LOCAL MISCELLANY.

THE BROWER MURDER CASE.

JACOB VAN VALEN'S EXPLANATION OF HOW THE MURDER WAS COMMITTED SHORTLY AFTER IT WAS DISCOVERED.

The examination of Francis and Jacob Van Valen for the murder of Miss Hannah Brower was continued yesterday at Tappan. There was very little new testimony produced, as District-Attorney Wheeler only wants to disclose enough of the evidence against the prisoners to hold them for trial. Mr. Hoffman, counsel for the prisoners, subjected each witness to a long and searching cross-examination in order to get from them all tae knowledge they possessed about the case. Some witnesses who gave their direct testimony in fifteen minutes were cross-examined for over two hours. Jacob, the older brother, shows that he realizes the serious character of the charge against him, but Francis, the one who is supposed to have committed the murder, looks indifferent and unconcerned. He smiled when the witnesses gave testimony implicating him in the case, and joined heartily in the laughter which some of the spectators indulged in. The greatest object of pity is the mother of the prisoners, who sits in the court room all day gazing at her two sons and listening intently to every word that is said.

The first witness was Jerome Balmore, a boy nine years old. He said that he was standing on a bridge near the Van Valen's house about 8 o'clock on the morning the murder was discovered, with several other boys. The tragedy had not then become know, but George Martin and the boy whose mother had just learned of it at Brower's house, told his companions about the murder. Just then Jacob Van Valen came along, and the boys told him the news, and he said to them: "I'll tell you just now it was done. They took a pane of glass out of the window and then got in the window. They choked her to death. They did not mean to kill her, but only to strangle her; and they didn't steal anything." The prosecution considered this important testimony, because at 9 a. m. the members of the Brower family did not know of the manner of Miss Brower's death.

George Martin, one of the boys who were on the bridge at the time Jacob was there, corroborated the testimony of the last witness.

Mrs. Mary Balmor, the mother of the first witness, testified that she saw her son on the bridge and that he went into the house and told her about the murder. She said that the day after the murder all the members of the Van Valen family left the house except Francis and Jacob. The house was then closed up and remained so until Saturday. She lived close to the Van Valen's house and could easily see their actions. She used to see the prisoners going to the village very often before the murder was committed, but after that she saw them only seldom. She did not see them working around the house, which was an unusual thing. She noticed Jacob around the house a few times, and when he heard a wagon approaching he ran behind the house, apparently to keep out of the way. From her house she could see into one of the rooms of the Van Valen house. On the Saturday after the murder she saw Francis in the room ironing. There was no washing done at the house that week.

LIGHTING THE STREETS BY ELECTRICITY.

BROADWAY, FOR A MILE, TO HAVE ELECTRIC LIGHTS ON OR BEFORE CHRISTMAS EVE.

The Brush Electric Light Company some time ago was asked to sign a contract to light the streets in the square mile of territory included between Fourteenth and Thirty-fourth-sts. and Third and Eighth-aves. Before agreeing to the proposition the company thought it best to determine by a practical test how many lamps would be required. With this object in view, permission was obtained recently from the Gas Commission to light Broadway from Fourteenth-st. to Thirty-fourth-st., and work was begun. A central station was selected at Nos. 133 and 135 West Twenty-fifth-st. A Corliss engine has been put in place there, by which five dynamo-electric machines will be driven. The lamp-posts to be used are of iron, and are about twenty feet high. One lamp will be placed at each block, and twenty-two of them will be erected for the experimental test. Each lamp, it is expected, will give a light equal to 2,000 candles.

A. A. Hayes, jr., who is managing the affairs of the company in New-York, said yesterday to a TRIBUNE reporter: "This is not an experiment to determine the practicability of lighting the street with the Brush light, or the worth of the light itself. We have more than 4,000 lamps in use in this country to-day. In Cleveland the streets have been lighted for a long time in just the way we propose to light Broadway. The Brush Company has successfully lighted the water front of Montreal since July under a contract stipulating that the light shall be sufficiently powerful to enable one to read orevier type at a distance of 175 feet. The experiment we are about to make is purely an economic one before closing with a contract to light a square mile of territory. I think that everything will be ready for the test on or before Christmas Eve. We have already received applications to light a large number of buildings in the district we propose to operate in. I have consented to put lights in one private house, but I do not think there can be any economy in using such lights in dwellings."

TESTIFYING AGAINST HIS FATHER.

