COST OF WORSHIP.

THE PEW SYSTEM AND ITS EFFECTS.

SOURCES OF CHURCH REVENUE AND SALARIES OF PROMINENT CLERGYMEN—RENTING AND SELLING CHOICE PEWS AT A PREMIUM—WHAT WEALTHY NEW-YORKERS PAY FOR HEARING THE GOSPEL.

The amount of money annually spent in the maintenance of ministers and the support of churches in this city and Brooklyn is probably comprehended by few people who are not membe s of fashionable churches. The annual rental of some pews is equal to the house rent of a family of moderate means. The "hard times" which are now affecting the whole country have compelled a reduction in the prices at a few churches, but in the majority, while the prices remain unchanged, the income is affected by the delay of pewholders in the payment of the high prices charged for sittings. The income derived from the pews is obtained in various ways in the different churches. In some, nearly all of the pews are sold, and the owners pay a certain percentage of the valuation annually. In others, the pews are sold at auction to the highest bidder; but most of the churches have an annual rental of the pews. In many churches the custom of subletting is in vogue, and in some cases it is made the source of profit to the pewholder. In nearly all of the churches free seats are provided for visitors and those who cannot afford to pay for them.

Of the seven churches which compose Trinity parish—Trinity, St. Paul's, St. John's, Trinity Chapel, St. Chrysostom's Chapel, St. Augustine's Chapel, and St. Cornelius Chapel, at Governor's Island—the last three named are entirely free. St. Paul's and St. John's are also free with the exception of the few pews owned by individuals, over which the vestry have no control. No pews are sold in any of the churches of the parish, while those which are rented cannot be claimed by the persons holding them at any time other than Sunday morning and afternoon and on certain high feast days, such as Christmas. The pews in Trinity Chapel, where the wealthy part of the parish attend, are rented from year to year at exceedingly low rates, the highest rental being only $85. Ownership of pews in Trinity parish dates from a very remote period, and not within the memory of any living person has any pew been sold by the corporation. The vestry are constantly acquiring the ownership of the pews by purchase from the descendants of the original possessors or by sale on forfeiture, thus extinguishing the property in them, for the purpose of facilitating the attendance of those desiring to avail themselves of the advantages offered by the churches. The parish is wholly supported from the income of its real estate. This is generally greatly exaggerated. The corporation estimate their property to be worth from $7,000,000 to $8,000,000, leaving out the unproductive part of the estate and estimating that portion only which yields an income. From this income there are 18 churches outside of the parish which receive aid in the shape of annual donations and contributions, amounting in some years to over $50,000.

Nearly all the pews of Grace Church were sold when it was built, in 1847, the sale netting about $125,000. They are subject to a ground rent of 12 per cent on their valuation, the highest rent being $108 and the lowest, $6. The amount of the ground rents is $11,360. If an owner wishes to dispose of his pew he is compelled to treat it as though it were real estate, but pews always command a ready sale and some have been sold for $250 a year in the temporary absence of their owners. About 200 free seats are provided every Sunday for visitors. The church is endowed, and much of its support is derived from the proceeds of leases of down-town property.

At the Church of the Holy Trinity (the Rev. Dr. Tyng, jr.), the pews are rented at prices varying from $10 to $375. There are 332 pews, which will accommodate 2,000 people. The income of the church, it is stated, is not perceptibly diminished this year, as the desire for pews is about the same as usual, and there is no falling off in the prices.

One-half of the pews at St. George's Church (the Rev. Dr. Tyng, sr.), are owned, the highest valuation being $1,200. The owners pay an assessment of 8 per cent annually. The other half are rented at a rate of 12 per cent on their valuation.

When St. Thomas's new church (the Rev. Dr. Morgan) was built, 35 pews were sold to the old parishioners, the prices ranging from $1,000 to $2,500, the sale yielding nearly $50,000. On these pews a ground rent of 12 per cent is charged. Since the original sale no pews have been sold, but all are rented. The highest rent this year is $550, an advance of $50 on the year previous. This advance has been erroneously reported to be for the purpose of paying the salary of the assistant pastor, the Rev. Mr. Courtney, but the real object of the advance was to assist in paying off the debt of the church. The income from the pew rents amounts to $45,000. The church has 300 pews, and will seat 1,800 people, and is said to be in an exceedingly prosperous condition. From the income the Rev. Dr. Morgan receives $8,000 a year, he having relinquished $2,000 a year to aid in paying his assistant, and $9,000 is spent for music. From 300 to 500 visitors attend the church every Sunday.

Many of the pews of St. Mark's Protestant Episcopal Church, famous as the resting place of the late A. T. Stewart, were sold many years ago, and they brought prices which, though good at the time, are now far below the ordinary rates. The highest price received was $700, and a ground rent of 5 per cent is charged yearly. The rents range from $90 to $25, and the income of the pews is about $3,500, but a large income is also derived from the improved property owned by the church. The Rev. Dr. Rylance, the pastor, has a salary of $6,000. There are 150 pews, which will seat about 800 people, and the galleries are free to all. This church is about 75 years old and is in a prosperous condition. The pews are let at such a low figure that they are within the reach of all, and consequently the income from the pew rents is almost invariable.

