TANGLED EXCISE ACCOUNTS.

RESULTS OF THE EXAMINATION.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF ACCOUNTS—GREAT LOOSENESS IN ADMINISTRATION FOUND—A DEFICIENCY OF $50,260—EACH COMMISSIONER HELD TO BE RESPONSIBLE.

The report of the Commissioners of Accounts of the result of their examination of the books of the Board of Excise, was transmitted, through the Mayor, to the Board of Aldermen yesterday. The report shows great looseness in the administration of the old board, places the deficiency in the amount of deposits for licenses in 1877 at $50,260, and holds each Commissioner responsible to the liquor dealers who suffer through Murphy's defalcation.

THE REPORT.

The Commissioners first set forth the organization of the Board of Excise of 1877. They state, very curtly, that "Mr. Murphy absconded December 22, 1877." The facts are mentioned that no security was required of the treasurer; that he managed the excise moneys as he chose, without the express sanction, though with the knowledge, of the other members of the board, and that license fees were received with the provision that the money should be returned if licenses were not granted within ten days. The report then continues, in substance:

The Excise Commissioners had no authority to receive these deposits, and from the beginning of their administration they disregarded the condition upon which the deposit was received by them, as expressed in their receipt granted therefor. As a general thing, these applications were not acted upon by the board for months after the application was made, and fully one-half of the applications made subsequent to May 1, 1877, have not been acted upon at all. The books of the board show that during the year ending May 1, 1877, the amount of deposits upon applications for licenses was $298,691 75. Of this amount, $287,262 25 was paid the City Chamberlain, and $5,234 75 was returned, leaving a balance of $6,194 75, which remains to the credit of the board in the German Exchange Bank. Whether the above sum of $298,691 75 is the correct aggregate amount of moneys received by the board during the year, it is impossible to say. One of the books of the board, a license book, containing a record of licenses issued during a portion of the year, disappeared from the office of the board the day after the decision of the Court of Appeals was given which determined the laws in force in relation to the granting of licenses. No Commissioner or employé of the board would, if he could, give any information as to this record. The minutes of the board do not show the licenses which were granted and issued. Being unable to determine the number of licenses actually granted on applications accompanied with deposits made during the year ending May 1, 1877, it is not possible to state with accuracy whether the amount of $287,262 25 paid to the Chamberlain, as above, represents the aggregate of the license fees which ought to have been paid over to him.

Applications for licenses from May 1, 1877, to May 1, 1878, continued to be made to the board, as during the preceding year, and a deposit was at the same time generally made with the board. To the transactions of the board in reference to these deposit moneys our investigation has been principally directed.

Investigation has satisfied us that the books of the Excise Board do not contain a correct or faithful record of the money transactions of the board subsequent to May 1, 1877. All the sums deposited with the board when the applications were made were not entered in the books. Moneys were in some instances deposited by applicants for licenses and receipts given, but no entries of such deposits are to be found in the records of the Excise Board. Receipts were signed in blank by the chief clerk, Mr. Donahue, and such receipts were used and moneys obtained thereon by parties connected with the department, no record of which is to be found in the books of the board. Deposits were made when no receipts were given, and in some cases the receipt bears a different name from that entered in the books, and in others a different address or description of the premises for which the application was made. In still other cases entries are to be found in the books as of deposits made by persons who never did make any deposit or apply for any license.

On the rejection of an application and the return of the deposit money the rule was to make the repayment by check, signed by Owen Murphy, treasurer. Many of these checks, though purporting to bear Mr. Murphy's signature, do not appear to us to be in his handwriting. In some instances the persons whose names appear indorsed upon these checks, as having received the repayment of their deposit, state that no such repayment was ever made. One clerk of the board, Mr. Childs, was in the habit of receiving sums of money from applicants, of which, he states, he has kept a record in a small pass-book. These sums amount to $1,250. No entry is to be found in the books of the board of any portion of these moneys being handed to the board. The explanation given as to these payments is that they were taken on account as deposits by direction of Mr. Murphy, and that the amounts received were handed to Mr. Murphy personally. Almost all the employés of the board were in the habit of charging applicants, whenever they thought they could succeed in obtaining the same, a fee varying from $1 to $10 upon the application papers. We are of the opinion that at least $12,000 was collected in this manner during the year 1877.

The books show that the deposits for licenses from May 1, to December 22, 1877, amounted to $274,617 41. The deposits in the German Exchange Bank amounted to $274,357 41. Mr. Murphy drew from the bank $252,230 36, leaving a balance, on the day of his flight, of $22,127 05. The amount drawn from the bank was used as follows:

Payments made to the Chamberlain, one of $10,000 and the other of $100, 00, each by check, signed by Mr. Murphy, treasurer	$140,000 00
Repayment of deposits on rejected applications	22,230 36
Mr. Murphy	90,000 00
Total	$252,230 36

The $90,000 was drawn from the bank by Mr. Murphy with the evident intent of appropriating the same to his own use.

