LOCAL MISCELLANY.

BROUGHT TO LIGHT AFTER SEVEN YEARS.

THE MURDER OF AN ITALIAN BOY IN THIS CITY BY AN INFURIATED PADRONE.

The murder of a little Italian street musician, named Nicola Pizzo, in this city, more than seven years ago, recently came to the knowledge of the police of Rochester, where a brother of the murdered boy now lives. Information of the case was sent to New-York a month ago, and since then Detectives Moran and Brennan, of the Mulberry Street Police, have been searching for evidence of the crime. A report of their investigation was made by Captain Kealy to Inspector Murray yesterday. The detectives found at No. 54 Thompson-st., an Italian named Antonio Belleterie, who knew Nicolo Pizzo and his brother, Natale, when they were brought to this country eight years ago. They, in company with six other Italian boys, were in charge of a padrone named Felice Padula, who lived at No. 45 Crosby-st. Padula had hired the services of the boys from their parents in Italy, and had taught them to play on instruments. He forced them to go about the streets, playing and soliciting money, and he took all their earnings.

One afternoon, about seven years ago, Belleterie was playing cards with Padula at No. 45 Crosby-st., when Nicolo Pizzo entered the room, crying and carrying a broken violin. The padrone sprang up with an oath, and without asking how the violin was broken, he kicked the boy in the back in a brutal manner. The lad screamed and fell to the floor unconscious. Padula carried him into another room and left him there, and the boy was never seen again by anyone except the padrone. When Belleterie afterward asked what had become of young Pizzo, the padrone said that the boy had run away, but Belleterie believed that he had died from Padula's violence. Six months after the boy disappeared Padula returned to Italy, where he now lives. Nicola's brother left the city about the same time and went to Rochester. His parents still live in Italy.

ASSESSMENTS UPON CANDIDATES.

The action of the Bar Association Tuesday evening in condemning the custom of making heavy assessments upon candidates for judicial positions was the expression of what appears to be a common sentiment among members of the bar. It is said that many excellent lawyers are prevented from becoming candidates, even where there is a general sentiment in their favor, either because they are unwilling to obtain judicial honors in that way or because they have not the pecuniary ability. Wheeler H. Peckham said Tuesday evening that when judicial offices were first made elective a candidate was called upon for a small sum, which he felt that in honor he ought to pay to defray printing and other expenses; but now the assessments had grown to such enormous amounts that a man who agreed to become a candidate upon such terms must know that he paid the money to purchase the office. It tended to degrade the judicial office and to lessen the respect felt for it.

Dorman B. Eaton used some stronger terms. He said that matters had reached that point where the lawyer received the nomination who was willing to pledge the largest portion of his prospective salary, when elected, to the use of the political party which put him in. There was only one opinion expressed among the members of the Bar Association: that this custom of levying large assessments on such candidates ought to be made impossible by some proper legislative enactment. The older judges now upon the bench in the courts of this city appear to share in this feeling, and are prepared to help along such a movement. More than one of them has said that he would not be a candidate for reelection at the expiration of his term if it was necessary to pay such assessments to secure the nomination.

TRYING TO KILL A POLICEMAN.

While Officer Ruland, of the Mercer Street Police Station, was patrolling his post on Green-st. at 4 a. m. yesterday, he heard two pistol shots fired in rapid succession. Running to Broome-st. he met two young men, one of whom had a pistol in his hand, but denied having fired any shot. The officer said he would take them to the station, whereupon the man with the revolver passed it to his companion who threw it into the street.

Ruland then attempted to take both men into custody, when one drew another pistol and pointing it at his head fired, but did him no injury, the ball penetrating the padding on the shoulder of his coat.

The men then broke away and the officer's raps for assistance were answered by Policemen Does and O'Neill and a citizen named Joseph Jones, of No. 39 First-ave., who captured the men after a short and exciting chase. When taken to the station the prisoners gave the names of John Connors, of No. 418 East Nineteenth-st., and Joseph Dean, of East Twelfth-st. In the possession of Dean, who fired at the officer, were found several skeleton keys and a pick lock. Connors, who has the appearance of a hard-working man, said he threw away his pistol to avoid any trouble, and added that he never met Dean before Tuesday night.

Both men were arraigned before Justice Morgan at the Tombs Police Court yesterday. Connors denied any knowledge of the shooting and Dean said that he was drunk and knew nothing about his arrest until this morning. Both men were held to answer in default of $4,000 bail each.

TWO HEAVY SENTENCES FOR BURGLARY.

John Sheridan keeps a grocery store at No. 51 Jackson-st., and lives with his wife in rooms in the rear of the store. Early on the morning of December 9, Mrs. Sheridan discovered two men in her bedroom, one of whom she identified as James Curry. When she attempted to give an alarm Curry pointed a pistol at her and threatened to blow her brains out if she made an outcry. The threat did not keep her quiet, and Curry's companion called out to him: "Shoot her quick." Mrs. Sheridan ran into the store in time to see Curry carry off a quantity of dry goods. He was subsequently arrested, but his companion escaped. In the Court of General Sessions yesterday Curry pleaded guilty to burglary in the first degree, and was sentenced by Judge Cowing to the State Prison for fifteen years.

