...forest crop ever marketed was the harvest of these ...ed buds. Now a gentleman who at least thinks ...es all about the subject sends a communication to ...e TRIBUNE, asserting that the peach-grower's ...vations are nonsensical for the reason that the ...ch spot is always in the centre of the fruit bud, and ...ot cannot can be detected only by cutting open the bud, ...ch, of course, destroys it. If this be so, it naturally ...s that so one can be sure that a peach was ever ...ed from a bud which contained the black spot. ...correspondent has found after close observation ...ter thirty years that "where a promiscuous cutting ...ches showed nothing but black centres, no peaches ...ed." But after all this does not show whether or ...t there will be a peach crop on the Peninsula this year.

The fashions current in Paris for the first ...night in March are indicated in the following para...ph from *Galignani's Messenger*: "One can fancy a ...tsman recently landing from either of the poles and ...ddenly cast on the Boulevard des Italiens. What his ...st impression would be facing a Mother Hubbard cape, ...a pake bonnet, a painted face, low shoes and worked ...stockings, short scanty *trotteuse* petticoats and a floral ...wig, really is hard to imagine. People have to see these ...novations introduced by degrees or no one could talk ...without laughing to a friend thus attired. The waved ...ondelette on every lady's forehead is another comical ...auxiliary. To go out without a reticule and a scalpette is ...to be backward in social acquirements and in politics. ...Men of the world take everything down they are obliged ...to; they quietly step over fish-tail trains, sympathize ...with nervous headaches in front of nodding ostrich tips, ...do not scream their eye-sight in a saturnalia of gold and ...yellow and copper and giroflé satin, and finally they ...leave themselves before folk; but if ladies knew what ...we think comments made *entre soi*, they would endeavor ...to remain within the limits of quaint dressing, not to ...antedate them."

HINTS, QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

THE TRIBUNE ALMANAC.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: You will oblige me by informing me when THE TRIBUNE ALMANAC was first issued.

New-York, March 19, 1881. R. B. POOL.

[The first number of the series was issued by Mr. Greeley at the close of 1837 with the title of "The Whig Almanac and Political Register." In 1856, the title was changed to THE TRIBUNE ALMANAC and POLITICAL REGISTER.—*Ed.*]

MR. SHERMAN'S PUBLIC LIFE.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: Will you be so kind as to answer me through THE TRIBUNE how many years Senator Sherman filled a seat in the House of Representatives and how many years in the Senate prior to his return to the latter body March 5 of the present year? If I had my file of THE TRIBUNE ALMANAC at hand I would be able to see for myself. I have a file dating from the first number.

New-York, March 19, 1881. ANDREW W. LEGGAT.

[Mr. Sherman was first elected a member of the House of Representatives in 1854, and was reelected three times. Elected United States Senator in 1860, he was twice reelected, resigning his seat in 1877 in order to enter the Cabinet. The present is the fourth term upon which he has entered in the Senate.—*Ed.*]

RIGHTEOUS WRATH.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: Allow me to call, through your valuable columns, the attention of the Police Commissioners to the oversight, of course entirely inadvertent on their part, of the condition of West Tenth-st. in front or beside the handsomest public building our city has paid for, the most picturesque in outline and of the best construction, the Jefferson Market Court House. They go in and out of it daily, it is presumed, yet the street and pavement on its side in Tenth-st. are full of large holes, some of which are three feet wide and longer, and as many as four or five inches deep, in which lies stagnant, filthy water. This extends for a block, and has been in similar condition for two years, and since last November no broom has invaded West Tenth-st., from Sixth-ave. to the river. I own a house there, on which I am taxed annually $200—this year a small reduction—yet there is not the slightest care taken of the street, except to light it. During the five years I have lived in the street, though only two blocks from the court house, I have rarely seen a police officer in the street or near my house. Where are the good old ordinances that require every householder to wash the sidewalk and gutter daily? Why are they not enforced? Or are they expunged from the statutes? If we can do no better, why do not the husbands, fathers and brothers organize a vigilance committee to protect the lives of the women and children from the cupidity of these knaves who live upon the murder of the innocents? How long are we to be exposed to these fearful ills, engendered by neglect of Nature's stringent laws? Those who languish on sick beds are anxiously awaiting the answer and relief which last night's meeting enables them to hope for. The conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn seems to have given much more anxiety to the inhabitants of this planet, the good old Mother Earth, than the conjunction of these political knaves which affects our hourly well-being, while we may well leave "the stars in their courses" to that Being who is calling us all to account for neglect of His inexorable laws. AN INDIGNANT SUFFERER.