The fees payable on licenses actually issued from May 1, to December 31, 1877, amounted to $120,055. The Chamberlain, however, had been paid $140,000 out of the deposits, so that he received, in excess of the amount properly payable to him, $19,945. The entire deposits from May 1, to December 22, 1877, were $274,617 41. The disposition which has been or should have been made of this amount, is as follows:

Returned to depositors	$ 22,230 36
Fees on licenses granted	120,055 00
Balance which should be returned to depositors	132,332 05

The only available funds from which these repayments can be made are the following:

Balance in German Exchange Bank, Dec. 22, 1877	$ 22,127 05
Balance to the credit of O. Murphy, treasurer, in the Pacific Bank	40,000 00
Balance in hands of Chamberlain, being excess paid to him from deposits for license fees over amounts due on licenses granted	19,945 00
	$82,072 05
Deficiency	50,260 00
Total	$132,332 05

This deficiency is accounted for as follows:

Differences between amount collected and amount deposited in bank in 1877	$260 00
Amount drawn by Murphy from German Exchange Bank, August 27, 1877, and deposited in Bowery National Bank, and subsequently drawn by him for his own use	40,000 00
Amount drawn by Murphy from German Exchange Bank December 22, 1877, deposited in Pacific Bank $50,000 00	
Remaining in Pacific Bank 40,000 00	
Drawn by Murphy from Pacific Bank, December 22, 1877	10,000 00
Total	$50,260 00

This deficiency of $50,260 is exclusive of the $1,250 paid to Mr. Childs and the $12,000 collected by the employés of the board. The difficulties in the way of obtaining the facts as to each of these special cases, we found to be an effectual bar to our prosecuting the inquiry in that direction.

The Commissioners of Excise received the deposits entirely on their own responsibility, and without the sanction or authority of law. The deposits in such circumstances were mere voluntary consignments by the applicants for licenses with the Commissioners of Excise, and were received and held by the latter in trust for the exclusive benefit of the parties making the deposits. For the application of this fund to the purpose of which it was received the Commissioners are alone responsible, and to the respective depositors all the Commissioners are equally responsible.

The books of the board show a deficiency of $50,260 on the moneys deposited with the Commissioners. There is traced directly to Commissioner Murphy $50,000, and of this amount Mr. Murphy seems to have appropriated $40,000 as far back as August 27, 1877. No concealment was attempted as to the transaction in any way whatever. The check-book was not in the possession of Mr. Murphy more than in the possession of the other Commissioners, neither was the bank-book, nor the cash-book. These books were in daily use, were handled by the subordinates of the Commissioners, entries were made by these subordinates in the check-book and in the cash book, and it is no answer therefore of the other Commissioners to say that they were not aware of Mr. Murphy's transaction. And to say that they were ignorant thereof only shows gross dereliction of duty on their part. The subordinates of the board were evidently fully aware of the transaction referred to, and it is not too much to say that their proceedings, as above explained, show an evident determination to make on their part all they possibly could in the peculiar circumstances.

There being, in fact, a deficiency of at least $50,260 to reimburse depositors, it is clear that no portion of the funds on hand could be applied by the present Board of Excise to the payment of license fees, for any license the board might grant on application made preceding the date they entered upon the duties of their office. To apply any portion of the funds deposited with the late Commissioners to the payment of license fees granted by the present Commissioners, would be to give to those parties who received their licenses a preference on the fund to those whose licenses might be rejected, and for this reason we advised the present Commissioners that the funds ought not to be so applied by them, and they have taken action accordingly. To us it appears that the only course which can be followed to secure the rights of all parties interested, is to have the balance of the funds remaining, which had been deposited with the Commissioners, distributed pro rata among the depositors, under judicial proceedings, and in these proceedings the necessary authority can be obtained to institute on behalf of all parties interested the appropriate action against the late Commissioners, to make good the deficiency as far as they have means to respond thereto.

LOANS TO C. J. VANDERBILT.

MORE TESTIMONY IN THE WILL CONTEST.

GEORGE N. TERRY'S RELATIONS WITH WILLIAM H. VANDERBILT'S BROTHER—A VISIT TO A GAMBLING HOUSE.

The contest over the will of Commodore Vanderbilt was resumed, yesterday, before Surrogate Calvin. The attendance in the morning was small, but in the afternoon the court-room was crowded. With William H. Vanderbilt and Augustus Scheil appeared the counsel for the executors, Henry L. Clinton and ex-Judge Comstock. Cornelius J. Vanderbilt was accompanied by Dr. Swazey; Scott Lord and ex-Judge Black appeared, as usual, for the contestants.