At Calvary Church, (the Rev. Dr. E. A. Washburn), the pews have been owned by individuals for many years. By constant removals and other causes they leave the church, and the renting system is carried on to a great extent. The prices of the pews vary from $170 to $1,500, and the rents range from $10 to $300. The rents have suffered a reduction this year of about 5 per cent.

The First Reformed Episcopal Church is at present only in a temporary building, as a new church edifice has been begun at Madison-ave. and Fifty-fifth-st., and will be occupied by Easter next. The pews are rented at between $10 and $250. The present church will seat 800 and the new one 1,000 persons. Many of the pews are unrented, so that the present income from this source is only $6,000. A subscription of $40,000 has been collected to pay for the ground occupied by the new church. The Rev. William T. Sabine, the rector, receives $5,000 a year.

At the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church (Dr. John Hall) the system of renting pews only is carried on at present, although when the church was built, a large number of the pews were sold, the highest bringing $6,000 and the lowest $300. An assessment of six per cent yearly is levied upon the owners. Those who rent pews are charged at the rate of 13 per cent on the valuation at the time of the sale. This makes the annual rental of the highest pew $780 and the lowest $39. The church has 346 pews, and seats 2,000 people. Dr. Hall receives a salary of $10,000 a year.

At the Church of the Covenant, at Park-ave. and Thirty-fifth-st., the pews are all rented, the highest bringing $298, and the lowest $17. There 192 pews in the church and gallery, which will seat 1,000 people. Nearly all the pews are rented, and the income from them is about $12,000, of which the Rev. Marvin R. Vincent receives $5,000 and the use of the fine parsonage connected with the church.

The system at the West Presbyterian Church (the Rev. Thomas S. Hastings) combines both selling and renting, the selling price varying from $1,500 to $250, for which a ground rent of 12½ per cent is charged. The renting prices are between $300 and $50. The church contains 196 pews, and seats 1,040 people. The income from the pews is very large, and of this $4,000 is paid for music, and $8,000 for the pastor's salary.

The income from the pews of Plymouth Church is larger than that of any of the other churches. About 2,000 sittings are sold annually, and in addition there are about 500 free seats. The renting price is set on each pew, the highest being $120 a year and the lowest $5. The aggregate amount of the rents in a year is $12,033. All the pews, however, are sold at public auction, at large premiums, to the highest bidder. At the last sale the highest premium was $650, which, in addition to the $120 rent, would make the price of the pew $770. The annual amount realized from the premiums is very great. In 1854 this was $1,316; in 1864, $18,778; in 1874, $46,236; in 1875, $58,304, and last year there was a great falling off from the previous year, the amount being only $31,154. Adding to this the amount of the pew rents, it would make the income from the pews last year $63,187. Of this amount the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher receives $20,000, and $7,000 is spent for music.

At the Broadway Tabernacle (Congregational) the pews are only rented, the prices ranging from $35 to $325 a year. There are 300 pews, which afford sittings for 1,650 people. The income derived from the rents in a year amounts to $37,000. Out of this sum the Rev. Dr. Taylor receives $14,000, and $1,200 is paid for his life insurance. The church is said to be out of debt, and there is a surplus every year of from $4,000 to $6,000.

The fiscal year of the Church of the Disciples begins Jan. 1, and as the church has recently become financially embarrassed, there will be an entire change after that date, when it will pass into the hands of the pastor, the Rev. Mr. Hepworth. According to the present system, one-half of the pews are owned and the other half are rented. All the pews had a fixed valuation, the highest being $1,200 and the lowest $30. The owners of pews paid an annual ground rent of 12 per cent, and those who rented paid 18 per cent of the valuation. The entire amount obtained from the pews is about $11,000, but if they were all disposed of it would amount to $30,000. Mr. Hepworth received a salary of $5,000, and over $7,000 a year was paid for interest. The debt of the church amounted to about $127,000. It is thought that in January the pews will be resold, and the church will be able to start again on a somewhat settled basis. The number of pews is 395, and its seating capacity is about 2,000.

At the Church of the Pilgrims (Brooklyn) a large number of the pews are owned, the valuation of them being between $3,000 and $75. The owners are taxed 10 per cent annually. Those who rent pews are charged at the rate of 20 per cent of the valuation, so that the rents vary from $600 to $15. The income from the pews amounts in a year to about $22,000. The Rev. Dr. Storrs, the pastor, receives $10,000, and the annual amount spent on music is $4,000.