Considerable interest was manifested in the trial of Onofrio Mongano, the Italian indicted for the premeditated killing of his wife on June 7, 1880, which was continued yesterday in the Court of Oyer and Terminer. There was a stir of expectancy in the court-room when Mr. Bell called Antonio Mongano, the twelve-years-old son of the prisoner, to the witness stand. He answered all the questions put to him promptly and in a manner which impressed every one with the truth of his statements. He left his home, he said, about half-past six o'clock on the morning of the day his mother was found dead, for school. About noon, while he was at play in the school-yard, he was summoned to see his father, who had called for him. His father told him that his mother was not at home, and asked him to "come home and knock on the door and see if your mother will speak to you." He did as his father asked him, but nobody answered his knock. Then Mrs. Clifford, the landlady, said to him, "Tony, your mother is asleep on the floor." His father said: "Oh, she is dead," and went for a policeman. While he was away some one unlocked the door and the boy entered. His mother was dead on the floor. Her face was bloody and there was blood over the floor. When his father returned the boy said to him: "See, you beat and kicked mother and now she is dead." The father replied to him: "I didn't do it. You must say Michael Cingarelli did it. You mustn't say I did it. You keep still about it; say it wasn't me."

Vincentio Ponanassa, a barber at No. 67 Park-st., said that the prisoner came to his place about 9 o'clock on the morning the woman was found dead. His face was besmeared with blood. When he called his attention to it the prisoner said that his wife had scratched his face.

Francis Boanticanti, partner of the previous witness, corroborated his testimony.

Agidio Stefano, foreman in J. G. Shaw & Co.'s book-bindery, in which Michael Cingarelli worked, testified that on the day on which the woman was found dead, Cingarelli was in the factory from shortly after 7 o'clock until late in the afternoon. This closed the case for the prosecution.

MRS. THOMPSON'S DENIAL.

The Commonwealth, a paper published at Topeka, Kan., recently charged Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson, the well-known philanthropist, with having allowed E. E. Barnum, whom she employed in connection with many of her philanthropic enterprises, to advance various sums of money which she never repaid to him, and for which she took the credit. The paper adds that "in this way he (Barnum) was kept poor, so much so that in his last sickness he actually suffered for delicacies his situation demanded. After his death Mrs. Thompson agreed to be at the expense of his burial, and at her suggestion a high-priced burial lot was purchased, for which she refused to pay. After promising to be at the expense of the burial, and after arrangements were made, she refused to pay a dollar, and his widow had to depend upon the kindness of friends to furnish the means to bury him."

Mrs. Thompson was seen by a TRIBUNE reporter yesterday. She said that she had no desire to go into a detailed statement with reference to the charges, but that the article in question bore on its face the stamp of falsehood and that she was fully satisfied to abide by the judgment of those who had known her longer than either Mr. Barnum or his so-called friends.

GUARDING BASE-BALL INTERESTS.

The annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the National League of Professional Base-Ball Clubs was held at the St. James Hotel yesterday morning. Chicago, Boston, Buffalo and Cleveland Clubs were represented. The following resolutions were adopted:

Whereas, Repeated applications have been made by or on behalf of James A. Devlin, George Hall, W. H. Craver and A. H. Nichols to this Board or to members thereof for the removal of their disabilities resulting from their expulsion from the League for dishonest ball playing, be it

Resolved, That notice is hereby served on their friends, defenders and apologists that the Board of Directors of this league will never remit the penalties inflicted on such persons, nor will they hereafter entertain any appeal from them or in their behalf.

The National League met in the afternoon. The meeting was called to order by W. A. Hulbert, of the Chicago Club, president of the League. The Detroit Base-Ball club was admitted to membership, and several alterations were made in the constitution. The meeting will be continued to-day.

ASSAULTING AN AGED COUPLE.

Several young men from Jamesport, Long Island, went to the house of Christopher Raynor, at Franklinville, Monday evening, ostensibly to obtain cider. Raynor and his wife, an aged couple, were in bed, and were aroused by the breaking of the kitchen window and by the report of a pistol which was fired into their bedroom. Raynor got up, thinking that robbers were in the house. As he entered the kitchen the door was burst open, and two young men, whom he recognized as James Finnegan and Frederick Vinten, entered. Raynor seized a stick of wood from the fire-place for the purpose of defending himself. Finnegan grappled with him, and Vinten, pulling his pistol, fired, the ball passing through Raynor's arm and back, and inflicting a painful but not fatal wound. After assaulting Mrs. Raynor the men left the house. Warrants have been issued for their arrest on the charge of burglary and assault with intent to kill.

BATTLING WITH STORMS AT SEA.

SLOW VOYAGES ACROSS THE ATLANTIC—STEAMSHIPS STILL OVERDUE.

The four European steamships—Rhenia, Rialto, Switzerland and Circassia—which arrived yesterday all had tempestuous voyages. The Circassia stopped at Mayville to take passengers, and was detained seven hours on November 26 by a severe gale. This was followed by a hurricane two days afterward, when the vessel made less than 100 miles. The seas became very high and a great deal of water was slapped below decks by the bursting in of two of the gangway doors. Two of the life-boats were partly destroyed. Several steamers going westward were sighted during the voyage, but as they were passed at night the signals could not be distinguished.

The Rhenia was twenty-five days coming from Cardiff, and from November 21 to 26 met terrific gales, increasing to a hurricane on November 27, when the barometer fell to 29.10. Great seas broke over the vessel, demolishing one life-boat and damaging others, shifting the main steam pipe, and carrying away about twenty feet of the main rail. The bad weather continued until Monday last.