George N. Terry was recalled, and his cross-examination lasted throughout the day. He said that he became acquainted with Cornelius J. Vanderbilt in 1867, while the latter was residing in Hartford, and the witness was one of the proprietors of the United States Hotel in Fulton-st. Mr. Vanderbilt was frequently at the house while in New-York, and there the two men became intimately acquainted. Many transactions between them began in 1869, when the witness loaned Mr. Vanderbilt $1,000 in various small loans, and without taking notes or other security. In 1870 $2,000 was loaned in one sum, and to the note given Mrs. C. J. Vanderbilt's name was also signed. This signature was given at Mrs. Vanderbilt's own suggestion. Mr. Terry said that he supposed that Mr. Vanderbilt would pay it some time, although he did not believe that there was any property at that time to secure his debt, aside from the house and lot in Hartford belonging to Mrs. Vanderbilt. The amount of the loans in 1870 was between $5,000 and $6,000, secured by six or seven notes. During this year the witness did not go into any gambling houses with C. J. Vanderbilt. The only reason that the latter assigned for needing the money was to meet current and necessary expenses. About $5,000 was loaned, and notes were given in exchange in 1871. At the end of 1871 no repayments had been made. Mr. Vanderbilt told him that he expected money from his father, and would pay him sooner or later. The witness had no expectation of getting the money until after Commodore Vanderbilt's death. In 1872 several thousands—perhaps five—were loaned in a similar manner. The whole debt at the end of that year amounted to about $16,000. The loans since that time aggregated less than $2,000. At the times when the loans were made the witness did not know personally of gambling habits on the part of C. J. Vanderbilt, although the latter had told him that he had gambled several times. Walking together one day in 1871 the two had gone into a gambling-house, No. 850 Broadway, where Mr. Vanderbilt won $100. Aside from this he did not know that C. J. Vanderbilt had gambled more than two or three times. Since Commodore Vanderbilt's death about $1,000 of interest on the loans had been paid.

The witness admitted that he was not a man of wealth. He had very little beside the amount that was due him from Mr. Vanderbilt, and could ill-afford to be kept out of possession of his property. He left the United States Hotel in 1872, selling for $43,000 what had cost him $85,000. His liabilities were greater than his assets. From 1872 to 1875 the witness lived on the $3,000 of interest paid by Mr. Vanderbilt, and the proceeds from the collection of old debts. In 1875 the witness became jointly interested with this brother in the Island House. The debt of C. J. Vanderbilt to the witness at the present time amounted to $25,000 or $30,000. Since 1872 the two men had been almost constant companions, sleeping and eating and reading together almost all the time. The witness testified that there was no agreement by which he was to receive a portion of the proceeds, if the present contest succeeded, either in payment of his loans or in return for his care of C. J. Vanderbilt. While caring for Mr. Vanderbilt he had been kept out of other business, and had devoted his whole time to him. His age was forty, his health good, and he was an unmarried man.

"Have you been to see any witnesses in this case?" asked Mr. Clinton. "No, sir," replied Mr. Terry.

"Have you been to see any detectives or gamblers in the case?" "Gamblers in this case?" Mr. Terry exclaimed in apparent astonishment.

"Any detectives or gamblers who have been interested in the case?" Mr. Clinton repeated. "I have seen Mr. Daly, if he is a gambler, and I have seen Detectives Redman, Mason and Clark."

Dr. Swazey, Mr. Vanderbilt and he, the witness continued, had been living together since last June. They had been engaged in no particular occupation; they had been "having good times" in traveling or whatever else suited their fancies. The witness said he paid his own expenses; who paid Dr. Swazey's he didn't know.

Mr. Lord offered to show by the witness that since his last testimony was given, two months ago, he had been turned out from the Island House by William H. Vanderbilt.

Mr. Clinton—"We turned him out because he didn't pay his rent."

Mr. Lord—"That isn't true. Mr. Clinton takes this method to inject into this case expressions to favor his client and they don't belong here."

Surrogate Calvin—"This inquiry and this controversy have no place on the minutes. I hope the reporters, in their newspaper accounts, will so adjust the matter as to make it creditable to the counsel upon each side." [Laughter.]

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE CREDIT.

ENGLISH CONSOLS JUSTLY PREFERRED TO AMERICAN BONDS—THE TRIBUNE'S GOOD WORK.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: I want to assure you of the warm admiration your recent rousing defence of the National credit has excited in this vicinity. No terms are too severe with which to characterize the pending "pick-pocket legislation" (as Senator Hill so aptly puts it), at Washington. People are only half awake to the importance of this matter. They know what credit means as applied to themselves separately. How much time, pains and expense are used to build it up and to preserve it when built up. Is the credit of the Nation of less importance than the credit of the individuals composing it? We used to wonder that European investors preferred British consols (3 per cents) to the United States 5-20s (6 per cents). There was never any stronger reason for this than the evident fact that the tone and temper of financial legislation in the British Parliament and in the Congress of the United States were widely different. While in the first instance they saw a high sense of honor, and an unswerving fidelity to all pledges, whichever party happened to be in power, albeit the immediate payment of any portion of the bonded indebtedness was not contemplated; in the case of this country, the premature payment of over $500,000,000 of the public indebtedness did not offset the fact that certain prominent politicians of both parties evinced a disposition for sharp practice hardly respectable in petty tradesmen, and a decided penchant for a large variety of financial expedients long since exploded. The present outlook abundantly justifies the accuracy of their observation and the justice of their conclusions.

