LOCAL MISCELLANY.

AN ARMY OFFICER ON TRIAL.

ACCUSED OF BIGAMY AND FORGERY—THE COURT-MARTIAL ON GOVERNOR'S ISLAND.

A court-martial, ordered by President Hayes for the trial of Captain Thomas Blair, of the 15th United States Infantry, assembled on Governor's Island yesterday. There were present Lieutenant-Colonel R. B. Ayres, of the 3d Artillery; Lieutenant-Colonel A. D. Nelson, of the 12th Infantry; Lieutenant-Colonel J. M. Brannan, of the 1st Artillery; Major G. A. De Russy, of the 3d Artillery; Major C. L. Best, of the 1st Infantry; Major Richard Arnold, of the 5th Artillery; Major John Mendenhall, of the 1st Artillery; Captain John S. Wharton, of the 19th Infantry, and Captain William Sinclair, of the 3d Artillery. These officers will form the court-martial, to be presided over by Major David G. Swain, who has been appointed Judge-Advocate. A message was received from the Secretary of War yesterday informing the court-martial that Major Swain had been taken sick in Washington and ordering an adjournment until to-day. The court therefore adjourned until 11:30 o'clock this morning, after appointing Captain Sinclair recorder. General M. T. McMahon, counsel for Captain Blair, was present with Mrs. Blair when the court-martial assembled.

The charge on which Captain Blair is brought to face a military tribunal is stated as "conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman," but he is accused of bigamy and forgery. The accused officer is a Scotchman by birth, and is a handsome, intelligent-looking man. It is asserted that when he came to America, over twelve years ago, he left a wife and two children, who are now living in Scotland. Without having been legally divorced from his first wife he married the widow of General Gordon Granger, a prominent officer in the Union Army during the rebellion. The accusation of forgery is based on the following circumstances: Captain Blair sent to Mrs. Nichols, of Glasgow, who claims to be his wife, a document which purported to be his discharge from the United States Army. It was signed by a name unknown to the War Department. Army officers say that while the act of signing a fictitious name could not be made the basis of a charge of forgery in a civil court, it can be used against the officer in a military tribunal, because the use of any such means of deception may be classed as "conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman." When the accusations against Captain Blair were made he was stationed in Texas, and he applied for leave of absence, stating that he wished to disprove the charges against him. He was granted thirty days' leave, and he started for Washington intending to ask for leave to visit Scotland. He travelled by way of New-York and was delayed by a snow-storm. On his arrival in this city he was arrested and placed under guard at Governor's Island. The military authorities believed that he intended to go to Scotland without leave, and a court-martial was ordered.

Since his imprisonment Captain Blair has said that he was never married to Mrs. Nichols of Glasgow, but he has admitted that he lived on intimate terms with her, and that he was the father of her two children. He claims that he supported the children as well as he could afford, and that the woman was untrue to him. He explains his visit to this city by the fact that he had passes over the New-York Central Railroad. His wife was related to the Vanderbilts by her marriage to General Granger, and Mr. Vanderbilt, it is said, has shown her much kindness in providing for her boy by her first marriage. Mrs. Blair clings to her husband and visits him daily. Her relatives, who are wealthy residents of Georgia, are anxious to have the charges against Captain Blair either proved or disproved, and it was said at one time that they meditated procuring a requisition to have him tried in Georgia on a criminal court.

THE WESTBOUND FREIGHT POOL.

COMMISSIONER FINK DECLARES THE RUMORS OF ITS APPROACHING DISSOLUTION UNTRUE.

A report having been published that the Westbound freight pool was in danger of breaking up, owing to differences of opinion on the decisions of Commissioner Fink regarding the allotment of percentages, a reporter of THE TRIBUNE asked the Commissioner yesterday what foundation there was for the report.

"None whatever," replied Mr. Fink. "A long editorial to that effect, which appeared in *The American Exchange* to-day, has no foundation in fact. The combination is as strong to-day as ever it was, and there is no difference of opinion that threatens any trouble."

"Does not the New-York Central demand an increased percentage?"

"A request to that effect has been the subject of discussion for about eighteen months. In such a matter, after thorough investigation, I report to the presidents of the roads any suggestion I have to make on the subject, and it is then discussed in the meetings of the board, and if not decided there I have the right, as final arbitrator, to settle the question. I suggested some time ago that a small increase in the allotment to the New-York Central be allowed. The presidents discussed the question and arrived at no conclusion. It will again come up for discussion, as it has many times before, and whether allowed or not it does not endanger in any way the continuance of the existing pooling arrangement. It is nonsense to suppose that for $50,000 a year, which would be about the additional amount the Central would receive, a profitable business of $10,000,000 should be endangered, and a resort had to the old system of cutting rates."

"Is the report true that a meeting of the presidents has not taken place for some time, owing to an irreconcilable difference of opinion regarding the allotment proposed to be given the Central Road?"