171 *West Tenth-st.*, March 19, 1881.

THE IRISH IN AMERICA.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: Allow me to express my admiration for the manner in which you are dealing with the question of the Land League, and especially for your just editorials. By the correspondence in your columns the public has the opportunity of looking at both sides of the question, whereas there seems to be a class of hot-headed, religious fanatics who want to draw this country into bad relations with Great Britain to gratify their own selfish plans. Is it not enough that the Government of that country is considering a broad and liberal bill for ameliorating the land laws? If the land question is the Irish tenant's greatest grievance, why then when they come to the United States do they not readily settle upon fertile tracts of Government land, and not hang around the cities, work on railroads, and keep saloons? They do not seem to care for land-owning when a free country gives them the advantages of an equitable landsystem. REPUBLICAN.

Louisville, Ky., March 17, 1881.

[There is justice in this charge. But it must not be forgotten that Irish emigrants have barely money enough to bring them across the sea, and consequently the majority of them settle in cities and find employment as laborers. Swedes and Germans on landing at Castle Garden generally have the means to go West and settle.—*Ed.*]

PUBLIC OPINION.

The principal thing that the business of the country wants is to be let alone.—[Pittsburg Commercial Gazette (Rep.)

General Garfield, had he remained in the House, would have made an ideal Speaker. Taking him, however, as a model, the Republicans should come as near to that standard as possible.—[Cleveland Herald (Rep.)

No man elected by tissue ballots, false counting, or through the suppression of the colored vote by violence, ever "deserts his party" in the Senate and votes with the Republicans. Ben Hill lectures none such. He has no occasion to. They always vote at their party's call.—[Peoria Transcript (Rep.)

ALL GOOD MEN.

From The Philadelphia Press (Rep).

All of these appointments are of a positive character. There is nothing negative or colorless about them. A weak and inexperienced President might have hoped to evade the difficulty by taking neutral men and avoiding strong partisans of either side. But General Garfield has seen enough of political history to understand that it is the virile forces of politics which must be represented in successful movements. Judge Robertson is as pronounced on one the side as General Woodford and Marshal Payn on theother; and in taking both the President proclaims his purpose to recognize the just position of each and to combine them in support of the Administration. He does not propose to prescribe any class of Republicans, but to be fair and considerate toward all. His policy is broad and liberal, and if he can unite and harmonize all elements of the party he will achieve a great success.

INDIANA STILL HAS HOPES.

From The Indianapolis News (Ind.)

With the ending of Indiana as an October State THE NEW-YORK TRIBUNE thinks the race of Democratic Presidential candidates within her borders may be said to be extinct; that hereafter there will be no reason to put an Indiana man on the ticket at either end—and THE TRIBUNE might have added, "on either ticket." But we doubt very much "the State influence" of any candidate. There is a certain amount of what, for a better name, may be called "State pride," that makes itself heard in conventions as it comes from the mouths of politicians who champion a candidate from "their State," but the buds of it is really more for personal reasons than State reasons. They will be close to the man himself if elected, near to the fountainhead of patronage. That, we suspect, is the genesis and revelation of "the State" business in choosing National candidates. We doubt if it makes the difference of a vote to the precinct. If Indiana hereafter has a man of either party available for National reasons, he will not be passed by for any one from some "October State."

BEGINNING TO SEE IT.

From The New-Orleans Democrat (Dem.)

We had the pleasure Saturday of meeting Representative E. Joca Ellis, who returned to his home last week, and is now earnestly engaged in his law practice. The labors and vicissitudes of Congressional life have borne lightly upon Mr. Ellis, as he is in robust health and full of his usual fire and energy. Mr. Ellis utters an opinion, which is rapidly gaining ground, that the Democratic party owes its defeat more to its failure to reassure the country with confidence in its progressiveness than to any other cause, and that unless it exhibits a bolder order of statesmanship, broader views, and a disposition to align itself with the spirit of progress which now pervades the country and points to grand achievements in the development of our material interests, it will disintegrate.