The public conscience is not thoroughly debauched, though it sadly needs to be aroused and instructed. THE TRIBUNE has never done better work than it is doing to-day, and it may rest assured of the sympathy and support of right-minded men of both parties. W. S. M.

Boston, Feb. 11, 1878.

COMPLAINTS FROM TAXPAYERS.

A meeting of the Taxpayers' Association of the Twenty-second Ward attracted a large number of people to the hall at Broadway and Forty-fourth-st., last night. The chairman, Wilbur Martin, and General Franz Sigel exhorted the taxpayers to organize, independently of party, in order to secure the equalization of the tax-burden, which was fast becoming unbearable. Simeon Church counselled a raid on the system of high salaries and political patronage. An honest day's labor for an honest day's pay was his motto in the fight against the deleterious Eight-Hour Law. The policy of the people should be to bind up the city in order that, with the increase of taxable property, the rate of taxation might be diminished. Simon Stern pointed out as the main cause of the city's inability to recover rapidly from financial disaster, the pressure of local taxation. The remedy he found in the transfer of the nominating power and the primary from the hands of the politicians to those of the citizens. Julian T. Davies gave his reasons for holding that the taxpayers' organizations would control the silent vote, and with it the balance of power.

Resolutions were adopted approving the bills of Senator Pomeroy and Hamilton Fish, jr., affecting local government in this city, Senator Reclesino's rapid transit bill, bills proposing extension of time for the payment of taxes in arrears, commending the completion of unfinished public works, repealing the eight-hour law; prohibiting the erection of telegraph poles in the streets, and suggesting an act to encourage building by exempting new structures from taxation for one or two years. The proposed constitutional amendments were approved.

THE MOLLY MAGUIRE MURDERERS.

PITTSBURG, Penn., Feb. 26.—The following are the Westmoreland County Molly Maguires for whose arrest warrants are issued. Henry Davis, who corroborated Parfitt's confession, Patrick Doughtery, George Carroll, John Snedden, Henry Devlin, Barney Murray, Peter Glenn, William Lewis, P. Murray, "Reddy" Gormley, "Jack" Woods, James Doren and Sandy Snedden. George Parfitt and Robert Wilfclaw are in jail at Greensburg. The others have fled. Paddy Doyle, formerly the leader, was drowned last Summer while crossing the river in a skiff. Sandy Snedden and Patrick Doyle kept taverns at Irwin's Station, and it was at their houses the gang met. Parfitt states that on the night of young Carroll's murder he was detailed to keep the railroad watchman from patrolling the tracks until after the fast line train had passed over the body, which his associates placed on the track. He did so by engaging the watchman in conversation.

RUN ON A MANCHESTER SAVINGS BANK.

MANCHESTER, N. H., Feb. 26.—In consequence of a continued run on the Amoskeag Savings Bank, the directors have enforced the thirty-day rule. The bank has made a statement showing absolute solvency, and prominent men who have examined its affairs state that no cause for anxiety exists.

KILLED BY RUNAWAY HORSES.

GARDINER, Me., Feb. 26.—Daniel Loring and Andrew Jeck, of this city, and Michael Mooney, of the Soldiers' Home, at Togus, were knocked senseless this morning by runaway horses. Loring was fatally injured. Jeck, who is a mail agent between Portland and Bangor, was severely injured, but Mooney was not dangerously hurt.

A STAY FOR A WRIT OF ERROR.

Joseph Arnold, sentenced by Recorder Hackett to seven years in State Prison for felonious assault and battery, obtained a temporary stay until the writ of error should be ready on which he desired to move for a stay until a decision by the appellate court. Judge Donohue extended, yesterday, this stay to Friday.

LOCAL MISCELLANY.

TWO POLICE CAPTAINS DISMISSED.

FOLEY OF THE TENTH AND SIEBERT OF THE THIRTY-FIRST PRECINCT DISCHARGED FROM THE FORCE.

A dispatch was sent from Police Headquarters to all the precincts in the city yesterday afternoon, giving notice that the Board of Police had dismissed from the force Captain Michael Foley, of the Tenth Precinct, and Captain Jacob Siebert, of the Thirty-first Precinct. This announcement created much excitement. Captains Foley and Siebert were ordered to the Central Office, where the latter was told that he had been dismissed for "conduct unbecoming an officer," and Captain Foley, that the cause of his removal was "neglect of duty." The captains thereupon took of their shields—Captain Siebert quietly, Captain Foley indignantly—and thus severed their connection with the Force. The cases of the dismissed captains have been before the Board of Police for several weeks. A decision would have been rendered before yesterday had not the sickness of Commissioner Wheeler prevented a meeting of a full board. The minutes of yesterday's meeting show that all of the Commissioners voted for the removal of the captains.

