fruit or the young trees in the orange groves have been injured by the frosts. The crop of oranges this season is quite large, but there is considerable rusty fruit. Although the Florida Spring has not opened roses are blooming in every garden, and in quaint, beautiful St Augustine especially the air is laden with perfume. The sportsmen have not appeared on the river in force, but there are ducks and birds everywhere, with now and then an eagle for a pot shot. While south of Enterprise there are turkeys in abundance, and on the upper Ocklawaha dozens of alligators, fifteen feet long, that are too sound and chilled to turn over. And now, after the coldest fortnight which has been experienced in Florida since the year when all the young orange trees were killed, there are rumblings of earthquakes in Jacksonville and St. Augustine.

Pieces of the rope with which Hunter was hung were peddled in Camden last Saturday for $5 an inch. An ingenious speculator made "a nice thing" by hawking bogus rope. The physician who was with the condemned murderer during the closing hours denies that the poor wretch was either drunk or drugged. "His control over himself," remarks the doctor, "was wonderful. When he attempted to commit suicide he closed his lips, and we thought he was dying. He could control the circulation of his blood and the beating of his heart. He appeared to be in a stupor, and it was impossible to obtain his pulse from the wrist. Even at his heart the beats could not be told, because Hunter produced an artificial sound and motion of the breast, and it was three minutes at one time before we could get the pulsations of the heart. I never met the man's equal. There is no doubt but that he was badly scared, and that he feared the death which awaited him, but he had nerved himself sufficiently to make the last act in the drama one of the long interest. You can set it down for a certainty that Hunter was conscious when he was carried down stairs, and he was neither drunk nor drugged, because I attended him all the morning and to the end, and no one else administered anything to him." The man who helped adjust the rope about Hunter's neck thinks that the public was unnecessarily deprived of a few last words. "There was," he says, "a faint gurgling in the throat, as if the murderer was about to clear it, and his lips moved perceptibly. I thought for a certainty he was about to speak. He could not have done so if he had desired though, because, as I saw at a glance, the rope had slipped from the position which it should have been in to break his neck, and was then so tightly about his neck that he could not utter a word. It was not done intentionally, but was a mistake of the Sheriff, which was excusable." The sheriff certainly made some mistakes with his newfangled hanging machine which were utterly inexcusable.

MUSIC.

LA TRAVIATA.

Mr. Max Strakosch gave us last evening one of the most uninteresting performances of "La Traviata" which has ever been given in this city. In point of fact, there was almost nothing which had any especial merit from end to end. Pantaleoni, who had a cold, sang better than most of the troupe, but there was little besides his part which was done even fairly well. Mlle. Marie, the soprano, who made her debut, has a nice soprano voice of the common sort, but she has, so far as one can see now, none of the qualifications of a great singer, and her debut last night was not in the remotest sense a brilliant success.

PUBLIC OPINION.

Fraud is not justifiable, even if the intent be to head off a cipher fraud. Lawyers have the bottom facts of this "cipher dispatches" business.—[Syracuse Courier (Dem.)

Colonel Ingersoll and THE NEW-YORK TRIBUNE are still talking about "the Mississippi Moses." They are not the said Moses, however, but it is difficult to tell which is the deadest.—[Norristown Herald (Rep.)

There is not a ripple on the political surface that denotes the existence of a cyclone, yet THE TRIBUNE has a barrel full of its tricks.—[Cassadaga Examiner (Rep.)

When the investigation is over and Mr. Tilden vindicated, we hope he will be allowed to resume peaceful life. It is sad enough to usurp his office and to whether man in his seat to draw his salary, without also attempting to traduce his character.—[Macon Telegraph (Dem.)

This investigation, it should be remembered, has been mainly demanded by Democrats who are regarded as Mr. Tilden's friends and whose confidence in his character and leadership has never been shaken. Yet they did not urge the investigation merely or even chiefly for his personal vindication, but in the interest of the public.—[Buffalo Courier (Dem.)

IT WILL BE TRIED, BUT WILL IT WORK?

From The Baltimore Gazette (Dem.)

Mr. Tilden's alleged cipher correspondence is to undergo a searching investigation at the hands of the Potter Committee. Mr. Tilden will probably be vindicated, but our heart goes out in sympathy for his misguided nephew, Mr. Pelton. Before the investigation has proceeded one week Mr. Pelton will be seen in the guise of a goat, the cipners neatly strapped to his back, bounding toward the impenetrable forests of oblivion. He will probably submit with good grace in order that his uncle may enjoy eternal political life.

HALSTEAD'S FAITH IN SHERMAN'S STAR.

From an Interview in The Herald.