The room of Mary Wright, at No. 44 Forsyth-st., was broken into December 6, and a quantity of wearing apparel was stolen by Robert Ransom. When leaving the house David Marks attempted to question him and was told that if he interfered he would be shot. Ransom was arrested on the street with a quantity of the stolen property in his possession. He pleaded guilty to burglary in the first degree in the Court of General Sessions yesterday, and Judge Cowing sentenced him to the State Prison for twelve years.

ON TRIAL BEFORE A COURT MARTIAL.

A court-martial to investigate charges preferred by Captain R. L. Meade against Colonel Thomas Y. Field, both of the Marine Corps, was held yesterday at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. The charges are first for "conduct to the prejudice of good order and discipline," under which there are seven specifications, and second, for "conduct unbecoming an officer and gentleman," under which there are five specifications. The following officers composed the court: Commodore S. P. Carter, president; Captain E. Y. McCauley, Captain C. C. Badger, Captain L. A. Kimberly, Captain S. B. Luce, Captain Henry Wilson, Captain C. C. Carpenter, and Major George Butler, of the United States Navy. Captain R. W. Huntington acted as Judge Advocate. Colonel Field pleaded guilty to the specifications, but not guilty to the two charges, entering a demurrer on the ground that the charges were accumulative. The court ruled the charges valid, and in view of the plea entered by the accused officer refused to admit testimony except in palliation of the offence. The prosecution then closed, and the court granted Colonel Field until Monday to prepare a written statement in his defence.

ASKING FOR BETTER ROADS.

Alderman-elect James L. Wells and Hugh N. Camp, president of the North Side Association, appeared yesterday before the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, and made a strong argument against making any reduction in the proposed appropriation of $50,000 for the maintenance of roads in the Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth Wards. They insisted that the appropriation should be doubled rather than reduced. They added that many of the roads were in an almost impassable condition, and unless the work of repairing was done more effectively in the future than in the past they declared that it would have to be done over again the following year. Of the proposed appropriation of $50,000 $7,500 was for salaries. This, the gentlemen thought, was a pretty large salary list for an expenditure of $50,000. The 160 miles of road in the annexed district have been virtually neglected for several years, and are now in an exceedingly bad condition. These two were the only taxpayers who appeared before the Board, and when they had finished their statements the Board adjourned.

A TRUST COMPANY'S DIRECTORS.

The following directors of the Mercantile Trust Company were elected yesterday at the annual meeting of the stockholders: Louis Fitzgerald, Henry A. Huribut, Solon Humphreys, Henry G. Marquand, John T. Terry, Henry M. Alexander, William E. Garrison, Henry B. Hyde, Thomas T. Eckert, Henry Day, Whitelaw Reid, Jose F. de Navarro, Charles R. Flint, Jonas M. Libbey, Benjamin F. Randolph, George D. Morgan, Jay Gould, William A. Wheelock, Russell Sage, William G. Lambert, Sidney Dillon, William H. Smith, Samuel Sloan, James M. Halsted, Fred. L. Ames, Richard Irvin, jr., Robert Garrett, Marcellus Hartley, John J. McCook and Elbert B. Monroe. The addition of many well-known gentlemen to the Board of Directors promises a large increase of business to the company.

DELAYED BY STORMY WEATHER.

The steamship Lepanto arrived from Hull yesterday after an exceedingly tempestuous voyage of eighteen days. Twice it was necessary to lay the vessel up to the wind for forty-eight hours. The Hermad, from Havre, and the Maas, from Rotterdam, were also delayed, and experienced exceedingly strong gales with tremendous seas. The vessels from the West Indies have been slightly delayed by the heavy weather. The City of Alexandria made the trip from Havana in three days and six hours—a fast trip for the winter season. The Saratoga also arrived from Havana. The Pacific Mail steamship Clyde was sighted about sixty miles from Havana, coming north.

BISHOP OF WASHINGTON TERRITORY.

THE REV. DR. JOHN A. PADDOCK CONSECRATED IN ST. PETER'S CHURCH, BROOKLYN.

