LOCAL MISCELLANY.

EDISON'S ELECTRIC LIGHT.

A CROWD OF VISITORS AT MENLO PARK—NO PUBLIC EXHIBITION PROMISED OR GIVEN—MORE THAN FIFTY LIGHTS BURNING.

The unauthorized announcement that Thomas A. Edison's electric lights would be publicly exhibited at Menlo Park, N. J., drew scores of persons to that place last evening. The crowd that for several hours thronged the laboratory and the several workshops, and plied the attendants with innumerable questions was composed chiefly of men who were interested directly or indirectly in the success of the lights, amateur and semi-professional scientific men who were fairly running over with more or less useful knowledge, and curious spectators who seemed to be anxious to acquaint themselves with the mysteries of the new illuminator. Many ladies were present, and several old-fashioned wagons brought loads of farmers and their families from the neighboring country towns. Among the several hundred that were present were ex-Secretary Robeson, General Carse, Bartley Campbell, the author of "Fairfax," J. W. Dyer, Augustus Dowdell and Daniel D. L. Farson of Philadelphia; B. J. Arnold and Edward Randolph of Macon, Georgia, and W. C. Strickler of Peoria, Illinois. The most of the visitors who registered their names were from different parts of the country, from New-Brunswick to Illinois. Comparatively few were from New-York.

Until 8 p. m. the weather was so disagreeable that all remained within the shops examining the lights and the machines by which the various portions were made. The new-comers always gathered around the electric street lamps, and their expressions of astonishment were loud and frequent. The lights were steady and powerful, and did not throw the sharply-defined shadows that are seen from gas-lamps.

Among those who were interested in examining the lights in the building was a cloth manufacturer of Pennsylvania, who had come to see what arrangements he could make for supplying his mill with several hundreds of these burners. He said that at present there was great danger that the inflammable material would take fire from lighting the gas jets. This danger he wanted to avoid. There were others, too, who were visiting Mr. Edison on similar errands. Throughout the evening the workmen were kept busy explaining the several elements that go to make up the electric light system to curious crowds of spectators. Mr. Edison himself was continually surrounded by a dozen or fifteen people, two or three of whom were generally questioning him at once.

To a TRIBUNE reporter Mr. Edison said that the announcement that he intended to give a public exhibition of his lights at Menlo Park last evening was unauthorized. There were between fifty and sixty lights burning then. He should keep increasing this number daily, as rapidly as was practicable, and in five weeks he hoped that he would have 800 lights burning. He disclaimed any intention of giving any formal exhibition. He should increase the number of the lights as fast as he could increase his facilities for generating the electricity.

Last evening four private houses, those of Mr. Edison, Charles Batchelor, Mrs. Jordan, and F. R. Upton, were illuminated by the new light, and beside the lights in the workshops there were about fifteen street lamps burning. The most of the visitors returned to New-York on the 9 p. m. train, or continued on their way to Philadelphia.

The new lamp which brought together the crowd of visitors last night is an entirely different affair from the old one with which Mr. Edison has been experimenting for a year. It consists of a slender pencil of carbon, made incandescent in a vacuum in a small glass globe. The carbon is in the form of a horseshoe and is made of paper carbonized by being subjected to intense heat in a retort. The light of one gas jet is obtained from each lamp. Mr. Edison believes it to be a satisfactory lamp, and claims to have now attained the success for which he has so long been striving.

CAPTURE OF MASKED BURGLARS.

THE MEMBERS OF A PENNSYLVANIA BAND ARRESTED IN THIS CITY.

The police of this city received information Monday from Philadelphia that several members of a gang of burglars, which have been operating on an extensive scale in Blair, Lancaster and Berks Counties, Penn., had fled to this city. Descriptions of the men, given by three members of the gang arrested in Philadelphia on Monday, accompanied the information. Detectives Von Gerichten and Cumming, of the Central Office, were put upon the case, and on Tuesday morning succeeded in arresting two of the gang on Greenwich-st., near the Battery. They were arraigned before Justice Bixby, at the Jefferson Market Police Court yesterday, and acknowledging their connection with the gang, were given into the custody of the District-Attorney of Lancaster County, Penn., and Detective John Denhard, of Reading, who had come to this city to aid in the search. The names of the prisoners were August Lehr, alias "Younger Haussouer," and Frederick Berraeth, better known as "Crib-cracking Fred." One was a somewhat desperate-looking man, age about thirty-five, and the other was an inoffensive appearing youth, age about twenty. They were taken to Reading yesterday afternoon.

