LOCAL MISCELLANY.

THE BOOK TRADE SALE.

J. R. OSGOOD'S WORKS SOLD—LIVELY BIDDING AND FAIR PRICES OBTAINED.

The Spring trade sale, which began yesterday at the Leavitt Salesrooms, James R. Osgood's publications were the first offered, and their list was only exhausted late in the afternoon. The books brought much better prices than publishers had expected. As far as could be learned the books that were sacrificed were mainly those with fine illustrations, heavy paper and costly binding. The cheaper books, standard works in substantial binding, brought prices more in accordance with their retail values. On the whole, the prices were very satisfactory, and Mr. Ticknor of the firm of Osgood & Co., who was present, declared them to be better than at the sales for ten years past. The bidding during the day was brisk, and as both auctioneers and buyers were at home in their business, the long catalogue was dispatched with great rapidity. Among the dealers present were Jansen, McClurg & Co., Chicago; T. H. Hall, St. Johns, N. B.; Maxwell & Co., Bloomington, Ill.; Judd & Waite, New-Haven; Ingham, Clarke & Co., Cleveland; John O. Shaw, Bath, Me.; S. H. LeRoy, Poughkeepsie; J. B. Lippincott & Sons, Philadelphia; W. R. Jenkins, Henry Miller, N. Tibbals & Sons, and the American News Company of this city; Alfred Warren, Cincinnati, Ohio; Charles Karr, Kingston, N. Y.; N. F. Smith, Williamstown, Mass.; Gray, Bathe & Co., St. Louis; J. J. O'Connor & Co., Newark, N. J.; C. W. Bardeen, Syracuse, N. Y.; Robert Clarke & Co., Cincinnati; Brown, Enger & Co., and D. Bugbee & Co., Bangor, Me. Other dealers, who chose to keep their identity unknown, were represented by a variety of fictitious names.

The sale began with the recent publications of James R. Osgood & Co., including works by Harriet Martineau, Tennyson, Bret Harte, W. D. Howells, James Russell Lowell, H. H. Boyesen, and others. Tennyson's "Harold" brought 35 cents, and Holmes's "Autocrat of the Breakfast Table," 60 cents. Longfellow's "Skeleton in Armor," illustrated by Mary A. Hallock, sold at from $2 25 to $2 40. Longfellow's Complete Poems, illustrated octavo edition, brought $6 25. The Heliotype art works, consisting of "Gems of the Dresden Gallery," "Gems of the Gray Collection of Engravings at Harvard College," the "Pitti Gallery" and the "Gallery of Famous Artists," sold at prices ranging from $4 50 to $5 80. Other superb Heliotype books were placed on sale and brought from $4 50 to $4 62. The "Little Classic" edition of Hawthorne in sets of three volumes, sold at 72½ cents and 75 cents per volume, and the same edition of the works of Ralph Waldo Emerson brought 90 cents. The beautiful illustrated books which were so popular last Christmas brought $1 20 a volume, and Hawthorne's at about one-half their retail price. John Hay's books brought 80 cents; Holmes's from 65 cents to $1 20. Howell's new and enlarged edition brought $1 50, two-thirds of its retail price. The same sets bound in half calf sold for $2 12½. The other works sold during the afternoon included large invoices of the works of Longfellow, Lowell, "Owen Meredith," James Parton, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, John G. Saxe, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Tennyson, Thoreau, Mrs. Whitney, and Whittier. The prices averaged about the same as those above. The day ended with a grand clearance sale of odd volumes, which brought small prices. This morning the sale will begin with J. B. Ford & Co.'s publications.

A DAY OF FOG AND RAIN.

TRAVEL DELAYED ON THE RIVERS—A BARGE SUNK BY COLISSION.

The city and vicinity was enveloped with a dense fog yesterday morning which was driven away in the afternoon by heavy showers. This weather made it anything but agreeable for either pedestrians, or those whose duty it was to navigate the river. Though there was no material irregularity of the trips on the ferries, great caution was observed by the pilots in crossing from slip to slip, and no boat was allowed to leave the slip until another had arrived. It began to grow thick about 8 o'clock in the morning. At 11 o'clock the fog had shut in so dense that it was with great difficulty, and at very slow speed that the boats made their trips. The result was that each boat was crowded with passengers and vehicles to its utmost capacity, and many were the expressions of fear dropped by the more timid that an accident of some kind might occur. The fog bells were tolled at the various landings for the guidance of the boats, and the whistles maintained a series of deafening blasts as a warning to all approaching craft. In the bay below were collected a large number of vessels waiting for the fog to lift. A dispatch from Sandy Hook announced that the wind was light from the northward, and that the fog was so thick that nothing could be seen off shore. About 4 o'clock the wind increased slightly, bringing with it heavy, drenching showers and breaking the fog bank, much to the convenience of thousands of those who resided across the river and did business in New-York, as well as of the pilots, who no longer had to watch the compass, with one hand on the wheel and the other grasping the whistle rope.