In my opinion, John Sherman is the man for the Republicans in 1880. Not because he is the ablest or the most prominent man in the party, but because of his position at the head of the Treasury in connection with resumption. He was the author of the Resumption Act, and now has become its executor. If everything goes on fairly for a year and resumption succeeds, and everything now points to its succeeding, John Sherman will hold a place among Presidential candidates that no other man can hope to hold. Besides that he can carry Ohio, which, as I said before, is the pivotal State, and essential to the prospects of whoever is to be elected. This is a huge card to play. He may not now be the most popular man in his party, but he holds a position from which he can stand and overlook the workings of his great measure, and remedy any flaw that may arise calculated to impede it. Just as Grant sat on his horse and watched the rebellion and saw it trampled on, so does John Sherman overlook the field as resumption goes on. If it succeeds he will be the foremost man for the Presidency.

THURMAN AND PENDLETON.

From The New-York Commercial Advertiser (Rep.)

THE TRIBUNE interview of Senator Pendleton, of Ohio, will be found interesting reading to those who understand that Senator Thurman supplanted Pendleton in the affections of the Ohio Democracy. Ten years ago "Gentleman George" was Ohio's favorite son. After his ingorious defeat before the National Convention in this city in 1868, and owing to some indiscreet revelations, Mr. Pendleton was compelled to retire to private life. The Democrats, having carried the Legislature last year, brought him to the front once more, and he was chosen United States Senator with a shout hanging over him. It is, we repeat, amusing to read the interview, and observe the great pleasure with which Mr. P. announces that Thurman is getting old and feeble, and that by the meeting of the next National Convention he will be close on to seventy years of age. Observe now he reiterates Thurman's age and rolls it under his tongue like a sweet morsel. It is a picture for Nast's pencil.

PRETTY SOUR ABOUT IT.

From The Trenton (New Jersey) Gazette (Dem.)

We believe that the committee and that the Democratic party would have been perfectly justified in ignoring their cipher humbug. To investigate it is to give it an importance which, without investigation, it does not and could not possess. The way in which the Republicans and their press are, at the very outset, speaking out of the responsibility of the investigation shows how little sincerity there has been in their demand for it. When they say that it is a matter of no interest or importance to the public, it becomes a question for them to answer upon what ground the public money can be appropriated to carry it on. Indeed, it will not be at all surprising if THE TRIBUNE's declaration that "the case is one of purely domestic interest to the Democracy," is made in preparation of an attack upon the House for making an appropriation "for Democratic purposes."

PRAISE FROM A CRITIC.

From The Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (Rep.)

The caucus of the Republican members of the Legislature, for the purpose of nominating a candidate for the office of United States Senator, will be held in the Assembly Chamber, on Monday evening, January 20. The sentiment of the Republican party, from which there is the practical dissent, indicates unmistakably the choice of the caucus and that of the Legislature. Senator Conkling will, by the concurrent voice of the party, be returned to the seat he has long adorned, and in this voice none will join more heartily than those Republicans who have sometimes been constrained to criticise certain acts of the Senator, but have never lost their regard for his eminent public services, nor their estimate of his capacity for still further usefulness.

WAIL OF THE COPARCENERS TO MR. POTTER.

From The Albany Evening Journal.

I.

Don't, O don't;
We really hope you won't;
You can't
You won't
Shake your engrossed locks at Sam;
For, be it understood,
That man is Truly Good;
He never sent a cipher telegram.
Nor he—O no,
He's purer than the snow,
As guileless as was Mary's little lamb.

II.

Snirch not his name—
On us be all the blame,
Upon our heads launch curses loud and hearty;
He knew not of the job,
Why therefore would you rob
Of such a boon our most impoverished party?
We'll swear till we're blue,
That what we say is true,
And Sam will forward come and swear the same;
He'll stoutly testify
That 'twas a whopping lie
To say he ever played a sinful game.

III.

We wouldn't trouble you,
Save that, like G. W.
Whate'er we say the Angel Truth indorses;
'Twas Pelton did the deed—
'Twas Marble—Smith M. Weed;
But Tilden, he relied on "moral forces."
He really never knew
Until were brought to view
The concocted mysteries that aroused his ire,
That Morse, that clever man,
Had all upon a plan
Of sending messages by electric wire!

ALBANY.

HIDING FROM HIS FRIENDS.

SPEAKER ALVORD CONCEALED IN AN UPPER ROOM AT WORK ON THE COMMITTEES.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

ALBANY, Jan. 14.—The members of the Legislature began to dribble into town from every railway train that arrived to-day. The Legislature does not meet until to-morrow night. Ordinarily, in this state of affairs, no member would return till to-morrow; but every member has a great curiosity at present about the composition of the Assembly Committees, and accordingly two-score have already returned to learn something concerning them. Most of the New-York Assemblymen are already here. Speaker Alvord, by a stratagem, induced the local politicians to believe yesterday that he had departed for Syracuse, but in reality concealed himself in an upper room of the Delevan House. There he has been hidden from view and the members of the Legislature have searched in vain for him. To-night General Husted, John F. Smyth and Senator Rockwell were in council with him about the make up of the committees. It is stated on seemingly good authority that the committees will be announced this week. It is doubtful, however, if they will be made public to-morrow night. It is now not disputed that Mr. Sloan will be made chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means.