Detective Denhard, of Reading, had warrants for the men on a number of serious charges. He stated yesterday that the gang had been in existence for over six months, and numbered about twenty men, mostly Germans, and known in Pennsylvania as "Hemlocks," a name given to tramps born abroad. He said that several of the gang have been officers in the Prussian Army. Until within a few weeks they have successfully eluded the police, and have committed a large number of masked burglaries in the above-named counties, in which many houses have been violently broken into and much property has been carried off. The "Blue Ball Emporium," a large variety store at Blue Ball, Lancaster County, was broken into and a large quantity of jewelry and other valuables were stolen. From the residence of Mrs. Amanda Ladd, of Reading, silverware to the value of nearly a thousand dollars was stolen. The house of Daniel Reese, of Ontelaunee Township, Berks County, was entered by battering down a rear door, the burglars taking away everything of value that the building contained. In many of the operations of this daring band, the occupants of the robbed houses were found on the following morning bound and gagged. The gang was finally broken up by the arrest of their leader, the second in command, and another member, in Philadelphia. Two others are under arrest at Reading, and it was ascertained yesterday that another known as Joseph Bachman, alias "Kratz-bartch the Scratch-brush," is at present serving a term in the penitentiary for grand larceny committed in this city two weeks ago.

A DOUBLE INQUIRY IN STATEN ISLAND.

The Staten Island bribery investigation is developing a duplex character, with continually conflicting phases. Proceedings took place yesterday at Stapleton, before Justice Kassner, and meanwhile a counter-investigation was going on before Justice Johnson, at Port Richmond.

At Stapleton Thomas Humphrey, Editor of *The Richmond County Sentinel*, appeared in court, but the counsel expected from New-York by the prosecution did not arrive, and Humphrey refused to testify until he had received a subpœna made out in the proper legal form. As Justice Kassner's term of office expired at midnight, the examination was transferred to the court of Justice Garrett, where it will be reopened on Tuesday upon new affidavits of Samuel R. Brick.

At Port Richmond the trial of Henry Ainslie, the blind sailor who was alleged to have testified before Justice Kassner recently that he had received money for his vote from W. W. Corbett, and who was arrested for perjury on the complaint of Corbett, was begun before Justice Johnson. Ainslie swore that he never had testified that Corbett offered him money, and that it was not true. Tomorrow Oliver B. Fiske, the new Member of Assembly, ex-Justice Kassner and others will be examined.

PASSING THE CHAMBERS STREET SCHEME

The Aldermen yesterday, on motion of George Hall, passed the resolution granting a franchise to the Chambers Street Crosstown Railway, over the veto of Mayor Cooper, by the following vote:

Yeas—Aldermen Burns, Carroll, Cavanagh, Finck, Foster, George Hall, Robert Hall, Houghton, Hyatt, Keenan, Kenney, Kiernan, Sauer, Sheils, Slevin, Stewart and Strack—17.

Nays—Aldermen Mott, Jacobus, Morris, Perley and Roberts—5.

The opinion of the Corporation Counsel that the Board had no authority to grant such a franchise was not regarded by the Aldermen.

The Mayor nominated Allen Campbell for Commissioner of Public Works, for the four years beginning December 29, 1879, and it was laid on the table. A veto of the resolution extending the franchise of the Forty-second Street Railway was laid over under the rules. John H. Grimes and J. H. McCarthy were confirmed City Marshals.

INSPECTION OF TENEMENT-HOUSES.

The close of the year 1879 sees the completion of the work of inspecting the tenement-houses of this city, begun last Summer, which was fully described in THE TRIBUNE at the time. Since August 22,069 tenements have been inspected, surveyed and minutely described in the books of the inspectors, with plans and measurements that include the dimensions of rooms, area of yards, and with exhaustive figures concerning the number of inmates, with their location in the house, and many other important data. All this information is now being entered in ledgers; and when these are completed, the Board of Health will have for easy reference all the facts concerning every tenement-house in the city. Beside this, important tables of statistics are being prepared, giving the number of front and of rear tenements in each ward; the number occupied by 4, 8, 12, 16, 20 or more families; the whole number of persons occupying them; the statistics of the ventilation for inside sleeping-rooms; of the sanitary condition of houses; of sewer connection with closets; and the number of tenements occupying 50, 60 and up to 100 per cent of the lot on which they stand. The completion of these tables will make an important contribution to the statistical information about the city.

FREDERICK SMYTH RECORDER.

ELECTED BY THE TAMMANY ALDERMEN, TOGETHER WITH FOUR ANTI-TAMMANY VOTES.

The Aldermen yesterday elected Frederick Smyth, Recorder, to succeed John K. Hackett. Alderman Roberts moved that each Alderman name his choice for Recorder. The result of the vote was: Frederick Smyth, 13; Daniel G. Rollins, 6; John R. Fellows, 1; T. E. C. Ecclesine, 1; John G. Hyatt, 1.