About two o'clock yesterday afternoon, as the ferry-boat Superior, of the Williamsburg Ferry, was passing Pier No. 34 East River, it ran with great violence against the transportation barge Chesapeake, which filled with water and sunk immediately after. The deck hands were rescued by the Superior and no one was injured. There was considerable excitement among the few passengers on the ferry-boat and all rushed out of the cabins expecting every moment that the boat would sink. They were reassured, however, and in a few moments the Superior resumed her trip.

WHY THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE IS PRIZED.

CLAIMS AND PAYMENTS FOR FEES, &C., DURING THE LAST TEN YEARS.

Controller Kelly sent to the State Senate yesterday a statement of the bills and payments on account of Sheriffs' fees for the past ten years. This communication shows payments to Sheriff James O'Brien of $296,134 49, and outstanding claims assigned by him to ex-Alderman Monheimer for $258,583 41. Sheriffs Brennan and Conner also have bills to a very large amount in dispute. Following is a summary of the accounts:

JOHN KELLY.

Quarterly accounts, 1867	$24,209 07
Quarterly accounts, 1868	$46,204 70
Quarterly accounts, 1869	58,855 71
Quarterly accounts, 1870	63,691 16
Commitments and discharges of prisoners, 1869	39,619 50
Pay-rolls of employes	88,053 42
Total bills paid	$296,134 49

In addition to these, a suit is pending against the city, on the complaint of Joseph A. Monheimer, assignee of James O'Brien, claiming $258,583 41, with interest from April 3, 1874, for fees and services, as follows:

Commitments and discharges of prisoners in 1868, 1869, and 1870	$191,594 75
Summoning grand jurors for Oyer and Terminer and General Sessions in 1869 and 1870	339 00
Summoning petit jurors for Oyer and Terminer, General Sessions, and Marine Court in 1869 and 1870	11,248 46
Summoning 340 panels of petit jurors for courts of record other than above	340 00
Prisoners conveyed to prisons other than State prisons from July 1, 1869, to Dec. 31, 1870	38,302 25
Reports to the Secretary of State of convictions in the several criminal courts of record and in the Court of Special Sessions	15,162 00
Performance of other services in relation to criminal proceedings	27 55
Expenditures in executing duties of office	1,480 46
Total	$258,583 41

MATTHEW T. BRENNAN.

Quarterly accounts, 1871	$73,302 01
Quarterly accounts, 1872	71,404 78
Quarterly accounts, 1873	62,994 51
Commitments and discharges of prisoners, 1871	77,311 00
Commitments and discharges of prisoners, 1872	18,601 70
Commitments and discharges of prisoners, 1873	7,963 37
Pay-rolls of employes, 1871	60,560 00
Pay-rolls of employes, 1872	25,208 32
Total	$467,825 35

The bills for 1871 have been paid in full. An action was brought against the city, in the Court of Common Pleas, for the three quarters ending Sept. 30, 1873, amounting to $52,808 68. A counter claim was set up by the city for over payment made on previous bills of 1871, which was sustained by the court, and judgment was rendered against the plaintiff in favor of the city, July 19, 1876, for $36,153 25. The case has been appealed to the General Term. The sum of $8,500 has been paid on account of bills for 1872 and 1873, and $40,535 32 for services of employes to Aug. 31, 1871.

WILLIAM C. CONNER.

Quarterly accounts, 1874	$33,616 10
Quarterly accounts, 1875	37,013 05
Quarterly accounts, 1876	36,837 89
Commitments, &c., of prisoners, 1874	47,164 00
Commitments, &c., of prisoners, 1875	45,628 73
Commitments, &c., of prisoners, 1876	47,842 10
Miscellaneous expenses	4,593 97
Support of prisoners (County Jail), 1875-6	23,548 16
Total	$275,436 00
Payments	62,710 82
Amount unsettled	$212,725 18

RECAPITULATION.

	Sheriff's bill.	Payments.
Kelly, 1867	$24,209 07	$24,209 07
O'Brien, 1868-70	296,134 49	296,134 49
O'Brien, 1868-70, in suit	258,583 41	
Brennan, 1871-3	467,825 35	122,135 33
Conner, 1874-6	275,436 00	62,710 82
Totals	$1,322,190 32	$505,189 71

BROOKLYN MUNICIPAL INTERESTS.