NEW-YORK TRUST COMPANIES.

FROM THE OFFICIAL REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT LAMB TO BE MADE TO THE LEGISLATURE TO-DAY.

ALBANY, Jan. 14.—Superintendent Lamb in his report upon the banks and trust companies of the State, which will be transmitted to-morrow, will report the results of the official examination of the trust and mortgage companies of the State. From these appear the following facts regarding the companies of New-York City:

NEW-YORK LIFE TRUST COMPANY.
Examined November 22.

Assets.	
Bonds and mortgages	$2,011,139 45
Bonds (Dutch Church)	51,000 00
Balances receivable	1,692,320 93
Loans on collaterals	307,502 72
United States bonds	3,469,286 25
State and New-York City bonds	1,610,831 50
Bank and railroad shares	574,022 50
Real estate	353,356 50
Miscellaneous stocks	93,475 00
Other items sufficient to make the total	$12,337,727 81
Liabilities.	
Capital	$1,000,000 00
Due depositors	9,274,296 31
Interest	297,230 00
Other liabilities sufficient to make the total	$10,571,821 56
Surplus	$1,661,906 25

REAL ESTATE TRUST COMPANY.
Examined Oct. 21, 1878.

Total assets	$891,337 35
Liabilities.	
Capital	$500,000 00
Due depositors	216,543 31
Mortgages on real estate owned	85,500 00
Other liabilities sufficient to make total	$804,003 19
Surplus	$36,734 16

CENTRAL TRUST COMPANY.
Examined November 20, 1878.

Assets	$4,377,092 19
Liabilities	4,240,292 17
Surplus	$136,749 02

FARMERS' LOAN AND TRUST COMPANY.
Examined November 18, 1878.

Assets	$5,770,055 04
Liabilities	4,936,153 21
Surplus	$833,901 83

UNION TRUST COMPANY.
Examined September 17, 1878.

Assets.	
United States bonds	$1,356,110 10
Lake Shore and Michigan Southern bonds	119,500 00
New York City bonds	201,310 00
Missouri bonds	127,800 00
Kansas and Texas bonds, sold during examination	11,743 [illegible]
Loans on collateral	4,622,943 81
Bonds and mortgages	211,[illegible]
Real estate	1,000 00
Cash on hand	16,[illegible]
Cash in bank	271,[illegible]
Accrued interest	26,211 90
Commissions	12,447 56
Total	$7,001,079 02
Liabilities.	
Due depositors	$5,761,062 73
Certified checks	14,542 15
Coupons and dividend account	12,06[illegible]
Outstanding certificates	2,[illegible]
Dividend not called for	938 00
Interest due depositors	64,921 52
Taxes accrued	8,454 [illegible]
Expenses accrued	2,[illegible] 92
Capital	1,000,000 00
Total liabilities	$6,866,104 00
Surplus	$134,975 02

UNITED STATES TRUST COMPANY.
Examined November 29, 1878.

Assets.	
United States bonds	$4,338,025 00
New York City bonds	1,031,500 00
Other bonds	166,000 00
Cash in Manhattan Company	746,401 99
Real estate	330,000 00
Bonds and mortgages	2,462,000 00
Loans on collaterals	2,441,369 35
Bills purchased	2,305,2[illegible] 87
Interest accrued	135,779 64
Total	$22,344,158 75
Liabilities.	
Capital	$2,000,000 00
Due depositors	16,731,150 [illegible]
Interest	332,079 34
Taxes	42,811 06
Rebate on bills purchased	25,502 67
Total	$19,130,043 [illegible]
Surplus	3,214,114 82

CLAIMS AGAINST THE STATE.

BILLS TO BE REPORTED FAVORABLY BY THE BOARD OF AUDIT.