Mr. Smyth was therefore declared elected Recorder until his successor is elected by the people next November. He received the votes of the nine Tammany Aldermen and those of Aldermen Kiernan, Kenney, Hyatt and Strack, Anti-Tammany. The Republicans all voted for Assistant District-Attorney Rollins, while Aldermen Mott, Haughton and Robert Hall, Anti-Tammany, each gave a complimentary vote to Messrs. Ecclesine, Fellows and Hyatt. It was generally believed yesterday that Cunning S. Bedford would be elected, as he had received three Anti-Tammany votes and was known to be the second choice of the Tammany Aldermen, but Mr. Smyth's friends began early in the morning to visit the Anti-Tammany Aldermen, and soon secured the necessary number of votes. There is no political significance in the result, except that the Anti-Tammany Aldermen endeavored to trade off votes to the Republicans for Mr. Rollins in return for votes to confirm Commissioner Campbell or some other Anti-Tammany nominee, and failing in this they were willing to aid their Tammany opponents to spite the Republicans. Some of the Anti-Tammany leaders outside of the Board were much incensed at the Anti-Tammany Aldermen who voted for Mr. Smyth.

Mr. Smyth was sworn in as Recorder yesterday afternoon. He is fifty-seven years of age, and was born in the County of Galway, Ireland. He came to this city at an early age, and served in the offices of a number of well-known lawyers. He has long been identified with Tammany Hall, and was nominated for Recorder and defeated by Mr. Hackett in 1875. In 1878 he ran for District-Attorney against Mr. Phelps, and was again badly defeated. Last year he was the Tammany nominee for Common Pleas Judge, and again suffered defeat. Mr. Smyth's election was a personal triumph for Mr. Kelly.

DECLINING TO RECEIVE A PRESBYTERY.

ACTION OF THE CLASSON AVENUE CHURCH IN BROOKLYN.

The Brooklyn Presbytery in October was invited by the pastor and people of the Brooklyn Tabernacle to hold its next meeting in that church. The invitation was accepted by a vote nearly unanimous. At a special meeting of the Presbytery December 22, it was determined that the next meeting be held in the Classon Avenue Church. This church has no pastor, the Rev. Dr. Duryea having gone to the Central Congregational Church in Boston. Neither the church nor Dr. Duryea took any part in the proceedings before the Presbytery in reference to Mr. Talmage.

On Saturday the session of the Classon Avenue Church unceremoniously voted that it would be inadvisable to have a meeting of the Presbytery therein. The officers of the church say that it has kept out of the trouble so far, and as it is wanting a pastor it prefers to take no decided attitude in the matter.

Edward P. Loomis, a member of the session, said to a TRIBUNE reporter last evening that the action of the session was in consequence of a note from the clerk of the Presbytery stating that it desired to meet with the Church. The answer sent was that the members of the church would prefer to have the Presbytery wait until they had a pastor, when they would give it a hearty welcome.

AN IMMENSE STEAMSHIP OF STEEL.

Manager Dale, of the Inman Steamship Line, received yesterday a copy of the specifications for the new steamship City of Rome, for which a contract has been awarded to the Barrow Shipbuilding Company, and which is intended to be the finest and the largest ocean steamship afloat, excepting the Great Eastern. She is to be of 8,300 tons measurement, and to be constructed of steel upon the cellular or double bottom system, with two longitudinal bulkheads through the boiler and engine spaces, and eleven transverse bulkheads. The dimensions are to be 546 feet in length on the keel, 590 feet long over all, 52 feet beam and 38¾ feet depth from the main deck. She will have four iron masts, three funnels, three pairs of inverted direct-acting compound engines, eight boilers and forty-eight furnaces, with an estimated speed of 18¼ knots an hour, having a power of 8,500 horses. The saloon and staterooms are to be luxuriously finished. There will be accommodations for 300 saloon and over a thousand steerage passengers.

A DAY OF WINTRY DISCOMFORT.

New-York saw one of the most disagreeable kind of Winter days yesterday. The dark, dense clouds that seemed almost to sink down upon the housetops in the early morning, brought with them a storm of snow that began to fall heavily about 10 o'clock. This continued until about 1 o'clock, when the snow gradually changed into rain. This falling in a drizzle throughout the afternoon changed the snow on the pavements and walks into "slush." There was not enough snow to seriously impede the street-cars or stages, but enough to make walking very uncomfortable. The temperature fell in the evening and the sky became clear. The rain that had fallen on the now freezing on the pavements, made them exceedingly slippery, and in places covered them with the smoothest coatings of ice.

The storm centre was in the lower lake region, and its furthest Western limit was Detroit. At Albany the snow fell to a depth of four inches; further West it rained and was warmer. There was a heavy snow fall in different parts of New-England.

LOOKED LIKE A FORGER.

