LOCAL MISCELLANY.

CUSTOMS ABUSES.

COMPLAINTS FROM AN IMPORTER. A CITY WEIGHER, AND A BROKER—TESTIMONY OF EMPLOYES.

The Custom-house Commission began work yesterday, after a long secret session, by examining Frederick Worden, who was sent to Europe in 1875 to investigate frauds in the classification of goods and the undervaluation of invoices. He thought the foreign Consul ought to know the value of the goods invoiced, but that would involve the necessity of having experts attached to the consular offices.

J. B. Mitchell, a crockery dealer of Cincinnati, privately complained that consignees could get goods through the Appraiser's office at lower rates than the importer who made his purchase in Europe. Mr. Turnure requested Mr. Mitchell to make his statements under oath, which he refused. The commission then declared that it could not waste time in listening to statements of persons declining to take the responsibility for them.

Geo. W. Blake, a city weigher, said, the Government weighers so harassed the city weighers that it was impossible for them to do their work at a reasonable expense, and they were compelled to use the Government laborers and pay the foreman half the expense of the laborers. Into whose pockets this money went he did not know. He had been city weigher for 20 years and he never saw a Government weigher on the docks, and did not know them by sight. He had always been brought in contact with the foreman or the assistant weigher. He mentioned a flagrant case of interference on the part of the Government weigher in Jersey City. Mr. Robinson told Mr. Blake that his testimony confirmed information obtained from other sources.

Col. E. F. Burton, deputy surveyor of the baggage department, said he had been eight years in the service. He knew of no abuses in his department. Baggage was sometimes passed without an examination, but this might not be an abuse. He knew from rumor that inspectors permitted merchandise to remain on the docks more than 48 hours without sending it into general order. Fees were paid the inspectors, he had heard, for this favor. It was an abuse that ought to be corrected. There might be abuses in the baggage department. He would recommend the establishment of an office where all baggage could be examined, with proper surveillance. He believes that money was sometimes extorted from emigrants. Occasionally he had received notes from the Collector or Surveyor or Naval Officer asking him to show certain passengers every possible courtesy, but he never considered this as an order to pass the baggage without examination. He always examined the baggage in such instances, showing what courtesy he could by hastening the inspection. He believed that money was frequently offered to inspectors to pass baggage, but it was always difficult to prove the offense. All abuses should be eradicated, but it would be a most difficult task to prevent altogether the feeling of inspectors. He thought the inspectors were paid too little.

F. M. Marsh of Gantz, Jones & Co. claimed that United States Weigher Blackie and his assistants, Garvey and Comstock, kept on the wharf goods which deteriorated rapidly from exposure, taking their own conveniences for weighing them. He had complained to the Collector, but the investigation which followed was barren of results. His clerk was asked by Mr. Comstock why the firm did not procure a copy of the weights. He asserted that 50 per cent of the goods paying specific duty landed from the White Star steamships were not weighed, the weights being taken from marks on the case.

Josiah Rich said he was a merchant until 1867, when he failed. He was then appointed to the appraiser's office. When he left the service he became a broker or merchant appraiser for foreign fruit importers, and attended to their claims for damage allowance, and had almost a monopoly of the business. An ex-assistant appraiser went into the same business, and was in so close relations with three examiners and could get so large allowances that he complained of the examiners, two of whom resigned and formed a copartnership with the ex-assistant appraiser. This firm had obtained damage allowances for fruit merchants which were astonishing, and he believed there was at present collusion with the examiners.

Thomas Earle, formerly an entry clerk, said the entry clerks had received fees from the brokers ever since he had been in the Custom-house. Sometimes merchants made the clerks a present of money or something else. This brought some clerks $400 a year above their salary. He did not know that brokers were served with a merchants were compelled to wait. If the entry clerks were all competent he thought their number could be reduced 50 per cent. A few more intelligent and quicker Jews the others got most of the work to do and received the 15-cent fees.

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S GALA DAY.

THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION.

In the juvenile mind of Brooklyn "Anniversary Day" occupies a position side by side with Thanksgiving and Christmas. The 50,000 Sunday-school children look forward to it as an occasion when new clothing and gay ribbons and freshly trimmed hats are to be displayed, when they will march through the streets and parks to the sound of music, and afterward partake to repletion of cake and ice cream, supplied in unlimited quantities. For months this day is anticipated in all the Sunday-schools, where the anniversary hymns are rehearsed and arrangements for the celebration perfected.