ALBANY, Jan. 14.—The State Board of Audit has completed, and will send in to the Legislature to-morrow its first report for the year of claims decided as between citizens and the State. These will go in the Supply bill where the claim is allowed. Following are the claims allowed:

Hudson C. Tanner, stenographing	$300 00
John McKenna, serving subpoenas	214 55
T. H. Ferris, serving notices of a judgment on notaries in St. Lawrence County	72 70
George F. Herman, same in Kings County	991 00
A. R. Elliott, publishing canvass	142 50
Henry Smith, legal services in trial of Superintendent Smyth	1,000 00
Rufus W. Peckham, same	1,000 00
Samuel Hand, same	1,000 00
Matthew Hale, same	1,000 00
John B. Hassin, costs	481 05
N. H. Fisher, costs	798 50
Hugh McRoberts, repairing on Swinburne Island	1,458 74
Wm. Gould & Son, law books to Law Library, 111d and 1Vth Districts	1,709 75
W. T. Worden, legal services	1,000 00
Henry Bailey, Jr., work on Oswego River Dams	87 50

A large number of claims are disallowed.

STATE CENTENNIAL VOLUME.

ALBANY, Jan. 14.—Last Winter the Legislature directed the secretary of State to prepare and publish a Centennial volume containing an official record of the celebrations held throughout the State of important events in its history. While the resolution stated that the whole expense should not exceed $6,000, it still made no appropriation for the purpose. To-morrow Secretary Beach will send in his report to the Legislature, showing that while he has collected the material necessary, he has not proceeded any further because of the lack of an appropriation.

OTHER STATE GOVERNMENTS.

ECONOMY IN MASSACHUSETTS.

MOVEMENT FOR REDUCING SALARIES OF STATE OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYES.

BOSTON, Jan. 14.—In the House to-day an order was adopted that the Committee on Retrenchment consider the expediency of reducing all salaries paid or determined by the State as follows: $1,000 and under, 5 per cent; between $1,000 and $2,000, 10 per cent; between $2,000 and $3,000, 15 per cent; between $3,000 and $4,000, 20 per cent; between $4,000 and $5,000, 25 per cent; all salaries of $5,000 and over, 33⅓ per cent.

The Committee on Retrenchment in the Senate reported bills reducing the salaries of all the State officers, and making the salaries of members of the Legislature $4 50 per day and $1 for every five miles of travel from their places of abode once each session.

THE KANSAS LEGISLATURE.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 14.—A Topeka, Kan., dispatch says the Legislature met at noon to-day, and temporarily organized by the election of Dr. Hodge to the chair. In the Senate the new members were sworn in.

RHODE ISLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Jan. 14.—The General Assembly began the January session in this city to-day. The Governor's message, reviewing the condition of state affairs, was sent in.

THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE.

GALVESTON, Tex., Jan. 14.—A special dispatch from Austin states that the Legislature was organized to-day. John H. Cochran was elected Speaker. The Governor's message will be read to-morrow.

SENATOR JONES RE-ELECTED.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 14.—The Nevada Legislature to-day reelected John P. Jones United States Senator by the following vote: In the Senate—Jones, 19; Hellhouse, Dem., 6. In the Assembly—Jones, 41; Hellhouse, 8.

THE ORTHOPEDIC DISPENSARY ELECTION.

At the annual meeting of the New York Orthopedic Dispensary, last night, the following were elected trustees for the present year: David Dows, Roswell D. Hitchcock, Allan Campbell, R. Percy Alden, W. M. Bliss, Howard Potter, John S. Kennedy, S. P. Blagden, Benoni Lockwood, Melville Brown, Eugene Delano, Henry L. Slote, Temple Prime, R. T. Auchmuty, J. W. Gracie, Alfred Pell, J. Coleman Drayton, T. W. Dwight, James T. Leavitt, W. L. Chamberlain and W. H. Schieffelin. Howard Potter was chosen president; Roswell D. Hitchcock and Benoni Lockwood, vice-presidents; Temple Prime, secretary; J. W. Gracie, treasurer, and R. Ray Hamilton, legal adviser.

THE MISSOURI SENATORSHIP.

THE OLD REBEL YELL.

[FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 7.—A great contest is going on at Jefferson City over the United States Senatorship. There are two to be elected—one for a term of forty days, the other for the six years commencing with the 4th of March next. Colonel Armstrong, who was appointed to succeed the late Senator Bogy, will most likely be selected to fill the balance of the session, and is not a candidate for the long term.

For the six years, ending March 4, 1885, the candidates are the Hon. George G. Vest, ex-Senator of the ex-Confederate Senate; General John S. Phelps, who fought on the Union side; the Hon. Samuel T. Glover, a brother of the famous investigator, now in the House of Representatives, and the Hon. Thomas Allen, president of the Iron Mountain Railroad Company.

Vest, besides being strong with the Confederate element, has an additional advantage in having been a solicitor of the Missouri Pacific Railroad, and they generally take care of their own.

Phelps does not nor can he probably expect much railroad help. Last year the three railroad commissioners of this State, acting under a law of the Legislature, fixed and reduced the rates of freights on all the roads. Thus the companies stoutly resisted, but the act of the commissioners was approved by the Governor. In this he only carried out the law which he was sworn to obey.