The impressive ceremony of the consecration of a bishop, according to the ritual of the Protestant Episcopal Church took place yesterday in St. Peter's Church, in State-st., near Bond-st., Brooklyn. The Rev. Dr. John A. Paddock, who has been rector of that church for twenty-six years, was formally made Bishop of Washington Territory, to which office he was elected at the recent Episcopal Convention in this city. The service began at 11 a. m. and lasted nearly four hours; they were participated in by nine of the Episcopal bishops. The church was filled with a large and attentive assembly. The procession as it entered the church was led by the members of the vestry, who were followed by the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Long Island, Bishops Potter, of New-York, Stevens, of Pennsylvania, Paddock, of Massachusetts (a brother of the new bishop), Lee, of Delaware, Scarborough, of New-Jersey, Seymour, of Illinois, Penick, of Cape Palmas, South Africa, and Tuttle, of Utah, and nearly one hundred of the clergy of the church last of whom came the Bishop-elect. By reason of age and infirmity, Bishop Smith, of Kentucky, the presiding bishop of the church, did not walk in the procession. The absence of Bishop Littlejohn, of Long Island, who is in Europe, was noticeable. Among the clergymen present were the Rev. Drs. N. H. Schenck, C. H. Hall, A. H. Partridge, C. R. Baker, W. M. Suively, C. W. Homer and T. S. Drowne.

After the singing of a hymn written for the occasion by Bishop Vail, of Kansas, by the choir, the morning prayers were read by the Rev. Dr. Drowne, the Psalms by the Rev. Dr. Homer, the lessons by the Rev. Drs. Kimber and Twing, and the creed and prayers by the Rev. Dr. Schenck. The Ante-Communion service was read by Bishops Potter, Tuttle and Lee. Bishop Stevens preached the sermon, referring in it to the solemn nature of the service and to the field of labor to which the new Bishop will go. The new Bishop was then presented to Bishop Smith for consecration, attended by Bishop Paddock and Tuttle. Bishop Scarborough read the litany, and the offertory was read by Bishop Seymour. Presiding Bishop Smith then consecrated the new Bishop. The post-communion service followed, read by Bishop Paddock, of Massachusetts, and the testimonials of the House of Deputies of the Episcopal Convention, by which the new Bishop was chosen, were presented by the Rev. Dr. Hutchison. Bishop Smith delivered the Bible to Bishop Paddock with a few words of exhortation.

The new Bishop will go to his field of labor in March, 1881. He will preach his final sermon in St. Peter's Church in a few weeks.

MRS. BERGMAN STILL CAUSING TROUBLE.

Mrs. Elizabeth Bergman remained at Police Headquarters yesterday, awaiting a visit from her guardian, Mr. Price, of Philadelphia, to whose care her mother has committed her daughter's person and property. The conference Tuesday resulted in a flat refusal on the part of the daughter to go home or to her friends. Mrs. Swaim then arranged for her daughter's support while she herself was in Europe, whither she expected to go to-day. Mrs. Bergman was to live in furnished rooms of her own choosing, and receive an allowance of $30 a week. To this arrangement the guardian demurred, however. His failure to pay her the promised visit yesterday put Mrs. Bergman in a very bad humor, particularly when she learned that Mr. Price and her lawyer had been in consultation with President French, but had left the building without coming to her. As the outcome of this consultation, perhaps, Dr. Marvin Sims called upon Mrs. Bergman in the afternoon. He declared that to leave her, as her mother intended, unprotected in this city, would work her speedy ruin, and expressed a determination to tell Mrs. Swaim this. He considers Mrs. Bergman's mind certainly unsettled. His visit, together with the conduct of Mrs. Bergman's guardian, was accepted as an indication of a deliberate plan to have Mrs. Bergman deprived of her liberty by judicial proceedings as insane. Dr. Sims called upon Mrs. Swaim in the Park Avenue Hotel, and after 6 o'clock Mrs. Swaim drove to Police Headquarters, and returned to the hotel with her daughter and Matron Webb.

About 10 p. m. Mrs. Bergman walked into Police Headquarters and up to Mrs. Webb's room alone, but she remained only a short time. She then went away from Police Headquarters unattended and took a street car, which went in the direction of the hotel. It was noticed that her dress was torn slightly, but she did not seem excited or in haste. She reunited with Mrs. Webb to Police Headquarters at half-past 11.

CONFERRING ON CANAL MATTERS.

State Superintendent of Public Works Silas B. Dutcher held a consultation with President Forrest H. Parker, L. J. N. Stark, chairman of the Canal Committee, and other members of the Produce Exchange, yesterday, in regard to the canals. It was represented to Mr. Dutcher that the merchants of New-York had been watching with increasing apprehension the efforts of the enemies of the canals to cripple them. No public works, it was stated, were ever more persistently abused than by those who have derived inestimable benefits from them. The merchants were convinced of the importance of the increased production of the West, which New-York should control, and declared that no selfish policy on the part of the State would be countenanced.

Several suggestions were made which Mr. Dutcher was in accord with. He requested that the merchants should submit suggestions to him in reference to the canals, and said that he would be glad to consider them. He would have to draw water from some parts of the Erie Canal at once, and in others he would have a depth of from three to four feet. Of the repairs to be made, there were several structures on the Eastern Division, including locks Nos. 20 and 31, and some of the aqueducts, which would have to be taken up, but, in general, the canals were in unusually good condition, considering the amount of service the past season.

PAINTINGS AT THE ST. NICHOLAS CLUB.