The weather was exceptionally fine yesterday, and favoring skies, a lower temperature, and a fresh, cool breeze combined to make the children's holiday almost perfect, and early in the forenoon numerous boys and girls could be seen upon the streets in gay attire, bound for the exercises to be in. The public schools held no sessions. Many public buildings and private residences were decorated with bunting and flags, and along the streets where the processions were to pass the display of flags was profuse. At 11 o'clock the bell of the City Hall and many church bells gave notice that the exercises were to begin, and throughout the Western District—including the Heights, the Hill, and South Brooklyn—there was the bustle of preparation. The children of the various Sunday-schools met at places previously designated, and listened to music, songs, and addresses, and then paraded through the streets in seven divisions. On the line of march of each division a revviewing stand was erected, from which the parade was witnessed by pastors of the churches whose schools were represented in the division and by those fortunate enough to secure tickets of admission. It was estimated that 50,000 boys and girls took part in the parade. There were great numbers of silk banners in each procession. In front of the Tabernacle, in Schermerhorn-st., a large banner was erected with the inscription, "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow." The divisions were composed as follows:

The Prospect Park division concluded three sections and 23 Sunday-schools. At the entrance to the park it was reviewed by Mayor Setmouder and the Park Commissioners. The scene in the park during the march was very attractive. Between 10,000 and 11,000 children in gay clothing, with bright sparkling faces, and beautiful banners, marched over the green while music played. The scene was witnessed by a large number of persons. The carriages in the park were so numerous as to block up the drives in many places for a considerable time. The Bedford division, consisting of four sections and 14 schools, marched along Gates-ave., from Bedford-ave. to St. James-place. It was estimated that 6,000 children were in the line. The Hicks division contained seven sections and 30 schools, including the 2,000 children in the schools of Plymouth Church and its two missions. The line of march was through Pierrepont, Montague, Jerolemon, and Hicks-sts. The Clinton-ave. division, comprising 7 sections and 23 Sunday-schools, marched through Clinton-ave., from Gates-ave. to Willoughby-ave., and back again. The Carroll Park division, 6 sections and 20 Sunday-schools, paraded on Court-st., from Batchelor-st. to Freedman's-place. The Greenpoint was at Union and Clinton-sts. The New-Yorkers' division contained 3 sections and 10 schools. The parade was along Nassau-st., Leonard-st., Manhattan-st., and Stuyvesant-ave. The Tompkins Park division consisted of 6 sections and 13 schools, and paraded in Tompkins Park.

After the parade the schools of each section returned to their respective Sunday-school rooms, where refreshments were liberally provided. To-day the parade of the schools in the Eastern District will take place.

A POPULAR SEASIDE RESORT.

CONEY ISLAND AND THE IMPROVEMENTS ALONG THE BEACH.

The trip to Coney Island can be accomplished now for a reasonable sum, or made an expensive excursion. Accommodations may be secured along the beach to suit all tastes. A rare drive is that to the beach by the Boulevard and over the new Asphalt Concourse, which has been recently constructed by the Brooklyn Park Commissioners, and which leads to the most fashionable portion of the beach. The Concourse is one-half mile in length, and of ample width for several teams to drive abreast. The route by rail is enjoyed with added zest because of the long, tiresome, street-car ride to Greenwood. At this season the banks of fresh green and the trees in their tender foliage are a delight to the eye. The Long Island landscape is particularly attractive at present, as cultivated fields line the road on either hand, and the peach, cherry, apple, and dwarf pears are masses of glowing color. This pastoral scene, which is not disfigured by the usual fence literature, changes as the track turns a sharp corner, and in a moment Bath is reached, with its break of water view, its pavilions, its boat-houses, and long pink pier. Two roomy hotels, newly painted, and with flags flying at every gable, give Coney Island a brave appearance. The railroads have peopled this part of the beach, which is two miles above the old boat landing. All is activity and life. The sounds of the pile-driver and the carpenter's hammer are like sharp defined notes to the hoarse accompaniment of the waves. Not a hotel or restaurant but is being added to, or is putting up outside buildings. Six new pavilions are building between the Concourse and the railroad. The upper boat landing, which was carried away by the last Winter, is being rebuilt, and a plank walk, one mile in length, is to be laid from Cable's toward the original steamboat landing. Wagons loaded with chairs move across the beach, leaving their freight at the long pavilions. A platform 200 feet square is being placed about the beach stand as Cable's, and will be filled with refreshment tables. A triangular space on the left has been filled with earth, and will be planted as a garden. This part of the beach is noteworthy for its rapid improvement.

OVER SIX THOUSAND DOG LICENSES ISSUED.

Mayor Ely will issue a proclamation June 1 to enforce the penalties of the new "Dog Ordinance." Vagrant dogs when captured will be taken to the Public Pound, and, after a detention of forty-eight hours, will be sold at auction, if not redeemed by their owners. Dogs not sold will be given to persons who will take out licenses for them. The remaining animals will be drowned in a crate or box. Two dog catchers for each Assembly District are to be appointed by the Mayor. The Permit Bureau at the Mayor's office has issued 6,446 licenses to keep dogs, and it is believed that fear of the penalties for violation of the ordinance will largely increase the applications for licenses this week.

A CHARITY'S UNFORTUNATE RECORD.

SOME UNPLEASANT FACTS ABOUT THE OLD CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL RELIEF ASSOCIATION.