Application was made in the Brooklyn Common Council yesterday to allow the New-York, Brooklyn and Sea Shore Railroad to run steam cars on its road along Metropolitan-ave. and North Second-st., from the East River to the city line. After a long discussion over the rights of property owners, the matter was referred to the Aldermen from the Eastern District. Alderman Donovan reported for the Special Railroad Committee in favor of denying the petition of the New-York and Manhattan Beach Railroad Company to run through a number of streets in the Eastern District, as those dwelling along the route were not to be properly indemnified for the damage. Several Aldermen spoke in behalf of the railroad company, and the matter was finally referred to the Railroad Committee and the Aldermen through whose wards the road would pass. Alderman Griswold, in support of a motion made by him, that the Mayor be requested to send in other names for Park Commissioners, said that the Common Council had already rejected Mr. Stranahan by a vote of 22 to 2. Now, he said, an effort was making to defeat the will of the people by so amending the city charter that the old commission should be retained. After discussion this motion was carried. The Kings County representatives in the Legislature were urged to favor the passage of the bill authorizing the construction of another slip for the South Ferry on the New-York side to accommodate the increased traffic by the new steam road on Atlantic-ave.

THE RICHARDS BOND ROBBERY.

TWO NOTORIOUS THIEVES IN CUSTODY FOR THE CRIME.

Joseph Baldwin, alias "Peppermint Joe," and Joseph Adams, alias "Joe Butts," were still held yesterday in the Mercer Street Police Station to await identification and further developments in the cases that Inspector Dilks and Detectives Dilks, Walling, and Healey are investigating. The prisoners were arrested on a charge of being concerned in the robbery of the safe of James G. King's Sons, bankers and brokers at Nos. 51 and 53 William-st. Bonds and stocks valued at over $100,000 were carried away by the thieves. The robbery was committed on Friday, Feb. 16, about noon. The bonds were in boxes and were locked up in a small safe that was not used for the custody of the property of the firm. The property stolen belonged to Edgar H. Richards and his wife, and had been deposited in this safe for convenience. Mr. Richards was a brother-in-law of the Kings. He did not state what was in the tin boxes, and Mr. King supposed that they contained private papers and memoranda of no value except to the owners. This was one reason why the boxes were placed in the small safe, which was kept in a room adjoining the main office. Two of the clerks usually occupied this room, but on the day of the robbery both happened to have been sent out on business. Other clerks were passing to and from this room at short intervals of time, and there was a stock indicator there also which was frequently consulted. Thus it is plain that there were not many minutes in the day when somebody was not in this room. Mr. King remembered that two strangers had called at the counting-room, and, inquiring for the senior partner, had asked the prices of certain bonds and stocks. This was between 11 and 12 o'clock on the day of the robbery, and the firm believed that they were the thieves. About 1 o'clock on the same day one of the clerks noticed that some revenue stamps had been shut in the door of the small safe. Further examination revealed the robbery.

William Vosburgh, who had just served a long term in State Prison, was arrested by Detective Von Gerichten some time afterward, but Mr. King and his clerks were not able to identify him. Suspicion then pointed to the prisoners now in custody, and they were arrested on Saturday afternoon near the Union Square Theater. It was this robbery that led to the disgrace of the detectives who were then on duty around Wall-st., and caused them to be remanded to post duty. The prisoners have been remanded for as long a time as Inspector Dilks may deem necessary to enable him and his detectives to complete their case and secure their identification, which probably will not be effected for several days.

PHASES OF MODERN THOUGHT.

LECTURE BY THE REV. DR. WILLIAM M. TAYLOR.

The Rev. Dr. William M. Taylor delivered the closing lecture of the Winter series before the New-York Association for the advancement of Science and Art last evening at the Rev. Dr. Rogers's Church at Fifth-ave. and Twenty-first-st. He spoke of "Some Phases of Modern Thought."

The proclamation of any truth, he said, was always met with doubt from some quarter; and, naturally, therefore, minds were to be found that did not believe what Christians accepted as divine truth. Such doubters were to be taken into kind consideration, and not be ruthlessly denounced. It had been wisely put by the Laureate:

"There lives more faith in honest doubt,
Believe me, than in half the creeds."

Rational doubt often led to rational faith, and was better than blind credulity. The Lord spoke kindly to Thomas. And while all doubters were not Thomases, still the unbelief of the present day differed from that of Voltaire and Paine.

One of the most conspicuous phases of modern thought was that now upheld by much philosophical opinion and scientific experiment. The empiricists asserted that man could know only phenomena and facts; that he must take laws simply as they were; that the mind had no power to go beyond these and to inquire for a final cause. The lecturer held to the contrary opinion. He believed that even from their own point of argument the phenomena of human consciousness should also be investigated, and there were relations between man and the universe that the senses could not analyze. Another phase of skepticism was that which believed in the supernatural. The miracles of the Bible seemed to some minds absolutely opposed to cause and effect. If the doubter would only grant the personal existence of a God, the difficulty at once began to fade away. Man himself, the speaker said, could and had changed the laws of nature in particular instances. Could a similar power be then denied to God? Had he made a huge machine and shut himself forever from interfering with it, no matter what the emergency might be? But the lecturer declared himself ready to let the miracles stand or fall by the character of Christ. If His character was supernatural, then the miracles were natural to Him. The question narrowed itself down to this point, "What think ye of Christ?" "Whence comes He?" Was His character the product of selection? The speaker could not believe that all the noblest minds of the world before His time could, by any amalgamation, have developed Christ. Was He the product of His age? No! All the good since His time was only the development of Him. Surely He was God, and His acts, his miracles, were probable, as they were natural to Him. Akin to this phase was the doubt of the efficacy of prayer. If a man would not, in the first place, acknowledge God as the Father of the Universe, then he must be met on the ground of the empiricist; but if he believed in God as a Father, then he naturally must believe in the efficacy of prayer. Any one could go easily through the Lord's Prayer when they accepted the two words with which it began—"Our Father." It all rested on the ground of personality. Personality rested on will. Could not an omnipotent Will then through his own laws grant prayer?