During their connection with the Police Department, Captain Foley and Captain Siebert have had charges preferred against them several times. The charge upon which Captain Foley has been found guilty was made against him last November by Superintendent Walling, and was sustained by Inspector Murray and several sergeants and inferior officers of the Fourteenth and Tenth Precincts. It recited that Captain Foley received from Police Justice Otterbourg a warrant for the arrest of Louisa Smith, the alleged proprietress of a house of ill-fame. Several weeks passed by, and Captain Foley had not executed the warrant. Finally, upon complaint from citizens, Inspector Murray closed the house, and made Louisa Smith and its other inmates prisoners. When taken before Justice Otterbourg, Inspector Murray's prisoners were discharged, on the ground that a warrant had already been issued for their apprehension. Soon after this charge was brought against him, Captain Foley was accused of violating the registry law, in that he had voted from the Tenth Precinct Station-house, while his place of residence was in another precinct. The captain employed Peter Mitchell to defend him in both cases. The last charge was easily set aside. In answer to the other charge, Captain Foley admitted the facts contained therein to be true, and explained that he had retained the warrant in order to discover who was the real proprietor or proprietress of the place. There was much rejoicing in the low haunts on the East side, last night, over Captain Foley's removal. Respectable residents deprecated it.

Captain Siebert was tried for perjury, the charge against him growing out of the dismissal, some months ago, of Sergeant Larkin and Roundsman Mark Haggerty, of the Thirty-first Precinct. These officers were dismissed for withholding a certain letter from the Police Commissioners. On their trial they swore that they withheld the letter upon the advice of Captain Siebert, but this Captain Siebert denied, under oath, declaring that he had never seen the letter. Charges of perjury were thereupon presented against him.

There was much discussion yesterday as to the successors of the dismissed captains. The Police Commissioners have determined upon no one as yet. Of the 144 sergeants from whom the new captains will be selected, those most frequently mentioned as the successors are Sergeant Tuck, drill-captain and assistant to the Superintendent at the Central Office; Sergeant Young, of Inspector Murray's staff; Sergeant Swift, of the Thirty-second Precinct, and Sergeant King, of the Fifteenth Precinct. The removal of the two captains, it is reported, will occasion several transfers of police captains. Captain Williams, of the Twenty-ninth, it is reported, will be placed in charge of the Tenth Precinct.

The board, yesterday, remanded Detective Walling to patrol duty, fined him twenty days' pay, and transferred him to the Thirty-second Precinct.

A RETIRED ARMY OFFICER ON TRIAL.

INVESTIGATION OF CHARGES AGAINST GENERAL O. L. SHEPHERD BY A COURT-MARTIAL.

The trial of General Oliver L. Shepherd, a retired officer of the United States Army, formerly in command of the 15th Regiment, United States Infantry, was begun, yesterday morning, in the Army building, at Houston and Greene-sts.

General Shepherd was present with his counsel, Elihu Root. The accused is an old man, with gray beard and hair. Sitting at a side table with his counsel, he seemed nervous and agitated at times. Colonel S. B. Lawrence, formerly an officer under General Shepherd, but at present engaged in business in New-York, was the only witness examined during the day. His testimony was chiefly a recital of the facts already known. The history of the matter is said to be as follows: Soon after the battle of Stone River, in 1863, $1,000 was subscribed by the officers under General Shepherd, then commanding a brigade of the Army of the Cumberland, for a fund for the erection of a monument in memory of their dead comrades. This money was intrusted to General Shepherd, and invested in Government bonds by General Shepherd. In November, 1875, it was found that the bonds had been sold by General Shepherd and the proceeds reinvested in real estate. It was then decided that the fund, amounting to $3,000, should be placed in other hands, but on account of the depreciation of his property, General Shepherd was unable to restore the money, and in December, 1877, the matter was referred to the War Department. It is understood that General Shepherd is anxious to pay the money, and that he will do so as soon as he can dispose of sufficient of his real estate, which is all heavily mortgaged.

THE SHIP TORNADO BURNED.

The Atlantic Mutual Marine Insurance Company received a dispatch from New-Orleans yesterday, stating that the fire which was discovered on board the ship Tornado, Sunday, and which was supposed to have been extinguished, had broken out again and the vessel and cargo would prove a total loss. She had on board 5,000 bales of cotton for Liverpool, which, with the vessel, was valued at about $250,000, and is insured in the following companies: Atlantic Mutual, British, Swiss Lloyds, Standard, Liverpool and other foreign companies.

The ship was built at Greenpoint, L. I., in 1851, for Mumford Brothers, for the California trade, and was considered for several years the fastest clipper afloat. She was afterwards sold to Brooks & Priestly, of Birmingham City, England. She was 222 feet long, 42 feet beam, 28 feet depth of hold, and of 1,721 tons. While making a voyage from the west coast of South America to New-York, several years ago, under command of Captain Mumford, the vessel was dismasted off Valparaiso. To avoid the great expense of repairs at any of the ports of South America, Captain Mumford continued his voyage with jury masts only, and reached New-York in seventy-eight days. The captain was given a service of silver.