THE STATE CAPITAL.

PRESIDENT GARFIELD THANKED.

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE APPOINTMENT OF SENATOR ROBERTSON PASSED UNANIMOUSLY—PROGRESS MADE WITH IMPORTANT MEASURES.

In the State Senate yesterday a resolution was passed unanimously thanking President Garfield for appointing Senator Robertson Collector. Mr. Choate made an argument in favor of the State Charities Aid Association bill. Progress was made with the McCarthy and other important bills. The Tax Commission made a report and submitted a bill.

TAXING CORPORATIONS.

REPORT FROM THE TAX COMMISSION—IMPORTANT AMENDMENTS IN THE CORPORATION TAX LAW PROPOSED.

ALBANY, March 24.—The Joint Committee on Assessment and Taxation, with the members of the Tax Commission, met this afternoon. John F. Seymour, from the Commission appointed by the Governor, presented a report which is in part as follows:

The report says that $780,888 have already been paid into the department of the State Controller under the new law of 1880 for raising taxes for the use of the State upon corporations, thus relieving the real and personal property of citizens from so much of the State tax. It is estimated by the Controller that the amount thus to be received will ultimately exceed $2,000,000 annually, but the law, owing to differences in opinion as to its true meaning, has given rise to much litigation and temporary loss of municipal and local revenue. . . . We respectively submit herewith certain amendments to chapter 542, Laws of 1880, in compliance with the wish of the Joint Committee as expressed in their communication. These amendments are intended to render the act more efficient for the purposes which it seems to have been designed to accomplish, and to take away the pretexts for litigations which are found in its somewhat uncertain provisions. It will be observed that the amendments sustain an object of the law which the Commissioners are of opinion should be approved and favored; to wit: as the provisions of the act are put in effective operation and become productive of revenue by taxation of corporations, to the extent of this revenue all property, both real and personal, throughout the State, is relieved of taxation for State purposes. In this way the chronic difficulties that surround the inequalities of county valuation, and that have hitherto baffled all attempts to adjust satisfactorily, we hope will gradually disappear.

The Controller, in his annual report, states that "from the tax imposed under section 3, corporations have claimed exemption to the extent that their capital is invested in United States bonds. The intent was undoubtedly that the tax imposed was one upon the business or franchises of corporations and not upon their property; but the language of the statute is not perfectly clear upon this point and should be made so." In accordance with this recommendation, we have amended the act [chapter 542, Laws of 1880] by inserting in the second and third lines of section one, after the word taxed, the words "on its corporate franchise or business" and by inserting in the seventh and eighth lines of the third section the words "as a tax upon its corporate franchise or business," and again in the thirteenth and fourteen lines of the fifth section, and in the fifteenth and sixteenth lines of section six, and the words "or business" elsewhere in the act. The Controller recommends that in case of an appeal from this appraisement it be made to the State Board of Assessors instead of being made to the State Board of Equalization, he being a member of the latter Board. We have departed from this suggestion and made the appeal to a board consisting of the Secretary of State, Attorney-General and State Treasurer. His objection to including gas companies in the exemption of manufacturing companies has been acceded to. Some of the members of the Commission were not satisfied that the rate of taxation of section 6 should be computed upon the basis of the "gross earnings" of the associations and corporations and companies included in its terms, some thinking it should be upon the net earnings and some upon the gross earnings only after deducting running expenses; but the commission found upon examination that the law was not as onerous as they feared, as will be seen by the following illustration: A corporation with a capital of $600,000, paying a dividend of 8 per cent, with gross earnings of $470,708, would pay a tax under the law on capital of $1,200, and on its gross earnings of $2,353, making a total of $3,553.

Assuming that the $600,000 capital of such a corporation was personal property, it would be relieved from a State tax under former laws of $2,100, leaving a tax on its franchise of $1,453.

The Legislative Committee is requested to examine into this calculation, as we desire to do no injustice to corporations.

