, which formerly came only to New-York and returned loaded with goods, have been diverted to other ports which offered superior docking facilities and greater profits even without a full return cargo. Baltimore was New-York's chief competitor, but heavy failures there have reduced the number of its sugar refineries to one. Philadelphia is able to make the empty barrel at 10 cents less than this city; its refineries receive the raw sugar at their own docks, and by paying the Pennsylvania Railroad $1 for each car they can have the car drawn inside the building from which the refined article is to be shipped.

To meet this competition, Messrs. Havemeyers & Elder, on behalf of themselves and the other large refineries, have made arrangements with the Erie Railway for a general freight depot in Williamsburgh, Long Island, and cars loaded with staves in Michigan can be unloaded in cooper shops, and taken to the refineries to be filled with sugar, to be sent through without change to any point West. Two floats have been built on which the cars are taken to a new double-track dock bridge, 100 feet long and 34 feet wide, at Williamsburgh. From this point side tracks and switches extend to the delivering station and different buildings, and by 1,350 feet of double track to the new brick depot in North Fifth-st., 400 feet long, covering the whole block between First and Second-sts. An improved 36-ton dummy engine moves the cars; 50 of which can be housed in the different buildings. The tariff to and from Williamsburgh, in lots of one car-load and over, is the same as from New-York City. Freight is received for all through Western points and the following places in this State: Binghamton, Waverley, Owego, Ithaca, Elmira, and Rochester. Messrs. Havemeyers & Elder expect to receive freight on Monday or Tuesday next.

THE DISCOVERY IN A COFFIN WAREHOUSE.

No further developments were made yesterday in regard to the coffins that were discovered on Thursday at No. 346 Broome-st. A reporter of THE TRIBUNE called at the office of Mr. Applegate, the owner of the warehouse, in the cellar of which the coffins were found. Mr. Applegate was not in, but a gentleman in his employment said that Mr. Applegate had occupied the premises for 15 or 16 years. The cellar was used as a store-room for boxes, and the extreme rear, where the coffins were piled, was rarely if ever visited. The cloths found in the coffins were supposed to be the linings. The coffins were the smallest made, being about a foot and 8 or 10 inches in length. Coffins of that size were used only for the bodies of still-born infants. Mr. Applegate's business was to supply undertakers with everything requisite to funerals, but he never took charge of funeral arrangements. The custom was that bodies of still-born children were given to undertakers to be carried to a cemetery, but the undertakers did not, as a general thing, go to a cemetery especially for this purpose. They usually waited until a hearse was sent on the occasion of a funeral, and the small coffins were taken then. It was not infrequent for undertakers to have two or three on hand at once in their offices, waiting for transportation to some place of burial. The reporter's informant said that it was not improbable that the coffins which had been found in the cellar were brought there by a driver who had retained the money given to him to pay for the burial. He thought the coffins must have been in the cellar for 17 years, and as the cellar was dry they were in a good state of preservation.

THE CHILDREN OF PAUPERS.

THE METHODIST CLERGYMEN INTERESTING THEMSELVES IN THEIR BEHALF—EVILS OF THE PRESENT LAW.

The subject of the care of pauper children, which was brought before the meeting of Methodist Episcopal preachers last Monday, will probably cause further discussion at these meetings. The Rev. Dr. Carey said yesterday that the article published in THE TRIBUNE last Saturday had first awakened his interest in the subject. He intends to look into the case still further, and believes that other Methodist clergymen will act also. He believes the almshouses are dens of iniquity to the last degree, and that the bill passed by the Legislature relative to the removal of children to other institutions, was passed because the Legislature did not know of anything better to do. He said that he would prefer that these children should go to the institutions under Roman Catholic control than that they should be allowed to remain in the almshouses and the Island nurseries. The practice of putting a boy 10 or 12 years of age, who may be detained as a witness, among common criminals, is the very best means of bringing out whatever iniquity there may be in him.