The Children's Educational and Relief Association was summoned to meet on Monday afternoon, at No. 162 Broadway, for the election of officers and directors, but none of the gentlemen present would accept office, and a committee was appointed to ask William Cullen Bryant, S. B. Dutcher, and Timothy H. Porter to act as President, Vice-President, and Treasurer respectively. Nothing more was accomplished. This organization is a revival of the Children's Educational Relief Association which was incorporated on Jan. 16, 1873, "to cooperate with the Board of Public Instruction in advancing the cause of education on a broad and unsectarian basis, and whose special work shall be to aid poor children to attend the public schools." F. C. Thompson was appointed superintendent. The old society was not looked on with favor by members of the Board of Education and others. Mr. Thompson acknowledges that some of the collectors misappropriated some hundreds of dollars, and that he had furnished children with food, which was not the object of the society. It is stated, also, that it was thought best to reorganize the society entirely, because most of its acts had been illegal. A quorum of the old direction seldom attended the business meetings, and there was much quarreling. No reports of work accomplished have been issued, except a small folio, without date or signature or the names of officers. The statement is generally very indefinite in its language. It contains no items of expenditures nor receipts. It says: "The expense of 11½ months' work was $3,078 52." Again: "The disbursements of the year were $4,108 06." The superintendent (Mr. Thompson) received a salary of $1,250 a year and the visitors $10 a week. Prominent gentlemen, who were solicited to subscribe refused to do so, saying that they thought the object a good one, but they would like to see some authentic reports. This gave offense to the collectors, apparently. It cannot be learned that the gentlemen whose names have been used as directors know anything more about the society than its object. Among these are J. G. Holland, Charles Woodruff, and William Cullen Bryant. It is known that the State Board of Charities regards the doings of the old society with distrust, and means to investigate them. Steps in that direction have already been taken.

About three years ago Mr. Thompson called upon Mr. Rockwood, the photographer, accompanied by several children, whom he represented to be cared for by the Educational Relief Association. He desired to have their photographs taken as cheaply as possible. Mr. Rockwood charitably agreed to charge for materials only, not for his time and labor. Mr. Thompson ordered 200 or 300 photographs, which were to cost $25. When the pictures were finished, Mr. Thompson got them, saying he would send Mr. Rockwood the money in a few days. He did not send the money, and Mr. Rockwood heard nothing of him until last Winter, when he called again, stating that he was about to give an entertainment at the Academy of Music for the benefit of the children, and wished Mr. Rockwood and his quartet to sing. Mr. Rockwood consented. Before the curtain was raised, some connection was caused on the stage by the refusal of some of the persons who were to take part to do anything unless they received their money. Mr. Thompson then took up a collection, settled the difficulty behind the scenes, and left the Academy with the remainder of the money. Upon the photographs which he obtained from Mr. Rockwood, Mr. Thompson had printed the name of the association, his own name, and a statement that the pictures were *presented* to the society by Rockwood, the photographer, which was not true.

A TRIBUNE reporter called upon Mr. Theodore Roosevelt of the State Board of Charities to make inquiries in regard to this subject. Mr. Roosevelt has been investigating the society, but refused to state anything in regard to it, only saying that in all probability the affair would be made all right in a few days.

George E. Sperry of the Bristol Weaver & Sperry of No. 24 Cedar-st. was a director of the Association in 1876, when Theodore A. Havemeyer was treasurer. Mr. Sperry thought that the plan of the society was most admirable, and it simply needed to carry out its original design to be a most estimable institution. When he was a director he saw that every dollar that came in was turned over to the treasurer, and for a time everything went along smoothly. They then thought it would be a good idea to reorganize and have some of New-York's most respected citizens as officers and directors, but Mr. Thompson had the concern in his own hands, and elected men of his own choosing, and Mr. Sperry and Mr. Havemeyer resigned. Mr. Sperry considers Mr. Thompson to be a man who has little or no discretion in acting for the society, and once or twice advised him to resign.

Stephen Pell, importer at No. 21 John-st., was treasurer of the society from Sept. 26, 1875, until July 7, 1876, and has no confidence in Mr. Thompson whatever. Mr. Pell states that the rules of the society decree that no salary is to be paid out of the appropriations; when asked where Mr. Thompson's salary came from, he said he did not know and could not guess. Watson Sanford, one of the proprietors of the National Stove Works of No. 239 Water-st., was a director with Mr. Pell, and resigned at the same time, not being the kind of work the society was carried on. Mr. Sanford thinks Mr. Thompson was "crazy" insane, and believes that his affairs should have been investigated long ago.

DR. MARY WALKER ON DRESS.