SEEKING TO SAVE THE PARKS.

At the meeting of the Board of Aldermen, yesterday, Alderman Morris introduced a resolution approving the protest of the Public Park Protective Association against the proposed use of Washington-square as a site for an armory, or the use for similar purposes of any of the public parks of the city. The resolution asks the Legislature to refuse any legislation which will enable the National Guard to occupy any public square. It was referred to the Committee on County Affairs.

At a meeting of the Academy of Sciences, Monday evening, resolutions were passed protesting against any infringement on the parks, or entablement of the green or garden spots of the city. It was decided that a committee should be appointed "to protest, in the name of this Academy, to the Common Council of this city, and the Legislature and Governor of the State, against any appropriation of the public grounds of this city, which will deprive our population of any part or portion of the already limited breathing-space so essential to their comfort and health." The following committee was appointed: Professor T. Egleston, Dr. B. N. Martin, Dr. C. F. Chandler, Professor D. S. Martin, Dr. Louis Elsberg, Dr. E. Seguin, Professor A. R. Leeds.

A NEW ATTRACTION FOR LADIES.

Lord & Taylor have lately added to their already large stock a millinery department, and for this purpose have filled up the Broadway and Twentieth-st. corner of the second floor of their establishment in a tasteful manner. It is the object of the firm to make this department one of the most attractive in the house. Among the stock already on hand are some very pretty bonnets and hats. One especially beautiful is a white satin bonnet called the "Madelaine;" the brim was slightly raised and the inside trimming was of white tulle, edged on either side with a row of Roman pearl beads; the outside trimming was a scarf of Spanish lace, which encircled the crown, the edge drooping over the wreath of small scarlet poppies and honeysuckle buds. On the left side the scarf is caught and held in place by looped strings of Roman pearls; and, crossing at the back, fastens under the chin. This department already contains a large number of mourning hats and bonnets in new and beautiful designs.

GRAIN IN RUSSSIAN PORTS.

Advices from Odessa, Russia, under date of January 14, which were posted at the Stock Exchange yesterday, state the stock of wheat as 408,600 quarters, or 735,685 quarters of all grain and seed. An extract from *The London Journal* posted on the bulletin of the Exchange, dated February 8, states that at Nicolaieff, there are 475,200 quarters of wheat, while of all grain in stock there are 648,000 quarters. The accumulation, at Nicolaieff, it is stated, would have been made larger, but for the high rates for storage. The stocks at the Azoo ports have kept, it is reported, at a comparatively moderate point, and do not amount to anything like 2,000,000 quarters, as previously stated.

THE WORK OF BOLD THIEVES.

A bold robbery was committed Monday in the rooms of H. D. Miller, at No. 78 West Forty-eighth-st. The house is composed of French flats, and Mr. Miller and his mother occupy the second floor. Mrs. Miller went out, about 3 p. m., to make a call, and left the doors of their rooms locked. About 8 p. m., Mr. Miller had occasion to visit his room, and found that an extensive robbery had been committed. The doors of private rooms had been broken into, bureau drawers and trunks had been forced open, and many articles of value had been carried off. The entire loss is estimated at more than $1,500. The thieves had entered through the scuttle by climbing over the roofs of adjoining houses.

PILOT BOAT CAPRICE LIBELLED.

The pilot boat Caprice, No. 15, which was abandoned by her crew during the storm in which the steamship Metropolis was lost, and was afterward picked up by the pilot boat Negus, has been libelled for salvage by the owners of the Negus, and will be sold at auction by the United States Marshal. The owners of the Caprice will be allowed to retain their number, as a company of pilots, on any new boat they may obtain.

A LONG CONTESTED CLAIM.

The Board of Finance of Jersey City are now occupied in deciding upon an offer to be made to J. B. Cleaveland in payment for work done on the Reservoir. The amount given to Mr. Cleaveland by the third board of arbitration which sat in the matter was $127,000; this the Board of Finance refused to pay. The Board of Finance has been authorized by the Legislature to make an offer not over $127,000, which Mr. Cleaveland may accept if satisfied. The board is now awaiting the result of the measurement, by the Chief-Engineer of Public Works, of the work done.

RUSSIAN SCENES ON THE STAGE.

"THE EXILES" AT THE BROADWAY THEATRE—HISTORY OF THE PLAY.

At the Broadway Theatre Mr. Duff is preparing for the new Russian play, called "The Exiles," which will be introduced Saturday evening, it is promised. It is described as a very romantic and sensational melodrama, with the plot laid alternately in St. Petersburg and the wilds of Siberia. A team of elks and a team of dogs appear in realistic rôles, to the great amazement it is said, of the theatre-going people of Boston, where one version of the story has been having a run of ten weeks at the Boston Theatre, Mr. Tompkins being compelled temporarily to withdraw the play to fulfil his engagement with Mr. McCullough.