The Rev. Dr. Richard Wheatly, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church in One-hundred-and-fourth-st., near Ninth-ave., said yesterday that, after the removal of the children from Randall's Island, it became a question with the teachers on the Island whether there was any use of their staying at their posts. The Board of Education told them to remain, hoping that the law would be repealed during the present session of the Legislature. Dr. Wheatly said he most earnestly desired the repeal of the act, and would do all he could for the accomplishment of that end. The act was in direct opposition to the spirit of the institutions, being a favor to religious establishments. The expenses of the care of paupers were much increased by it. Dr. Wheatley said that the Protestant Churches were united in their opposition to the encroachments of the Roman Catholic Church upon the free schools of America, which this act tended to encourage. They believe in their entire separation from the State, and would not have them under their own control if they could.

MANUFACTURERS' AND BUILDERS' BANK.

William A. Butler, receiver of the Manufacturers' and Builders' Bank, has filed his detailed inventory of the condition of the bank and of his payments. His general statement is as follows:

ASSETS.

Bonds and mortgages	$31,550 00
Bonds and stock	305,20 00
Fixtures	3,000 00
Suspended overdrafts	11,936 75
Bank Department fund	5,500 00
Bills receivable	167,667 81
Bills suspended	91,192 10
Cash	17,574 69
Protest fees due	59 18
Claim against J. Pangborne	5,000 00
Total	$850,501 67

LIABILITIES.

Due depositors	$234,228 71
Due Chatham National Bank	25,551 28
Due certified checks	1,014 27
Due taxes, New-York	11,760 40
Due taxes, United States	1,679 34
Due unpaid bills	819 85
Due demand loan M. J. & J. Burchell	16,000 00
Due demand loan German Up-town Savings Bank	34,222 62
Due unclaimed balances	1,905 31
Due capital	180,000 00
Total	$498,431 60

In the schedule of banks and stocks the following appear:

Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Minn. R. R. Co. bonds	$50,000
Alabama State bonds deposited as collateral	19,000
Lowndes County, Miss., bonds	5,000
Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Minn. R. R. Co. bonds (Iowa division)	30,000
Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Minn. R. R. Co. bonds (Minnesota division)	37,000
Utica, Ithaca & Elmira R. R. Co. bonds (pledged as collateral)	38,000
Selma, Marion & Memphis R. R. Co. bonds, guaranteed by the State of Alabama	5,000
South Carolina State (consolidation) bonds	500
South Carolina State (non-fundable) bonds	12,000
St. Joseph & Denver City R. R. Co. bonds	47,000
Nat'l Plumbers' Trap Manuf'g Co. stock	8,000
Empire Laundry Co. of N. Y. 2d mort. ex bonds	10,000

The receiver credits himself payments amounting to $10,341 64, of which the chief is $10,000 paid under an order of the Court to Herman Uhl, Receiver of the German Up-town Savings Bank.

LOSS OF $12,000 IN RAILWAY BONDS.

Capt. Petty of the First Precinct Police reported to Superintendent Walling, at the Police Central Office yesterday morning, that $12,000 in first mortgage bonds of the Union Pacific Railroad had been lost by Marx & Co. of No. 50 Exchange-place, on Thursday. One of the clerks gave the messenger of the firm a package containing twelve $1,000 bonds, and told him to take it to Winslow, Lanier & Co., at No. 27 Pinest. This was between 3 and 4 o'clock on Thursday afternoon. The messenger hurried to perform his errand, and said that he kept his hand upon the pocket that contained the package all the way. When he reached No. 27 Pinest, he discovered that the package was not in his pocket. He searched the route by which he had just come in the most careful manner, but found nothing. Notice of the loss was immediately sent to all the bankers and brokers, and Capt. Petty sent out several of his officers in civilian's dress to endeavor to gain some clew to the missing bonds. The numbers of the bonds were 1,999, 2,704, 4,023, 1,923, 2,680, 7,993, 2,327, 4,639, 19,747, 2,387, 4,631, and 21,348. Marx & Co. have offered a reward of $1,000 for the return of the bonds. The police believe that the messenger was robbed by an adroit thief, or that in his haste he thrust the package between parts of his clothing, and that it dropped upon the sidewalk somewhere between No. 50 Exchange-place and No. 27 Pinest.