A ferocious Spitz dog and a man with immensely long hair responded to the ring of a TRIBUNE reporter at No. 334 Bowery, on Tuesday night. "Dr. Mary Walker is in and will lecture to reporters this evening," was the information given by the man, who found his hands full in keeping the dog from devouring the visitor. "Walk up stairs, Sir. Here you are. Take a seat, and I will send for the Doctor." As the lecturer did not appear immediately, this gentleman chatted in a lively manner about "Mary," as he called her. Her youth, medical training, army experience, reform movements—all were reviewed. The rest of the audience meanwhile came in and formed a circle. With only one exception the reporters were old, sedate-looking men, who were expected to be improved by advice on "The Reform in Women's Dress." "I fear that Mary is a little insane on the subject of"—but the long-haired gentleman was interrupted by the entrance of the Doctor herself. She wore a coat and trousers of blue silk, a man's hat, and patent-leather shoes with thick soles. Her hair was a red rose. Her face is fair but attractive, with a tween of color upon each cheek, and a pair of sparkling, laughing eyes. She has a profusion of long black curls. Her height is 5 feet 2 inches, her weight 100 pounds, and her age 41 years.

"Before our lecture begins," she said, "let's have a nice little talk," and the Doctor sat upon a sofa beside THE TRIBUNE reporter and engaged in animated conversation. "It isn't true," she declared, "that Sam Tilden proposed to me or that I ever broached matrimony to him. Any one with but a single eye, however, could see if he had become Pres-ident he ought to have had a wife. I don't hold all the men by any means. I want to be with them all I can," and then she branched off into her favorite theme—reform in dress. She was terribly annoyed at Washington in trying to advance the cause, she said. Men dressed more sensible than women, and she would prove it. She described and illustrated the clothing which she would have women wear. Her own attire was taken as a pattern. "I feel awfin good in my chemaloon," she said, "and then I wear suspenders, too. Of course I do. Every morning I get into my envelope," as we term our reformed dresses, and I don't care for all creation."

The Doctor then led her audience to the lecture-room, where she described the evil effects, physically, of the present style of dress among women. Upon the walls were plates and diagrams, and upon the tables were models showing the deformities caused by fashionable clothing. The evils, she said, were both physical and moral. Tight lacing and heavy dresses and other clothing suspended from the hips caused falling of the womb and other diseases prevalent among women. There was not a woman today in this country, who dressed after the prevailing style, who was not suffering to some extent from uterine diseases. The compression of the body produced abnormal and painful swellings in the chest and impeded the circulation of the blood. The bad consequences of wearing tight garters were also dwelt upon, and the advantages of trousers were emphatically asserted. The lecturer was very enthusiastic in her commendation of the attire of men as compared with that of women.

A DRUNKEN MAN BRUTALLY ASSAULTS A WOMAN.

Coroner Woltman took the ante-mortem statement yesterday of Christiana Mattern of No. 352 East Fourth-st., who is suffering from injuries received on Sunday from another inmate of the house, Christian Authorst. She stated that on that day her husband had a fight with Authorst, caused by the latter's attempt to kick Mattern's daughter. Mattern was arrested, and was not released until Monday morning. About 10 o'clock on Sunday evening, when Mrs. Mattern went down to the yard, Authorst struck and kicked her. She could give no reason for his assault; she said she had never spoken to him, nor had she had any trouble with any member of his family. He was drunk, and had been so the whole day. She had been with child for six months. Deputy Coroner Miller thought yesterday that the injured woman could not live, and Coroner Woltman issued a warrant for the arrest of Authorst.

Authorst, who is also known as Christian Endholz, was arrested late in the evening by Detective O'Connor of the Eleventh Precinct, as he was entering his house.

PANEL THIEVES CAPTURED.

Charles L. McArthur, who lives in Troy and is visiting this city, was robbed of his watch, chain, and diamond ring on Monday night in the Manhattan House, while in company with a woman named Jennie Wood. Capt. McDonnell, who knew that it was a case of panel-thieving, yesterday captured Wm. Tracey, the woman's accomplice. He ascertained that the thief was at Paige's Hotel, at the foot of Spring-st., with a man named Gatrand. The two yesterday offered to sell the diamond for $50. The captain watched them. They left the hotel and entered a carriage. The captain called another and followed them. He overtook them at Macdougal and Spring sts., arrested them, and locked them up in the Central Office.

Jennie Wood was arrested by Detective Reynolds of the Tenth Precinct last evening.

HUDSON RIVER COMMUTERS COMPLAINING.

Commuters on the Hudson River Railroad living at Peekskill or stations nearer New-York complain that they have been put to much inconvenience by the recent changes in the time table, as many of them reside where the express trains do not stop, and are consequently delayed in reaching their homes in the evening. Under these circumstances, they ask the railroad authorities to change the starting time of the Peekskill train now leaving the Grand Central Depot at 6:20 p. m. so that it shall depart some time between 5:20 and 5:40 p. m.

FIVE RECRUITS FOR TURKEY.

STORY OF THE ARABS NOW AT CASTLE GARDEN.