EASTER ELECTIONS.

In many of the Protestant Episcopal churches yesterday the annual Easter elections for wardens and vestrymen were held, with the following results:

St. Luke's Church.—Wardens—Anthony B. McDonald, Francis Pott. Vestrymen—Alex. L. McDonald, Milo B. Root, Chas. S. Ward, M. D., H. Croswell Tuttle, Julian Botts, John H. Pulis, Charles Hedges.

Church of the Ascension.—Wardens—Stewart Brown, Frederick de Peyster. Vestrymen—Frederick G. Foster, Francis Lefferts, James M. Brown, Daniel F. Appleton, William K. Lothrop, Lloyd Aspinwall, John Byers, and J. H. Gautier.

Church of the Holy Apostles.—Wardens—William Jordan, Daniel B. Whitlock. Vestrymen—William Orton, Robert H. Goff, John F. Collard, Henry Ivey, J. M. Buckingham, Charles S. Fischer, jr., A. S. Roe, Benoni Lockwood.

Christ Church.—Wardens—George W. Cass, Edward A. Quintard. Vestrymen—Samuel Keyser, James M. Dunbar, Wheeler H. Peckham, Frederick C. Willers, James R. Boyd, William G. Davies, Isaac R. Cornell, Robert W. Nesbitt.

Church of St. Ignatius.—Wardens—John H. Morewood, Christian Zabriskie. Vestrymen—Dr. C. Dixon Varley, H. Sylvester Bosworth, Evan G. Sherman, John W. Harrison, E. Harrison Denison, Joseph Blecker, John Lowe, A. Van L. Brigham.

Church of the Epiphany.—Wardens—Robert Betty, W. F. C. Trockel. Vestrymen—E. C. Kemble, Moses Post, George Wilson, J. H. McClelland, C. W. F. M. Woolnough, C. Trockel, E. G. Black, W. Davis.

Church of the Redeemer.—Wardens—Rufus B. Cowing, B. B. Schneider. Vestrymen—Thos. J. Crombie, Elisha Y. Ten Eyck, Geo. D. Helfenstine, M. D., Charles A. Acton, Edward Townsend, Thos. A. Young, H. Ulman, Marlborough Churchill.

St. Philip's Church.—Wardens—Aaron F. Foster, Wm. H. Anthony. Vestrymen—Chas. G. Bowser, Jas. H. Lewis, Thos. B. McKeel, John J. Brown, Benj. Fisher, Daniel A. Brown, Albert Wilson, William Smith.

St. Ann's Church, Brooklyn.—Wardens—Thomas Messenger, Henry F. Morgan. Vestrymen—Jesse C. Smith, A. H. De Witt, William Griffith, George W. Gibbs, F. S. Shelmire, C. T. Brooks, Samuel B. Lane, Thomas B. Messenger.

St. Paul's Church, Brooklyn.—Wardens—Augustus E. Masters, Svante M. Swenson. Vestrymen—Edward C. Elliot, Augustus Ford, Calvin B. Lockwood, Daniel Birdsall, Francis E. Pinto, Charles H. Bosher, John H. Blaine, Richard D. Young.

Grace Church, Brooklyn.—Wardens—Henry E. Herrepont, Charles E. Bull. Vestrymen—Alexander V. Blake, Wm. C. Stebbins, Arthur W. Benson, Henry Singer, Russell L. Wheeler, Harry Messenger, James Augustus Hewlett, Peter C. Cornell.

Christ Church, Brooklyn.—Wardens—Charles B. Marvin, James A. Cowing. Vestrymen—F. H. Trowbridge, Ludlow Thomas, Alex. Munn, Alex. E. Orr, C. B. McClellan, M. D., John H. Peet, Charles A. Denny, F. L. Matthews.

BENJAMIN NOYES TO BE EXAMINED TO-DAY.