"No. A meeting has not been held, because the managers could not make it convenient to be present, but one will probably take place in a few days."

"Are you not charged with partiality to the Central Road?"

"Nowhere, that I am aware of, except in the newspapers. There is no truth in the report that the Pennsylvania Road refused to refer an important question relative to the Western cattle trade to me for decision on account of supposed partiality. Here is a letter that will settle that point."

Mr. Fink exhibited a letter from Vice-President Roberts of the Pennsylvania Road, written February 1, which, among other things, thanked him for his straightforward course and expressed great confidence in his decisions. Mr. Fink declared that there was no truth in the statement that he had contemplated resignation.

A MANIA FOR VERBATIM REPORTS.

CONTROLLER KELLY, IN SELF-DEFENCE, ARMS HIMSELF WITH A STENOGRAPHER TO MEET THE MAYOR.

The Board of Estimate and Apportionment held its regular weekly meeting in the Mayor's office yesterday, President Mott of the Board of Aldermen being absent. Since Mayor Cooper became a member of the board he has had a stenographer present at each meeting to record the discussions with the Controller and furnish reports for publication to those newspapers which desired a copy. Owing to the revisions which these reports underwent in the Mayor's office, and, as reported, for measures of self-protection, Controller Kelly thought it necessary to have his own stenographer present. This was the case yesterday. When the spectators saw the Mayor and the Controller, each with his stenographer attentively transcribing every word spoken, a smile went around the room. While the two officials are apparently on the most pleasant terms, it is evident that no advantage will be allowed where it can be prevented. Hereafter newspapers wanting verbatim reports of City Hall talks may be supplied from either the Mayor's or Controller's office. Owing to the absence of President Mott, or the presence of rival stenographers, or for some other reason, the "interesting conversation" which it was intimated would take place, did not occur, and after transacting a little routine business, the Board adjourned until Wednesday next.

DELAY IN THE SMITH MURDER TRIAL.

The Hudson County Court room at Jersey City was crowded yesterday morning in anticipation of the trial of Mrs. Jennie R. Smith and Covert D. Bennett for the murder of Policeman Richard H. Smith. Considerable delay was caused by the absence of the counsel for the defendants who were consulting with their clients. When they finally made their appearance Judge Knapp asked if they were ready with the case. Ex-Senator Winfield asked that the defendants be brought into court as their counsel had a paper ready for their signatures. When brought into the room from the jail, Mrs. Smith was calm and perfectly composed as was Bennett; but the faces of both were pale. After they had signed the paper Mr. Winfield presented it to the Court. It challenged the array of the panel of jurors on the ground that the list of the jury delivered to them was not selected from the general panel; and asked that the panel be quashed. The counsel stated that the panel was not drawn by the Sheriff. Judge Knapp said the general panel had been discharged until sent for, and the petit jurors had been selected from those who remained.

Mr. Winfield asked that an investigation be made into the manner of drawing this array of jurors. He claimed that the list had been made up by some of the constables of the court to suit themselves, and that a number of the panel who was thought to be opposed to capital punishment had been designedly left out. District Attorney McGill objected to the imputation which he considered had been cast upon the State by Mr. Winfield. Judge Knapp said there had been no imputation cast upon the counsel for the prosecution, and adjourned the trial for one week.

THE FUNERAL OF MRS. J. Q. A. WARD.

Funeral services over the remains of Julia Devens Ward, wife of J. Q. A. Ward, the sculptor, were held yesterday afternoon at her late residence, No. 9 West Forty-ninth-st. A coffin covered with dark cloth was set in the front parlor, which, together with the stairway leading to it and the hall below, were densely packed with friends in attendance, among whom were many ladies. Eastman Johnson, Clinton Gedlvie, Sandford R. Gifford and Charles Calverly were also present. The immediate relatives sat in a rear room on the same floor. On the coffin were strewn promiscuously white carnation pinks, red roses and calla lilies. The services were those of the Episcopal Church, and were conducted by the Rev. E. H. Kranz, assistant rector of St. Ann's Church, and the Rev. C. C. Tiffany, of the Church of the Atonement. The remains were taken to Greenwood Cemetery for interment.

DIVIDEND OF THE ROLLING STOCK COMPANY.

The United States Rolling Stock Company held its annual meeting yesterday. The company's business is to acquire or construct all descriptions of rolling stock in use on railroads, and to hire or lease the same to railroad companies. The annual report submitted yesterday shows a net income for 1878 of $313,623 53, or nearly 6½ per cent on the total capital stock. The September dividend absorbed $98,000, leaving $215,626 53 now available. Out of this a March dividend of 10 shillings a share was ordered to be paid, which will leave $93,279 54 for the permanent reserve. The decline of $35,669 19 in the reserve is attributed to the cancelling of broad-gauge contracts with the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad Company. The trustees elected yesterday were James R. Hodgskin, William H. Guion, Adrian Iselin, E. G. Fabbri and Jonathan Edwards.