Seven Algerians, who claim to be escaped military prisoners from French Guiana, arrived at this port a few days ago from Wilmington, N. C. Upon their arrival two of them went to Boston. The others remain at Castle Garden. The Mayor, having been informed of their arrival, informed the steamship company that it would be held responsible for any liabilities which these men contracted. The company then offered to take them back to Wilmington, but they refused to go, for fear that the authorities there would send them back to French Guiana, in which case they felt certain of being executed. These five men are: Messerut Ben Abed, 35 years of age; has two wives and several children; he had been sentenced to be executed. Bommedian Ben Lechlar, 25 years old; has one wife; sentenced to be executed. Rabe Ben Abdrahman, 26 years old; single; 10 years' imprisonment. Hamed Ben Said, 45 years old; has two wives; 12 years' imprisonment. Said Ben Ali, 37 years old; has one wife; 20 years' imprisonment.

Their story as told to the reporter of THE TRIBUNE is as follows: In January, 1870, during the French and Prussian war, the Algerians revolted. Messerut Ben Abed, then second in authority, with his tribe, was captured. Five hundred of the prisoners were shot. Messerut and Bommedien were condemned to death. After being in prison about six months, Messerut paying 1,500 gold pieces (Napoleons), and Bommedien paying 2,000 francs, their sentence was commuted to transportation. Bommedien was spoken of as an "ugly" man, and had bayonetted five prominent French officers. The prisoners were then sent to French Guiana, where they remained about six years, working on the roads. In May, 1876, 14 of them made their escape in a large Government canoe. After drifting about for nearly two weeks, they reached Demerara, from where they wandered to Georgetown and obtained employment. They staid there three months, and saved about 125 francs with which nine of them paid their passage to Trinidad. They stopped there about six months working on the fortifications, and then worked their passage to Wilmington, N. C. They remained at Wilmington about six weeks trying to obtain work to enable them to return to Tunis, where their families reside, but they were arrested as vagrants, and the Mayor to get rid of them paid their passage to New-York.

A Turkish gentleman, claiming to be an officer, waited upon the Arabs yesterday, and enrolled them as soldiers, to go to Turkey as soon as a regiment can be organized. He said that he expected advices from Turkey which would give him authority to return all subjects to their homes. He also gave them their meals. So thankful were they that they fell upon their faces and kissed his feet. An opportunity was offered them yesterday to go in the country to work at $12 a month, but they declined, saying that they preferred going to Turkey to fight. Edward Sherer, the Turkish Consul, was called upon for information, but he said he knew of no authority having been given for the enrollment of any Turkish subjects who desired to return home. Col. H. S. Olcott, who interested himself last Fall in behalf of nine Arabs who were in this country, called yesterday upon those now at Castle Garden. The men are quiet and very attentive to their religious duties. They go to the north-east corner of the building four times a day, and unitedly perform their devotions, at the same time "looking toward Mecca." They are all somewhat proficient in the French language.

GILMORE'S GARDEN IN SUMMER DRESS.

Workmen were busily engaged yesterday in putting the finishing touches to the decoration of Gilmore's Garden, which it was thought then would be entirely in readiness by this noon for the first concert this evening. The interior arrangements are the same in their general plan as those which made the garden attractive last Summer, but nearly everything is new, and the details of ornamentation have been more carefully perfected. As one enters the building from either end he is almost dazzled by its gorgeous hues upon the roof and the pillars which support it, for beams and cross-pieces are hung with flags and streamers of all nations. It is not, however, by any means a confusion of colors, for the greatest care has been taken to preserve harmony and symmetry in the display. Against each of the forward pillars hangs the coat-of-arms of a State or Territory, with a gilt eagle hovering over it and flags displayed on each side, while the coats of arms of foreign nations, similarly decorated, are fastened to the rear row of pillars. Long streamers hang in festoons from the parallel beams which cross the building just below the curved center roof. The garden proper has been turfed, and the walks winding serve through it and include it are covered with fine white gravel. A multitude of evergreens has been set out along the front of the balconies and within the garden, and plants of many kinds, including 150 tropical varieties, for the most part from the West Indies, fill every portion of the inclosure. Evergreens wind along the supports and hang in festoons between the pillars. The grottoes near the Madison-ave. entrance have been rebuilt, and look more rustic and picturesque than ever before. The balconies on either side are well supplied with seats and tables, and settees line the walks in all quarters of the building. The cascade at the east end has been restored, and the fountains on each side of the music stand have been surrounded with plants and flowers. From hanging baskets filled with ferns and vines have been suspended between the pillars. A large number of pieces of lawn statuary will be placed in position today. Registers have been put in along the front of the balconies, through which each minute 70,000 cubic feet of fresh air will be driven into the building by a large steam fan. Mr. Sohn is confident that this arrangement will not only make the building the coolest in the city, but will keep the grass and plants green and vigorous.

BUSINESS EMBARRASSMENTS.

The liabilities of Fitzsimmons, Clark & Co., dry goods dealers at No. 65 Franklin-st., who made an assignment a few days ago, amount to about $100,000; an inventory of stock is being taken to ascertain the value of the assets.

Julius Lesner, importer of lace at No. 29 Mercer-st., whose failure was announced on Monday, has liabilities of $10,000.