The Switzerland also had a very tedious voyage, and the 431 steerage passengers concluded to make a complaint of the food furnished them, the inadequate sleeping apartments, and the alleged brutality of the boatswain. During three days of the voyage the vessel was hove-to.

The brig L. F. Munson arrived from Lisbon yesterday, having had very severe weather. On Tuesday, off Fire Island, the brig was in collision with the ship Emily Reed, and lost her top sail yard and anchor, and her bulwarks were crushed.

The following steamers are still overdue, but no one of them is given up as lost, although some apprehensions are beginning to be felt as to the safety of the Volmer and Victoria: Volmer, from Havre, due November 25; Victoria, from London; the Standard, from West Hartlepool, due November 26; the Faraday, from London, and Frega, from Havre, due November 28; the Marengo, from Hull, due November 30; the Viola, from Shields, and Norman Monarch, due December 2; the Rotterdam from Rotterdam, and Erin, from Liverpool, due December 4; the Somerset, from Bristol, and Harold, from Newcastle, due December 5. The Harold on her last voyage from New-York made a long passage, and was obliged to use wheat and petroleum mixed as fuel. The agents of the Volmer and Victoria believe that the vessels have been delayed by accidents to their machinery.

INTERFERENCE WITH THE OPERA.

MR. MAPLESON'S OPINION OF MR. GERRY'S ACTION.

Eobridge T. Gerry, president of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, procured a warrant for the arrest of J. H. Mapleson, manager of Her Majesty's Opera Company, on Tuesday, and threatened to imprison him if the ballet danced by children was not omitted from the representation of "Mefistofele" in the evening. To avoid annoyance Mr. Mapleson withdrew the children, and the ballet was danced without them. A TRIBUNE reporter called upon Mr. Mapleson yesterday, when the following conversation took place:

"So you were not arrested last night, Mr. Mapleson?"

"Well, no. I thought it prudent to withdraw the the children, though it injured the opera, until I could inquire into the matter. Being a magistrate and a Justice of the Peace myself, I do not wish to violate the laws in any way. I have carefully read the Act of April 14, 1876, and really cannot discover that I can be prosecuted under it as if I were an italian patrone."

"What do you propose to do?"

"Well, I can hardly tell you, as the children have been so troubled at this treatment that they have been in tears ever since and dread my returning them to England. Many of them, you must know, have been in my employment for more than five years. If Mr. Gerry's society would pay some attention to the miseries of the little newspaper boys, and engage in other good work of that sort, I would become one of the largest subscribers to it. Being careful to avoid giving offence, last year I invited Mr. Gerry to come to the Academy, where I had the children perform the dance from 'Aida' for his benefit. He expressed his approval and, after questioning the children and finding that they were properly cared for, he made no further objection. No alteration whatever has been made in the dance since then and not a single bar of music has been added, as my stage manager, ballet master, and Signor Arditi can testify. Yet the president intorms me that it has been reported to him that various steps have been added and that it was simply a matter of courtesy that he did not arrest me last year before I went to Boston. I am astonished at his action, and shall at once ascertain if I cannot prevent his interference with my performances."

COMMERCIAL INTERESTS DISCUSSED.

At the meeting of the Board of Trade and Transportation yesterday, A. B. Miller, of the Canal Committee, called attention to the increased movement of freight on the canals during 1880 and read many figures showing the canal traffic. The efforts of Canada to compete for the grain trade of the West made it necessary to take further steps to improve the canals of this State. The locks on the Erie Canal, at an expense of no more than $1,000,000, might be improved so that boats might carry fifty per cent more freight and save half the time now spent in "locking." A resolution in favor of enlarging the locks was adopted. Resolutions were also adopted approving the recommendations of the President in favor of liberal expenditures for harbors, rivers and canals; declaring that the success of Eads's jetties at the mouth of the Mississippi is a source of national honor and prosperity; requesting that Congress take action without delay looking to the distribution of the Geneva award among those who have suffered actual loss by the depredations of Confederate cruisers, and in favor of the use of automatic signals at sea to prevent collisions.

SECRETARY SHERMAN IN THE CITY.

Secretary Sherman was in the city yesterday and visited the Sub-Treasury, where he remained a long time in consultation with General Hillhouse, the assistant treasurer. The Secretary did not visit the Custom House. It is understood that the principal purpose of his visit was to attend a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad Company of which he is a member. At this meeting routine business was transacted; plans for providing additional equipment for the road were discussed. Mr. Tilden, who is also a director of the company, was present. It is understood, however, that the only political allusion made at the meeting was on the entrance of one of the Philadelphia directors somewhat after the appointed hour. He excused his delay with the remark that since the election of Garfield the trains on the Pennsylvania Railroad had been behind time. The Secretary left the city last night for Washington.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE PRODUCE EXCHANGE.