Benjamin Noyes, President of the National Capitol Life Insurance Company, who has been confined in the County Jail at Newark, N. J., for the past 11 days on the charge of conspiring to defraud the New-Jersey Mutual Life Insurance Company's policy-holders out of $1,500,000 assets, was brought before Judge Depue last evening on a writ of habeas corpus. Mr. Noyes turned over to Receiver Parker bonds of the States of Virginia and Louisiana of the face value of $177,000, which he claims are all the assets which came into his possession. Ludlow McCarter, counsel for the receiver, stated to a TRIBUNE reporter last night that he would not give $250 for all the assets turned over by Mr. Noyes to the receiver. Noyes's counsel moved for his release on $5,000 bail, which was objected to by the County Prosecutor, principally because he did not believe Mr. Noyes had surrendered all the assets. Judge Depue remanded the prisoner to the County Jail pending an examination before Police Justice Jessup, which will be begun to-day.

THE CHARGES AGAINST THE REV. MR. McCAFFREY.

The hearing of the case of the Rev. D. M. McCaffrey, who was charged with having improperly assaulted Mrs. Adelaide Leavitt, on March 15, was concluded yesterday before Justice Smith at the Yorkville Police Court. Miss Della McCaffrey, a sister of the pastor, testified that Mrs. Leavitt came to her brother for assistance, claiming to be utterly destitute. She was given a quarter of a pound of tea and two tickets for bread. The witness saw Mrs. Leavitt during the entire interview, and swore positively that her brother made no attempt to kiss her or otherwise insult the woman. This testimony was corroborated by Mrs. Biggs. The Rev. Mr. McCaffrey made a general denial of all the allegations against him. He stated that Mrs. Leavitt told him that her family were in distress because her husband would not work, and wished him to investigate the case of another poor woman. He gave her some tea and two bread tickets, and she turned back to offer to sing in the concert that he was getting up to aid the fund for charity. The witness called at Mr. Leavitt's house and was kept a prisoner there for three-quarters of an hour by the man, who accused him of insulting his wife. Mrs. Leavitt and her husband were called to testify in rebuttal, when they denied the truth of the story of the defendant and his witnesses. Justice Smith reserved his decision until to-day.

THE ATTEMPTED ROBBERY OF MR. GERARD.

Leland I. Jones, Alexander Ray, and Philip Trojtsey were held yesterday in $2,000 bail each, by Justice Otterbourg, at the Jefferson Market Police Court, charged with assaulting Thomas W. Gerard and attempting to rob his store at No. 227 Eighth-ave. on the night of March 23. Trojtsey was employed by Mr. Gerard, and let in his two accomplices as Mr. Gerard was balancing his books. But for the fact that he had a revolver near him and near it, Mr. Gerard would probably have been robbed and murdered. Trojtsey and Jones confessed their guilt when brought before Justice Otterbourg. Ray, however, denied that he had anything to do with the affair.

CITY REFORM MEASURES.

DISCUSSION BY THE MUNICIPAL SOCIETY UPON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION.

At the regular meeting of the Municipal Society, at No. 67 Madison-ave., last evening, a letter was read from Hamilton Fish, jr., Chairman of the House Committee on Cities, stating that the committee would undoubtedly report favorably upon the amendments to the State Constitution recommended by the Municipal Commission, but he feared a strong opposition on the part of the Democratic members of the Assembly. A letter was sent by William Allen Butler, a member of the commission, saying that he was detained by business at Albany from attending the meeting, and expressing the belief that the work of the commission would be ratified. Simon Stern, the only member of the commission present, explained the main features of the proposed amendments and gave the reasons which influenced the committee's action, speaking at length on the evil results to the city of the present system, which placed the tax-payers at the mercy of that element which had no property or other interest in the growth and future of the metropolis.

Col. Rush C. Hawkins offered a resolution, which was unanimously adopted, declaring "that the society approves the amendments to the Constitution of this State, proposed by the commission appointed by Gov. Tilden, and that our members of the Legislature be requested to forward their passage with all possible expedition and before the close of the present session of the Legislature." Jackson S. Schultz urged the importance of some action by the society to secure the weight of the business interests of the city in favor of the proposed amendments, and suggested a public meeting for that purpose.

Col. Hawkins offered a resolution, which was adopted, providing that the Committee of Inquiry should be instructed to report at the next meeting of the Ex-active Committee whether or not, in any department of the city government, money had been raised by assessing any of the subordinates for the purpose of affecting legislation at Albany. The committee appointed by the chair on the calling of a public meeting, consisting of Charles S. Smith, Joan H. Sherwood, Jackson S. Schultz, Rush C. Hawkins, John C. Eno, Morris K. Jesup, and Henry M. Taber, met and organized after the meeting adjourned, and will probably issue a call for a public meeting to-day.

LORD & TAYLOR'S OPENING.