THE SALVATION OF INFANTS.

DISAGREEMENT OF BAPTIST PREACHERS ON THE SUBJECT AT THEIR WEEKLY CONFERENCE.

The regular weekly meeting of Baptist ministers was held yesterday morning in the Oliver-st. Chapel. There were considerably over a hundred persons in attendance, several women being present. The Rev. G. K. Allen presided. The Rev. Mr. Rhodes and the Rev. Dr. Hoyt briefly stated the reasons why they voted in the minority of twelve at the last meeting, when the Rev. Dr. Fulton was suspended from membership in the Conference by a vote of 52 to 12. The remarks that were made on his report gave the secretary, the Rev. D. C. Potter, an excuse for making a personal explanation.

"It seems to me," said he, "that of late the clerk has been subjected to an unprecedented amount of criticism, notwithstanding that it has been a labor of love entirely. The charge of manipulating the records is unfounded."

Dr. Reed moved a vote of confidence in the clerk, but the latter interrupted him with "No, gentlemen, I don't ask that; but I did feel outraged when Dr. Fulton stood on his feet here last week and said what he must have known wasn't true."

"Oh, no; not that!" broke in several voices.

"Well, he was forgetful, then," concluded the clerk.

"Let him alone," said one. "He's not here to defend himself." About half of those present rose on the vote of confidence.

The Rev. Dr. Hoyt moved that the asking and answering of questions in regard to church matters be dispensed with hereafter. "It is not best," said he, "for us to expose ourselves to such reflections as have been made in the past."

"If we behave," said the Rev. Mr. Motley, in opposing the motion, "our behavior will go abroad; and if we disbehave our disbehavior will go abroad." The Rev. Mr. Heddin wanted the business of the conference up to the reading of the weekly essay transacted with closed doors. The Rev. Mr. Gessler thought the members ought to pray for a little more common sense. "Self respect," said the Rev. Mr. Waters, of Passaic, "requires us to sit with closed doors, then we could have as big rows as we pleased." Dr. Hoyt accepted as a substitute for his motion Dr. Thomas's suggestion that hereafter questions shall pass through the hands of the Executive Committee before coming to the conference.

The weekly paper, read by Professor Fox, was upon the salvation of infants, and in it he maintained, by implication if not by direct assertion, that if the salvation of infants were conceded, Universalism was the logical consequence. Dr. Thomas disagreed with the speaker, and his statement to that effect brought forth several hearty "amens." The Rev. Mr. Adams said that a friend of his once preached the doctrine that all who died in infancy were elect. "Election in other words," broke in one of the members, "would seem to be unhealthy." Dr. Hoyt thought that the essay had left the conference in a most unfortunate plight, and it was finally decided to continue the discussion on this topic next Monday, when the Scriptural side of the question will be presented by the Rev. Dr. Reed.

CLOSING A FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE RIDGEWOOD COMPANY TO TAKE NO MORE RISKS—WHAT PRESIDENT LOTHROP SAYS OF ITS CONDITION.

The directors of the Ridgewood Fire Insurance Company, of Brooklyn, have decided to take no new business, and all outstanding risks have been reinsured by the Connecticut Fire Insurance Company, of Hartford. William K. Lothrop, president of the Ridgewood Company, said yesterday that the company was organized in 1873 with a capital stock of $200,000, A. A. Low taking an active part in the organization. During its existence he states that the company has made money, and that while business has fallen off during the last year, still the company has been in a flourishing condition, holding over $1,000 risks of about $9,000,000, which have been reinsured. The surplus on January 1 was about $100,000, out of which $28,000 was drawn for reinsurance, and $10,000 for dividends, leaving a surplus of $62,000 at present. The losses by the Broadway and Worth-st. fires were $17,000, and it is expected that at least $4,000 will be saved in salvage on the Worth-st. buildings.

Mr. Lothrop claims that the directors did not consult the stockholders, and voted to stop business so as to make the assets of the company pay stockholders in full. The intention, he states, is to do no business for twelve months, and then to have a friendly suit brought to wind up the company for not using its franchise, when the assets will be divided among the stockholders.

The assets of the company at their market value consist of United States bonds, $138,150; Manhattan Company stock, $14,000; Long Island Bank stock, $10,000; American Exchange National Bank stock, $10,000; National Bank of Commerce stock, $179,050; cash, $6,520 68; premiums in course of collection, $7,597 27; incidentals, $108 33; total, $363,666 31. Most of the directors are young Brooklyn men, sons of wealthy parents. William K. Lothrop, president, and William A. Scott, secretary, have accepted the agency of the Connecticut Fire Insurance Company, and will retain the present office of the Ridgewood Company, at No. 170 Broadway.

EXPLOSION IN A CARTRIDGE FACTORY.

TWO YOUNG MEN INJURED AND THE BUILDING DESTROYED.