When Phelps was in Congress, he got a land grant for the Southwest Pacific (now the St. Louis and San Francisco) Railroad. His friends claim that he did this almost solitary and alone. But old acts of friendship are soon forgotten; and now this corporation has one of its attorneys, who lives upon the line of the road, at the State Capitol, fighting Phelps, tooth and nail.

Some think the contest will be long and bitter. I believe, however, it will be short, sharp and decisive, and will end in a great victory for the Confederacy.

General Cockrell, four years ago, was sent into the Senate with the old time rebel yell. It looks as if history would repeat itself.

RAILWAY INTERESTS.

ROCHESTER AND STATE LINE RAILROAD.

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE STATE ENGINEER.

ALBANY, Jan. 14.—The annual report of the Rochester and State Line Railroad Company has been received by the State Engineer as follows:

Capital stock authorized by charter	$2,000,000 00
Increase of stock authorized by chapter 84, Laws of 1876	500,000 00
Amount of stock subscribed per last report	85,000 00
Amount paid in as by last report	25,214 20
Total amount now paid	32,094 20
Funded debt as by last report	1,182,000 00
Total amount of funded debt now	2,187,100 00
Interest accrued on funded debt	156,160 00
Floating debt as by last report	473,01[illegible] 90
Ore amount now of floating debt	109,886 80
Total amount now of funded and floating debt	2,452,046 80

Average rate of interest, 7 per cent.

The last report referred to was for 1876; this company did not report for the year 1877.

Number of passengers carried	90,177
Tons of freight carried	134,770
Expenses of maintenance of road	$36,338 37
Expenses of repairs of machinery	11,322 48
Expenses of operating	84,381 62
Earnings from passengers	40,141 97
Earnings from freights	154,267 42
Earnings from other sources (net of loss and cost estimated—carrying mails not adjusted)	11,033 16
Payments for transportation expenses	132,042 48
Payments for interest	7,089 01

This railway was opened for freight and passenger traffic from Rochester to Salamanca, May 16, 1878.

One person has been killed and five injured.

ST. LOUIS, VANDALIA AND TERRE HAUTE.

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 14.—At the annual meeting of the St. Louis, Vandalia and Terre Haute Railroad Company, held to-day at Greenville, Ill., the report of operations for the past year was presented and a new Board of Directors elected, composed of the following gentlemen: Thomas D. Messler and William Tatem, of Pittsburg; Thomas A. Scott, of Philadelphia; W. R. McKeen, of Terre Haute; Robert L. Dillaher, W. S. Smith, A. S. Henry, Charles H. Sevbt and J. S. Pleasall, all of Illinois. The board subsequently organized by reelecting Thomas D. Messler president, W. H. Barnes treasurer, and W. Pickett secretary.

OBITUARY.

AMHERST WIGHT.

In the death of Amherst Wight, at the age of eighty-seven years, the New-York Bar loses one of its oldest members. He had been in practice for over sixty years. Until a recent period his shrewd face and gray hair were still to be seen in the Register's office, and all who knew him remember his acuteness, his sound judgment, his thorough knowledge of law, and old-fashioned courtesy. At the age of seventy-four, his collection of abstracts of titles, unsurpassed probably in New-York, was consumed by the fire that destroyed the old American Building at Broadway and Barclay. But he went about his work again with unfailing vigor. Mr. Wight was, perhaps, the last survivor of the days when counsellors wore little court in knee-breeches and buckles, and the etiquette of the profession was scrupulously observed. Mr. Wight leaves two sons, Amherst, jr., of this city, a lawyer of excellent standing, and Peter Bonnett, to whom the city owes the Academy of Design, and who now resides in Chicago.

COLONEL C. T. PEEK.

BALLSTON SPA, N. Y., Jan. 14.—Colonel C. T. Peek died suddenly this morning of pneumonia. He was a member of Governor Morgan's staff and Colonel of the 29th Regiment State Militia. He recently established a colony in Nebraska, known as "Saratoga Ridge."

DR. LANDON LONGWORTH.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 14.—Dr. Landon Longworth, a scientist of some repute, and grandson of Nicholas Longworth, died this morning of pneumonia.

JOHN R. NOYES.

OSWEGO, N. Y., Jan. 14.—John R. Noyes, cashier of the National Marine Bank of Oswego, died at his home in this city this afternoon.

THE SAVAGE CHEYENNES.

INDIGNATION IN THE BLACK HILLS AT THE WAY THE INDIANS HAVE BEEN TREATED.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

DEADWOOD, D. T., Jan. 14.—Intense indignation is manifested throughout the whole country, even among the advocates of extermination, over the barbarous treatment of the Cheyenne prisoners at Camp Robinson near here, previous to the recent outbreak and slaughter. Information is authentic that the Indians were nearly destitute of clothing, and deprived of food and fire for five or six days and of water twenty four hours, and that the windows were removed from their prison through this intensely cold weather, to freeze them to subjection.