At Dr. Chapin's church (Universalist) pews are both sold and rented, the sales, however, being made only to particular persons. The selling price ranges from $200 to $2,000, and the owners pay an annual ground rent of 12½ per cent. The renting price is 20 per cent on the valuation, making the highest rent $400 and the lowest $40. Single sittings are not sold by the church, but may be obtained from the owners at a pro rata cost. There are accommodations for seating 1,500 people, 200 seats being free. The annual income from the pews is $22,000, of which the pastor receives $12,000, with frequent donations, and $5,000 is expended yearly on music. The church is out of debt, and is comparatively unaffected by the hard times.

A voluntary system of pew rents is carried on at the Church of our Savior (the Rev. Mr. Pullman). Each person agrees to pay a certain amount, according to his ability, and the pews are then drawn by lot, so that the one paying the least amount may draw a pew situated in the most eligible position in the church. The highest price paid is about $500 a year, and the income last year was $8,600, but it is stated that the price obtained for next year will fall about 25 per cent below the previous year. The church has a seating capacity of 1,475, and has an average attendance of 500.

The Calvary Baptist Church (the Rev. R. S. Macarthur) charges from $10 to $200 a year for the rent of the pews. The income amounts to $10,000, of which the pastor receives $5,000.

At the Fifth Avenue Baptist Church (the Rev. Thomas Armitage, D.D.) the pews will be rented on Dec. 18. The prices range from $20 to $275 for pews and from $1 to $55 for single sittings. The annual income from these is about $10,000. The pastor receives a salary of $6,000.

WASHINGTON.

ORDNANCE REPORT.

INCREASED APPROPRIATIONS ASKED FOR—STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT—MERITS OF RIFLES.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30.—The following are extracts from the annual report of Brig.-Gen. S. V. Benet, Chief of Ordnance, United States Army:

The limited appropriations made by Congress, much below the estimates submitted by this bureau, have, in many instances, prevented the supplying of the army on the frontier with that superior quality of ordnance stores which the nature of such service demands, and in the attempt to utilize the material remaining on hand from the late war every care and effort has been exercised in its selection and preparation to meet the wants of the troops, but with more or less dissatisfaction inseparable from the use of old material and obsolete patterns.

Explanations to this effect have had to be made to officers in command of troops in defence of the action of this department, where the responsibility for limited appropriations cannot rest. It is very natural that in the rapid march of improvement in all war supplies the world over, our soldiers, who are to perform most difficult and dangerous service, should insist upon the latest and most approved models and material of the best quality; and this department has made every effort to respond to their every requirement with the funds at its disposal. The appropriations, therefore, for the use of this department should be largely increased over those for the present fiscal year. The functions of the Ordnance Department are not limited to the mere supply of arms, &c., to our small army, but are commensurate with the whole country. Its duties are national in their character and application. They are intended to prepare the nation for war. And, in deciding upon the moneys to be expended by it, the wants of the country at large in the event of war should be seriously considered, and not the comparatively trivial demands of an army of 25,000 men.

Only $100,000 was appropriated for the manufacture of rifles and carbines at the National Armory during the present fiscal year, 1877. I have submitted an estimate of $500,000 for this object, and earnestly recommend that the appropriation of this amount be asked of Congress. During the ten years preceding the war, from 1852 to 1861, an average of $251,000 per annum was appropriated for the manufacture of arms, when the wants of a smaller army than the present and the cheapness of the arms then made permitted the gradual accumulation of them in store. On Oct. 1, 1876, our returns show only 17,004 Springfield rifles and 3,684 Springfield carbines on hand, being a total of 20,688 arms of the approved service model. Our present appropriation, with what can be spared from the appropriation for arming and equipping the militia, will enable this department to manufacture during the current year about 10,000. The demands from the army and requisitions from the militia on their respective quotas will probably take 12,000 or 15,000, leaving in store at the end of the present fiscal year not more than 8,000 of these approved arms.

We have on hand many hundreds of thousands of muzzle-loading rifle muskets of obsolete patterns, and a limited number of repaired breech-loaders, but modern wars must be fought with the most approved weapons, and none less perfect than the new model Springfield will satisfy our soldiers. The principal European Powers are at the present time replacing the arms used in the late wars on the Continent by more improved models of the latest inventions, each nation striving to surpass her neighbors in the power and perfection of her arms. Such costly rearmaments show the great importance that is ascribed to securing the best arm in their gigantic preparations for a possible conflict. Ought this country to be so blind to the possible wants of the future as to be willing to depend on obsolete weapons in store and the precarious supplies in the market? I deem it most vital to the interests of the nation that the manufacture of arms by this department be steadily continued in quantities sufficient to render a gradual accumulation of them in store a certainty. That a better arm than the Springfield may some day be invented is not at all improbable, and a magazine gun will no doubt be the arm of the future; but until such a one, suitable for military service, has been perfected and approved, a reserve stock of Springfields is a necessity. The affairs of the National Armory have been conducted in a most satisfactory manner under the skillful management of Lieut.-Col. J. G. Benton, commanding.