Detective Schmittberger of the Twenty-ninth Precinct was charged yesterday before the Police Commissioners by Isaac G. Boyce, a divorce lawyer, with dogging Mr. Boyce one evening last week on Sixth-ave, and charging him with being a thief named Clark. Mr. Boyce declared excitedly that if he had had a pistol on the occasion, he would unhesitatingly have shot the officer, who was in citizen's clothes. The detective admitted having followed Mr. Boyce but proved by witnesses that he looked so much like a forger named Clark, for whom he was looking, that he conceived it to be his duty to ascertain his identity. A few other cases were heard.

OPPOSITION TO THE CENTAL.

The grain trade of the Produce Exchange had another animated discussion yesterday over the central system, and most of its members declared their determination not to go into the new year with it. A committee was appointed to confer with the Board of Managers in the hope of obtaining relief. It was asserted that on the lower floor lard was still dealt in by the 100 pounds, and oil by the gallon, notwithstanding the adoption of the central, and that there had been a combined effort to force the grain trade into adopting the system.

ARMY ORDERS.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE GRANTED TO GENERAL SHERIDAN—ORDERS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—Three months' leave of absence has been granted to Lieutenant-General Sheridan, with permission to travel beyond the limits of the United States, for the benefit of his health. During General Sheridan's absence from his command the usual reports and returns will continue to be sent, as heretofore, to his headquarters at Chicago; and such as need higher action will be sent through General Sherman at Washington. When time is material the Commanding Generals of the Departments, comprising the military division of Missouri, may correspond directly with General Sherman through the Adjutant-General of the Army; at the same time sending copies of the correspondence to the Division Headquarters at Chicago.

By direction of the President, Colonel Stewart Van Vliet, Assistant Quartermaster-General, will, during the temporary absence of Brigadier-General M. C. Meigs, act as Quartermaster-General.

The leave of absence granted to Second Lieutenant William Lassiter, 16th Infantry, is extended five months.

A general court-martial has been appointed to meet at Jefferson Barracks, Mo., on January 5, 1880, or as soon after as practicable, for the trial of such prisoners as may be brought before it. The court-martial will be composed of the following officers: Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. Wade, 10th Cavalry; First Lieutenant C. G. Gordon, 6th Cavalry; Second Lieutenant Leighton Finley, 10th Cavalry; Second Lieutenant M. D. Parker, 9th Cavalry and First Lieutenant Charles Morton, 3d Cavalry. The last mentioned officer will act as Judge Advocate.

NAVY INTELLIGENCE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—Lieutenant J. T. Sullivan is ordered to special duty in the Bureau of Navigation, and Cadet Engineer W. B. Boggs to special duty at Wilmington, Del.

The United States ship Nipsic left Norfolk yesterday evening for St. Thomas and Venezuela.

The Tallapoosa left Washington yesterday on her trip to New-York and Boston.

OBITUARY.

GEORGE SMITH HOUSTON.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Dec. 31.—The Hon. George S. Houston, United States Senator from this State, died at his home at Athens at 9 o'clock this morning. The news has caused much sorrow here, and all the Capitol offices have been closed out of respect to the Senator's memory. Governor Cobb and many prominent citizens will go to Athens to attend the funeral services on Friday.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—Senators Morgan, (Ala.) Eaton, (Conn.) Allison, (Iowa) and Blair, (N. H.) as a committee on behalf of the Senate left here tonight for Alabama to attend the funeral of the late Senator Houston of that State. They are accompanied by a similar committee from the House consisting of Representatives Herndon, Shelley and Herbert of Alabama, Culberson of Texas and Thomas of Illinois. The committees are attended by Sergeant-at-Arms Bright of the Senate and C. C. Lindsay of Alabama.

George Smith Houston was born in Williamson County, Tenn., January 17, 1811. When quite young he removed to Alabama. Here he received his education in a public school. Studying law, he was admitted to the bar and began practice in Limestone County. After service as a member of the State Legislature, he was elected as a Democrat to the XXVIIth Congress on a general ticket; he was reëlected to the XXVIIIth, XXIXth and XXXth Congresses. He declined a reëlection to the XXXIst Congress, but was elected as a Union Democrat to the XXXIId without opposition, as he was also to the XXXIVth, XXXVth and XXXVIth. In 1861, Alabama having seceded, he resigned his seat. In 1865 he was elected to the United States Senate, but he was not allowed to take his seat. He was an unsuccessful candidate for the United States Senate in 1867; was a delegate to the National Union Convention in Philadelphia in 1866; and he was Governor of Alabama from 1874 to 1876. He was reëlected in 1876 for the term ending in 1879; and was elected to the United States Senate in that year for the term ending in 1885.

THE COUNT JOANNES.