As usual there is a dispute as to the ownership of the drama. The original source is a sensational Russian novel of the same name, by Prince Tubomski. This has been dramatized by Sardou, and George Fawcette Rowe, who witnessed its representation in Paris in 1877, is the author of the version which will be acted at the Broadway Theatre. He claims to have gone to the novel for most of his inspiration, and has worked the story into five acts. Mr. Tompkins' version is said to be almost a literal translation of Sardou's play, and if he has not, as he claims he has, a legal right to enjoin the production of Mr. Rowe's version, he thinks, at least, that the title, "The Exiles," is his property. Investigation shows that there are twenty-six dramas and novels bearing the same title, with or without additions, such as the novel "The Exiles of Siberia." Mr. Tompkins, it is said, has leased Booth's Theatre for April, with the intention of producing his version, and it is believed that he will make some attempt to secure the field to himself by legal process. For this and other reasons, Mr. Duff has kept his plans a secret. He obtained two elks from the Cincinnati Zoological Garden, which have been under training for the stage for some time, their rivals in dramatic accomplishments being a pair of dogs. The cast will include Mr. Dampier, who recently appeared at the Broadway in "The Lyon's Mail," Mr. Warde, Mr. Milnes Levick, Miss Jeffreys-Lewis, Miss Emily Rigl and Miss Ada Gilman. Thursday and Friday evenings the stage will be given up to full-dress rehearsals of the new play.

The plot of "The Exiles" is built upon socialistic conspiracy and unjust banishment. *Schelm*, the villain, a Government spy, being rejected in his love by *Tatiana*, the heroine, who prefers the suit of the *Count Lanine* (Mr. Dampier), seeks to revenge himself upon the latter. He discovers *Tatiana's* connection with a society of socialists, and by a skillful play upon *Count Lanine's* love and jealousy, lures the latter into a meeting of the society. The second act closes with the arrest of the company. The third act finds them in their banishment in Siberia, whither *Tatiana* goes to rescue *Count Lanine*. At the close of the fourth act, the elk and dog teams dash upon the scene, and in the last act virtue is rewarded and villainy expires in the midst of a terrific conflagration.

THE ATTACK ON THE GROGGERIES.

ADDRESSES BY DR. CROSBY, DR. ORMISTON AND D. J. WHITNEY.

A public meeting of the Eighth Ward Auxiliary to the Society for the Prevention of Crime was held last evening at the Spring Street Presbyterian Church. D. J. Whitney, chairman of the executive committee, spoke for nearly an hour upon the relation between crime and the liquor traffic. From the beginning of the State, he said, there had been a law against "stand up drinks," and groggeries had been under the ban. The present Excise Law was consistent, and if enforced would prove wholesome and adequate. Within the last three months, during which the society had gained a partial enforcement of the law, there had been a large reduction in criminal statistics.

The Rev. Dr. Ormiston followed with an appeal for personal effort. Every home was imperilled by this traffic, he said; every one was wronged by it. It affected all classes—richest poor—the rich in their possessions, the poor in their labor. Personal sympathy and influence must be used. The influence should be kind and cheerful and uplifting, glorifying God by help to some human being. Sympathy was like a telephone, and by it one might hear a song, a sob, or a groan, by placing the ear close to the great world. Sober, thoughtful, Christian people should be in themselves and show the same earnest interest and action that were displayed by the followers of the liquor traffic.

The Rev. Dr. Crosby closed the meeting. The chief reason for the continued existence of these rum-holes, he said, was that political nominations were made there, and the men who went to Albany were indebted to them. They were bound by the nominations in these holes, and did not represent the people at all. The vast majority of citizens would close the traffic to-night, but these men went to Albany and represented New-York as a lost city, and that it was no use to try to save it. The cure for this was simple. Respectable people should say that there should be no more political parties for New-York in city affairs. Law and order should be the only party. When New-York people took that stand, the rum-holes were gone. An differences in temperance creeds should be forgotten.

Within the recollection of some of the audience the whole city was at one time overrun with pigs, from the factory to Bleecker-st.—then the outermost limit. People wanted them removed, but the men who owned them controlled votes, and timid folks said it was no use. But a few determined men said the pigs must be squelched, and they were squelched. Now, with these groceries, if the Legislature would only adjourn and go home the society could squelch them in six months. As the people did with the pigs, so orderly people should do with these swine who trounced them.

THE COLLISION IN THE FOG.

August Strabaus, residing at No. 261 Railroad-ave., Jersey City, disappeared the night of the collision between the ferry-boat James Fish, jr., and the schooner Joseph Crowley; and as he was a passenger upon the former, it is thought that he was thrown into the river by the force of the collision and was drowned. He was employed in the piano factory of Dahlman & Finck, on Nineteenth-st., and was at work Saturday. He left the factory at 6 o'clock, and went to the ferry-house. He was fifty-seven years of age. His family consists of a wife, four small children and an aged mother.