As an outgrowth of the new building project the Board of Managers and the Building Committee of the Produce Exchange have been considering a proposition for the limitation of membership, which will be submitted to the members for their action in about a fortnight. A petition has been sent to the Board asking that a public meeting be called to consider the question of limiting the membership to its present number.

WORKING FOR CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

The Executive Committee of the Civil Service Reform Association has completed its formal organization by the election of Everet P. Wheeler as the permanent chairman of the Executive Committee and the adoption of by-laws for the government of all meetings and the appointment of a special committee on legislation with a view to urging on Congress the passage of measures favoring the reform of Civil Service. Many letters have been received from persons in different States offering to form branch associations, and measures will be taken to promote the organization of such branches. The association includes members of all parties. Its president is an Independent Republican, and the chairman of the Executive Committee is a life-long Democrat. Its list of officers contains Republicans and Democrats, Independent Republicans and Independent Democrats, and Independents who are neither distinctively Democrats or Republicans. The officers are as follows:

President—George William Curtis. Vice-Presidents—Benj. H. Bristow, Howard Potter, Roswell D. Hitchcock, Oswald Ottendorfer, Geo. B. McClellan, John Jay, Robert B. Minturn, George B. Butler. Treasurer—John C. Eno. Secretary—Richard L. Dugdale. Executive Committee—Everett P. Wheeler, Henry W. Bellows, Silas W. Burt, Edward Cary, Wm. E. Dodge, jr., Dorman B. Eaton, Eliot F. Hall, Chas. H. Marshall, Peter B. Olney, Geo. Haven Putnam, Wm. Cary Sanger, Anson Phelps Stokes, Henry Stone, Wm. H. Thomson, F. W. Whitridge. Publication Committee—Geo. William Curtis, E. L. Godkin, Horace White, A. R. MacDonough, William Potts.

A COOKING EXTRA.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: Will you not soon favor your regular readers with an "Extra" of the excellent recipes you have been giving in your Sunday edition? They would be very valuable to many of us when issued in that form. I speak for several ladies. MRS. E. S. A.
Chicago, Ill, Dec. 4, 1880.

[A handsome pamphlet containing the best recipes given in THE SUNDAY TRIBUNE will be published about the New-Year. These recipes are undergoing careful revision and classification, and will appear in a compact and convenient form. This publication will be unique in providing a series of *menus* which are easily adapted either to luxurious or moderate housekeeping.—*Ed.*]

XLVITH CONGRESS—IID SESSION.

REGULAR REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

DEBATING THE ELECTORAL RESOLUTION—THE FITZ JOHN PORTER CASE—A REFUNDING MEASURE INTRODUCED.

SENATE.....WASHINGTON, Dec. 8, 1880.

In the Senate to-day bills were introduced and referred as follows:

By Mr. PADDOCK (Rep., Neb.)—To authorize certain improvements in the channel of the Missouri River.

By Mr. EATON (Dem., Conn.)—Giving the consent of Congress to an agreement between New-York and Connecticut for the settlement of the boundary between said States.

By Mr. KERNAN (Dem., N. Y.)—To provide for the refunding of certain taxes in conformity with the decision of the Supreme Court.

By Mr. PENDLETON (Dem., Ohio)—To provide for the transfer of claims from the Departments to the Court of Claims; also to limit the time for the prosecution of claims by or against the Government of the United States.

By Mr. TELLER (Rep., Col.)—To provide certain regulations concerning the manner of conducting elections for Representatives in Congress, and to punish violations thereof.

A communication was received from the Secretary of War recommending the action of Congress upon the estimate of the Mississippi River Improvement Commission of $133,000 for certain initial works.

Mr. DAVIS (Dem., W. Va.) offered a resolution reciting the constitutional requirement that a new apportionment be made after each census, and instructing the Secretary of the Interior to communicate to the Senate the returns of the population of the respective States of the Union as ascertained by the tenth census. Agreed to.

Mr. MORGAN (Dem., Ala.) introduced a joint resolution that the following be proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States:

"Section 2—The Congress shall have power by legislation to establish rules and regulations for certifying, transmitting, receiving and opening the votes of electors, and for ascertaining and counting such votes by the Senate and House of Representatives, and for declaring the result of the election, and for the government of the Senate and House of Representatives, and for the government of the Senate and House of Representatives in the matter of the votes of such electors. Such laws shall not be enacted nor altered, amended or repealed within a period of one year next before the time fixed by the laws of the United States for the appointment of electors in any State." Referred to the Select Committee on the Election of President and Vice-President.

Mr. PADDOCK (Rep., Neb.) introduced a bill to enable the people of Dakota to form a Constitution and State Government, and for the admission of the State into the Union on an equality with the original States. Referred.