The explosive cartridge factory of Hamacher & Co., in One-hundred-and-tenth-st., between First and Second-aves., was blown up yesterday at 10 a. m. It was the third time an explosion had occurred in the building. The material of which the cartridges are made cannot be mixed except when wet, on account of its explosive qualities.

The cause of the explosion yesterday is not known. At the time there were two young men working in the shop, Bernard Dunn, of East One-hundred-and-thirteenth-st., and William Mahler, of East Seventy-fourth-st. The explosion blew up the roof as high as the house-tops, and in coming down it covered up the two young men, who were saved from being crushed, however, by a huge hogshead, which was near them and which broke the fall of the roof. They managed to extricate themselves. Dunn received a deep gash in the hip, besides slight cuts about the head and arms. Mahler received a slight cut on the knee. Dunn says: "Mahler went outside to get something, and when he came in was cold; so we left the machine to warm ourselves. Mr. Hamacher had gone to buy a new stove, the old one being out of order. I don't remember anything more until the stove and roof came upon me."

Those who saw the explosion said that there were three distinct shocks, the first being the hardest. The windows in all the houses near were blown out, and in some cases the sashes also. Men a block away were stunned. The place where the factory stood is now covered with one mass of splinters.

About 20,000 cartridges exploded. The loss on the building is a little over $1,000, and there is no insurance. Sometime after the explosion, John C. Paige, of No. 312 East One-hundred-and-tenth-st., a son of one of the employes of the Harlem Gaslight Company, pricked up one of the cartridges and tried to take out the explosive material with a pin. The cartridge exploded, tearing three fingers and the thumb from his hand.

BILLIARDS AT COOPER INSTITUTE.

The billiard tournament at Cooper Institute was resumed yesterday. The game in the afternoon was between Thomas J. Gallagher and William Sexton. There were thirty innings. The highest run was made by Sexton in the twenty-seventh inning, when he scored 184 points. Gallagher's highest run was in the tenth inning, when he made 136 points. The game was won by Gallagher, Sexton making 523 points. Sexton's average was $17\frac{13}{30}$, and Gallagher's was 20.

The game last evening was between Garnier and Daly. The hall was well filled. Daly began the game with six runs, while Garnier failed to count. By careful nursing in the second inning, however, Garnier scored 70 points, and in the fifth inning he made 54 more in the same way. Daly appeared to be a little nervous, and made no large run until his tenth inning, when he gathered the balls at the lower rail and by working them gently up the right hand rail scored 89 to the delight of his friends. After this neither man played well for several innings, both failing to score in the thirteenth. In the fourteenth inning Daly made some beautiful round-the-table shots that were loudly applauded; Garnier failed to count. In the seventeenth inning Garnier made 172 amid much enthusiasm, making many difficult and brilliant shots. Daly made only 14 in the next four innings, while Garnier ran the game out, beating Daly 853 points. Garnier's average was $24\frac{1}{7}$, and Daly's was $19\frac{1}{3}$. Sexton and Hesser play this afternoon, and Slosson and Rudolph in the evening.

NOT FOND OF SERVILE DUTY.

Ex-Controller Andrew H. Green is a frequent visitor at Mayor Cooper's office, and is reported to be the Mayor's most esteemed adviser in city affairs, especially in regard to business connected with the Controller's office. He is not, however, very popular with the city employes, as was shown rather pointedly on Saturday last, when Mr. Green was leaving the office for the day. He inquired of Officer Van Zandt, who is detailed for duty at the Mayor's office, if there was a brush-broom there. The officer politely procured the broom, when Mr. Green said, "Brush off my trousers." The officer threw down the broom and walked away.

COLDER WEATHER FORETOLD.

According to the reports received at the Signal Station on the Equitable Building the temperature has fallen rapidly in the extreme Northwest within the past twenty-four hours. At Pembina and Fort Garry the temperature fell yesterday to 7° below zero. In other parts of the country the temperature had risen rapidly, and brisk westerly and northwesterly winds were blowing. It was deemed probable from the fact that these winds were blowing from the quarter where the temperature was lowest, and as light snow was falling there, that the weather will be colder here to-night.

In this city yesterday the thermometer indicated a temperature of 32° at 8 a. m., a rise of 19° from the previous day, and at noon it was rising still.

SEEKING RELIEF FROM DEBTS.

An assignment for the benefit of his creditors made by William P. Kingman to Sumner A. Kingman and filed yesterday, gives preferences first to the Bowery National Bank for $5,377 64 and then to others for $2,888. The Bowery National Bank preferences are mainly to secure their indorsements on notes of others discounted for the assignor.

Senator Thomas Murphy applied to Register Little for his discharge from bankruptcy, and the matter came up yesterday. Only one creditor, Nathan Littauer, opposed his discharge, and the matter will be submitted to Judge Choate for decision. The creditors of W. C. Rogers, the "Ring" stationer, met at the office of Register Little and elected Wm. M. Fikes assignee. Among the claims found were the following: O. W. West, $5,000; Charlotte A. Horton, $175 70; Coudert Brothers, $28 79.