The necessity of an increase in the annual appropriation for arming and equipping the militia is so well understood and appreciated that no long discussion is called for. The aggregate strength of the militia of the United States, as taken from the last Army Register, is as follows: Organized, 84,724; unorganized, 3,701,977; and only $200,000 is annually appropriated for their arms and equipments. With our small standing army the country must recruit its fighting force from the people upon the breaking out of war. The soldiers who fought the battles of the rebellion nearly half a generation ago will soon pass from the scene or become too old for active service, and most of the experience of the war will be lost to the country with the actors in their graves. The want of a large standing army should be compensated by a well-organized, well-armed, and well-disciplined militia.

The act of March 3, 1875, provided for giving credit, under certain conditions, to States and Territories for arms, &c., issued to them between 1861 and 1865, and charged under the law for arming and equipping the militia. The aggregate credit to be claimed, in case all the charges are removed under the conditions imposed by law, amounts to $1,700,000. Credits have already been given to the extent of $420,000, and the latest model of breech-loading rifles and other stores have, in the majority of cases, been issued on account thereof. There is now due and may become due the various States and Territories on their respective quotas an amount sufficient to exhaust our limited stock of improved arms should a run be made on it.

Under this head I have submitted an estimate of $950,000 for the next fiscal year. The conversion of smooth-bore guns into efficient eight-inch rifles has progressed satisfactorily. The eight-inch rifle, with American tube, has successfully withstood over 500 rounds with battering charges, and remains in serviceable condition. Up to date three guns of this class have been tested with the most satisfactory results—two eight-inch and one nine-inch caliber—all converted from ten-inch smooth-bores. Over 500 rounds were fired with battering charges from each eight-inch gun, and the nine-inch gun, with the same exterior model as the eight-inch, and consequently with thinner walls and less weight, was fired 502 rounds, which far more severely tested the system than the other two guns. If our anticipations are realized in the success of large calibers, the department will have developed a system of heavy ordnance, at small expense, which will compose an armament for our forts fully able to cope with foreign guns of equal caliber. Such a system will bring the manufacture entirely within the capacity of our private founderies, using our own raw material, and with no dependence on foreign establishments.

Whatever differences of opinion may exist as to the relative merits of muzzle and breech-loading cannon of large caliber, the former being exclusively used in England and the latter almost universally adopted on the Continent of Europe, there can be no question that in casemated works the latter system possesses obvious and paramount advantages, as are generally admitted in determining on the proper armament for ships of war. The want of a thoroughly-digested system of target practice for the use of the army has long been felt. The effectiveness of the arm depends largely on the skill of the man who uses it, and some uniform system should be devised for the education of the soldier in this respect. Portable and permanent targets of some approved pattern should be supplied to posts, and a regular drill for the practice should be fixed and authorized.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, Nov. 30, 1876.

A number of members of Congress arrived here last night and to-day.

Notwithstanding the snow-storm to-day the Thanksgiving services at the churches were largely attended.

The resignation of W. F. Clarke, Chief of the Customs Bureau of the Treasury Department, was yesterday requested by Secretary Morrill. It was subsequently tendered and accepted.

Representative Clymer, vice-chairman of the Democratic caucus, says that in case Chairman Lamar does not arrive to-morrow he will call a caucus meeting for Saturday evening to select a candidate for Speaker of the House.

A bust of the late Chief-Justice Taney has just been placed in the United States Supreme Court-room. The bust is by the American sculptor, Augustus St. Gaudans of New-York, and is copied from Rinehart's statue of Taney at Annapolis.

NEW-JERSEY'S NEW SENATOR.

MR. ASHBEL GREEN'S LINEAGE NOT AN OVERPOWERING RECOMMENDATION—MR. M'PHERSON A MAN HAVING GREAT ABILITY FOR BUSINESS—COMMON PEOPLE AND THE NOBILITY.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: Will you allow space for a brief commentary upon a letter in this morning's TRIBUNE, signed "Bergen?" "Bergen" appears to be an adherent of the Hon. Ashbel Green, and writes in the evident interest of that gentleman as a candidate for the United States Senate. Mr. Green's ambition is altogether praiseworthy, and he is fortunate in possessing followers who are fired with passionate ardor in his cause, even if they prove at times more zealous than discreet. If Mr. Green carries enough metal to win this fight, no whining will be heard from the friends of other candidates, and he will be accepted as the representative of the Democrats of New-Jersey. But, then, Mr. Green's friend would have been wiser if he had refrained from flinging wanton slurs upon the character of the rivals of Mr. Green from his airy glorification of Mr. Green and Mr. Green's retinue.