MEETING OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

The American Geographical Society held its annual meeting last evening, elected officers for 1879, and listened to a paper by Major A. G. Constable, formerly of the British Army, and now a resident of New-York, on "Afghanistan, the present seat of war, and the relations of that country to England and Russia." Chickering Hall was entirely filled in parquette and gallery by an audience composed of many members of the oldest families of New-York. Many scholars and experts in geographical and military science attended. Among those present were the president of the society, Chief-Justice Charles P. Daly, who presided, the Rev. Dr. Howard Crosby, George Cabot Ward, William Remsen, General James Grant Wilson, Ethal F. Hall, Henry L. Pelletew, General George W. Cullum, Alvan S. Southworth, General Ezekiel L. Viele, Harlow M. Hoyt, Francis A. Stout, John McMullen, W. H. H. Moore, James M. Bailey and Paul R. Du Chaillu.

The following officers were elected:

President—Chief-Justice Charles P. Daly.

Vice-President—General George W. Cullum.

Foreign Corresponding Secretary—The Rev. Dr. Roswell D. Hitchcock.

Treasurer—The Hon. Levi P. Morton.

Councillors—William E. Curtis, George Cabot Ward, Paul R. Du Chaillu, Robert L. Viele, William H. H. Moore, Isaac Bernheimer.

ASKING ALMS ON THE OCEAN.

The bark Themis arrived from London last evening, having been 107 days on the passage. She had been supplied with provisions four times. On one occasion a vessel passed her signals of distress without taking any notice of them. On January 2 she was within 800 miles of port and was blown 300 miles seaward. The bark Felicina Chiozza, from Hull for Delaware Breakwater, was within forty-five miles of port when she was blown to sea. Being short of provisions, and her sails and rigging being damaged, she put into Bermuda.

OVER TWO MILLIONS LOST.

Continued from First Page.

the building was unoccupied until it was taken by Howard, Sanger & Co. The original members of the firm of Brooks Brothers who were interested in the construction of the building have since died. Some of the younger heirs were at the fire last night, but had no idea of the first cost of the structure. The value of the property has greatly depreciated during the last few years owing to the general shrinkage in real estate. A fair estimate of its present value, it was thought, was about $200,000. The heirs of Edward S. Eichs, John and Anna Brooks, who formed the original firm, are those interested in the building. Daniel and J. E. Brooks are relatives, and carry on the business in Bond-st. In 1869 the estate received a rental of $100,000 for the building, but last year it only received $51,000. The great cost made necessary a heavy insurance, which was continued until last year, when it was materially reduced. The insurance, it is believed, nearly covers the present value of the building.

The structure covered eight building lots. It fronted 100 feet on Broadway, 100 feet on Crosby-st., and 200 feet on Grand-st. They were five stories above the pavement. For business purposes the building was constructed with well-holes and many windows, so as to give ample light to every floor. Both on Broadway and Crosby-st. there were sixteen windows, and twenty on Grand-st. Iron pillars and girders supported the interior.

The building adjoining on the north, on Broadway, was occupied by Stewart, Haring & Harper, stationers, in the basement, the Pacific Bank and M. C. Warren on the two upper floors. No damage was done as far as known, for the firemen directed heavy streams on the corner adjoining the burning building. Much interest was manifested to see if the valuables of the bank would be removed, but no one was at any time visible in the office, although the lights were burning there. Levy Brothers & Co.'s handsome building next to the Pacific Bank was dark and silent. During the height of the excitement an elderly gentleman burst through the police lines at Broome-st. and Broadway, rushed down to Lord & Taylor's old building opposite the fire, and loudly demanded of several bystanders whether his books were safe. The building on Grand-st. and across Crosby-st. was by occupied Benedict, Hall & Co.'s, boot and shoe dealers, and by Herrick Brothers, dealers in cloth. The stock of both firms was only slightly damaged, but the lower portion of the building was crushed in.

INCIDENTS OF THE FIRE.

Alderman Morris, who was one of the first at the fire, said: "I was standing on the steps of the Fifteenth Precinct Station-house when the alarm was given. I ran down to Wooster-st., jumped on a Broadway car, and was at the scene in a few moments. There was scarcely anyone on the ground when I reached the corner, but flames then were bursting out of the fourth-story windows. Captain McDonnell had the first stream on at 9:30. The supply of water in the neighborhood is ample. At the time of the great Broadway fire, in 1875, the Board of Aldermen, hearing complaints of a scarcity of water, decided to place large mains in Wooster, Crosby and Mercer-sts. with larger hydrants. This has been done, and most fortunate it is. Look at the stream that engine is now throwing."