One of the best known characters of the Metropolis has passed away. George Jones, better known as the Count Joannes, died on Tuesday at the West Side Hotel. He was born in England, in 1810. Of his early life little is known. Bowen's "History of the American Stage" states that he made his first appearance as an actor in this country at the old Federal Street Theatre in Boston. In 1851 he appeared in Philadelphia at the Chestnut Street Theatre as *Pierre* in "Venice Preserved." A little later he played various Shakespearean characters at the Walnut Street Theatre. He seems to have been well received, for not long afterward he was invited by Thomas Hamblin, then the lessee of the Bowery Theatre in this city, to accept an engagement. The Bowery Theatre was then in its prime. The elder Booth, Forrest and other stars appeared there, and "Old Drury," as it was known, divided with the Park Theatre the patronage of the better class of New-Yorkers. The invitation was accepted. Jones succeeded William R. Blake who had been engaged by the Park Theatre. The young actor is described at this time as being exceedingly good looking, tall, well formed, and elegant in manner and address. He appeared as the Prince in "King Henry IV." Mr. Hamblin being *Bolspur*. He was successful, and soon became a favorite with East Side audiences. He remained at the Bowery for three seasons. He also wrote and adapted several plays, one of these, the joint productions of Jones and Jones Phillips, entitled, "The Evil Eye," seems to have had fair success. While playing this engagement at the Bowery Jones was, one New-Year's night, supporting the elder Booth. The play was "Richard III.," Booth playing the *King* and Jones *Richmond*. Booth had been drinking freely, and as the play proceeded became impressed with the belief that he was really the *King*, and in the last act, mad with excitement, he attacked *Richmond* with the utmost fury. Only the cool courage of Jones and his excellent swordmanship saved him from being cut down by the mad king. Watching his opportunity Jones disarmed his antagonist, and bore him to the stage, while the theatre rang with the plaudits of the audience, who supposed they were witnessing a well simulated combat.

While at the Bowery, Jones married Melinda Topping, the daughter of a prominent builder of this city. They had two daughters, Avonia and Caroline Thomas. Mrs. Jones was a fair actress, and played for several years at the Bowery and Chatham Theatres in this city and in other cities in the United States. Their married life was not happy, however, and after a few years they separated, the wife caring for the children. For this reason in after life the daughters did not recognize their father. Avonia, then a talented actress, refused to support her father when he appeared at the Academy of Music for one night only a few years ago.

After leaving the Bowery Jones played engagements in Boston and other cities. In 1839 he was manager of the Marshall Theatre in Richmond, Va., and afterward of the Avon Theatre, Norfolk. In 1841 he went to England and delivered a series of lectures on the Bible. He also wrote and published several books and plays. These included "A History of Ancient America anterior to the Time of Columbus," "Proving the Identity of the Aborigines with the Tyrians and Israelites," "Tecumseh, a Tragedy," "The Life of General Harrison," and "The First Oration on Shakespeare." He afterwards travelled over Europe, leading an aimless sort of life. It was while in Germany that he claimed to have received from one of the small German potentates the title of Count Palatine, as a reward for literary merit.

On his return to this country he was admitted to the bar in Boston. He made himself so obnoxious, however, by reason of the various petty suits he began against various persons that an action was begun against him for barratry, with the object of having him disbarred. He came to this city in 1866, and was admitted to the bar. There was some difficulty over his title, which was settled by the Court signing the roll of attorneys as "George Jones, Count Joannes." Since that time the Count has been a familiar figure on the street, in the courts and on the stage. He has appeared occasionally in the courts in the capacity of a lawyer defending his client, but on these occasions his efforts were invariably provocative of hilarity on the part of the spectators, and for a long time past the judges have summarily shortened the Count's well rounded periods. The last time the Count appeared before the courts was in an effort to prevent Mr. Sothern from playing the "Crushed Tragedian," on the ground that it was a caricature of himself and calculated to bring him into contempt. The Count on several occasions appeared upon the stage of late years. His first appearance was at the Academy of Music soon after he came here from Boston. On this occasion he played *Hamlet*, a favorite character. The performance was unique of its kind, and *The Herald* treated his efforts in such a manner that the Count began a suit for libel against that paper, laying his damages at $10,000. Later he appeared at Niblo's, the Lyceum Theatre in West Fourteenth-st., and at Newark. His audiences were always large, but they were composed of the rougher class who had gathered to make sport of the old man. Throughout a storm of yells and hootings the Count bore himself with dignity, and at times pleaded with the brutal throng to have some consideration for the young woman who supported him.

For some time past the familiar figure clad in rusty black has not been seen around the courts. He has been in bad health for several years past. Dr. Frederick A. Putnam, who has known the Count for more than thirty years, attended him in his last illness. He was nursed by his protegé, Miss Avonia Fairbanks, and his last days were made as comfortable as possible. The physician, when first called, was of the opinion that the patient had not long to live, and so informed him. The Count replied that he was not afraid to die, but preferred to live long enough to give his protegé an assured position on the stage. He had been offered an engagement by a manager in this city, after the holidays, and had hoped to make a good deal of money. On Monday he was brighter, and wished to get up, but the physician forbade it. On Tuesday morning he was not so well, but there was nothing alarming in his symptoms. Dr. Putnam said that he would call again in the evening, but at 5:30 p. m. received intelligence of his death.