NEW-JERSEY LEGISLATURE.

THE JERSEY CITY BRIDGE.

ARGUMENT BY COUNSEL FOR AND AGAINST THE PROPOSED BRIDGE OVER THE MORRIS CANAL BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CITIES.

[FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

TRENTON, N. J., Feb. 3.—Your correspondent's statement in to-day's TRIBUNE that the air would be filled with music at the opening of this week's session of the New-Jersey Legislature, is amply fulfilled this evening. The cases that have infested to-day have been the arguments before the House Committee on Municipal Corporations upon the bill for a bridge over the Morris Canal Basin at Jersey City. The nature of the contest over the measure was fully described in the letter from Trenton published in to-day's TRIBUNE, and the argument took place this afternoon at 3 o'clock, in the Assembly Chamber. The scene was not unlike that of a lecture before the American Geographical Society. A half dozen maps were spread as standards about the chamber, and before these the counsel for the interests involved pranced up and down, wand in hand, explaining the situation, with that ingenuous earnestness which makes the transition of the legal profession to the stage so natural and easy. The array of counsel was very large and comprised distinguished men in the New-Jersey Bar: T. N. McCarter, of Newark, for the Lehigh Valley Railroad and the Morris Canal Company; James H. Vredenburgh, of Jersey City, for the Matthiessen & Wiechers Sugar Refining Company, and a printed argument for the same interest by ex-Attorney-General Gilchrist, of Jersey City, who was too ill to appear in person. All of these were opposed to the bill. In its favor were ex-Senators W. J. Magie and John W. Taylor, for the New-Jersey Central Railroad Company, and Wm. A. Lewis, Wm. P. Douglas and Charles H. Hartshorne, for the people of Jersey City. The arguments were confined to a half hour each, and were fine displays of special pleading almost without exception.

Mr. William P. Douglas, of Jersey City, opened the argument, giving a history of the attempt of the city to secure a bridge. It appeared that the city in 1871 began a system of improvements in the neighborhood of the Morris Canal Basin, the principal of which was the opening, grading and paving of Washington-st., the plans comprising a bridge over the basin. The commissioners, in awarding damages to property-holders for the improvement, neglected to award any to the Morris Canal for the insignificant amount of the canal basin which would be occupied by the pivot upon which the draw-bridge would turn. The opening of the street cost $79,000, and without the bridge it was, of course, "no thoroughfare." When work was begun upon the bridge the Matthiessen & Wiechers Sugar Refining Company asked for an injunction on the ground of the injury it did to its approaches to the Hudson River by the basin. The Chancellor denied the application, on the ground that the Refining Company had no more rights in the premises than the rest of the navigating public. The Morris Canal applied for an injunction and secured it, and it is still in effect, by reason of the failure of the commissioners to award damages. What the people now ask is that provision be made for paying the Canal Company the damages they claim, and the erection of the bridge be allowed. Counsel stated the amount to be the insignificant sum of $228 10. Counsel said the objection to the proviso in the bill relative to issuing the bonds would not hold good, in view of the fact that it was merely for the sake of speeding the work, and that the bonds could be paid if necessary within a year.

Thomas N. McCarter followed for the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company, owners of the Morris Canal Company. The bill, in his opinion, was too sweeping, and unconstitutional in that it interfered with local affairs. It might affect every city in the State, and the provisions which required Jersey City to issue bonds for the improvement might be made to work disastrously in other municipalities. The bonding provision he regarded as peculiarly obnoxious, particularly in view of the condition of Elizabeth, a city which had come to the Legislature and obtained authority to issue bonds just as Jersey City is now asking, and the result has been bankruptcy and all its attendant evils. The proposed bridge, counsel claimed, would inflict damages to the interests he represented to the amount of thousands, for which the Canal Company would look to the city for reimbursement. Counsel knew that the interests advocating this bonding of Jersey City were powerful. He had seen the present receiver of the Central Railroad, the real party in interest, secure immense sums from the State to build the Morristown Lunatic Asylum, and thereby fasten an incubus on the State for all time to come. He knew the receiver's power, and he hoped the Legislature would not submit to his dictation in the matter. If the Central Railroad wants the bridge, why don't it build it at its own cost, instead of asking the impoverished city of Jersey City to bond itself for it? Counsel further declared that heavy damages would be claimed of all the parties in interest if the bridge was built, and the city would be involved in hopeless litigation, or mulcted in enormous amounts.

Mr. Vreedenburgh followed Mr. McCarter, reading the argument of Mr. Gilchrist, and commenting upon it occasionally. The argument differed from that of his predecessor, in that Mr. McCarter wanted no bridge at all, while Mr. Vreedenburgh only wanted none at Washington-st. He claimed that the Cunard Line of steamships and other large interests have been driven away from Jersey City already by high taxes and such encroachments on their rights as this bill proposed upon those of the Refining Company. Take this company would leave Jersey City if the bridge was built, and take away with it a population of 4,000 who depended on it for subsistence.