Mr. Green's reliance, according to "Bergen," is mainly upon "blood" and "culture." As to the quality of the former I have nothing to say, never having seen a chemical analysis of that gentleman's animal fluids, and upon the whole I will cheerfully accord to Mr. Green any amount of "lineage" he may claim, and will have no controversy with the herald who assumes to adjust the ensigns armorial of the Greens. As to the latter, few people have been made aware that Mr. Ashbel Green was afflicted with "culture" of such an aggravated type that it occasioned alarm to his immediate family and friends. It may be that "blood" and the sort of "culture" from which Mr. Green appears to be suffering tend to elicit the sympathy of gentlemen with genealogies. But after all, was it the bachelors of arts and parties who "rank themselves as exalted in the social scale" who carried the New-Jersey Legislature? Seriously this claim of social superiority and phenomenal grasp of mind is the assumption of petted childishness. If the contest narrows down to a struggle between Mr. Green and Mr. McPherson the Legislature will have to choose between a second-class lawyer and a first-class man of business. The sneers at Mr. McPherson as a "boss butcher," with which Mr. Green's aristocratic friends amuse themselves, do not blind plain people to the fact that he is at the head of one of the largest and most prosperous establishments in the world, and that the magnitude and success of this business is largely owing to his enterprise and energy. He makes no professions as a literary man, but his mental equipment might not compare unfavorably with that of his adversary, whose narrow training has been among quibbles and technicalities. His services to his party have been constant and substantial, and if any man has a right to assert his "claims," Mr. McPherson has earned that right. In short, there are many people who imagine they are quite as respectable as Mr. Green's admirers who prefer Mr. McPherson for United States Senator. They do not object to being classified as "common" or "vulgar," but they hold that common people have privileges as well as the New-Jersey nobility. They do not shrink from any contest, but they call attention to the fact that all the bitterness of this struggle has been infused into it by Mr. Green's superserviceable friends.

Jersey City, N. J., Nov. 29, 1876. HUDSON.

THE NEW-JERSEY SENATORSHIP.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: The communication in this morning's TRIBUNE signed "Bergen," advocating the election of the Hon. Asbel Green to the United States Senate, and depreciating the claims of the Hon. Orestes Cleveland and the Hon. John R. McPherson, who are candidates for that position, is undoubtedly written by some one who, for personal reasons alone, desires Mr. Green's election. Certainly it would not be an advantage to the State of New-Jersey or to the Democratic party in that State to elect the Hon. Ashbel Green to that great place. If this gentleman possesses anything more than the most ordinary ability for a public man, the people of Bergen County have yet to become acquainted with it. Properly measured, the Hon. Ashbel Green is a good railroad lawyer. As a judge of the Court of Common Pleas in Bergen County he was not a great success. As a public speaker he has little ability and is extremely partisan, and as a member of the United States Senate he would be a great failure. BERGEN COUNTY.

Hackensack, N. J., Nov. 29, 1876.

WEST INDIAN AFFAIRS.

HAYTI STILL DISTURBED—FEARFUL HURRICANE AT GRAND CAYMANAS—OFFICIAL CHANGES.

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Nov. 23.—Sir William Gray, the Governor of this island, has been recalled by Lord Carnarvon, and he is to be succeeded by Sir Anthony Musgrave, Governor of South Australia, a creole of Antigua and an author on "Political Economy." The intelligence was received by cable and was the subject of great public rejoicing, Sir William being very unpopular.

The Spanish steamer Moctezuma, which was captured by 14 Cubans off Porto Plata, was seen by the English schooner Lizzie, off Portland Point, West Jamaica, steering wildly, evidently in the direction of the Grand Caymanas.

The street cars began running last week, the first American enterprise in the colony. It was a complete success, and the cars have been crowded from morning till evening ever since the opening. The project was first conceived by Tracy Robinson of New-York, who is now in Panama.

Great interest is felt here in the result of the Presidential election, and much disappointment is felt because it is "undecided," to use the words of the telegrams on this subject.

The weather generally has been extraordinary this year. There have been storms, hurricanes, and earthquakes, but all outside of Jamaica, the "indications" on the barometer being our only intimation of them.

The present prospects of the superabundant crop of sugar, by reason of unusually propitious seasons and the present high price of sugar have greatly inspirited our people and the planters.

In Hayti affairs have not improved since the inauguration of the new President. There is great financial pressure and a serious undercurrent of political intrigue, by which the present administration is in hourly danger of being overthrown. The Jamaica authorities, by the advice of the British Consul-General, keep a British vessel of war in Haytian waters, so as to be prepared at any moment a rising should take place. Gen. Salomon, who is supposed to be a leader of the revolutionary party, paid a visit to Port-au-Prince, the other day, and after a conference with President Canal, returned again to Kingston.

The fearful hurricane which visited the little island of Grand Caymanas last month has not left a fruit tree standing. The sea was so high and so furious that it actually washed over the island, which is low and at its broadest part only two miles broad. The Government of Jamaica has sent a vessel of war with provisions for the suffering inhabitants. Meanwhile public sympathy is being appealed to for a further contribution in food supplies.