THE FOUNDER OF THE VICTORIA COLONY.

George Grant of London, England, the founder of the Victoria Colony in Kansas, will sail for Europe this afternoon by the steamer Celtic. Mr. Grant returns to England for a short stay, intending to purchase there additional stock of the best blood for importation to this country in the Spring. Thus far he has met with marked success in crossing the native stock with the fine imported sires. His flocks of sheep have increased to over 10,000, and the improved breeds are much superior to the native stock. His cattle, which are herded on the Smoky Hill River, are also excellent.

The exceptional advantages of the colony are attracting settlers from all parts of the country, in the main families able to invest from $10,000 to $30,000 in improving the land and raising stock. Mr. Grant stated to a reporter of THE TRIBUNE yesterday that a young man with a capital of $10,000 would be sure to realize a handsome fortune in a few years out of the proceeds of stock-raising alone, to say nothing of the increased value of the land and appurtenances. Mr. Grant's representatives in this country are Fisk, Clark & Flagg of No. 680 Broadway.

MARRIAGE CAUSED BY AN ARREST.

Ludwig Trieste and Julia Homann were married at the Essex Market Police Court yesterday by Justice Otterbourg. A year ago they lived in Breslau, Germany. The girl fell in love with Trieste, and he, taking advantage of this, induced her to elope with him under a promise of marriage. They visited several cities in Europe, and finally came to this city about four weeks ago, taking rooms at No. 399 Grand-st. When they arrived here he said that he would never marry her. She told her story to Mr. Morrison, proprietor of an intelligence office, whom she asked for a situation. A warrant was procured, and on Thursday night Trieste was arrested and consented to marry the woman. The wife sails for Europe to-day. Both are the children of wealthy parents, the woman's father being a lace merchant in Cologne, and Trieste's father being an extensive wine dealer in Breslau.

UNKNOWN CAUSE OF A BOY'S DEATH.

Coroner Croker yesterday held an inquest on the body of William MacDonough, a boy, who died on Dec. 28. Eliza Macdonough, the mother of the boy, testified that he attended school in Fortieth-st., between Seventh and Eighth-aves., and on his return one day about three weeks before his death, said that one Buckholtz and he were playing, and that Buckholtz pushed him against the janitor, and that the janitor struck him with a cane on the abdomen. This resulted in peritonitis, from which he died. John Ryerson, the janitor, denied that he ever struck the boy. Buckholtz denied that he quarreled with or pushed the boy. The jury rendered a verdict that death resulted from injuries inflicted by some unknown person.

THE EAST NEW-YORK MURDER.

The Brooklyn police have in their custody as a witness a woman who was acquainted with Nathan Rubenstein, charged with the murder of Sarah Alexander, and with the girl also. She declares that she saw them both enter a Grand-st. car in this city about 5 p. m. on the day of the murder, and that they went to the ferry to Brooklyn. Her testimony will be used at the approaching trial of Rubenstein, when, it is claimed, other testimony of a most important character, not yet made public, will be given. The nature of this testimony the police refuse to divulge.

The mercury stood five degrees below zero outside when Jones feelingly remarked: "I wouldn't turn a dog away to-night, Brown; would you?" "W—well, no," replied Brown, hesitatingly; "at least not if he was worth anything."

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE.

THE EXHIBITION ON SUNDAY.