The rooms of the St. Nicholas Club, No. 12 East Twenty-ninth-st., were well filled yesterday afternoon with the friends of the members, and the many lady visitors seemed greatly to enjoy the paintings which were displayed. In their new house, the members intended to have a more extensive gallery and a separate room for the exhibition of bric-a-brac, china and relics of antiquity. Among the pictures which were hung at the club-rooms yesterday were the following: An Arabian scene, by F. A. Bridgman; "Sketch from Nature," by A. F. Tait; "Cider Mill," by J. G. Brown; "Country Courtship," by F. Schuchardt, jr., an interior, by W. L. Palmer; "Under the Willows," by J. Lyman, jr.; "Covered Street in Algiers," by W. Sartain; a Roman fountain, by George Henry Hall; "Words of Comfort," by T. W. Wood; "Evening Squall," by Gilbert Gaul; "Too Much Game," by W. H. Beard; "Roman Girl," by Thomas Hicks; a vase of flowers, by J. Alden Weir; "Herring Boats," by Holland; "Is This the Right Road?" by G. H. McCord; "Squire's Daughter," by J. Wells Champney; a land-scape, by L. C. Tiffany; "Fog at Nanant," by J. C. Nicoll; "November Twilight," by M. Deforest Rolmer; a street scene, by E. M. Ward; "The Falconer," by J. Carroll Beckwith; Paris, 1878, and a rural scene, by H. W. Robbins.

DR. HEPWORTH TO SPEAK ON IRELAND.

The Rev. Dr. George H. Hepworth was invited December 10, by Tourlow Weed, William E. Dodge, Russell Sage, Henry Hilton, Peter Cooper, J. Pierpont Morgan, William H. Wickham, the Rev. Dr. Howard Crosby and others, to express his views publicly upon the present and prospective condition of Ireland. Dr. Hepworth has accepted the invitation and will speak on the social and political condition of Ireland, at Steinway Hall, Monday evening, December 20. There will be no charge for admittance. In a letter written to accept the invitation Mr. Hepworth says: "My only object in delivering the address is to call the thoughtful attention of the community to the almost hopeless condition of an unfortunate country."

A CHARMING MAN FOR A HUSBAND.

Michael Davran, of No. 234 West Thirty-fifth-st., was arrested Tuesday night by Policeman Concannon, of the Thirty-seventh Street Station, on the complaint of his wife Mary, who came in the station with her face covered with cuts and bruises, which she said had been inflicted by her husband. She said that by the advice of her friends she had married Davran on November 7, since which time he had been drunk continuously, and had abused her repeatedly, and often threatened her life. He purposed to carry out this threat Tuesday night, when she escaped from him and caused his arrest. She was unable to appear against him yesterday at the Jefferson Market Police Court and he was committed without bail by Justice Morgan, to await the result of her injuries.

THIEVES WHO DREADED THE WINTER.

Detective Wood, of the Eldridge Street Police Station, saw three men walking along Orchard-st., near Delancey-st., each of them carrying bundles. He spoke to them, but they quickly ran away. The officer gave chase and captured Francis Kelly, age eighteen, who said that he lived at No. 20 Clinton-st. Returning, Officer Wood found twenty overcoats valued at $150 at the spot where he first met Kelly and his companions. In the Essex Market Police Court yesterday morning Justice Kilbreth remanded Kelly to await the owner of the property. The recently appointed Police-Justice, Maurice J. Power, sat beside Justice Kilbreth, while the latter was disposing of the twenty prisoners brought before him.

CERAMICS AT AUCTION.

The sale of the Hausfeld collection of bric-a-brac and ceramics, from London, was begun yesterday at Herts's Art Rooms, No. 747 Broadway. The bidding was not very brisk. About one hundred people were present, and several dealers in antiques were in attendance who guided the uninitiated in their bidding. Among the 100 lots disposed of yesterday, the most important were the following: An old Dresden jar with cover, canary and gold decorations, painted figures and flowers in panels, $50; two blue Sevres vases on pedestals, decorated by paintings of figures and flowers in medallions, $100; a Dresden china sconce, with bevelled plate mirror and candelabras, decorated with raised flowers and cupids, $100; a pair of old Delf plaques, representing the City of Ghouda and a battlefield in the olden times, $42, and a set of twelve Sevres porcelain plates, said formerly to have been the property of Louis Philippe, and to have been stolen from the Tuileries by the insurgents in 1848, $120. The sales for the day reached a total of about $2,500. The sale will be continued to-day.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The steamship Italia, from Mediterranian ports, arrived at Quarantine Tuesday with 747 Italian immigrant passengers, who boarded the vessel at Naples. Smallpox was discovered among the passengers, two children being found suffering from it, and the vessel will be detained at Quarantine until thoroughly disinfected by fumigation. The sick were sent to the hospital. The immigrants are said to be a very dirty class as a whole. The cases were in a highly infectious stage, and fears are entertained that many other cases may develop. The crew and passengers were vaccinated. The passengers will be placed under quarantine until it is thought that all danger is passed. The Quarantine authorities say that there need be no apprehension of any danger in the city.