Mr. RANDOLPH (Dem., N. J.) gave notice of the following amendment in the nature of a substitute to the bill for the relief of Fitz John Porter:

"Be it enacted, etc., that the President is hereby authorized, in the exercise of his discretion, to reinstate in the Army of the United States Fitz John Porter, who was dismissed by sentence of court-martial on January 19, 1863, provided, however, that such reinstatement shall give no higher rank than Colonel on the retired list; and provided further, that said Porter shall receive no pay, compensation or allowance for the time intervening between his dismissal and his restoration."

The Senate then went into executive session and when the doors were reopened at 12 o'clock, the Senate adjourned until to-morrow.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

In the House to-day the credentials of Newton M. Clements, member-elect from the VIth District of Alabama, were presented and he qualified, taking the oath of office.

Mr. F. WOOD (Dem., N. Y.) said that at the last session he had given notice that he would this day call up the "Funding bill," but he would omit calling it up until the "Electoral" resolution had been disposed of.

Mr. CONGER (Rep., Mich.)—Why should the gentleman wait with such an important public measure for the discussion of a political question?

Mr. WOOD—I am not obliged to answer that question, and I move to dispense with the morning hour.

This motion was seconded by the Republicans.

Mr. MCCOOK (Rep., N. Y.) introduced a joint resolution authorizing the President to place U. S. Grant on the retired list of the Army with the rank and pay of General, as a recognition of his eminent services. Referred.

Mr. BUCKNER (Dem., Mo.), chairman of the Committee on Banking and Currency, offered the following as a substitute for the Funding bill, and it was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means:

"Be it enacted, etc.: *First*—That bonds of the United States authorized to be issued by the act of July 14, 1870, entitled an act to authorize the refunding of the National debt, and the acts amendatory thereof, the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized to issue Treasury notes of the United States in the amount of not more than $600,000,000 in denominations of not less than $10 and bearing interest at a rate not exceeding 4 per cent per annum, on which said notes not more than $60,000,000 shall mature each year from the date of their issue, and said notes shall be disposed of by the Secretary of the Treasury at not less than par, and the proceeds thereof shall be applied to the payment of the 5 and 6 per cent bonds of the United States maturing during the year 1881; or the Secretary may exchange the said Treasury notes for the said bonds on such terms as he may deem most advantageous to the United States.

"*Second*—That the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to make suitable regulations for disposing of said Treasury notes to the best advantage to the Government, and all expenses attending the same shall not exceed one-quarter of 1 per cent of the notes so disposed of or exchanged.

"*Third*—That the sum of $100,000,000 of the coin in the Treasury of the United States be set apart as a fund for the redemption of the notes known as legal-tender notes, and any surplus coin over and above said sum and belonging to the United States, remaining in the Treasury, shall be used by the Secretary of the Treasury in the purchase or redemption, on account of the sinking fund, of any of the said 6 per cent bonds maturing in the year 1881."

THE ELECTORAL COUNT.

The House then resumed the consideration of the Senate concurrent resolution relative to the electoral count.

Mr. WILLITS (Rep., Mich.) argued in opposition to the theory that the right to count the electoral vote was vested in Congress.

Mr. ROBESON (Rep., N. J.) said that the present resolution declared that Congress had the right to decide judicially on the quality, character and effect of the electoral votes. It was a violent assumption. He did not contend that the Vice-President in the discharge of his ministerial function of opening all the certificates had any power to act judicially. Every argument in favor of the right of Congress to count the votes was equally strong in favor of the right of the Vice-President.

Mr. HUNTON (Dem., Va.)—Suppose that a committee of the House should report that the electoral certificate of any State was a forged certificate. In that event who would have power to pass on the question of the forgery?

Mr. ROBESON declared it to be his opinion that neither the Vice-President nor the two houses of Congress in convention assembled had any right to decide it, either judicially or otherwise. He was willing to consider and discuss the question whether or not there did not reside in Congress the power to provide by law beforehand, by legislative enactment, the tribunal which should settle such questions.

Mr. HEWITT said that it was apparent that no law could be passed by the two houses in time to meet the count of the electoral vote in February without a joint rule on the subject. Suppose the gentleman from New-Jersey were sent to count a flock of sheep, and some goats got mixed up with it, would he count the goats?

Mr. ROBESON shook his head.

Mr. HUNTON said that then the gentleman could not undertake, if he were President of the Senate, to count a forged certificate any more than he could count the goats, and that therefore he must act judicially to a certain extent.

Mr. KEIFER (Rep., Ohio) called attention to the fact that the proposed joint rule was merely intended to give Congress the right to reject properly certified votes and not to decide as to whether the certificates were genuine.

Mr. COX (Dem., N. Y.) thought that he could state the matter in a nutshell. Suppose the certificates of the State of New-York, at some time between the time they left Albany and the time they were opened by the President of the Senate, should be secretly opened, and the names of Garfield and Arthur stricken out and the names of Hancock and English should be inserted, would it be necessary to count the State for Hancock and English?