The Controller's report, in alluding to that part of section six, laws of 1880, which provides that "in arriving at the gross earnings of any express palace car or sleeping car company or freight line there shall be first deducted the expenses paid to any common carrier for transportation upon such business within this State," gives it as his opinion that this provision should be stricken from the bill as a discrimination in favor of the companies named without any good reason therefor. Upon deliberation the bill has been so amended. He also gives the same opinion as to the provision in section six: "That nothing in this section should be held to apply to any street surface railroad company," and also to the last four lines of section eight, relating to a street horse railroad company, the Commission concurring with the Controller have made the amendments suggested. Section 10 is new, and its interest is too obvious to need comment.

Should further deliberation on the part of the Commission suggest other amendments, they will be submitted to the Committee. In connection with this subject the Commission have under consideration amendments to chapter 534 of the Laws of 1880, providing for the taxation of life insurance companies, and also to chapter 596, to provide for the taxation of banks, etc., all of which is respectfully submitted.

The bill which accompanies the report is very long:

SECTION I. Provides for returns and specifies how corporations that pay no dividends are to be taxed.

II. Provides penalties for failing to make returns.

III. Corporations are to pay a tax on their corporate franchise or business. If a dividend of 6 per cent is paid it is to be at the rate of ¼ mill upon the capital stock for each 1 per cent of dividend; if under 6 per cent, the tax is to be 1½ mills upon each dollar of the capital stock as valued according to the provisions of the bill. Provision is made for taxing common and preferred stock.

IV. Directs that treasurers shall remit taxes.

V. This section taxes fire insurance companies eight-tenths of 1 per cent on the gross amounts of their premiums. This applies to home and foreign companies.

VI. This section taxes railroad, canal steamboat and telegraph companies at the rate of five-tenths of 1 per cent upon their gross earnings in this State.

VII. This section directs that the tax imposed under section six shall be paid annually on the 1st of August.

VIII. The lands and real estate of the various corporations, joint stock companies and associations mentioned as taxable shall continued to be assessed and taxed where situated for State and local purposes, but there personal property shall hereafter, except for county, town and municipal purposes, be exempt from assessment or taxation, except as this act prescribed.

IX. The taxes imposed by this act, shall be applicable to the payment of the ordinary and current expenses of the State.

X. All obligations, liabilities and taxes heretofore incurred or imposed under the act [Chapter 542 of laws of 1880] are saved and shall be enforced as if the act had not been hereby amended.

SUPERVISION OF CHARITIES.

MR. CHOATE EXPLAINS THE AIM AND WORKING OF THE STATE CHARITIES AID ASSOCIATION—WHY LEGISLATION IS ASKED.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

ALBANY, March 24.—Joseph H. Choate appeared before the Senate Committee on Miscellaneous Corporations this afternoon and made an argument in favor of the bill authorizing the members of the State Charities Aid Association to visit and inspect the State charitable institutions, jails and almshouses. Senator Robertson presided. A large number of members of the society, ladies and gentlemen, were present, including Mrs. Lewis A. Lee Schuyler, the president, Mrs. E. C. Hobson, Mrs. L. M. Hoyt, Miss Patterson, Miss E. Tucker, George L. Schuyler and Mrs. Isaac H. Cooks, of New-York; and from other counties, including Greene, Queens, Albany, Columbia, Essex and Westchester, were George T. Powell, Mrs. E. D. Rand, New-York, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice E. Viele, R. H. Pruyn, H. H. Pierson, Miss Gilbert and Mrs. Howard Townsend.

Mr. Choate stated that the members of the society asked nothing unusual. It was only gaining permission to carrying on work which they had before undertaken with the approval of the authorities in various parts of the State. The society assumed that the State Board of Charities fulfilled all the duties imposed upon them by the law. The society had no thought of disparaging or casting any doubt upon the ability of that Board to carry out the duties imposed upon it by law in 1872. The work of the State Board of Charities brought about the organization of the State Charities Aid Society. It was founded upon the idea that the people at large—outside of the Legislature—had a duty to perform. It was also founded upon the idea that official supervision was not sufficient to carry on all the plans for which charitable institutions are designed, and also that abuses could be remedied by private energy supplementing official action. Of course such aid extended by the representatives of the best classes in every community was welcomed by the public authorities, and until two or three years ago the State Board of Charities and the State Charities Aid Society acted together with magnificent results. The plan of the society was to have committees in each county to inspect the charitable institutions. There were twenty-seven such societies. The theory was that they represented the public eye to look into these institutions and see how they are managed. The central organization in New-York had grown vastly. The local committees represented the working force and the New-York body the directing brain. The idea was to expose to the public gaze—as they should—the interior of all such establishments. An immediate improvement of the charitable institutions was the result. The society was cordially approved by the State Board of Charities. The State Board did not have the force of men for such a work, and was wholly inadequate to perform the work.