Several cases of smallpox were reported at Elizabeth, N. J., Tuesday. Scarlet fever and malaria are making great ravages in that neighborhood, especially about Bergen Point.

There seems to be no apparent prospect of any decrease in the terrible ravages of diphtheria in Brooklyn. The average number of deaths in each week for the last ten weeks has been about fifty. During October there were 168 deaths, and in November there was a slight increase over this number. In the first week of the present month there were forty-six deaths, and last week there were fifty-one. In the first three days of this week the deaths numbered twenty-two, five more than in the corresponding days of last week. The Health Department has taken all possible precautions to control the disease. Some physicians, however, fail properly to diagnose the disease or to report to the Board of Health, and families dislike to be subjected to the stringent regulations of the Health Board. The Committee on Health in the Common Council is considering measures for the more effective control of the disease.

Owing to the prevalence of diphtheria in Newtown, L. I., the schools have been closed. In one family three children died from the disease within five days.

SERIOUS CHARGES AGAINST A LAWYER.

A petition was presented to the General Term of the Supreme Court of the Second Judicial District, in Brooklyn, Tuesday, by Gershom A. Seixas, a lawyer, accusing Peter M. Baum, another lawyer, of unprofessional conduct. The allegations stated in the petition are that in July, 1878, a divorce suit was begun in Dutchess County by Mrs. Mary A. Simmons against her husband, Dr. Duane B. Simmons, then in Japan. Mr. Baum appeared as Mrs. Simmons's counsel. Mr. Seixas was retained by Dr. Simmons to defend the suit. The case was taken to a referee by Baum, and the report in favor of a divorce, obtained on the testimony of Annie Coons, was confirmed by Judge Osborn in the Third Judicial District. Mrs. Simmons then married W. R. Clearwater, who afterward brought suit to annul the marriage on the ground that the divorce was illegally secured. It was alleged that the woman Coons, under the name of Jessie Barton, testified to having known Dr. Simmons in Japan, when in fact he was in Red Hook at that time and afterward in New-York. In March, 1880, Dr. Simmons's lawyer made a motion to set the referee's report aside, and an affidavit from Annie Coons, the principal witness, which was offered, set forth that she never was in Japan, and in 1878 was induced by Peter M. Baum, of Red Hook, whom she knew, to personate one Jessie Barton, as having just arrived from Japan, and to testify in the divorce suit of Mrs. Simmons against Dr. Simmons. On this affidavit the decree was annulled. In closing his petition Mr. Seixas asks that the Court will determine what penalty these offences deserve, and do justice to the community.

FINDING LIFE BURDENSOME.

John Smith, of No. 204 Bay-st., Jersey City, died of hemorrhage of the lungs at 3 o'clock yesterday morning in a cell in the First Police Precinct Station in that city. He was arrested Tuesday for assaulting his wife, but was so intoxicated that he could not be arraigned, and was locked up. He attempted to hang himself to the bars of his cell door Tuesday night, but the noose slipped over his head and he fell upon the floor. He subsequently was attacked with hemorrhage, from which he died.

Mrs. Anna Edge, of No. 186 Park-ave., Hoboken, attempted to kill herself early yesterday morning while in one of the cells at Police Headquarters, that city. She was arrested for disorderly conduct. When placed in a cell she had a severe attack of hysterics, and nearly succeeded in strangling herself by clutching her throat with both hands and pushing her thumbs tightly against her windpipe. She was kept under close watch until the Court opened, when she was fined and released.

John Gleason, a young man, who was committed to the Hudson County Jail, at Jersey City, a few days ago, by City Recorder McDonough, of Hoboken, on a charge of breaking and entering a store and stealing some groceries, cut his throat yesterday and came near bleeding to death before he was discovered. He will probably recover.

SHAM BATTLE IN BROOKLYN.

A sham fight, illustrating a night engagement, was given by the Eleventh Brigade, N. G. S. N. Y., General Edward L. Molineux commanding, at Fort Greene, Brooklyn, last night, and proved a great attraction to crowds of people. Admission to the hill where the battle took place was by ticket. The purpose of the engagement was to drill the troops in field exercises and in manœuvres, and to illustrate the desirableness of educating the National Guard in actual military duties. The 23d Regiment, Colonel Partridge commanding, with two guns of the Howitzer Battery, under Lieutenant Tyson; the 47th Infantry, Colonel Brownell commanding; the 32d Infantry, under Major Finkelmeier, and his guns, under Captain Edwards, took part in the fight, which was much enjoyed by the spectators. Among those present were Adjutant-General Townsend, Inspector-General Oliver, Surgeon-General Barnes, of Governor Cornell's staff, Major-General Jourdan, Assistant Inspector-General Rodenbough, Generals Wyble, Wingate and Ward, Collector Merritt, Lieutenant-Colonel Briggs and others. The engagement lasted about three-quarters of an hour.