Coroner Gannon, of Jersey City, impannelled a jury yesterday afternoon, and opened the inquest in the case of Charles H. Ebert, who was killed by the collision. Samuel Dunham testified that he was sitting on the front end of the boat at the time the collision occurred, and saw the schooner just before the vessels came together. He was knocked into the water, and succeeded in climbing up the side of the schooner. Before he reached the deck of the schooner he saw no lights or signs of life aboard. He heard no bell or whistle from the ferry-boat when the collision occurred, but the whistle was blown several times just as the boat was leaving the slip.

James Campbell, the watchman on the schooner, testified that just before dusk he hung a lantern in the rigging on the starboard side. At the time the accident occurred he was standing at the stern of the vessel blowing the fog horn. He claimed that the collision occurred to the light in the rigging.

A libel has been filed in the United States Court in Brooklyn against the schooner Joseph Crowley, which was run into Saturday night by the Erie ferry-boat James Fish, jr. The action is to recover a penalty of $200 against the schooner for not having her lights displayed, as required by law.

ELEVEN DENTAL GRADUATES.

The twelfth annual commencement of the New-York College of Dentistry took place at Chickering Hall last evening. The graduating class consisted of eleven members, as follows:

Aguilla, E.	Goldsmith, G. W.	Kiel, C., jr.
Beale, J. M.	Gottfeld, A. F.	Stebbins, J. M.
Edwards, S.	Hammond, G.	Yglesias, E.
Farnsworth, J.	Kells, C. E., jr.	

The degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery was conferred upon all the graduates by Dr. W. H. Allen, president of the Board of Trustees. The valedictory address was delivered by George Hammond, of New-Jersey. The Faculty prize for the best examination, a set of instruments valued at $100, was awarded to Charles E. Kells, jr., of New-Orleans. Professor Stein, in awarding the prize, stated that the graduates had passed through an examination of five consecutive days, occupying ten hours each day, in which it had been the aim of the faculty to test their knowledge in every branch of dental science. A brief but earnest address to the graduates was delivered by the Rev. Dr. Courtney.

A NEW-JERSEY CHURCH OUT OF DEBT.

Christ Protestant Episcopal Church, in Elizabeth, N. J., had gradually reduced its debt to a few thousand dollars. A few months ago Miss Taylor, an old lady of Elizabeth, left $5,000 to help pay the church debt, with $10,000 more to be paid the church after the death of a sister of Miss Taylor. This amount has been paid to the church, and the rector, the Rev. Dr. Stevens Parker, announced last Sunday that with the legacy, the contributions of the Church Mite Society, and those of two ladies of the congregation, the entire debt of the church had been paid and the church would be formally consecrated by Bishop Scarborough on Easter Tuesday, April 23, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the formation of the parish.

SUDDEN DEATH OF A MERCHANT.

When the Harrisburg special train, on the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad, due at Newark at 8:23 p. m., stopped at the station in that city last evening, a well-dressed man of middle age attempted to get upon one of the cars. Suddenly he staggered, and fell backwards on the platform. The conductor and others raised him up and discovered that he was dead. The body was removed to the freight-house, when a search in a small valise which he carried revealed a lot of legal papers and several letters, bearing the address of Charles M. Congreve, metal merchant, at No. 104 John-st., New-York. There was also a large sum of money in his pockets.

JERSEY CITY'S BOARD OF FINANCE.

At the meeting last night of the Board of Aldermen of Jersey City, a letter was received from James J. Esterbrook, one of the newly-elected members of the Board of Finance, tendering his resignation, he having discovered that the law required that he should have been a resident of the city for three years, which was not the case. The resignation was accepted, and an unsuccessful attempt was made to fill the vacancy. Frederick Heppenheimer and Jeremiah Sweeney were the candidates.

HOME NEWS.

THERMOMETER YESTERDAY AT HUDNUT'S, NO. 218 BROADWAY.

9 a. m., 30°. Noon, 34°. 3 p. m., 42°. Midnight, 34°. Highest during the day, 42°. Lowest, 29°. Average, 34½°. Same day, 1877, 35⅞°.

PROMINENT ARRIVALS.

Clarendon Hotel.—Nicholas Shishkin, Russian Minister at Washington.....*Astor House*—Judge Jeremiah S. Black, of Pennsylvania.....*Windsor Hotel*—Governor Alexander H. Rice, of Massachusetts.....*Fifth Avenue Hotel*—Professor Spencer F. Baird, United States Commissioner of Fisheries; Seth Green, of Rochester; ex-Governor C. C. Washburn, of Wisconsin; A. A. Talmage, General Superintendent of the Missouri Pacific Railway, and George G. Fogg, of New-Hampshire.....*Union Square Hotel*—Deputy Secretary of State George Moss, of Albany.....*Grand Hotel*—The Hon.