An employe of Nannberg, Krauss, Lauer & Co., who was passing in a stage at the time the fire broke out, stated that fifteen runners for this firm started West with samples yesterday.

A member of one of the firms on Broadway, just below Canal-st., said last evening: "I was at the theatre when the news was whispered around that there was a large fire on Broadway near Grand-st. As I was particularly interested in that neighborhood I went down as quickly as possible. It was then burning on the fourth floor and on the Crosby-st. side. This floor was used for packing purposes, and it is customary in these places for the porters and packers to work later than the other employes. Lights are kept burning there, and in this fact may be found the probable cause of the fire. In my recollection this makes the ninth fire that has occurred on Broadway within 400 feet of Grand-st. The large fire not long ago which resulted in the loss of life occurred on the block below. I think, from an indirect knowledge of the trade conducted in the building, that the entire loss will amount to nearly $3,000,000. This estimate has been confirmed by men interested in the insurance companies. I have been told that Naumberg, Krauss, Lauer & Co., have just laid in a large stock of Spring goods. Bates & Co., of Charleston, S. C., have a branch department in the building, and had a stock of about $250,000.

"They say that lightning never strikes twice in the same place," said an insurance agent who was watching the flames, "but the same is not true of fire. This is the thirteen fire attack the drygoods and clothing trade has received since, the opposite block below Grand-st. was almost wholly destroyed nearly three years ago, involving a loss of between two and three millions of dollars." General Spinola's familiar shirt collar was as good as a fireman's badge. He stood on the corner watching the progress of the flames and complimenting the firemen. New-York, he was certain, had the best fire department in the world. All that could be done now to improve it would be to lay steam service pipes so that the fire engines could be supplied with steam from a hydrant, as they are supplied with water. Each engine then would be able to throw four streams, and their extinguishing power would be more than doubled.

AID FOR THE CITY'S POOR.

COLLECTIONS IN THE LOWER WARDS—THE CANVASS TO CONTINUE TO-DAY.

The work of canvassing the city from the Battery to Harlem to secure gifts for the various charitable organizations of New-York, was begun yesterday and will be concluded to-day. The headquarters of the executive committee yesterday were at No. 172 and 134 South Fifth-ave. At 9:30 yesterday morning the teams which the various mercantile houses had sent were on hand awaiting orders. The city, from the Battery to Fourteenth-st., was divided into districts, and each wagon with its complement of men and boys, many of whom were sent by the charitable societies, was assigned to a district. The institutions represented were the Women's Home, St. John's Guild, House Holy Family, St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum, Public Aid Society, Howard Mission, Five Points House of Industry, Father McNamara's Mission, Children's Aid Society, New-York Catholic Protectory, and Union Home. Seventy-six wagons had been promised, but only about forty reported. Many of the others will take part in the work to-day.

The scenes as the wagons went through the streets, preceded by the boys who announced their approach, were varied and interesting. Each of the teams bore a huge placard, and the men were supplied with credentials from the committee. The fortunes of the several teams were widely different. Some returned to the headquarters well loaded with vegetables, boots and clothing. Others failed to collect much. When the teams had returned at noon and unloaded, the large warerooms at the headquarters contained many piles of clothing and vegetables. Figs, scrubbing-brushes, turkeys, bread, rabbits, and bags of flour were scattered about, and were regarded with wistful eyes by the curious lookers-on who flocked into the room. One poorly-clad old woman looked eagerly through the window, and asked a bystander if she could have something to eat directly, as she was starving.

In the afternoon the teams started on their second trip, and again returned well loaded. During the day the members of the Executive Committee were present either in person or by representatives, superintending the work. The Rev. Willard Parsons was present throughout the day. The committee has issued a notice requesting that all organizations which intend to claim a share of the collections send word to the Rev. Willard Parsons. The Committee of Apportionment will decide upon all claims. The distribution is intended to reach hospitals as well as other organizations. The work will be continued to-day in the upper part of the city, and all persons are requested to have whatever they may be willing to give ready for delivery.

A report made up from the books of Messrs. Angell & Co. of the shipments of clothing to the fever-stricken South, between September 14 and November 26, has been submitted to Henry Hentz, chairman of the Southern Relief Committee of the Chamber of Commerce. The total number of packages shipped was 508, which were distributed as follows: Memphis, 143; New-Orleans, 341; Vicksburg, 50; Hollly Springs, 28; Jackson, Miss., 20; Dry Grove, Miss., 3; Port Gibson, Miss., 1; Greenville, Miss., 1; Clinton, La., 7; Mobile, 1; Pulaski, Tenn., 1. It is estimated that the total value of the contributions was $150,000. The report states that S. D. Tompkins, of No. 46 Thomas-st., and George N. Sanders are entitled to special credit for the great work that accomplished such good results, and that the generosity of the several express, steamship and telegraph companies, which would take no pay for their services, was most praiseworthy. Messrs. Angell & Co. are commended for the skillful manner in which they handled and shipped the goods.