GAS INTERESTS IN BROOKLYN.

Another scheme for consolidating the interests now represented by the seven gas companies in Brooklyn has been proposed. A meeting of persons interested was held Tuesday in the office of the Brooklyn Company, in Remsen-st., and the subject was discussed. No definite conclusion was reached. A. W. Benson, president of the Brooklyn Company, the oldest and strongest of the companies in Brooklyn, said, yesterday, that while consolidation was being talked of, there was, as yet, no committee to consider it. Mr. Benson said that he was in favor of consolidation, and had been since the first scheme for it was broached. He thought no company was making much money under the present conditions. W. B. Meeker, secretary of the Fulton Municipal Company, recently organized, which is in opposition to all the other companies, and which uses naphtha gas, said that his company did not favor consolidation. It had 1,500 metres set now, had just completed a third gas-holder and was ready to supply 1,250,000 feet of gas a day.

James H. Stebbins, president of the Citizens' Gas-light Company of Brooklyn, has resigned that office from ill-health, and Samuel E. Howard has been chosen to succeed him.

INCREASE IN POST OFFICE BUSINESS.

The outgoing mail steamers from this port yesterday took 159,900 letters—the greatest number ever sent across the ocean on any one day. The business of the post office in this city has increased to such an extent recently that the staff in the office has been compelled to work several hours overtime for many weeks. Local mail matter has increased one-third in the last three months, and the railway service, particularly on the New-York Central and Pennsylvania Central roads, has been much behind hand. The result is that the regular deliveries in the city are not as promptly made as they should be. The greater part of the increase in the business comes from the southwest. Mails from points southwest of St. Louis have more than doubled in bulk since this time last year. The increase in the matter is not attributed altogether to the approaching holiday season, but to the improved business condition of the country generally.

NEW-ENGLAND SOCIETY ELECTION.

The annual meeting of the New-England Society was held at the Fifth Avenue Hotel last evening. D. F. Appleton presiding. The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows: President, Josiah M. Fiske; first vice-president, Benjamin K. Phelps; second vice-president, Marveile W. Cooney; directors, for four years, Locke W. Winchester, Brayton Ives, Charles B. Stockwell, Daniel Robinson; treasurer, J. Pierpont Morgan; secretary, L. P. Hubbard. The annual dinner of the society will be held on the evening of December 22 at the Metropolitan Concert Hall.

EX-TREASURER BOGERT'S BONDSMEN.

In accordance with a resolution of the Board of Managers of the Produce Exchange, the question of releasing the bondsmen of the late treasurer of the Exchange, Benjamin C. Bogert, from their liabilities, will be submitted to the members for a vote December 27. Mr. Bogert was a defaulter to the amount of about $34,000, and committed suicide on the day that the defalcation became known. The bondsmen were Joun S. Sutphen, B. W. Floyd, and Edward Aman, who qualified in the sum of $20,000.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO ST. JOHN'S GUILD.

The following contributions have been received for the Relief Fund of St. John's Guild:

John H. Brower	$50	"Cash," Mott Haven	5
Ferdinand Stagg	10	"In Strang"	5
W. Broadfield, "special"	10	"S. L."	2
Mrs. Baldwin	5		—
"A. L. W."	5	Total	$82

XLVITH CONGRESS—IIID SESSION.

REGULAR REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

THE SENATE DEBATING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION BILL—JOHN BROWN ATTACKED AND DEFENDED—THE FORTIFICATIONS BILL PASSED BY THE HOUSE.

SENATE.....WASHINGTON, Dec. 15, 1880.

Only ten Senators were present when prayer was offered to-day. The Vice President said he would await the appearance of a quorum before causing the journal to be read. It was some time afterward before the journal was ordered to be read.

Mr. INGALLS (Rep., Kan.) reported with amendments the House bill for the Relief of Settlers upon the Absentee Shawnee Lands in Kansas. Placed on the calender.

Mr. CALL (Dem., Fla.) offered a resolution instructing the Judiciary Committee to inquire into and report upon the alleged abuse of power by United States Courts. Laid on the table to be called up by Mr. Call hereafter.

Among the bills introduced and referred were the following:

By Mr. HILL (Rep., Col.) for the retirement of small legal-tender notes.

By Mr. PENDLETON (Dem., Ohio) to regulate the Civil Service of the United States, and to promote the efficiency thereof; also a bill to prohibit Federal officers, claimants and contractors from making or receiving assessments or contributions for political purposes.

By Mr. TELLER (Rep., Col.) by request, amending Section 2,324 of the Revised Statutes relating to mining.

Mr. COKE (Dem., Tex.) announced that on Tuesday next he will ask the consideration of the bill for the allotment of lands in severalty to Indians, and extending the laws of the States and Territories over the Indians.