The application of Geo. Haid Brothers, wholesale liquor dealers, late of No. 50 Broadway, for a discharge from bankruptcy was vigorously opposed yesterday before Register Little. The firm failed about two years ago, owing $160,000. The creditors who refused then to accept a compromise at 50 cents on the dollar probably will not receive more than 10 cents when the estate is finally settled.

Rufus W. Peckham, who recently made an assignment for the benefit of creditors, has filed his schedules in the Court of Common Pleas showing his liabilities at $99,250, his personal assets at $155,752 48, and his real assets at $10,836 16.

SETTLING TROTTING APPEALS.

The Board of Appeals of the Atlantic District of the National Trotting Association yesterday relaxed the petition of David Shaull of Chicago, whose jockey had entered a horse under a false name at Fleetwood Park last summer, and had been expelled, asking that the jockey be reinstated, and complaining that the fine of $200 was excessive. Several other cases of minor importance were settled, and the Board adjourned without day.

THE GERMAN CATHOLICS.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, May 23.—The German Catholic Central Association held their third session today. The Committee on the School system reported as follows:

First: The Catholics do not fight the school system now in existence, but leave it to itself and its own development; but they think the best solution of the school question under the circumstances now in existence is to bring their pupils to the highest possible perfection, so that they will not only be equal but superior to others.

Second: Catholics should make their own schools free schools if possible. They should see that all children in Catholic schools should get instruction gratis. There should be organized school societies in all Catholic communities, which shall furnish the necessary funds for the support of such schools. The members of the Central Association pledge themselves to work with the utmost zeal for the establishment and support of school societies.

Third: Statistical reports on Catholic school matters in our country are desirable, so as to always have full knowledge on the status of the schools.

The report was unanimously adopted without debate.

On motion, the Executive Committee was instructed to take the necessary steps for the incorporation of the association.

The Committee on Printing recommended, and it was adopted, that the societies should be urged to support the *Vereinsbote*.

The following officers were elected: President, S. J. Spannhorst, St. Louis; Vice-President, F. Westerholt, Cleveland; Recording Secretary, the Rev. A. Schwenniger, New-York; Corresponding Secretary, F. Heiner, Buffalo; Treasurer, Louis Ernst, Rochester.

The next convention will be held at Indianapolis on next Pentecost Day.

BANK OFFICERS' CONFESSIONS.

HARTFORD, Conn., May 23.—In the United States Court to-day, John C. Tracy, ex-President, and James L. Chapman, ex-cashier of the Farmers' and Mechanics' National Bank here, pleaded guilty, the former in making false returns, and the latter to perjury in swearing to them. The National Bank examiner states that the loss to the bank would be $598,000.

WM. PALM'S WILL.

ST. LOUIS, May 23.—The will of Wm. Palm, a prominent German citizen of this city, who died in Rome in 1870, was admitted to probate to day. It bequeaths the larger part of his estate, amounting to about $100,000, to Washington University here.

A RUSSIAN SHIP ARMING IN CALIFORNIA.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 23.—W. T. Garratt & Co. have been supplying the Russian corvette Japonetz, now in this harbor and expecting soon to sail under sealed orders, with a quantity of war material, understood to consist mainly of torpedo cases, though the firm and the officers of the Japonetz are indisposed to give information on the subject.

The Cincinnati Gazette says: "Ex-Speaker Randall sells his convictions for a mess of pottage." That's a remarkably good price, we think, for them to bring in these times.—[N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.

THE COURTS.

THE LONG ISLAND RAILROAD CONTEST.

A VERDICT TO-DAY IN THE HAVEMEYER SUIT.

The suit of William A. Havemeyer and Henry O. Havemeyer, administrators of Albert Havemeyer, against John C. Havemeyer and Henry Havemeyer, which has been on trial for nearly three weeks before Judge Curtis in Superior Court, Trial Term, was submitted yesterday to the jury. Albert Havemeyer held 11,196 Long Island Railroad shares (par $50), the total capital stock being 66,000 shares. William F. Havemeyer held 6,644 shares. This stock was bought from Oliver Charlick, and Albert and William F. Havemeyer acted with the Charlick management. After their deaths, John C. Havemeyer, who owned nearly 10,000 shares, became dissatisfied with the Charlick management, and in the Spring of 1875, or the Winter of 1874-5, an arrangement was made between the plaintiffs, John C. Havemeyer and Henry Havemeyer, who represented William F. Havemeyer's stock, and owned some stock himself, that their stock—nearly a majority—should be united with such stock as they could influence for the election of a different directory of the company. This was carried out, and on April 13, 1875, a new board of directors was elected, including the two defendants, Henry Havemeyer was elected President, and John C. Havemeyer and two gentlemen representing the Albert Havemeyer stock were placed on the Executive Committee. It was claimed by the plaintiffs that at that time it was understood that neither party would sell out without consulting the other. The plaintiffs as administrators were then anxious to sell out to close up the estate, and were negotiating for a sale of their stock to H. C. Poppenhusen, then controlling the rival roads both north and south of the Long Island road. Of this the defendants were aware. These negotiations continued through the Summer and Fall, John E. Parsons and Henry O. Havemeyer conducting them for the plaintiffs. It was known that Mr. Poppenhusen would pay largely for enough stock to control the road. On Nov. 24, 1875, the plaintiffs and defendants entered into a verbal agreement that neither party should sell without the other. They then contracted together a majority of the stock. The terms of the agreement are the subject of dispute. The plaintiffs claim that it was unlimited, except on either side's giving formal notice to the other. The defendants say it was only to continue until the Monday following Nov. 29, 1875. On Jan. 26, 1876, the defendants sold their own stock, and the stock of some other persons intrusted to them for sale, without the plaintiffs' stock, at 75 per cent, to Mr. Poppenhusen. The plaintiffs say this was a breach of the agreement, and a fraud on them; that the stock left on their hands is practically unsalable, or at most, not worth more than 40 per cent. Pending these negotiations the plaintiffs had distributed the stock of the Albert Havemeyer estate among those entitled to it, though they had been encouraged to act for the holders in this matter. They themselves owned 4,211 shares, and they claimed damages for the difference of 35 per cent between the 75 per cent obtained by the defendants and 40 per cent, the highest price now attainable, amounting to about $74,000, which, with interest, would now be more than $80,000.