PROTESTS AGAINST CLOSING ITS DOORS ILL-FOUNDED.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: In its protest against the decision of the Centennial Commission that the International Exhibition shall be closed on Sundays—a decision by the way that is well received by the people—the Radical Club of this city, through its President, E. M. Davis, writes with an exceedingly free pen. In his implied enumeration of the "nations" that accepted with "wonderful unanimity" our invitation, he mentions "Arabians." I should like to be enlightened as to the "nation" intended. Again, referring to the days of worship observed by unchristian nations, he says the "Grecians observe Monday." Are not the Grecians (Greeks!) Christians? Also, under the same head, he says "the Persians observe Tuesday, the Assyrians observe Wednesday, the Egyptians observe Thursday, all the Mohammedan nations observe Friday." Is it not a fact that all the nations just named—Persians, Assyrians (?), Egyptians—are Mohammedan? Nor is that protest any more effective in the use of logic than it seems to be in the handling of facts, as its reference to Mr. Jefferson's famous treaty with the Tripolitans plainly shows. The Centennial Commission is neither a State nor a municipality in the purview of the law; and consequently it is idle to pronounce its decision in regard to Sunday "unconstitutional, null and void." While it is true that we knew many of the peoples invited were not Christians, they, in accepting, knew just as well that we were. As to the honor Mr. Davis would confer upon Luther, Melanchthon, &c., I presume it most doubtful. The same is to be said of the criticism from that carefully prepared address of the Rev. Prof. Hopkins of the Presbyterian Theological Seminary, New-York. It is to be hoped that the Commission will not be frightened from the position taken, for it may count on the substantial support of the country. BENJ. T. TASNER.

Philadelphia, Dec. 31, 1875.

CLOSE THE EXHIBITION ON SUNDAYS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: Mr. E. M. Davis, President of the Radical Club of Philadelphia, requests that the doors of the great Centennial Exhibition be open on Sunday. He says that some of the visitors keep one day and some another as their Sabbath, and we have no right to close the Exhibition on a day that many would take to visit it. There is an old adage that when you are with the Romans you must do as the Romans do, and if the people from foreign lands come here they expect to do as the Americans do during their stay with us. What would people from the pagan countries think of us, after we have sent missionaries to convert them to Christianity, if they should come here and find us present at a national fair on the Sabbath day. Let us show the people that come from every land that we are what we profess to be, a Christian people, and that we honor and revere the God who out of so many families driven from the old world made a powerful nation. May they go home from our Centennial festival less more enlightened than when they came. May nations that now fear us because we are strong, love us because we are good. Instead of having a fair on Sundays, let us fill up the churches, and if more room is needed, let us have street preaching. It won't hurt any of our guests. MRS. D. S. MILLER.

Carthage, N. Y., Jan. 4, 1876.

RIGHTS OF THE MAJORITY.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: The Radical Club of Philadelphia, while arguing that the Centennial Exhibition should be kept open to the public on Sunday, give as one of their reasons the fact that the other six days of the week are observed by the "Grecians, Persians, Assyrians, Egyptians, Mohammedans, Jews, and Seventh Day Baptists." Does not this show the necessity of a seventh day for repose, that such illustrious exemplars as he names set one day of the week apart for abstinence from their usual occupations? Why then should not the Northerners, the Southerners, the Eastern men, the Western men, and the Centennial exhibitors have one day for repose, as well as the favored people he names? Since the large majority of the people of the United States (and the Centennial Exhibition mob) prefer that that day of repose should be Sunday (rather than a Grecian day like Monday, a Persian day like Tuesday, an Assyrian day like Wednesday, an Egyptian day like Thursday, a Mohammedan day like Friday, or a Jewish and "Seventh Day Baptist" day like Saturday) why set up the notions of a small minority as of more importance than the settled practice of the great majority?—or have minorities greater rights than we know? Possibly the Radical Club have access to the books of the excursion managers, and we are to be delighted by excursion parties of "Grecians, Persians, Assyrians, Egyptians, Mohammedans, Jews, and Seventh Day Baptists" from abroad in such quantities as to turn the scale?

New-York, Dec. 31, 1875. C. R. W.

AUSTRALIAN TOPICS.

THE MELBOURNE EXHIBITION—SECTARIANISM IN THE SCHOOLS.