EDUCATION BY THE NATION.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill to establish an educational fund and apply a portion of the proceeds of the public lands to public education, and to provide for the more complete endowment and support of National colleges for the advancement of scientific and industrial education.

Mr. BURNSIDE (Rep., R. I.) spoke briefly in support of the bill.

Mr. MORRILL (Rep., Vt.) followed in support of the bill. He referred to the success of the land grant colleges established under the act of 1862, and favored the extension of that system, believing that the spread of education was a chief factor in national progress and happiness. He said the bill did not interfere with the rights of preemption or homestead entry, or impair the claim of any State to its percentage in the sale of public lands.

Mr. BROWN (Dem., Ga.) supported the bill. Republican institutions were constantly being tested, and the growth of the population of the country and segregation into large cities would make their perpetuation more and more difficult unless the capacity for self-government among the people went on *pari passu* with the growth of population. Mr. Brown pointed out that nearly all our prominent men, from Washington to Garfield, had been of poor parentage, and had by their thirst for knowledge and their industry worked their way up to the top. Doubtless thousands of boys of equal capacity with those he had mentioned, had remained mute and inglorious through the absolute impossibility of overcoming unfavorable circumstances and obtaining the necessary education to lift them above the mass. It was wise to do away with this lack of facilities, and enable every boy to sharpen his faculties to the utmost. Mr. Brown referred to the great advantage enjoyed by New-England in comparison with other sections of the country, by reason of her supremacy in education. There were special reasons why the South should favor this bill.

The Senator from Vermont (Mr. Morrill) had referred to the alarming amount of illiteracy in the United States. It was disproportionately great in the South. One reason for this was that under the old system of Southern society more attention was given to the education of the ruling classes than to that of the whole mass. Another reason was the non-education of the slaves. They had greatly advanced intellectually before the abolition of slavery, but there was necessarily a limitation to such progress under the old system. There was only one way to abolish slavery, and the two sections were arrayed against each other on the subject. Providence knew how to carry out His own designs. The only way to eradicate slavery was to tear it out by the roots. The institution was staked on the result of war, and while neither side contemplated the abolition of slavery at the beginning, the termination of the struggle was its abolition. Thus another step was taken in this wonderful development in reference to this race, from prisoners of African chiefs they became American citizens. It was dangerous to enfranchise so much ignorance, and the danger was continuous. All now agreed that the blacks should be educated, but the South was too poor to do it alone. He thanked the framers of the bill for providing that the great or amount of money appropriated by the bill should go to the States where there was most illiteracy. He complimented the negroes upon their self-control and peaceableness under their new political condition. He had more belief than he had once had in their future advancement among the races. The whole country was interested in the intelligence of the colored population. There was complaint that the negroes were cheated at the polls. Ignorance can be cheated everywhere. Educate these people up to a knowledge of their rights, and of the form and spirit of our Government, and there will be less and less danger.

Mr. Brown did not think the Constitutional objections to the bill valid. Some said this was a State, not a National matter. Under the strict States' rights interpretation of the Constitution prior to the war that was doubtless true. But we do not live under the Constitution we lived under then. The amendments made at the termination of the struggle have very greatly enlarged the powers of this Government. Again, the objection does not apply, since the General Government has and undoubtedly always had the right to dispose of the proceeds of the public lands. He reiterated his belief that republican institutions could best be insured by the spread of education, and appealed to Republicans of all parts of the country to secure general benefit by this means.

A REMINDER OF THE KANSAS STRUGGLE.

The bill was informally laid aside until to-morrow, when it is designed to reach a vote upon it at 4 o'clock.

On motion of Mr. COCKRELL (Dem., Mo.) the Senate took up the Senate bill for the relief of Samuel A. Lowe, appropriating $4,750 to pay him for services and expenses as clerk of the Territorial Legislature of Kansas in 1855.

Mr. INGALLS (Rep., Kan.) said this was an attempt to have pay granted for the commission of what are known as the "bogus statutes" of Kansas, or the same code which was repealed and publicly burned by the Free Soilers as soon as they obtained control of the State. The statutes were the blackest, most damnable body of laws ever attempted to be passed. Lowe had no authority to compile them. Mr. Ing lis read as a sample one of the sections of this bogus code, which made it a felony punishable by imprisonment at hard labor for two years to bring into the Territory any printed or written matter denying the right of persons to hold slaves, and making it a capital offence to bring a fugitive slave into the Territory. Lowe's claim was repudiated by his own party in Kansas. The laws were not enacted.

Mr. COCKRELL said that Lowe deserved his pay for service legally rendered.

Mr. VEST (Dem., Mo.) referred to a remark of Mr. Ingalls, that the code was based on the code of Missouri. No such statutes ever existed in Missouri. Slavery was dead and he had no wish to bring it to life. But he could not refrain from saying that violence begat violence, and outrage provoked outrage. The people went out by Plymouth Church and other pillars of God and morality, headed by that old scoundrel John Brown, who afterward justly explained his crimes on the scaffold at Harpers' Ferry, were responsible for much of the violence of that unfortunate time. Lowe should be paid for his clerical work.