The announcement that Mr. Pope Hennessey was to be removed from the Government of Barbadoes and had been appointed to relieve Sir Arthur Kennedy at Hong Kong was the signal for general rejoicing throughout the entire island. Nothing for many years past has given such universal satisfaction, and with the removal of Mr. Hennessey there will probably be an end of further trouble in Barbadoes. Major Strachan, Governor of the Gold Coast, is to be the new Governor of Barbadoes. He was formerly the aid-de-camp of Mr. Gladstone at the Ionian Islands, and afterward aid-de-camp and private secretary to Sir Henry Stork at Malta, then at Jamaica.

In Antigua the high price of sugar in England creates a great stir among the sugar planters. The central factories are buying up all the canes in prospect of large sugar sales in London.

THE FIRE RECORD.

AT CINCINNATI—LOSS, $20,000.

CINCINNATI, Nov. 30.—The stock in the tobacco warehouse of Newburg Bros. & Co., on Main-st., was destroyed by fire last night. Loss from $20,000 to $25,000; insurance, $50,000.

AT RIVERHEAD, L. I.

A two-story dwelling-house at Riverhead, owned by Nathan Corwin, was totally destroyed by fire on Wednesday night. It was insured in the Merchants' of New-York to the amount of $400.

ATTEMPT TO BURN CHURCHES.

LACONIA, N. H., Nov. 30.—An incendiary attempt was made early this morning to burn the Congregational and Unitarian churches in this town. The former was extinguished with slight loss, and the latter damaged to the extent of about $2,500.

AT NO. 89 MANGIN-ST.

A fire occurred yesterday afternoon in the three-story brick building No. 89 Mangin-st., occupied by Charles W. F. Dare as a hobby-horse factory. The damage to the stock and machinery was estimated at $10,000, and was covered by an insurance of $11,000. The building, which is owned by the Christian estate, was damaged about $600. The fire is supposed to have originated by a lighted match thrown in through an open window by an unknown boy.

POSTSCRIPT.

3:30 a. m.

LATEST FROM LOUISIANA.

DEMOCRATIC EVIDENCE FROM OUACHITA.

ANOTHER THEORY OF PINKSTON'S MURDER.

NEW-ORLEANS, Nov. 30.—In regard to the Ouachita barbarities the Democrats offered a second witness in J. J. Swan. He testified chiefly in response to interrogatories read by Gen. Anderson, and as follows:

My occupation is that of a farmer; my residence is in Ouachita; I knew Henry Pinkston for about three years; I don't think he was engaged much in politics; never heard him talk much about it; he once lived on the plantation adjoining me; I knew of a fight he had about two months before his death with a man named Black Brooks: Pinkston whipped him and bit his finger very badly; I saw Brooks a couple of days after the fight and asked him how his finger was; he said he was very badly hurt, and he remarked to me, "I intend to kill Pinkston if I live;" Pinkston came to me himself and told me that his life was threatened by this man Brooks after the fight; he asked my advice; I remarked to him at that time, "Pinkston, I heard Brooks say myself that he was going to kill you, and if I had sufficient evidence I would kill him myself before he killed me. I would not let a man kill me, knowing he was threatening my life. He should not kill me." Brooks had a bad character; he was not thought much of in the country. He was a bad, quarrelsome, and angry man. On the night of the murder I saw a party of colored people pass my house going down the road coming from Ouachita, but I don't know who they were. I thought the election at Ouachita was as fair an election as we ever had. I did not see any wrong going on. I belong to the Democratic party. I have lived in Ouachita Parish for 35 years. It was more sociable than any election I ever saw. I knew Mr. Parks when he was living. He is dead now. He has been dead about three months.

Col. Zacharie—As the board refused to allow any further testimony in refuting this woman's statement, I thought it but an act of justice to these gentlemen from Ouachita, who have been publicly accused by the reports of this woman, that they should be allowed to file statements in their cases that a correction should be made.

President Wells—We have nothing to do with it. They must go before the courts and prosecute her if they seek relief.

Some discussion arose as to whether or not the board would hold night sessions. In answer to a question Gov. Wells said:

We must have time to examine records and all the evidence before us. We will not have time to do that without holding night sessions.

Mr. Gauthreaux—I think the representation made by the board to us on both sides was that all sessions were to be held in their presence.

President Wells—They will be held in their presence, but when it is to consult upon any action we shall take upon various subjects that come before us, we must be alone. Judges of courts do not permit the presence of counsel when they are making up their final decision. Therefore, we must claim the privilege of consulting among ourselves as to any action that comes up before us.

Mr. Gauthreaux—I understand the chair to admit that it holds private sessions other than are held here daily.

President Wells—They are deliberative sessions.

For other Election News see First Page.

LATEST FOREIGN NEWS.

THE EASTERN QUESTION.

RUSSIA'S PLAN DEFINED.

LONDON, Friday, Dec. 1, 1876.