No definite arrangements have yet been made for the funeral. The only surviving relative of the dead man, so far as is known, is his younger daughter, Mrs. Bonney. Dr. Putnam has written to her at Cambridge, but has received no reply. Meanwhile the body is in the care of James Berry, the sexton of the Rev. Dr. Bellows's Church. If possible, the funeral will be held on January 2, from the Rev. Dr. Houghton's "Little Church Around the Corner."

THE MYSTERIOUS BOSTON HOMICIDE.

BOSTON, Dec. 31.—Additional details of the shooting of Mrs. Ward by her daughter, yesterday morning, afford no idea of the existence of any motive whatever for that act. The girl was visited at the police station last night, and wept bitterly over her situation and expressed the most sincere affection for her mother. The friends of the young woman assert that it must have been a case where great nervous excitement made her entirely irresponsible for the act, even if it were committed by her.

NINCOMPOOPIANA.—(Surfeited with excess of "culteinh," Prigsby and his friends are now going in for extreme simplicity.) Prigsby: "I considah the words of 'Little Bopeep' ineffah, lovelah, and more subtile than anything Shelley evah wrote!" Muffington: "Quite so. And Schubert nevah composed anything quite so precious as the tune." (Tries to hum it.) Chorus: "How supreme!"—[Punch.

VICARIOUS GENEROSITY.—The New Governess: "If you saw a poor man starving in the street, wouldn't you give him some of your pudding, Tommy?" Tommy: "I'd give him some of yours, Miss Smith!"—Punch.

HOME NEWS.

PROMINENT ARRIVALS.

Fifth Avenue Hotel—Don M. Dickinson, of Detroit, and Professor de Janon, of West Point.....*St. Nicholas Hotel*—Ex-Governor J. B. Page, of Vermont.....*Sturtevant House*—William W. Wright, of Geneva, N. Y.

NEW-YORK CITY.

Black kid gloves are more in favor for evening wear than they were last Winter.

Pretty new fans have Russia leather sticks and are of satin, hand painted, in unique designs.

Among the newest breakfast caps is the mob cap, which is almost exactly like the mob cap worn by the French peasants.

William Morgan, Police Court Clerk at the Tombs for the past six years, has been transferred to Jefferson Market Court.

Professor Proctor will lecture before the Teachers' Association Saturday at 2 p. m., in Steinway Hall, on "The Life and Death of a World.

The shoemakers in the employ of different wholesale shoe manufacturers, at a meeting yesterday, resolved to demand an advance of wages of 15 per cent.

Corporation Counsel Whitney sent an opinion to the Dock Commissioners yesterday in support of the city's ownership of the pier at Sixty-first-st., East River.

Tulle embroidered with pearl beads is the novelty used for the full puffing that fills the pompadour corsage when it is not desirable to have the neck uncovered.

It seems absurd to pay $3 for a pair of slippers and $6 for the bows with which to ornament them. But this is what ladies must do if they desire handsome slippers.

The New-York Aquarium will be extensively altered, and Stickney, Melville & Hamilton's Imperial Parisian Circus will occupy it after Monday, January 12.

Lipman Frank, of No. 792 First-ave., while practising with a rifle in his yard yesterday, accidentally shot George Folger, of No. 827 First-ave., in the leg. The wound is not dangerous.

The steamship City of Washington arrived yesterday from Havana having made the passage in three days, four hours and fifty-seven minutes, which is the quickest Winter passage on record.

The Ponca Indians are still in New-York and will hold another public meeting next week, probably in Chickering Hall Monday evening. Subscriptions are still being received by George W. Smith, the treasurer of the fund.

John J. McLaren, treasurer of the 7th Regiment Fair, states that the returns from the various companies show that the total net receipts are $135,359, which will be doubtless increased by further returns from other departments of the fair to $140,000.

Thomas Costigan, Supervisor of *The City Record*, reports the operations of his bureau as follows: Amount expended in 1879 in supplying all the departments, bureaus, courts and officials of the City Government with necessary printing, blank books and stationery, $105,000; same in 1878, $133,500.

At Koster & Bial's uptown concert hall, in Twenty-third-st., this evening, a new programme, introducing several recent compositions by European composers, will be performed by a largely increased orchestra under Rudolph Bial, and Levy will play a number of new pieces on the cornet with variations.

The following is a comparative statement of cases of contagious disease reported to the Board of Health:

Week ending	Cerebro-Typhoid fever.	Scarlet fever.	Spinal meningitis.	Measles.	Diph-theria.	Small-pox.
Dec. 20	4	42	1	271	37	..
Dec. 27	11	42	0	228	44	..