Mr. INGALLS said he did not propose at this period of the Nation's history to enter upon a vindication of John Brown. John Brown was executed as a traitor on the 2nd of December, 1859. But the Nation took up the flag that he laid down at Harpers' Ferry, and bore it in triumph through four years of war to Appomattox Courthouse. John Brown was about four years ahead of his time. I was the Nation that was laggard, and it required a few years after his death for the Nation to occupy the platform on which he had stood. The laws of Missouri formed the basis of the code in question, being changed or supplemented in such respects as to fit them for the peculiar state of society desired to be established in Kansas.

Mr. HARRIS (Dem., Tenn.) stated his opinion that Lowe's claim was good.

Mr. EDMUNDS (Rep., Vt.) said he began to get interested in this bill since John Brown's name had been brought up, although, he added, nothing that can be said of him in this Senate, good or evil, will mar the brightness of that fame that will go down as the type of honest, though it may be misguided, love of liberty. His body lies mouldering in the grave, but his soul, thank God, is marching on. Mr. Edmunds then cited an old act showing that Lowe was not legally entitled to pay.

Mr. ALLISON (Dem., Ga.) moved to go into executive session.

Mr. COCKRELL called for the yeas and nays on Mr. Allison's motion.

The call was not seconded, and at 2:50 p. m. the Senate went into executive session, and when the doors were reopened adjourned until to-morrow.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

In the House of Representatives to-day a bill approving an agreement entered into between the State of New-York and Connecticut, concerning the boundary line between those States, was passed.

The bill granting a pension of $100 a month to the widow of the late President Tyler, was passed.

The House at 12:40 o'clock went into Committee of the Whole upon the Fortification bill.

Mr. BAKER (Rep., Ind.) stated that with a single exception the bill was identical with that of last year. Whether or not it was wise at this time to appropriate large sums for fortifying the sea coast deserved careful consideration. The sea coast fortifications were in a deplorable state. He believed it to be entirely unwise for the Government to undertake such a great work spasmodically and without any settled plan. The bill provided for the manufacture of four improved breech-loading 12-inch rifled guns which would cost $46,000 each. It would require from sixteen to twenty-two months to manufacture these four guns. It was utterly idle, therefore, to make appropriations for the manufacture of more guns, until Congress encouraged the establishment of adequate manufactories.

Mr. RANDALL (Dem., Penn.) did not believe that the grandeurs of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. Baker) would see any nation attacking the harbor of New-York.

Mr. McCOOK (Rep., N. Y.) said that Mr. Randall had no special privilege to inform this committee that no one now living would see another war. There was no assurance that within twelve or twenty-four months the country might not be at war with some great maritime power, and in that case the harbors of the country would be defenceless and the harbor of New-York would be at the mercy of a third or fourth-rate power.

Mr. BAKER stated that it would be utterly impossible to put any one of the large commercial cities on the sea-coast in anything like an adequate condition of defence in less than two years.

Mr. REED (Rep., Me.) said this country was in a condition as to its seacoast defence, which, taking into consideration its financial condition, was disgraceful in the extreme. The country had no navy at the present time, and for the future it would cost more to build such a navy as would be needed than to construct fortifications. There was only one way in which to meet the danger, and that was by forces of modern science in the matter of fortification, which had kept pace with modern science in the matter of ordnance. To-day forts could be built impervious to every ordnance brought to bear against them.

Mr. ELLIS (Dem., La.) said that a man-of-war belonging to Austria, Brazil, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Russia, Spain or Turkey could slide safely into New-York Harbor without being injured, and levy on that city a contribution one hundred thousand times as great as the amount which the Chief of Ordnance asked for making great guns to defend the seacoast. Would the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. Baker) wait until some man-of-war should levy tribute at the principal towns of the coast before he would legislate upon the subject? The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Randall) had said that there would be no war. Who could tell? Cuba was firing on the commerce of this country every two or three months. He hoped the incoming administration would teach Spain that the American flag must be respected wherever it flew. He referred to the inter-oceanic canal as an additional reason for seacoast defence.

Mr. REAGAN (Dem., Texas) favored the strengthening of fortifications.

Mr. KING (Dem., La.) said Spain could to-day enter the Southern ports, destroy them and sail up to the very walls of Philadelphia.

General debate was then closed and the bill read for amendments.

Mr. JOHNSTON (Dem., Va.), under the direction of the Military Committee, offered an amendment, "That the sum of $500,000 be appropriated for the repair of fortifications and other works of defence, the same to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of War."

Mr. RANDALL (Dem., Penn.) opposed the amendment. He said that the guns he had been asked to appropriate for ten years ago (on the same argument that he heard to-day) were absolutely useless now as weapons of defence. At this day science travelled so fast that the very appropriation which was now asked for would come in its result to be at once useless.