A remarkable display of elegant toilets was made last week in Lord & Taylor's store, at Broadway and Twentieth-st. A great number of Parisian dresses was shown, with many that were made in the house, and it was universally conceded that they were tasteful, handsome, and far less "pronounced" than many that are brought out this season. The richest dresses are of two kinds of silk in the new shades, made in princesse designs, and trimmed with bands of embroidery and fringe. Few costumes are made of only one kind of goods. The woolen dresses are of figured *bourrette*, in most graceful polonaises, with demi-trained skirts of silk with *bourrette* flounces. There are also separate overdresses of camel's hair, cashmere, Knickerbocker, etc. The new Bretonne suits are displayed in navy-blue wool, with white braided trimmings. Evening dresses are of white brocaded silk, garlanded with pond lilies, and of many delicate tints, richly trimmed with lace. White sprigged muslins are made up in beautiful Summer costumes and in morning dresses trimmed with Smyrna lace. The wraps are in all the new styles. The modes for clothing and white goods department furnishes most elegant trousseaux. One trousseau lately finished required 32 boxes to hold it. In the same department are infants' layettes and children's clothing of the most attractive kinds. The pretty princesse robes for the little folks are of white cashmere, white muslin over silk, and light cloth, all trimmed with Smyrna lace, buttons, and sash ribbons. The tiny lace capotes for infants and small girls are exquisitely made. Fine shoes of all the new and approved kinds fill a large department on the second floor. Dress goods of all sorts are found on the first floor. The silk department is very complete, embracing all the new *taffeta*, French gray, and stream shades, with the fashionable dark greens, blue, and black of the best Lyons manufactures.

FEAST OF THE FOLLOWERS OF ST. NICHOLAS.

The St. Nicholas Society celebrated Paas, or the festival of Easter, last evening at Delmonico's at Fifth-ave. and Twenty-sixth-st. There were 146 members present, among whom were Gov. Hartranft of Pennsylvania, Mayor Ely, United States District-Attorney Stewart L. Woodford, Judge Larremore, Deputy Grand Master of Masons Charles S. Arthur, of the IVth District of New-York; Chauncey M. Depew, J. W. Beckman, F. DePeyster, C. Baldwin Fosdick, R. C. Livingston, Carlisle Norwood, jr.; Stuyvesant Fish, Eugene Schieffelin, John S. Tyler, and Benjamin H. Field. At 7:30 p. m. the President, William A. Vermilye, clad in the Dutch costume of St. Nicholas, with Gov. Hartranft, followed by the Rev. Dr. Vermilye and Mayor Ely, entered the large dining hall, and after taking seats, Dr. Vermilye invoked a blessing upon the feast before them. Immediately back of the President was a huge figure of St. Nicholas, and the room was otherwise decorated with reminiscences of the Dutch ancestry. The tables were bountifully supplied with Easter eggs beautifully colored and gilded, and after the cloth was removed the long Dutch clay pipe was passed around. A huge joke, intended as an "April fool," was played upon the assembly by passing around doughnuts stuffed with cotton, which fact was not discovered until an attempt was made to eat them, and then it was highly appreciated. Speeches were then the order of the day. Gov. Hartranft was loudly called for and responded, and was followed by Mayor Ely, Chauncey M. Depew and others.

TRIAL OF POLICE CAPTAIN MURPHY.

The trial of Police Captain Murphy of the Twenty-first Precinct was begun yesterday morning before the Police Commissioners. He is charged by the Society for the Suppression of Vice with failing to stop immoral performances at Egyptian Hall, in Thirty-fourth-st. A charge was also preferred against him by Superintendent Walling, who alleged that Capt. Murphy delayed in serving two warrants for the arrests of keepers of disorderly houses, serving one a week after it was issued, and another ten days afterward. The second charge was first considered. The counsel for Capt. Murphy admitted the delay in serving the warrants, but pleaded in extenuation the instructions of Justice Hixby, who issued the warrants. Justice Hixby testified that the warrants were to be executed whenever Capt. Murphy should find in the houses a sufficient number of people to prove that the authorized evidence received by the proprietors. The warrants were withheld until that. Murphy had agreed to obey the Justice's instructions. This charge was dismissed.

The first charge was then considered. Anthony Comstock testified that he visited Egyptian Hall on Feb. 20. The audience was composed of boys and men. The scene represented women in almost a state of nudity. The entertainment was represented by the witness to be of a very vile character. An adjournment was taken until 9 a. m. next Monday.

THE NEWARK M. E. CONFERENCE.

At the session of the Newark M. E. Conference yesterday in Hedding Church, Jersey City, a committee of five was appointed to cooperate with the New-Jersey Sabbath Association in securing a better observance of Sunday. The Rev. Mr. Adams of the Freedman's Aid Society reported resolutions, which were adopted, pledging the Conference to oppose the growing Roman Catholic power in the South. St. Paul's Church, Newark, was decided upon as the place for holding the next Conference. The receipts of the Conference for the support of the aged clergy and widows in I year was $7,224 75, all of which was paid out except $14 75. The report of the Committee on Temperance was adopted, pledging the Conference to support total abstinence, ordering the clergy to preach a temperance sermon on the second Sunday in May, and thanking the Hon. Jacob Vanderveer, jr., for his work in the temperance cause. The Rev. Messrs. Harris, Lanston, the Rev. Dr. Hurst, and the Hons. G. T. Ferry and C. Walsh were appointed a committee to inquire into the arrangement of the difficulties between the Methodist Church, North and South. The Rev. Dr. Alexander Craig offered a resolution to aid the Theological seminary. A subscription was taken, which amounted to $9,104, including $3,750 already subscribed for endowing the James memorial chair.