MELBOURNE, Oct. 6.—The Intercolonial Exhibition opened on Sept. 2, and is a success, if only as a place of recreation. The Japanese Court excites the most curiosity, and much attention is paid to the Commissioners whom the Mikado sent here. There is a lively sale of goods kept up in the department, and altogether the sun may be said to shine on it. Many colonial manufactures will be sent to Philadelphia, as well as a commissioner to represent Victoria. A strong movement was made in favor of opening our Exhibition on Sunday afternoon, but there are still overpowering prejudices against Sunday amusements, though verily this is a climate in which I defy any one to remain contentedly at home even one day of the week. The crowds at the public gardens, beach, and suburbs indicate the popular disposition. Another few years and libraries, museums, and picture galleries are likely to be thrown open, as a matter of course. The Roman Catholics still wage a steady warfare against the present education act. Other denominations have cried out against it, but none with the loudness and persistency of that venerable and headstrong church.

NAMING CABLE MESSAGES.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: Your correspondent, "J. C. C.," proposes "Mariscript" for your head line of ocean telegrams. He takes it by analogy from "manuscript." This word is compounded of *manu* and *scriptum*. Every tyro knows that *manu* is the ablative case of *manus*, the hand, and indicates the cause or instrument by which something is done, so that "manuscript" means "a writing with or by the hand." Let us apply this to the new word. *Mari* is the ablative case of *mare*, the sea, and means with or by the sea, as a cause or instrument. So also *tellure* is the ablative of *tellus*, the earth. And if the cable were laid in the ground, it would be "telluriscript," or, if stretched in the air, "aeriscript." We should then have for the various locations of a cable or wire, "mariscript," a writing by the sea; "telluriscript," a writing by the earth; "aeriscript," a writing by the air, as analogous to "manuscript," a writing by the hand. Words should be truthful, but here neither the sea, earth, nor air are "causes or instruments," as the hand is in "manuscript," nor do they convey a truthful idea, for they say that sea, earth, and air *write*, which none of them do. "To telegraph" (Greek) means "to write afar," and "telegram" is "the writing afar," and conveys a perfectly true idea, and whether wire or cable is laid under the sea, or in the earth, or through the air, or from poles, or on steeples, it is still "telegraph" and "telegram." Is not "J. C. C.'s" "mariscript" a mondescript? S.

Brooklyn, Jan. 1, 1876.

A SUGGESTION TO RAILROAD MANAGERS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: During the coming season this country will be visited by thousands from all parts of the world, and as Americans intend to do their best for the comfort of their guests, it is to be hoped that the various railroad companies will institute a much-needed reform. Some of them pride themselves upon their hotel cars, urging that they combine all of the comforts that a traveler can desire. Any one at all accustomed to them must acknowledge that the contrary is the case. Dining, sleeping, and living continually in the same car is just as unpleasant as taking a dinner in a bedroom at a hotel, or sleeping in the dining-room. The disagreeable smells from the kitchen are decidedly offensive to the majority of travelers, and I see no reason why these rich corporations cannot add special dining-room cars to their various trains, and let night travelers be accommodated with lodgings in a different section of the train. Let it be understood that any one of the roads runs for the comfort of all travelers special saloon cars, where meals will be served and beds not be made, and that road will at once find a great increase in its passenger receipts. Thousands will take advantage of such a reform, night travelers as well as others, as the offensive smells will not then interfere with their comforts. At any rate, let a pleasant hotel car be supplanted by the saloon car during the coming season on those roads most likely to be frequented by the thousands of foreigners who will no doubt go West after they have paid their respects to the Centennial Exhibition. RAILWAY REFORM.

New-York, Jan. 6, 1876.

A WARM DAY IN ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: From a letter received to-day and mailed yesterday, at Lawrenceville, St. Lawrence County, I learn that plowing was being done yesterday morning upon the farm of P. Newland, at Lawrenceville, a place only 20 miles south of the Canadian line. This is probably unprecedented in the history of our first century as a nation, and may augur the great possibilities of this Centennial year and the coming of more prosperous days. D. J. NEWLAND.