Mr. ROBESON (in reply to Mr. Hunton) denied that Congress had the power to count the votes. The Constitution and the laws of the United States had provided what should be the authentication of the certificates. If they were in compliance with the authentication prescribed by law, then it was the duty of the Vice-President to open them. If they were not so authenticated, then they were goats and not sheep; but if they were clothed with the wool of State power they were sheep and not goats. Who, he asked, would dare to say that a convention which was clothed with no power except to be present when a ministerial officer performed his functions could exercise judicial powers on the most vital question in the life of the Government?

Mr. MCLANE contended that the two houses did possess judicial power.

Mr. ROBESON went on to answer the question put by Mr. Cox. His answer was that such a case had been provided against by every means which the prodigment and precaution of men could take, by the requirement of triplicate lists to be sent by different means—each of which lists corrected the other, and informed the ministerial judgment of the Vice-President.

Mr. ATHERTON (Dem., Ohio)—Suppose that all the lists were tampered with?

Mr. ROBESON—Suppose the skies should fall, then we would catch larks. In conclusion he gave notice that he would offer the following as a substitute for the concurrent resolution:

Resolved, That the two houses will assemble in the Chamber of the House of Representatives on the second Wednesday of February, 1881, at 12 o'clock; that the President of the Senate shall be the presiding officer; that two persons shall be appointed tellers on the part of the Senate and two on the part of the House of Representatives to make a list of the votes as they shall be declared; that the result shall be declared by the President of the Senate, who shall announce the state of the vote and the persons elected to the two houses assembled as aforesaid, which announcement, together with the list of the votes, shall be entered on the journals of the two houses.

Mr. REAGAN (Dem., Texas), gave notice that as soon as the pending matter was disposed of he would ask for the consideration of the Interstate Commerce bill.

The House then, at 3:40 p. m., adjourned.

NOMINATIONS.

ARMY PROMOTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS—CUSTOMS OFFICERS, DISTRICT-ATTORNEYS, MARSHALS, CONSULS, ETC.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—The following nominations were received by the Senate to-day:

Colonel Nelson A. Miles, 5th Infantry, to be Brigadier-General vice General Ord, retired.

Colonel Wm. B. Hazen, 6th Infantry, to be Chief Signal Officer with the rank of Brigadier-General.

Lieutenant-Colonel Emory Upton to be Colonel of the 4th Artillery.

Major George P. Andrews to be Lieutenant-Colonel of the 4th Artillery.

Captain R. O. Jackson to be Major of the 5th Artillery.

First Lieutenants to be Captains—James M. Ingalls, James Chester, B. M. Custer and James A. Baugher.

Second Lieutenants to be First-Lieutenants—A. H. Bliss, John E. Mowes, Wallace Knott, L. C. Allen, Charles J. Clubb, F. E. Eggenhead and A. A. Auger.

To be Second Lieutenants by advancement from various grades of non-commissioned officers—Sergeants C. A. Howard, J. F. Sandlin, H. P. Powell, Thomas Connelly, W. H. Chatfield, J. L. Pegram, W. F. Blanvelt, E. J. Grumley, Peter Campbell, A. M. Palmer and George W. Webb; Hospital stewards—James E. Brett and S. A. Edwards; Corporal William Moffatt.

Second Lieutenants appointed from civil life—William A. Mercer, New London, Conn.; Henry W. Hovey, New-York City; E. H. Webber, Philadelphia; A. T. Dean, Philadelphia; Edward Lloyd, Washington; J. A. Lockwood, Washington; John A. Delpray, Washington; Corwin Sage, Lebanon, Ohio; L. J. Hearn, Newport, Ky.; F. B. McCoy, St. Louis, Mo., J. P. Ratchford, North Carolina.

Collectors of Customs—William L. Asmore, for the District of Burlington, N. J.; Abiva W. H. B, for the District of Milwaukee, Wis.; J. Mason Rice, for the District of St. Mary's, Ga.; Tomlinson F. Johnson, for the District of Savannah, Ga.; William Lowen, for the District of Sag Harbor, N. Y.; John H. Cogeins, for the District of Newport, R. I.

Surveyor of Customs—James E. Wharton, at Portsmouth, Ohio.

Supervising Inspectors of Steam Vessels—George R. Tower, IId District; Mark D. Flower, VIth district.

Associate Judges of Territorial Supreme Courts—Warren Bristed, of New Mexico, for New-Mexico; William H. Stillwell, of New-York, for Arizona; Stephen P. Tuttle, of Missouri, for Utah.

United States District Attorneys—Kittridge Haskins, of Vermont for Vermont; Daniel Chadwick, of Connecticut for Connecticut; William A. Stone, of Pennsylvania, for the Western District of Pennsylvania; John S. Bigby, of Georgia, for the Northern and Southern Districts of Georgia; William H. Smith, of Alabama, for the Northern and Middle Districts of Alabama; Luke Lea, of Mississippi, for the South ern District of Mississippi; William H. Bliss, of Missouri, for the Eastern District of Missouri; John B. Rickey, of Florida, for the Northern District of Florida; Charles C. Waters, of Arkansas, for the Eastern District of Arkansas.