A SKELETON FOUND IN THE WOODS.

The skeleton of a man was found on Saturday in the woods between Monmouth Junction and Plainsboro, N. J., by Reuben McDowell, a railroad employé. It was laying about seventy-five yards from the railroad track. It is supposed the body is that of a colored man, although the flesh is nearly all gone from the bones, and that it has been there since Fall. It is believed that the man was murdered, and the case will be investigated. The skeleton had only one hand. The remains have been temporarily interred at Monmouth Junction.

A THIEF ROBBED OF STOLEN GOODS.

Detectives Fields and O'Connor of the District Attorney's office, yesterday, arrested Joseph Kellner, a baker at No. 745 Fulton-st., Brooklyn, on a charge of stealing a gold watch and chain valued at $150 and $10 in money from Max Hoppe, on Dec. 29, 1876, at a bakery on Second-ave., where both men were employed. Two days after the alleged robbery from Hoppe, Kellner made a complaint before Justice Otterbourg that Simon Lanigan had robbed him of a gold watch and clothing of the value of $65 in all. Lanigan was held to await the action of the Grand Jury which, after investigating the case, found that Kellner had originally stolen the articles of which he had been robbed and discharged Lanigan. Henry Koll of No. 170 Suffolk-st., charges Kellner with the theft of several articles of clothing. Kellner was locked up in the Tombs and will be tried to-day.

"Got any pocket hankerchers?" said a small, soiled boy, with the chief part of his wardrobe hanging from his shoulder by one suspender, and a bundle of newspapers under his arm. The shopkeeper stared for a moment, but hard times have made even small purchasers desirable, and he answered blandly: "Here you are, sonny; all linen; fifteen cents." The young merchant cast a scornful look at him and said: "I wonder at yer showin' them-a-coffin sleeves to a sen'leman. I want sutthin in fancy silk, with a chance for my mo-nog-ram in the corner. Where's there a fust-class dry goods house 'round here, young feller?" And he got out of the door just in advance of a shower of yardsticks and scissors.—[Boston Commercial Bulletin.

An ordinary man may hide a broken heart under a hollow smile, but it takes a man of towering genius to meet a party of lady friends and hide an acre and a half of codfish behind a little bottle of heliotrope perfumery.—[St. Louis Journal.

THE COURTS.

AN OLD NEVADA SCANDAL REVIVED.

CORRUPTION IN THE PURCHASE OF VIRGINIA CITY'S COURT-HOUSE.

In the suit of Isaac Pforzheimer against Dr. Joseph C. Tucker, on trial in the Marine Court before Judge Sheridan, the plaintiff sues for $1,000 in gold, alleged to be due him by the terms of an agreement entered into with the defendant in Virginia City, Nevada, Feb. 1, 1866. The plaintiff's version of the transaction is this: Pforzheimer was a large stockholder in the Odd Fellows Association Hall in Virginia City, and had bought in several liens on the building to protect the property. The trustees finally gave him power of attorney to sell the building in order to get his money out of it. Dr. Tucker had some political influence, and offered to effect the sale of the building to the county for a court-house for $31,000 if the plaintiff would pay him $5,000. The plaintiff alleges that he paid the defendant $2,000 in gold coin and gave him a note for $3,000 on condition that the sale should be made within a month or the payment refunded. Dr. Tucker went to New-York before the sale was effected, telling the plaintiff before his departure that he had used $1,000 of the money, but that if the negotiations for the sale of the property were not concluded, Mr. White, Dr. Tucker's agent, would refund the money. Afterward the plaintiff says he got back the note and $1,000, leaving a balance of $1,000 still due. The plaintiff says he met Dr. Tucker a few months later in this city, and Dr. Tucker promised to send him the money upon his return to Nevada in about ten days. Ten years after this time, in March, 1876, the plaintiff says he asked Dr. Tucker for the money and that he denied owing him any money, and denied all knowledge of such a transaction as that alleged. Pforzheimer then sued him for the amount.

The defendant, who is now in California, in his depositions and in those of his witnesses, sets forth that the negotiations for the sale of the hall were not with him but with Charles Knox, a county commissioner, who lived with him at the time. He alleges that Pforzheimer, on the night when the money was paid, came to his (defendant's) house to pay Knox some money; that Knox was absent, and that he (defendant), at Pforzheimer's request, took from him $2,000 in $20 gold pieces, wrapped up in a handkerchief, and gave the money to Knox on his return. This transaction was the cause of considerable scandal in the community, the county commissioners being charged with bribery in purchasing the Odd-Fellows' Hall for a court-house, and Dr. Tucker avers that upon learning the nature of the payment to Knox he took measures to have the money returned to Pforzheimer, he himself acting as a medium through which the money was paid back. All but $1,000, which Knox never gave him, the defendant says he gave back to Pforzheimer. All of the other allegations of the plaintiff in regard to the transaction are denied.