W. H. Lewis and others followed at length in favor of the bridge, speaking as citizens of Jersey City. The bill will probably be reported favorably to-morrow, and then the real excitement will begin.

THE EVENING SESSION.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION—REPEAL OF THE JERSEY CITY WARD ACT BY THE ASSEMBLY—BRIBERY AT ELECTIONS.

TRENTON, N. J., Feb. 3.—The following were introduced in the Senate this evening: A bill to provide for the calling of a Constitutional Convention by the election of sixty delegates, representing the several Assembly districts, on the first Tuesday of April, the constitutional amendments proposed by said convention to be submitted to a vote of the people on the 3d day of September next. A joint resolution which urges our Representatives in Congress to urge upon the General Government the importance of appointing commercial agents for the South American States where there are none such, with the view of gathering statistics of commercial articles and products for exportation, and to increase the commercial facilities of the United States.

The bill making the receipt of money by any voter at election a ground for challenge of his right to vote; the bill to exempt from seizure $200 worth of stock or interest in any corporation; the bill to enable Boards of Freeholders in counties where there are insane asylums, to appoint superintendents and provide for their general management, and the bill to authorize steamboat companies to appoint special police officers, were passed.

In the House a bill was introduced repealing the act which requires new railroad companies to deposit $2,000 a mile as an earnest of good faith in building their roads. Also bills providing for a State Board of Commissioners of Public Chattles appointed by the Governor and Senate; authorizing the Board of Education at Elizabeth to incur obligations equal to one-quarter of the annual appropriation for the support of the schools in anticipation thereof; providing that if a saloon-keeper violates the Sunday law he shall be held amenable to the city ordinance only; providing that insurance companies in advertising shall publish only their paid-up capital, and shall show their liabilities, under a penalty of from $50 to $500 for violation of these provisions; abolishing the office of Register of Water Works wherever existing; authorizing fire companies to collect a tax direct from foreign insurance companies, instead of through other sources. These bills were severally referred.

The Jersey City Ward Act of last year was repealed by a vote of 33 to 25. The bill to exempt parsonages from taxation and the bill to make improvements at the State House were passed. The bill to increase the jurisdiction of Justices of the Peace was ordered to a third reading.

THE SCHOOLS IN ELIZABETH, N. J.

The Board of Education of Elizabeth, N. J., met last evening in the City Hall to discuss the advisability of closing the public schools. A communication from Robert C. Chetwood, City Attorney, was read, stating that he regretted his inability to render an opinion yesterday as to the criminal liability of the Board in keeping open the schools without an appropriation having been made for them. He thought he could give an opinion in a week if the Board thought proper to defer action so long.

Commissioner Day offered a resolution that the schools be closed until further action. The resolution was lost by a vote of 11 to 5. A resolution by Commissioner Keppler was adopted asking that a committee be appointed to examine into the disposition of the State School Fund appropriation, and ascertain if any part of it has been applied to the payment of any other than the specific purposes for which it was made, and, if needful, to communicate with the State authorities in reference to it; that the committee consult the City Attorney in regard to the expediency in causing such legislation to be effected as would harmonize the existing laws, so as to prevent a recurrence of a situation like the present one, which threatened seriously to injure the educational interests of the city. The committee will report at the next meeting.

GENERAL SHERMAN IN FLORIDA.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Feb. 3.—General Sherman and party arrived here at 8 o'clock this morning, and left at 11 for St. Augustine, where they will remain several days, and then go up the St. Johns River, returning here in about ten days. There was no public demonstration here.

TELEGRAPHIC NOTES.

STOLEN BONDS RECOVERED.

ST. JOHN, N. B., Feb. 3.—Turnbull & Company yesterday recovered the bonds stolen from them early in December last. The face value of the bonds is $100,000.

BLEW OUT HIS BRAINS.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 3.—Jacob Shew, a well-known photographer, committed suicide this morning at his gallery by blowing his brains out. Cause: pecuniary embarrassment.

ROBBED BY TRAMPS.

YORK, Penn., Feb. 3.—On Saturday evening last a party of tramps entered the house of Peter List, three miles from here, bound and gagged him and robbed him of a gold watch and $125. No arrests have been made.

OVERDOSE OF LAUDANUM.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 3.—I. P. Cummins, of the firm of Cummins & Sons, valve manufacturers, on Front-st., died this morning from an overdose of laudanum. Whether it was taken with the intention of committing suicide or not has not been determined.

HOME NEWS.

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

9 a. m., 33°. Noon, 35°. 3 p. m., 37°. Midnight, 30°. Highest during the day, 37°. Lowest, 29°. Average, 32⅔°. Same day, 1878, 18½°.

PROMINENT ARRIVALS.