United States Marshals—Ellis L. Browner, of Nebraska; Robert M. Wallace, of South Carolina, for the District of South Carolina.

United States Consuls—Henry S. Atherton, of New-York, at Pernambuco; Almont Barnes, of Vermont, at Curacao; Edward Backus, of Illinois, at Para; H. J. Crouch, of Pennsylvania, at Buenos Ayres; Emile Courtade (Vice-Consul at La Union), at La Union; James T. Dubois, of Pennsylvania, at Aix-la-Chapelle; Phanor M. Eder, of Nevada, at Guayaquil; Henry Horstmann, of Pennsylvania, at Nuremberg; George F. Lincoln, of Connecticut, at Stettin; Evelyn P. Munsey of Vermont, at Malte Sechelles; Asa C. Prentiss, of New-York, at Malaga; W. W. Randall, of Wisconsin, at Savanilla; Albert Rhodes, of the District of Columbia, at Rosario; George W. Roosevelt, of Pennsylvania, at Matanzas; Samuel Spackman, of Pennsylvania, at Munich; Edwin H. Smith, of Virginia, at Naples; James W. Siler, of Arkansas, at La Guayra; James M. Thomson, of Mississippi, at Hamburg; Edward A. Younge, of New-York, at Manila.

The following miscellaneous nominations were also sent to the Senate:

Asa O. Aldis, of Vermont, to be United States Commissioner French Claims Commission.

Joshua H. Heinch, Assayer of the Mint at Carson City, Nev.

Howard Emory, of Massachusetts, to be Third-Lieutenant, Revenue service.

Registers of Land Office—George A. McKenzie, at Stockton, Cal.; Henry V. Dwight, at Lagrande, Ore.

Receivers of Public Moneys—James L. Dyer at Wichita, Kan.; George W. Dorsey at Bloomington, Neb.

SAVING WAIFS FROM THE STREET.

THE WORK IN THE STATE INSTITUTIONS.

MEETING OF THE STATE CHARITIES AID ASSOCIATION—DISCUSSING HOW TO PROMOTE THE WELFARE OF HOMELESS CHILDREN.

A conference of members of the State Charities Aid Association, which will be continued through to-day, was begun yesterday in the rooms of the association, No. 6 East Fourteenth-st. Only the members of the association were present in the forenoon. An address was adopted for circulation among the members of the association throughout the State for the purpose of promoting the work in which they are engaged. The afternoon meeting was open to the public, and was devoted to a discussion of charitable and reformatory work among children, especially that which has been accomplished since the passage of the Act of 1875, which took pauper children out of the county almshouses and placed them in children's homes, protectories, and similar institutions. It was stated at the opening of the conference that the invitation to attend the meeting had been accepted by representatives of twenty-three visiting committees of the thirty-two that are now in existence in twenty-seven counties of the State, but all those who had expected to come were not present. There were, however, about 100 persons present.

Charles L. Brace, secretary of the Children's Aid Society, who presided, called the meeting to order soon after 3 o'clock, and, after some preliminary business, he announced that a paper by Miss Forsyth, of Ulster County, on "the Kingston Industrial Home," of which she is president, would be read by Mr. Reynolds. Of the one hundred and four inmates that have been in the Home, twenty-five are at present living in private families, forty-two are in the Home, and the others have been returned to their parents.

Joseph Hobson, corresponding secretary of the Westchester Temporary Home, which was organized last April. Mr. Butler, in discussing some of the points of his report, stated that the work of the Home during the six months that it had been in operation was extremely satisfactory. There were two points, however, to which he desired to call attention. Under the operations of the law of 1875 all children of Catholic parentage are sent to Catholic institutions; those of Protestant parentage to Protestant institutions. In Westchester County the Temporary Home had received thirty-one children, for the care and support of each of whom the county allows $1 50 per week. The charge which the Catholic Protectory collects from the County is $2 per week for each child. He did not object so much to the difference in compensation as he did to the principle and practical effect of the law, which is to enforce a religious education upon a portion of the children. In the Temporary Home children are placed in private homes as soon as possible, and if the family is respectable no questions are asked about its religious creed. The Catholic institution, however, detains the children until they grow much older, one reason of which is because of its rule not to place them in other than Roman Catholic families.