The Vienna correspondent of *The Times* says in a circular dispatch to her Embassadors Russia does not claim the right to alone occupy Turkish territory. She wishes other Powers to take part. If they refuse she will take the execution in her own hands. Russia will ignore the Turkish Constitution. She claims that Turkey has already invalidated the treaty of Paris by not meeting her obligations to improve the condition of the Christians. This is the general line of policy to be followed. Gen. Ignatieff will have large discretionary powers.

RUSSIAN PRIVATEERS CONTEMPLATED.

The Moscow Gazette says a fund is being subscribed to there for the purchase in America of letters of marque, the vessels to be employed against English merchant shipping in the event of war between England and Russia. Similar subscriptions have been opened in other Russian towns.

CUBA DISCUSSED IN THE CORTES.

LONDON, Friday, Dec. 1, 1876.

The Standard's Madrid dispatch says the Cuban question came up this week in the Chamber of Deputies. In the course of debate Gen. Salamanca made an indirect attack on two commanders in Cuba which called forth severe retorts from the Prime Minister and the Minister of War. The former said the Ministry asked the Cortes to give the guarantee of Spain to the loan to enable the 70,000 soldiers under Gen. Campos to crush the rebellion. At this, Gen. Requelme sprang up and insisted that after deducting the sick and the army of occupation, Gen. Campos would only have 20,000 effective men. The debate was brought to an abrupt conclusion, and the perilous topic has been shelved for awhile.

Much anxiety prevails among shippers and others connected with maritime affairs over rumors of the appearance on the high seas of Cuban privateers.

THE AMERICAN SPECIE MOVEMENT.

LONDON, Friday, Dec. 1, 1876.

The Standard in its money article to-day says: "We understand that the bank has raised the selling price of American eagles half a penny per ounce. It is not expected that this will check the export of this description of gold to any appreciable extent. The vessel by which the gold for New-York was to be shipped sailed yesterday, which accounts for the temporary cessation of the drain."

THE ARCTIC EXPEDITION BLUNDER.

LONDON, Friday, Dec. 1, 1876.

The Times in an editorial on the outbreak of scurvy among the men during the recent Arctic expedition, sees reason to believe, from Capt. Nares's report, that the precaution of having a sufficient quantity of lime-juice was neglected. It says, even if this prove partially true, it would reveal a degree of recklessness or ignorance which reflects disgrace on the service. All recent instances of naval mismanagement would be eclipsed by such inexcusable neglect as is suspected.

For other Foreign News see First Page.

$200,000 FIRE IN CHICAGO.

CHICAGO, Nov. 30.—A fire broke out in a large six-story building in South Water-st., corner of Michigan-ave., in this city, at 9 o'clock to-night. At midnight the fire was under control. The losses can only be estimated roughly to-night. Sherman, Hall & Co. lose $125,000 on the building and their stock of wool. George Ross, a wholesale tea dealer, loses $50,000. Wm. Todd, commission agent; D. Henning, printer; E. B. Miller, sample tens; Brown, Camp & Co., woolen goods; Alden Fruit Preserving Company; Bruer and Mack, saloon-keepers; McNab & Johnston, fish; Bansfield & Pool, matches, with other firms whose names cannot be learned to-night, will make the total loss at least $200,000.

CONGRESSIONAL VOTE OF NEW-JERSEY.

THREE REPUBLICANS AND FOUR DEMOCRATS ELECTED—THE DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY 11,694 IN THE STATE.

The official vote for Congressmen in New-Jersey at the recent election and in 1874 is given below. The increase in the total vote since 1874 is 38,147, the Republicans having gained 18,018 and the Democrats 20,129. The increase in the Democratic majority is 2,111. In 1872 the Republicans carried all except the IVth District, and had a majority of 18,123 in the State. In 1874 they carried only the Ist and IId Districts. This year they carried three Districts, having gained the VIth. The total vote for Congressmen is about 800 less than the vote for Tilden and Hayes, and the Democratic majority is over 700 less than Tilden's plurality. In the following table the Republicans are printed in roman and the Democrats in italics:

		—1876.—		—1874.—	
Dist.	*Members-elect.*	Rep.	Dem.	Rep.	Dem.
I.	*Clement H. Sinnickson.*	17,362	15,472	14,209	13,019
II.	John Howard Pugh	16,015	15,485	13,977	13,011
III.	*Miles Ross*	15,359	18,525	13,629	15,682
IV.	*Alvah A. Clark*	11,9 0	17,251	9,931	14,585
V.	*Augustus W. Cutler*	13,882	15,034	11,670	11,677
VI.	Thomas B. Peddie	17,565	16,041	13,768	13,876
VII.	*Aug. A. Hardenbergh*	11,391	17,260	8,272	13,189
	Total	103,474	115,168	85,456	95,039
	*Reelected.	.....	11,694	.....	9,583

GROUNDLESS FOREBODINGS.—Bill: What, Jim, my boy, met with another accident? Jim: Accident! I meet with nothing else! I never go out but I expect to see myself being brought home dead on a shutter.—[Funny Folks.