The stockholders of the Continental Telegraph Company yesterday elected the following directors: James L. Shaw, J. G. Case, C. H. Middleton, Andrew Gross and J. Merritt Shaw. It was stated at the meeting that three additional wires are being put up upon the poles between this city and Philadelphia, and that a duplicate line is being constructed to the same city by a different route. A six-wire line between Washington, Baltimore and Philadelphia is also building. It has been decided to extend the company's lines to Boston as soon as the line to Washington is completed.

In accordance with immemorial custom, to-day will be largely observed in the making of calls in Brooklyn. Most of the public officials will receive their friends at their offices, and for this purpose the public buildings will be kept open. Many of the clergymen of the city will be at home to see their friends. Henry Ward Beecher may be called upon at his residence, No. 124 Columbia Heights, between the hours of 11 a. m. and 6 p. m. The Rev. Dr. Storrs, the Rev. Mr. Talmage and others will be at home. A few ministers receive at the studies in their churches.

Sanitary Inspector Tracy reported to the Health Board yesterday on the sanitary condition of the operators' room in the Western Union Building. Dr. S. E. Moses had complained that the ventilation is bad, and that very many of the three hundred operators suffer from cerebral troubles. Dr. Tracy reports that the room, which occupies the entire seventh story, and contains over 200,000 cubic feet of air space, with a height of 23 feet, is from various causes the gathering place of most of the vitiated air in the building. He suggests the leading of the elevator shafts to the top of the building, and a system of air shafts with openings through the walls. The report was referred to the attorney of the Board for action.

BROOKLYN.

Mrs. Margaret Weatherby, an old lady who is slightly deranged, has been missing from her home, at No. 46 Boerum-st., since Monday.

The Board of Police and Excise yesterday voted to retire Police Captain Joel Smith of the Eighth Precinct at his own request after twenty years service.

Postmaster McLeer will appoint Louis Wiebe superintendent of the Brevoort Station, to fill the vacancy caused in the Eastern District Station by the resignation of Colonel P. M. Jones.

Colonel Rodney C. Wood, the new Collector of Revenue, took possession of his office in Court-st. yesterday afternoon, after the business of the day was concluded. He took the oath of office before Judge Benedict in New-York.

The friends of Sheriff Thomas M. Riley presented him with a fine badge valued at $1,000 yesterday. The presentation speech was made by Judge Henry A. Moore, and was responded to by the Sheriff. A large number of public officers and lawyers were present.

The Board of Police and Excise has ordered a reduction of salaries amounting in all to $9,000, and affecting thirteen clerks in the Departments, the Superintendent of Police, telegraph, the five telegraph operators, two linemen and four boiler inspectors. The operators, who have been receiving $1,200 are reduced to $900.

The new street railroad corporation, known as the Greenpoint, Prospect Park and Greenwood Cemetery line, Tuesday elected C. C. Talbut, president; B. W. Wilson, treasurer, and G. G. Herman, secretary. The route is from the ferries at Greenpoint-ave. just the entrance to Prospect Park to Greenwood Cemetery, and is eight miles long. The building of the road will begin soon, it is expected.

The funeral service of Park Commissioner Stephen Hayines, was held yesterday in the Washington Street Methodist Episcopal Church. The pastor, the Rev. Dr. D. O. Ferris, and the Rev. Mr. Goodsell, of the New-York Avenue Church, conducted the services. The pall-bearers were J. S. T. Stranchon, John P. Rolfe, John Sherry, S. L. Husted, Daniel Chauncey, Winchester Britton, J. Mendell and C. J. Bergen. The burial was at Greenwood Cemetery.

JERSEY CITY.

At the annual meeting of the New Jersey Mission and Tract Society, held Tuesday night, the Rev. Dr. French was elected president; C. C. Van Rypen, vice-president; C. R. Stockton, treasurer, and John C. Richards, secretary.

A Jersey City policeman was startled by hearing cries for help at 2:30 a. m. yesterday, near Hamilton-square. He found three men, one of whom, who gave his name as Anthony L. Giller, a broker at No. 67 Wall-st., New-York, said his two companions had attempted to make him give up his money and his watch by presenting loaded revolvers at his head. He, however, refused to make any charges, and no arrests were made.

NEWARK.

The Roman Catholic Seminary collection for 1879, in the diocese of Newark, reached $5,029 51.

George Yost, a lunatic, escaped from the Asylum on Tuesday night. Yesterday morning he presented himself at a house in Sussex-ave., drenched to the skin. In his wanderings he had fallen into the Morris canal. He was taken to the hospital.