Mr. Brace then called upon the various representatives of the visiting committees present to speak as to the operations of the law and the care of the poor children in their counties. A call of the counties was had, and brief responses were made by the Rev. Henry N. Cobb, of Dutchess County, Mrs. Edwin A. Hopkins, of Queens, Mrs. Henry Hopkins, of Greene, Miss Dora Robinson, of Kings, Miss Mary E. Grier, of Orange (Goshen committee), J. J. Tillinghast, of Rensselaer, Mrs. Brown, of the New-York City Home for the Friendless, John Rockwell, of Westchester, and Mr. Brace. The Rev. Mr. Cobb said that the number of inmates at present in the Dutchess County Poorhouse is 109, of whom two-thirds are men. Miss Robinson stated that there are 1,200 children in the various institutions of Kings County, the care of whom cost $112,000 per year. Comparatively few of the children are placed with families, because many of them are of Roman Catholic parentage. Mrs. Brown said that the children in the Home for the Friendless are placed in good homes as fast as possible; some in the Far West and others within 200 or 300 miles of New-York City, but more in the city itself. Mr. Brace said that there is a continual demand for children's labor coming from the country districts. Mr. Rockwell urged the need of an amendment to the existing law to correct errors made in the assignment of children to protectories and homes according to the religion of their parents. Mr. Brace warmly eulogized the work that is doing for children under the Act of 1875. Children, he said, must be brought up to live pure and useful lives, and to add to the wealth of the country. There are two ways of doing this; by placing them in private homes, or by keeping them in temporary houses. The first way is the best. The society in the twenty-seven years of its operation has placed 50,000 children in homes, and it has been very rare that they have fallen back upon the community. He also stated that an effort will be made during the session of the next Legislature to pass the law which nearly passed last winter, and which will give the visitors of the State Charities Aid Association the right of entrance into all public institutions.

There will be two sessions of the Conference to-day. At the forenoon session George E. Forster will preside and will open the discussion of the subject, "Adult Able-bodied Paupers." The Rev. Dr. Henry C. Potter will preside at the afternoon meeting, the topic for the session being "Hospitals and Care of the Insane."

HOLIDAY GOODS IN PROFUSION.

Ehrich Brothers' store in Eighth-ave. at this season of the year is almost entirely given over to the display of toys and holiday goods. Monday was the occasion of their Christmas opening, which was attended by many shoppers eagerly searching for gifts. Among new attractions is the book department, which occupies an entire room on the second floor, where a large assortment of standard works is shown at reasonable prices, as well as a large miscellaneous collection suitable to the season. A description of the toy department is almost impossible from the number and diversity of the articles displayed. The centre window is set in a handsome frame, with a woodland scene and a cascade of real water. In the evening when it is brilliantly illuminated this is very attractive. Among the toys that drew the attention of the little ones were miniature pianos and xylophones, and dolls representing all ages, both sex and every complexion. The oddest of these are the Japanese dolls with round faces and long queues. The departments devoted to holiday goods of all descriptions for grown people are well filled and the person must be difficult to please who cannot find something to suit him or her fancy among so much that is beautiful.

A NEW TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

ALBANY, Dec. 8.—Articles incorporating the Mutual District Telegraph Company, with the principal office in New-York, were to-day filed with the Secretary of State. The capital stock is placed at $250,000, with power to increase to $1,000,000. Lines of wire will be run from New-York through all the cities in the State, and the transmission will be by telephonic signals and messages.

SENATE INVESTIGATIONS.

VISITING THE CITY ASYLUMS.

THE COMMITTEE ON ASYLUMS MAKES AN EXCURSION TO WARD'S AND BLACKWELL'S ISLANDS—DELUSIONS OF SOME OF THE PATIENTS.

The steamer Bellevue carried from the foot of East Twenty-sixth-st. to Ward's Island yesterday morning Senators Fowler and Pitts, of the Senate Committee on Asylum Reform, and Charities Commissioners Cox, Hess and Brennan. Superintendent A. E. MacDonald met the party on its arrival and conducted it through the asylum. The institution presented a neat and orderly appearance in the different wards visited. The patients were eager to converse with the visitors and disclosed many curious delusions. In the Convalescent Ward, John Reilly declared that he was paying a rent of $7,000 a year, which he considered excessive for the accomodations, and tried to open negotiations looking toward his release. John J. Neal, who assaulted the British Consul, remarked that his claim for $20,000,000 against the British Government was still good. Dance W. Macer, who shot his child in Harlem, is a quiet-looking person, but at times he is very violent. There were 332 patients at work on the farm as shoemakers, tailors, tinsmiths or painters. A patient named Rotsky prescribed Dr. Macdonald with a watch-chain carefully made of horse-hairs gathered at the stables. Michael Burns, in Ward L, asserted that he was the oldest man and the biggest thief in the world. Among other diversions he would eat stones and climb the leaning tower of Pisa. He remarked that he had been dead three days and had come to life again. An interesting character was John Gilbert, who had softening of the brain. He said that he was born 40,000,000 years ago, but expected to die in another century, and he supported by the gods. He wrote "Hamlet," but spoke modestly of the merit of the production. His recitation of "To be or not to be" was well received by the party. Gilbert said he was lord of the manor and owned the Island. Senator Pitts characterized him as an old settler.

There were only 21 patients in the hospital ward, out of 1,171 patients in the building. In another ward Martin L. Smith protested that he had been illegally detained, and would be quiet only when Commissioner H