Windsor Hotel—John W. Garrett, President of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company; ex-Governor William B. Washburn, of Massachusetts, and J. Tillinghast, President of the Canada Southern Railway Company.....*Brevoort House*—Judge Amasa J. Parker, of Albany.....*Fifth Avenue Hotel*—Ex-Governor Alexander H. Rice and Moses Kimball, of Massachusetts.....*Metropolitan House*—Louis D. Pilsbury, Superintendent of New-York State Prisons.....*St. Nicholas Hotel*—Daniel Chadwick, Government Director of the Union Pacific Railroad.....*Metropolitan Hotel*—Ex-Congressman F. A. Pike, of Maine.....*Union Square Hotel*—General S. C. Armstrong, of Virginia.....*Astor House*—Lieutenant Edward A. Field, U. S. N.....*Park Avenue Hotel*—Judge James Baker, of St. Louis.

NEW-YORK CITY.

Most all the new designs in silver are in *repoussé* work.

A thistle is the design of a diamond brooch at Tiffany & Co.

Necklaces are worn without lockets and close to the throat.

Theodore B. Starr & Co. have among their bronzes, "The Echo," by Carpeaux.

There has been no marked change in ex-Mayor Jacob A. Westervelt's condition during the last few days. He is still perfectly helpless and requires constant watching.

The February meeting of the New-York Horticultural Society will take place in Republican Hall at two o'clock to-day. There will be a fine display of plants and cut flowers.

The Young Men's Christian Association reports for the month past a general attendance of 20,920; in the reading-room, 8,490; in the library, 3,560; in the gymnasium, 3,100.

Since chatelaine watches have been so much worn, almost every imaginable design can be found among them—from the plain, heavy Etruscan to the fancy sporting silver ones.

This afternoon, at precisely 3 o'clock, over 200 of the finest Antwerp carrier-pigeons will be set free at the New-York Aquarium, to begin their flight to their homes in cities within 100 miles of New-York.

The Lincoln Club will celebrate the birthday of Abraham Lincoln on February 12, at its rooms, No. 37 Clinton-place. Invitations have been sent to a number of well-known persons. An address will be delivered by the Rev. Dr. J. P. Newman.

Ernest Riensch, age twenty-five, is reported as missing from the residence of his brother-in-law, at No. 58 West Forty-fifth-st. He left the house at 10 a. m. on January 30, ostensibly to go to Hoboken to see the place. He has not been seen since. He was well dressed.

The steamer Erin, of the National Line, arrived from Liverpool yesterday. She lost her rudder on Sunday, during a heavy northeast gale, 260 miles east of Sandy Hook. The Erin had a boisterous passage throughout. The passengers last evening presented to Captain Andrews a complimentary letter.

A lady wishes to be heard on the subject of small coins. "I wish you would tell the Government," she said to a newspaper writer, "that we ladies think the three cent coins are a nuisance. I never give a ten cent piece to a car conductor without getting a miserable little three cent piece and two pennies in change. The little silver three cent piece I lose, and the nickel three cent piece I am apt to mistake for a dime, unless I have on my glasses. What are they for, any way? Five, two and one cent pieces are the only small coins that ought to be tolerated. Tell the Government that the ladies are down on the three cent piece and want it abolished."

BROOKLYN.

Francis A. Whittaker, a lawyer, recently an inmate of the Flatbush Lunatic Asylum, was found dead in his bed there early Sunday morning. Death was due to epilepsy.

The postponed ten mile race by members of the Elite Skating Circle, for gold medals, will take place on the Capitoline Lake to-day. The ice on the lake is in excellent condition.

Bids for the erection of a monument in Greenwood to the victims of the Brooklyn Theatre fire, were opened yesterday by the Board of City Works. The lowest bid was $3,839, and the highest $5,345.

The entire debt on the Park Congregational Church, has been pledged. This result was brought about chiefly by the efforts of Edward Kimball, who received promises of $10,000. Mr. Beecher's church will give $6,000.

The house at No. 417 Baltic-st., is occupied by James McGrath. Sunday night an attempt to burn it was made by saturating the outer door with kerosene, and piling up shavings and lighting them. The fire was discovered before much damage was done.

In the Supreme Court yesterday the case of Dr. Schenck, Medical Superintendent of the Flatbush Hospital, against the Board of Supervisors, was heard by Judge Pratt. The doctor's claim was for pay from April 1 to August 1, 1878. Decision was reserved.

The Board of Aldermen yesterday afternoon received a communication from Messrs. Flaherty and Bennett, of the Department of City Works, urging the investigation which was ordered by the Board at the first meeting in January, the resolution for which was vetoed by the Mayor. The Board by a vote of 19 to 3, determined to pass the resolution over the Mayor's veto.

STEAM ON SECOND-AVENUE.

TRIAL OF A NEW MOTOR ON THE HORSE-CAR LINE.