The deposition of Jacob Smith, formerly a newspaper proprietor in Virginia City, was read. Mr. Smith deposes that he was asked by Pforzheimer to keep still in his paper about the sale of the property, the plaintiff saying that he had "fixed" Knox by paying him money to effect the sale. Knox came to him (witness) on the following day and offered to divide with him if he would say nothing about the matter. He told witness that he held the office of Commissioner to make money and was going to do it. Pforzheimer told the witness that it cost him $5,000 to get the bill to buy the property passed. Witness told him that he would have Knox indicted and Pforzheimer replied that nothing would be made out of it as the bill had passed. No bribery was said to the witness about any transactions with Dr. Tucker. The case is still on.

SETTING OFF A CLAIM AGAINST A JUDGMENT.

Judge Barrett, in Superior Court, Special Term, in the suit of Stratford P. Denison and another against Ignacio F. Alvaro, Frederick R. Connert, and others, sustains the right in equity of one having an undeterminded claim on a contract to set it off against a judgment of another who is insolvent. The defendant Alvaro was the agent of the plaintiffs, who sued him for a balance of account. The trial of the suit was greatly protracted before the referee. Meanwhile Mr. Alvaro brought a suit for damages for breach of contract against the plaintiffs. This was hurried through, and he got a verdict for $800 before the plaintiffs got a decision in their case. The costs in his suit swelled the amount to $907. He had meanwhile become insolvent. He assigned his judgment to his lawyers, Conduert Brothers, to pay his debts to them and they issued execution. Plaintiffs commenced this suit to set off their claim, which with costs was finally adjudged to be $3,054 48 against the judgment obtained by Alvaro. A stay of the execution on the Alvaro judgment was denied. Judge Barrett thinks inoperative, so that plaintiffs had to pay the money to the Messrs. Conduert, and the question is practically to compel them to return the money. Judge Barrett holds that Alvaro being insolvent the plaintiffs had the right to set off their claim against his verdict, but his attorneys had a lien for the costs superior to the plaintiffs' rights. He gives judgment for the plaintiffs therefore for only the $800 and interest.

CIVIL NOTES.

The trial of the suit of the People against Thomas Conan has been adjourned to Monday next.

Judge Freedman, in Superior Court, Special Term, has referred the divorce suit of Catharine Berth against Chas. Berth to George P. Langbein.

Judge Larremore in Common Pleas, Special Term, has opened the default in the suit of Clayton Belknap against Daniel E. Sickles, taken against the defendant, on his paying the costs.

George E. Miles, formerly a reporter of THE TRIBUNE, has been appointed Stenographer to the Special Term, Part III., of the Court of Common Pleas. All the active reporters on the city press united in recommending his appointment.

In the suit of the widow of Gustavus Conover against John T. Conover, his administrator, previously reported in THE TRIBUNE, Judge Freedman, in Superior Court, Special Term, has appointed Charles Cruty receiver of the estate of the deceased husband.

In the suit of George J. Clan Ranald against John N. Wyckoff, Judge Freedman has decided that in proceedings supplementary to execution against a judgment debtor the court may compel the debtor to convey his interest in a patent right to a receiver. The power to compel the conveyance of land not within the state has been previously affirmed, and Judge Freedman places this power on the same reasoning that lands are under a foreign jurisdiction, and cannot be reached by the ordinary process of the court.

The suit of Stephen D. Vial against the City was tried yesterday before Judge Barrett in Supreme Court, Circuit, and a sealed verdict was ordered for this morning. The plaintiff says that he was driving on the boulevard between Ninety-sixth and Ninety-seventh-st. on a dark evening and his buggy ran against two large pipes left without guard or warning lamp in the street. His buggy was broken and upset and two of his ribs were broken. He asked $20,000 damages. The defense of the city was a general denial and that the plaintiff's own carelessness contributed to his misfortune.

The suit of Kittie Powell against Richard Powell came before Judge Donohue yesterday, in Supreme Court, Chambers, on a motion for alimony. She sues for a divorce for abandonment. In opposition to the motion, Mr. Powell denied his marriage. He says she is a common woman of the town, living in New-Jersey, and brought there one suit in 1873 against him for seduction under promise of marriage (she now says she married him in 1873), and some months later proceeded against him under the bastardy law as the putative father of her two children, but has never made any claim to a connection. He submits that her present claim is inconsistent with those claims. The Court reserved his decision.

In the suit of John Brennan against Henry Goodstein, a motion was made yesterday before Judge Donohue in Supreme Court, Chambers, to dismiss the complaint for want of prosecution. Brennan claims that his jewelry store in Philadelphia was robbed, and