New-York, Jan. 1, 1876.

THE TRIBUNE IN RELIGIOUS FAMILIES.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: I recently visited the family of a Presbyterian clergyman in Philadelphia, where I heard from the head of the family that they were going to give up all their religious papers except THE TRIBUNE. They considered the influence of THE TRIBUNE in a family far better than the so-called religious papers with their unchristian editorials and with the bitter and denunciatory spirit manifested toward other journals and toward all persons who are supposed to interfere with their interests. A. E. M.

Brooklyn, Jan. 4, 1876.

THE LANDIS MURDER TRIAL.

A SKETCH OF THE SETTLEMENT OF VINELAND—CAUSES OF HOSTILITY TO MR. LANDIS—MR. CARRUTH'S NEWSPAPER ARTICLES.

VINELAND, N. J., Jan. 6.—Next Tuesday has been appointed by Judge Reed for the beginning of the trial of Charles K. Landis for shooting Uri Carruth. District-Attorney Hoagland will be assisted in the prosecution by Attorney-General Vanatta and L. Newcomb. There is a rumor that there will be another counsel; who he is, is kept secret. In the defense the following named will appear: Vice-Chancellor Williamson, Benjamin H. Brewster, William A. House, Edwin M. Turner, James H. Nixon, and Messrs. Potter & Nixon. The witnesses employed on Carruth's paper will agree in their testimony as to the shooting, and the fact that no words passed between the two men prior to it. The lawyers for the defendant decline to disclose the line of their defense. A brief review of the case may interest some persons.

Among the early settlers of Vineland were a few men keen-sighted enough to see that Mr. Landis's plan for populating the tract would be successful. They were men of means, and sought to invest money and share the prosperity which would soon come from the personal labor, tact, and enterprise of Vineland's founder. They wanted to buy lands, build on them, set out shade trees—in all things complying with the stipulations expected of actual settlers—and, in fact, speculate upon the value of the land. To this plan the founder would not consent, thinking that speculators would prevent the place becoming a real settlement. His action in refusing to permit speculation of course made the men mentioned unfriendly. They complained of tyranny, and used their influence to create opposition. Doubtless there were many settlers who had, or felt they had, just cause to complain. It would have been strange, indeed, if some had not been caught in the complicated machinery of Landis's plans and received a severe pinching. Many invested in lands who had not the least knowledge of agriculture, and therefore lost money. Others, again, invested all the money they had, and having no working capital, after a desperate struggle were compelled to sell their land. The disappointed ones, those who expected abundant returns without hard work, and those who really had something to complain of, formed an opposition that waged warfare constantly with Mr. Landis. This was the origin of the Independent party, and from it the charges against Vineland. With them Vineland was a predicious lie; the advertisements about it were lies; the agents of Mr. Landis were liars, and all deserved the hatred of the community. The main body of settlers stood by the founder, believing that his advertisements and operations alone could make the settlement a success. So much power had been given him by the law of the State that his demands were complied with almost as if he had been chosen the absolute ruler. In local politics he was dictator, and made his wishes respected. He had but to withdraw his advertisements, close up his office, and hopeless disaster would befall the town. This course he declared he would adopt if any rival office was supported. Dreading this, the citizens drove from the place a firm who made the attempt.