The dwellers along the route of the Second-ave. street-car line were somewhat surprised last night by the passing in front of their doors of a strange looking self-propelling street car. It was larger and higher than the usual size. On its sides were the words "Non-Explosive Steam Car Lalle." Steam issued with a slight noise from a short pipe. Passers-by stopped to gaze after it, and the car horses got as far out of its way as they could. On board the car were President Thorn and others interested in the Second Avenue Line, Colonel E. H. Angamar, the patentee of the motor, and Colonel Saunders, a director of the Angamar Motor Company. President Thorn stated that they were making the first trial trip downtown with the car, with a view to ascertain whether it could be substituted for horse cars. They left One-hundred-and-twenty-ninth-st. at 9 o'clock and arrived at Peck slip in fifty-five minutes. He said that so far he was well pleased with the experiment, but that it would have to be tested further before its adoption.

All the machinery is under the body of the car and is governed by an engineer on the front platform. The boiler is charged at the depot with 200 gallons of water, heated to 212 degrees, and this is converted into steam by means of a small furnace in which coke is burned. A single charge of the boiler will last from five to six hours. In running from Harlem last night only three inches of water had been exhausted when the car had reached Twenty-third-st., on its return trip. This same car has been run from the Treasury Building in Washington to the Capitol, up a grade of 340 feet to the mile, with 104 passengers in 8½ minutes. The car has seats along the side and a platform in the rear, like an ordinary street car. It is heated by steam, and can be stopped and backed in its own length. The trip down last night is not to be taken as a test of the speed of the car, as it had to run behind the horse-cars. The car moves as steadily as any horse-car on the surface tracks. It is an entirely different motor from the compressed air machine which has been tried on the same road.

BETTER TIMES COMING.

ENCOURAGING BUSINESS PROSPECTS AT TROY.

TROY, N. Y., Feb. 3.—The Hudson River Furniture Manufacturing Company at Cohoes resumed work to-day, employing fifty men, with a pay-roll of $2,000 per month. Fuller, Warren & Company's Stove Works resumed to-day, employing 200 men, and Bussey, McLeod & Company's Stove Works will resume on Thursday, employing the same number. Burden's Water Mill, which has been idle for three years owing to the removal of the works to a more advantageous location, started this morning. Other mills are unable to fill their orders. A Holly steam-heating company is being formed here with a capital of $150,000, and work is to be begun early in the spring. The business prospects for 1879 are very encouraging.

SENDING HOME AN EX-CONVICT.

Heinrich Koller, an ex-convict, was among the immigrant passengers on the steamship Mosel, which arrived from Bremen on Sunday afternoon. Koller told Superintendent Jackson, of Castle Garden, that he was a native of Haidhausen, Bavaria, and had always been very intemperate. His relatives in Munich sent him to America. He admitted that he had been in the penitentiary in Kloster, Eberach, for two years, having been convicted of larceny. On Sunday night, at Reinhart's Hotel, Koller demanded of a man named Becker the return of a draft which he had given as security for a loan of $16, and upon Becker's refusal a disturbance followed. Charles Herger, keeper of the hotel, stated that he had a letter to the effect that Koller was sent to the United States by the German authorities. He will be returned to Germany on the Mosel on Saturday.

A CHECK TO RAPID TRANSIT IN BROOKLYN.

The suit of the Brooklyn Steam Transit Company against the city to enjoin it from interfering with the erection of an elevated railroad, was decided yesterday by Judge Pratt, against the company. The opinion declares that the company had failed to comply with the law by constructing a mile of road in a specified time, and so was legally out of existence. Costs were awarded to the city. The case will come before the General Term.

SOROSIS AT DELMONICO'S.

At the monthly social meeting of Sorosis, in Delmonico's parlors, Monday, the committee on journalism ruled the programme. Helen M. Cooke, the chairman, read a paper entitled "The Women Editors of Two Centuries." Mrs. S. L. Hopper and the Rev. Phebe Hanaford followed her. The question for discussion was "Do we the people own the press, or does the press own us?" The ladies who took part in the discussion were Mrs. Morse, Mrs. Spencer, Mrs. Poole, Mrs. Smith, and Mrs. Croly. Sara E. Fuller presented a number of *The Pollywog Gazette*, published at Frogtown, Darwin Co., State of Evolution. This was an animated and animating journal.

The music consisted of singing by Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Lassar Studley, Miss Courtney, and Miss Mary Tuck. Recitations were by Minnie Swazey, Mary Porter, Reegie Anna Randall Diehl, and Fannie Forster.

POSTSCRIPT

3:45 a. m.

LATEST FOREIGN NEWS.

THE NEW FRENCH CABINET.

LONDON, Tuesday, Feb. 4, 1879.

The Times's Paris dispatch says the composition of the new Cabinet, as given Monday evening, shows it is organized with the hope of securing a durable majority. The new members are Senator Le Royer, Minister of Justice; Deputy Lepere, Minister of Commerce, and M. Jules Ferry, Minister of Education. The new Cabinet will be gazetted on Wednesday. It is expected that it will meet the Chambers with the same programme which M. Dufaure presented