The defendants substantially concede on the main points the accuracy of the statement of the plaintiffs down to Nov. 24, 1875. They claim that they did not desire to sell their stock at that time, but under pressure, in part from the plaintiffs, agreed then to a sale within a strictly limited time of all the interests together; they obtained control of a considerable amount of stock and, after the limit fixed by their agreement, bought over 7,000 shares from the estate of Oliver Charlick at 60 or 65 per cent. On Dec. 14, two weeks later, they were told by Henry O. Havemeyer that he had an offer at 75 per cent, part cash and part credit, for the stock. The amount then held altogether by both plaintiffs and defendants was about 35,500 shares, or more than a majority, and the defendants declined to accept the offer, the agreement and the subsequent talk on their part only contemplating a cash sale. Testimony was given on the trial that this offer was for 34,500 shares only, and included an agreement that six directors should resign and that over $800,000 should remain on a long credit. The defendants say that the exact terms were not communicated to them then, but the next day they distinctly told Mr. Parsons that he was free to continue separately his negotiations, after they had been told that if they would not join, the plaintiffs could get a majority of the stock so as to make the sale.

The plaintiffs say that before this the defendants were in negotiation with Mr. Poppenhusen for their own interest, and that the purchase of the Charlick stock, and their whole conduct at this time, was to obtain advantage to themselves by keeping the plaintiffs from selling their stock, and that in the transaction the defendants cleared $25,000, of which $76,000 was at the expense of the plaintiffs.

During the trial a motion to nonsuit was made on the ground that the contract alleged by the plaintiffs was against public policy and void. The motion was overruled.

Judge Curtis, in charging the jury yesterday, after stating the admitted facts, said that the only questions for the jury to try. What was the verbal agreement of Nov. 24, 1875? Was it to end, as claimed by the defendants, within a few days, or was it to extend pending the negotiations? Under requests from counsel he held that directors were trustees for all stockholders, and had no right to make any contract that could bring their interests in antagonism to those of the stockholders. This did not, however, preclude an agreement to sell a controlling interest, for the new directors would be held to the same duty to the stockholders as themselves.

The jury was brought to bring in a sealed verdict this morning. John E. Parsons appeared for the plaintiffs; Charles F. Macleod and Henry A. Crane for the defendants.

FINDING A WILL IN A HOTEL SAFE.

A curious complication has arisen in the Surrogate's Office over the estate of Samuel F. Duncan, a Southerner who lived for several years in this city. Mr. Duncan inherited a fortune from his father, Dr. Samuel Duncan of Natchez, Miss. In 1867 he married a second time and traveled extensively in Europe. On his return he boarded at the New-York Hotel. In March, 1872, he went to New-Orleans on business and there died. His wife had understood from him that he had previously drawn a will, but no trace of it could be found among his papers, and H. P. Duncan, his brother, filed bond and letters of administration. The widow claimed a share of $20,000 in lieu of dower and in satisfaction of any claims against the estate. The personal property valued at $20,000 was in the hand up to payment claims of various kinds, and the administrator paid over to Mr. Duncan's son a few hundred dollars, balance. The real estate in the South went to the son upon his reaching his majority. The final accounting of the administrator was made in the Surrogate last Fall, and the widow distributed from his share. A few weeks after the accounts were settled Mr. Duncan's will was found among some private papers in locked up rooms of the former proprietors of the New-York Hotel in the hotel safe. By the will Mrs. Duncan was given the use during her life of the family residence and furniture, No. 34 West Thirty-third-st., and an annuity of $1,000. The remainder of the property was left to the son upon his attaining the age of 21 years. The will was drawn in 1867, and was offered for probate yesterday, more than five years after Mr. Duncan's death. The bed estate, which has never been disposed of, consists of three plantations, two in Mississippi and one in Louisiana, all valued at a low estimate at $60,000. James Hendersen, counsel for Mrs. Duncan, who offered the will for probate, said yesterday that he could not tell whether or not a contest would grow out of the mixed state of affairs, but he hoped it could be avoided. If the will were admitted to probate he thought there would be no further trouble.