HOME NEWS.

THERMOMETER YESTERDAY AT HUDNUT'S, IN BROADWAY.

9 a. m., 32°. Noon, 33°. 3 p. m., 33°. Midnight, 21°.
Highest during the day, 33°. Lowest, 21°
Average, 29°. Same day, 1875, 11¾°.

PROMINENT ARRIVALS.

Clarendon Hotel—Congressman Charles P. Thompson and Josiah G. Abbott of Massachusetts, and Capt. William Gore-Jones of the British Legation at Washington.....*Fifth Avenue Hotel*—Gen. Albert J. Myer, Chief Signal Officer, U. S. Army.....*Everett House*—Prof. Alexander Agassiz of Harvard College.....*Hoffman House*—The Hon. Matthew H. Carpenter of Wisconsin.....*New-York Hotel*—Congressman William W. Warren of Boston.....*Grand Central Hotel*—Bishop Thomas F. Hendricken of Providence.....*Gilsey House*—Alexander R. Shepherd of Washington.....*Metropolitan Hotel*—Congressman Charles H. Joyce of Vermont.

NEW-YORK CITY.

"Independence bells" adorn pet dogs' collars.

Pampas grass decorates the principal floral shops.

"Quart" oysters are now sold through the street.

Indicators are being placed at the Hoboken ferries.

Silk buttons embroidered with a star are the favorite pattern.

Ball dresses covered entirely with flowers are the latest novelty.

Wintergreen berries and lady figs are displayed in fruit stores.

Business was entirely suspended throughout the city yesterday.

Forty men are constantly employed in Washington Market to open oysters.

The latest name for beverages that cheer and also inebriate is "bug water."

A number of wholesale toy and fancy goods dealers are now selling goods at retail.

The number of immigrants arriving at Castle Garden does not exceed 700 a week.

Numerous flags were displayed yesterday on private houses, as well as on the public buildings.

Several companies of boys from schools in the neighborhood drill daily at noon in Reservoir Park.

Large quantities of iron and lumber have been shipped to San Francisco from this port this Fall.

The streets were clean and dry yesterday, and the sharp bracing air was rather enjoyable to pedestrians.

The new hair nets are not received with favor by ladies possessing fine heads of hair, "all their own."

Buckskin underclothing for children is one of the improved methods for securing comfort at this season.

Cameos form a favorite article of jewelry for gentlemen, and double studs are much worn for cuff buttons.

Great dissatisfaction is expressed by skaters at the prospect of having no skating in Central Park this Winter.

Collectors of old china should purchase with care; a successful trade is carried on in imitations of "rare works."

Florida oranges have been coming in extensively of late, and the crop this season promises to be very large.

Just now there is a rage for cheap jewelry among the ladies of New-York—a Parisian taste they used to condemn.

Ladies' cloaks for shopping and traveling are made of a heavy, rough-faced cloth, resembling that of ulsters.

Commodore Vanderbilt was sitting up in his chair at 10 o'clock last night, and was feeling quite comfortable.

The City Hall and other public buildings, as well as many private dwellings, were decorated with flags yesterday.

Admirers of the Coaching Club use the new "Pelham" stationery, which is decorated with a coach and six instead of a monogram.

The Webster statue in Central Park has not yet lost its first freshness in the eyes of the public, as crowds of visitors daily attest.

A wail went up from "bottle babies" yesterday as the dispensers of condensed milk failed to appear according to their usual custom.

A dyer on Canal-st. exercises his skill on two pet dogs, which he makes change their color almost with the facility of the chameleon.

Stealing empty barrels, setting fire to them and dodging the policemen was a favorite Thanksgiving pastime with the small boys yesterday.

The photographic galleries were largely patronized yesterday by those who utilized the holiday to obtain their "counterfeit presentment."

A company of boys in white blouses and blue trousers, with target and miniature band, paraded through Sixth-ave. yesterday morning.

Trellises in graceful designs for pressed flowers are for sale at several florists' shops. These, covered with Autumn leaves and ferns, form a beautiful decoration for apartments.

Camellias are no longer a favorite flower. Florists were formerly charged by customers to put plenty of these stately flowers in baskets and bouquets; now rosebuds have supplanted them in popular favor.

Beggars came not as single spies but in battalions yesterday. They evidently counted on a general loosening of the purse strings at this holiday season, and swarmed on corners and were clamorous at basement doors.

Yesterday the Harlem road and the drives in Central Park were literally thronged with stylish equipages. There were very few pedestrians in the Park, however, as the breeze was too fresh for any but the most rapid walking.

The St. Nicholas Society held a meeting at Delmonico's, Madison-ave. and Twenty-sixth-st., last evening. After a short business meeting, the evening was spent in social intercourse. The regular yearly meeting will take place on Dec. 6.

The steamboat Atlas, Capt. Low, from Jacmel, which arrived at this port yesterday, brings news that the schooner Addie M. H