But this condition of affairs could not last. As time passed Landis's power waned. As the stream of new comers poured in, a stream of the early settlers poured out, carrying with them as they departed that sense of utter and entire dependence upon Landis which characterized the first years of the settlement. Year by year Vineland grew, and the continual change of population had lessened the sense of dependence so much that the Independent party was in the ascendant. As a party, its object was to secure possession of the local government, and who ever charges it inside now against Landis were of a public and political nature. To further their object *The Independent* newspaper was started as the exponent of their views. A writer in a recently published magazine states that Mr. Carruth was "imported" for the purpose of abusing Mr. Landis. He is a native. For some time Carruth had been quiet, scarcely known even in the community, before the public in an article in *The Independent*. It was in 1871 that he became part proprietor and its editor. At this time there was no feeling between the two men, of a personal nature at least, and it is claimed there would have been none had Mr. Landis shown a desire to be friendly. It is true he advertised extensively in Mr. Carruth's paper, but beyond that refused to recognize him in public or private. That this galled him, Carruth acknowledged to the writer of this letter, and it had its influence in the struggle which soon began. Precisely what was the question which led to the personal quarrel between them is not clear. One of the counsel in the case says, "I know that Landis's enmity began in the fact that Carruth flatly refused to publish some very sensationatory articles that Landis wrote and sent in for publication." Others assert that because Landis could not compel *The Independent* to do his will, he therefore removed his advertisements. Be the cause what it may, it is certain that after the advertisements were ordered out, Carruth began assailing Landis. Two good lines of Landis's column of advertisements, "To all Wanting Farms, &c.," were left standing, and the column filled with "Lamentations" of a personal character. In all the articles afterward published by Landis, regarding Vineland, the existence of *The Independent* as a Vineland journal was ignored, and every indirect hit could be construed as aimed at Carruth, who had dared to oppose and destroy his idol. Like many men who have power in the case of a people, Carruth neither understood the legitimate use of this weapon, nor the nature of the wounds it makes. Week after week the columns of *The Independent* were filled with articles abusing, derading, mocking, taunting and cursing his foe. Landis's personality, his marriage, his wife, his child, his domestic affairs, everything about him in fact, served as subjects for Carruth's pencil. His pen never flagged, and articles from other pens were welcomed if they only assisted Landis; nothing was too personal, nothing too severe. As a spokesman of the Independent party he interviewed the personal quarrel with gusty questions, and wrote for his party as if he alone constituted it. His personal and political friends protested and warned him without effect; once at his trade he would not. Around as friends met Landis at every point. It pursued him to Europe; it followed him hither; he had to meet it, and in the majority of instances were fined. Three convictions upon indictments by the Grand Jury were made: Sigismund Schwab, Henry Parkins, and John Bushman. The last two kept low houses in Green-st., and were sent to the Penitentiary for one month, and fined $150 each, by Recorder Hackett. Since May 1, 6,873 applications for license were received by the Board, of which number 6,745 were granted, 56 refused, 32 withdrawn, 20 transferred to the account of 1874 and 1875, and 20 laid over for future action. For the licenses which were issued $589,368 75 was received, of which $375,500 has been paid over to the Chamberlain of the city. For licenses issued previous to May 1 $10,550 had been paid over, making a total of $415,850 added to the City Treasury from this source alone. Previous to May 1 it had been customary for the Board to receive the application of a saloon-keeper for a license, and accept a portion of the payment until the license was granted, giving the applicant a receipt for part payment. Owing, however, to the fact that in a great many instances the saloon-keeper would use this receipt as a license, and never pay the remainder, the system was discontinued, and the police ceased to respect these receipts and arrested every one who could not show the license itself. By this means many who otherwise never would have taken out a license, were forced to pay immediately the remainder due, and take out the license which had been granted. Many saloons also were forced to close up for not attending to the matter earlier, and altogether a more efficient enforcement of the law was enacted. The large amount ($40,000) which was paid over to the Chamberlain on account of these back licenses, shows at once, it is thought, the efficacy of the new rule. It is the intention of the Commissioners to enforce the law still more rigidly in the coming year.

HORSE AND CARRIAGE MARKET.

NEW-YORK, Friday, Jan. 7, 1876.

Below are the sales recorded at Arch. Johnston's mart to-day, Thirteenth-st., between University-place and Fifth-ave.