THE NATIONAL CAPITOL LIFE ATTACHED.

Robert G. French insured his life for $5,000 for the benefit of his wife in the National Life Insurance Company of this city, which failed and was reinsured in the American Life and Trust Company of New-Haven, which reinsured with the National Capital Life Insurance Company of Washington, on the death of Mr. French. The widow obtained a judgment against the company and obtained an attachment against its property as a foreign corporation. A motion was made yesterday in Supreme Court, Chambers, on behalf of the company for an order vacating the attachment on the ground that the contract of the New-Haven company was not with the policy-holders but with the receiver of the National Life Insurance Company, and that the defendants assumed no other contract than that of the New-Haven company. As it appeared that Mr. French paid interest on his premium notes directly to the defendant, Judge Barrett intimated a strong impression that the point was not well taken.

DEALING IN ADULTERATED MILK.

The case of John Lynch, fined by the Court of Special Sessions $100 for selling watered milk, was before the Supreme Court, General Term, yesterday, on appeal. The appellant claims that the complaint was defective in form and that the ordinance of the Health Board under which he was convicted is void in that it undertakes to legislate on a matter for which the statute law already provides a remedy, and that the evidence was insufficient to convict. The court reserved its decision. Lewis Weimer appeared for the appellant; W. F. Penalver for the Board of Health. The case of Schrumpf, convicted in the Court of General Sessions, which it is understood the Milk Dealers' Association desires to make a test case, was adjourned over the term.

Herman Wellman, a dealer in adulterated milk at No. 403 West Thirty-third-st., was yesterday fined $50 in the Court of General Sessions.

CIVIL NOTES.

The will of the late Dr. Charles A. Budd, which was offered for probate yesterday, leaves an estate of $20,000 to the widow, Mary E. Budd.

United States Judge Johnson has granted a temporary injunction restraining the city authorities from selling the property of the Charter Oak Life Insurance Company, seized to satisfy assessments for the opening of Church-st. from Fulton to Morris-st.

Bernard H. Kenny applied to Judge J. F. Daly for a guardian to bring a suit against Henry Rogers for malicious prosecution. He says that on April 21, 1877, Rogers had him arrested in Canal-st. on a charge of stealing pocket-knives. He was tried and acquitted, but lost his situation. George J. Smith was appointed his guardian.

In the suit of Margaret Manning, administrator, against John Hogan, for $5,000 for the death of her husband, who was killed by the fall of a scaffolding, the jury gave a verdict for the plaintiff for $5,000. John H. Dos Passos appeared for the plaintiff; John H. Strahan for the defendant. The case was tried before Judge Van Vorst, in Supreme Court, Circuit.

In the case of Matthew Lyons against Joseph Rosenthal and another, the Supreme Court, General Term, has reversed the judgment of the court below. The plaintiff, in May, 1874, was injured by the fall of a box of goods on the defendant's premises, and brought an action for damages. The court below held that the falling of the box in itself did not show negligence in the defendants, and that the plaintiff, in order to recover, should prove a want of care in them. The General Term sets aside the verdict, holding that the occurrence of itself raised a presumption of negligence against the defendants, which requires them to show that they exercised proper care. A. R. McMahon for the plaintiff; James M. Smith for the defendants.

Charles W. Trotter, assignee in bankruptcy of G. W. Moore & Co. (composed of George W. Moore, Henry A Bowen, Orville L. Grant, and Eugene V. Blunt), presented a petition to Judge Barrett, in Supreme Court, Chambers, for leave to sue William A. Moore, who he says was appointed receiver after the bankruptcy of the firm, but gave an insufficient bond and sold all the property except an order for $400 issued by Mr. Steinmetz, supervising architect of the Post-Office, in favor of the firm, on the Collector of the Port, and contested by him, and has not paid the proceeds to the creditors. The leave was granted.

An application was made to Judge Curtis, in Superior Court, Special Term, in the suit of Frederick P. Smith against Josephine F. Smith for additional alimony and counsel fee. The referee to whom the case was sent found in the wife's favor. His fees are $150, and the husband threatens an appeal. The wife asks, therefore, $125 50 for past alimony, $150 for referee's fees, $350 for past costs, and $250 for her future defense. She says she is dependent on her needle, while her husband received $6,000 from his father's estate. It was shown, however, that her former attorney received $60 counsel fee, and she accepted $100 in satisfaction of all future alimony, and gave her husband a release and stipulation to make no further application for alimony and expenses, and Judge Curtis holds her to her stipulation.

THE COURT OF APPEALS.

ALBANY, N. Y., May 23.—In the Court of App