NEW-YORK SAVINGS BANKS.

ENCOURAGING REPORTS RECEIVED BY THE BANK SUPERINTENDENT.

ALBANY, Jan. 14.—Bank Superintendent Lamb has information from many savings banks in New-York and elsewhere in reply to direct inquiries respecting their transactions since January 1, 1879, which is of the most encouraging character. All reports agree that the business this month is the most favorable in several years—some institutions say three years, some five years, and others seven or eight years. Old depositors who withdrew money months ago are now returning it to the same savings banks, and in a few cases the identical money withdrawn is now redeposited. Without exception the savings banks report improved conditions, and that the adverse tide seems to have changed, and that "there is an evident tendency now toward confidence, steadiness and security among depositors."

SUSPENSION OF THE OSWEGO SAVINGS BANK.

OSWEGO, N. Y., Jan. 14.—The City Savings Bank was closed this morning by a temporary injunction, issued by the Supreme Court, in the City of Schenectady, upon an application of the Banking Department, restraining the bank from transacting any business until the hearing of the injunction, which is to be held in Schenectady on the 21st inst. The injunction was issued on account of a default in the payment of interest on Lake Ontario Shore Bonds of the towns of Newfane, Wolcott and Sodus, which deficit is about $22,000. The bank has secured deposits amounting to $514,000, and the officers, as well as the public, have confidence that the bonds in question will be paid.

This afternoon there were some indications of a run on the Oswego County Savings Bank, but its officers, in order to protect the depositors and the bank, resolved to avail themselves of the sixty-days clause, which authorizes savings banks to require sixty days notice from depositors before the payment of deposits.

WARREN COUNTY RING TRIALS.

FOUR MORE CONVICTIONS.

CUMMINS, BULGIN, GIVENS AND STRADER FOUND GUILTY OF CONSPIRACY—ANOTHER SET OF CONSPIRATORS ARRAIGNED.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

BELVIDERE, N. J., Jan. 14—The legal talent displayed here in the conspiracy trials causes nearly as much comment as do the crimes with which the conspirators are charged. The crowds in the courtroom seem at times to grow weary of listening to recitals of forgeries, perjuries and plottings to rob the county, but they wake up and listen attentively to the war of arguments between the counsel. The Judge and the lawyers furnished all the interest in the case which was closed to-day. The speeches of Messrs. Byington and Robeson yesterday were only preludes to the arguments which were given today by Mr. Salpinan and the Attorney-General. Every seat in the Town Hall was filled, and every inch of standing room in the aisles was occupied. Many women were standing up in the gallery. During the time that the arguments were being presented it was nearly impossible for anyone to pass in or out of the building. A hush of expectancy fell on the waiting crowd when Mr. Salpinan began to speak. He had complained of feeling too unwell to proceed last evening, but no delivered an address two hours long without any show of weakness.

He dwelt long on the former reputation of his clients—Cummins, Bulgin and Givens—saying that their characters had been above reproach. He then began a long attack on the witness Dean, whom he characterized as a "foul, corrupt, false-hearted ingrate," a man "steeped all through in crime," and a "perjured villain." The torrent of his abuse was at times so strong as to move the audience to laughter. He even compared him with Judas, putting the odds in favor of the latter. He argued that the indictment of his clients had been procured by the testimony of Dean before the Grand Jury, and he claimed that from the wording of the indictments Dean had contradicted in court what he had said to the Grand Jury. Dean's latest story, he claimed, had been manufactured to suit the evidence in the possession of the District-Attorney. Mattison's story had not corroborated that told by Dean. Both men were interested in testifying for the State, as in that way they evaded the punishment which they merited according to their own confessions. Mattison had said that Dean made the changes in the note which it was claimed had been paid twice, and Dean said that Mattison altered it. There was no evidence, he claimed, that such a note was ever in existence. The accounts of Cummins, the county collector, showed that he had not credited himself with any such note, while they also prove that he had charged himself with all the bonds issued by him. Mr. Shipman also reviewed the defence for Givens and Bulgin, who were claimed to be absent from the Warren House when the alleged conspiracy was brought to a successful end.

Attorney-General Stockton argued that whatever had been said by the counsel for the defence against Dean and Mattison might be said with equal force against their clients. He then went carefully over the testimony, bringing out in a clear manner the evidence which had been offered for the State and shattering many arguments for the defence in his course. He argued that the forged note was in the possession of