Description.	Hands.	Age.	Price.
Brown work mare	15½	6	$40 00
Bay Hambletonian trotting horse	15½	7	75 00
Black mare	15½	7	75 00
Brown horse	15½	8	60 00
Elegant team bay trotting horses, American Star stock	15½	7 and 8	310 00
Dark bay trotting horse, "Dick"	15½	9	62 00
Team large bay horses	16	7 and 8	245 00
Dark bay trotting mare	15½	8	125 00
Bay mare	15½	7	75 00
Large brown truck horse	16½	7	102 50
Team dark bay horses	16	9	220 00
Brown horse	17	8	88 50
Black horse	16½	7	85 00
Brown horse	16½	8	43 00
Bay horse	15½	8	72 50
Brown horse	16	9	87 50
Black mare	15	8	122 00
Bay horse	16	9	47 50

THE COURTS.

THE FIREMEN'S FUND SUIT.

DECISION OF JUDGE WESTBROOK ON THREE QUESTIONS IN THE RETRIAL OF THE CASE AGAINST THOMAS C. FIELDS—THE PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO BRING THE SUIT.

Judge Westbrook has rendered his decision in the suit of The People against Thomas C. Fields, tried before him without a jury, in Albany, in October last. The suit was for $459,977 79, received by him under his arrangement to obtain the firemen's pay, Fields being the assignee of numerous firemen. The case had gone once to the Court of Appeals, which decided that the suit as it then stood could not be maintained in the name of the people on their own behalf. On the retrial the complaint had been amended so as to declare the suit to be brought by the State, but on behalf of the City of New-York. The facts were substantially conceded, and three questions of law were presented. First, whether the people could bring a suit on behalf of a political body; second, whether an amendment changing the suit from one in form for the benefit of the State alone to one by the State as trustee for the injured municipality ought to be permitted; third, as to the effect of the law of 1875 on a suit commenced previous to its passage.

On the first point, in a very elaborate examination, Judge Westbrook holds that the decisions of the Court of Appeals in the People agt. Ingersoll (the old Tweed six million suit), and in this very case, were not that the State had no right to bring such suits. The County or City of New-York had been defrauded, and had a right to recover the amounts unlawfully taken. There were allegations not denied that the county officers had acquiesced and colluded in the thefts. The only question decided by the Court of Appeals was that the State could not even under such circumstances recover the lost money as its own. It was admitted that some one had a right to recover the wronged, and the judge argues that the State clearly, in view of its duties to every citizen, has the right to bring such a suit to protect the citizens or the municipality money, though not for its own benefit. He fortifies his argument by the analogy of private corporations in which the Attorney-General may interfere to protect the rights of corporators, though not for sequestration of the corporate property to the State.

On the second question Judge Westbrook holds that the defendant, conceding that he owes the money, has no right to oppose the amendment unless it can work him some harm, and if the people sue as trustee for the municipality no harm can arise to him.

On the third question Judge Westbrook decides that the act of 1875 merely works a change of remedy and not a change of right, and therefore applies equally to suits existing and to future suits. He therefore finds against Fields on all points, but on the remote possibility that he might not have contested the suit if brought in its present form, allows him to set off his costs up to the present time against the judgment to be hereafter entered against him.

NEW INDICTMENT OF CHARLES L. LAWRENCE.

Charles L. Lawrence was extradited for forging the name of F. L. Blanding & Co. to owners' oaths and import entries. The indictment charging this offense also alleged that Lawrence presented these oaths and entries to United States officials with intent to defraud the Government. United States District-Attorney Bliss proposed to try Lawrence on all the counts in the indictment; but as he was extradited on the charge of forgery alone, Attorney-General Pierrepont directed Mr. Bliss to try him first on that charge. For the purpose of avoiding all confusion, and in order to make the charges against Lawrence clear and specific, Mr. Bliss ordered him to be redicted for forgery, and the new indictment was presented yesterday by the Grand Jury of the United States Circuit Court. This indictment differs from the old one in the following particulars: It merely charges Lawrence with forging the name of F. L. Blanding & Co., to owners' oaths and import entries, and sets out these documents in the condition in which it is claimed they were