It is expected that more than 150 clergymen, including several Bishops, will be present at the consecration of Bishop-elect Thomas A. Starkey, which takes place January 8, at Grace Church. It is understood that Bishop Williams, of Connecticut, will be the consecrator, and Bishops Seymour, of Springfield, and Scarborough, of New-Jersey, the presenters. The sermon will be preached by Bishop Littlejohn, of Long Island.

NEW-JERSEY.

WEEHAWKEN.—John Buckley, the captain of a canal-boat, now lying at Weehawken, attempted to murder his wife Tuesday night by shooting her, but the pistol missed fire. Buckley, who was very drunk, fled to New-York, after beating his wife.

MONTCLAIR.—The late decision of the United States Supreme Court against the Township of Pompton, Passaic County, on a suit carried up to that court involving the legality of the bonds issued by the township for the benefit of the Montclair Railroad, involves Montclair Township about $200,000.

LONG ISLAND.

LONG ISLAND CITY.—E. J. Woolsey, of Astoria, one of the largest owners of property, both real and personal, in Long Island City has, for several years past, on technical grounds, declined to pay taxes. On Tuesday evening City Treasurer John R. Morris made a seizure of a large amount of personal property on Mr. Woolsey's premises, including horses, carriages, stock, utensils, etc., and yesterday he posted notices in various public places, of a sale to take place on the 7th of January. It is understood that Mr. Woolsey's arrearages amount to nearly $10,000.

HUDSON RIVER TOWNS.

WHITE PLAINS.—James C. Courter, the new Sheriff of Westchester County, will assume the duties of his office at noon to-day, with the following subordinates: Henry B. Ford, deputy sheriff and jailor; John Duffy, deputy jailor; John Kennedy, bookkeeper; and Peter P. S. Miller, clerk.

MARINE INTELLIGENCE.

MINIATURE ALMANAC.

TO-DAY.

Sun rises..... 7:25 | Sun sets..... 4:43 | Clock fast, 3m. 44s.
Moon rises..... 8:59 | Moon sooths. 2:51 | Moon's age, days, 19

HIGH WATER TO-DAY—A. M.

Sandy Hook..10:10 | Gov. Island..10:46 | Hell Gate..... 0:17

HIGH WATER TO-DAY—P. M.

Sandy Hook..10:31 | Gov. Island..11:12 | Hell Gate..... 0:35

STATISTICS OF ARRIVALS.

NEW-YORK, Dec. 31.

We give below the number of arrivals of vessels from foreign countries at this port for the month of December, distinguishing their class and nationality. This table is compiled from the books of the Government, kept at the barge office by Mr. Alfred Mabie, boarding officer:

	Strs.	Ships.	Brks.	Brigs.	Schs.	Total
American	18	20	27	23	81	169
British	91	26	61	39	40	257
Norwegian	..	9	83	3	..	95
Italian	1	..	46	3	..	50
German	11	8	20	2	..	41
Austrian	..	2	19	..	..	21
Dutch	3	2	..	1	..	6
French	2	..	4	..	..	6
Spanish	2	..	2	1	..	5
Belgian	5	..	..	..	..	5
Swedish	..	..	2	3	..	5
Danish	2	..	..	1	..	3
Portuguese	..	1	..	2	..	3
Haytien	..	..	..	1	2	3
Russian	..	1	1	..	..	2
Argentine	..	1	..	..	..	1
Costa Rican	..	..	..	1	..	1
Venezuelan	..	..	..	1	..	1
Total 1879	136	70	265	81	124	678
Total 1878	108	32	161	62	112	475
Total 1877	103	25	140	65	79	412
Total 1876	84	22	118	81	75	380

The number of arrivals from domestic ports was as follows:

	Strs.	Ships.	Brks.	Brigs.	Schs.	Total.
Eastern ports	24	1	1	8	697	731
Southern ports	112	1	3	7	93	216
Total 1879	136	2	4	15	790	947
Total 1878	107	3	3	3	736	850
Total 1877	124	8	7	7	915	1,061

YEARLY STATEMENT OF FOREIGN ARRIVALS.

The number of arrivals from foreign ports for the year just closed, as entered upon the Government books at the Barge Office, by Mr. Alfred Mabie, Boarding Officer, is as follows:

	Strs.	Ships.	Brks.	Brigs.	Schs.	Total. 1879.	Total. 1878.
American	188	203	433	435	1,155	2,414	2,437
British	1,096	269	729	346	364	2,804	2,409
Norwegian	1	94	1,000	43	..	1,139	925
Italian	3	3	467	87	..	560	507
German	129	81	256	13	..	459	418
Austrian	..	9	216	11	..	236	248
French	40	..	37	5	..	82	79
Swedish	..	5	65	6	..	76	61
Dutch	35	4	9	14	..	62	35
Belgian	53	1	1	..	..	61	48
Spanish	10	2