Everything proceeded in a harmonious way until 1873, when, to the surprise of everybody, the public right of entrance to the public institutions was denied to the society. The Westchester Poorhouse door was shut in our faces. Of course the right of entrance to these institutions was necessary. Well, upon this there was a conference of the two bodies; then by agreement it was arranged that a bill should be introduced to secure the right of entrance; under that act the two bodies acted harmoniously till 1880. It was provided that any person named by the State Board of Charities should have the right to enter the asylums and poorhouses. It was agreed that any person nominated by the State Charities Aid Association should be given a certificate of admission by the State Board of Charities. This was cheerfully granted up to 1880. By these means a work of reform was accomplished in the charitable institutions that could not have been accomplished by the Legislature. Public attention was aroused to abuses and they were remedied. Lack of information on some points was the cause of these abuses, and when they were pointed out they were quickly remedied.

The State Charitable Aid Association during the past ten years has done a great deal of work. They have organized forty visiting committees, thirty-one of which are now in existence. Through their efforts the Poor Children's law was passed. Although this law was passed in 1875, we still find children in poorhouses who are of the prohibited age. We have established the Bellevue School for Nurses. In Queens County the entire system of charitable relief has been changed for the better. The Tramp law passed by the last Legislature was drafted by our society, and if enforced it will clear the highways of tramps. From our society came the first impulse for improved tenement-houses. The result of the agitation was the passage of a law requiring improved tenement-houses. The association for building tenement houses was organized through our example. The Society of Sanitary Reform also was organized through our efforts. We do work that no official society could do. What we ask is simply something that has been granted to the prison association for thirty-four years, and has been exercised without any one dreaming that it was trenching on any one's dignity. We have been deprived of the right by the State Board of Charities, because that Board did not wish to be responsible for any work but its own. We ask you to confer upon the Judges of the Supreme Court the right to grant us permits to enter these institutions. In 1878 the State Board of Charities took away their authority; we do not seek to impose ourselves upon them again. They passed resolutions in 1878 declaring that all information obtained through their permits was the "exclusive" property of the Board. If these rules had been enforced the result would have been to cut off all communication between the visitors and the Central Board of the State Board of Charities. The rules were loosely enforced, but on March 15 they determined to enforce the rules. They passed resolutions calling upon the local visiting boards to decide which they would serve, the State Board of Charities or the State Charities Aid Association. All but one of the associations remained with the State Charities Aid Association.

Now, whether it is expedient for the State Board to bear the burden of publications not inspired by them is not a question, but it is for you to decide whether it is expedient that there should be a voluntary body to let the bright sunlight of day into the charitable institutions. Now, we have a theory that we should have the right of entrance every day if necessary. We do not complain of the action of the State Board; we only point out that we are out in the cold; that the magnificent work which we have accomplished has been arrested. There can be no objection to this bill except the idea to exclude the members of this society from the institutions. We must have the right to be freely admitted to these institutions to accomplish our work. I think the State Board of Health go infinitely further in their opposition to this bill than they should go. They have accomplished their work; they have cut off all responsibility from themselves. We do not seek to perform the functions of the State Board. The work of the State Charities Aid Association is necessary. The responsibility of their disbandment must rest with the Legislature that refuses to pass this bill.

Judge Henry H. Haviland also spoke in favor of the bill. He said that the opposition of the State Board of Charities was incomprehensible to him.

J. R. Fowler of Columbia County said that the County Charitable Institutions had greatly improved since the visitation of the local committees. Similar testimony was given by members of the society for Dutchess, Richmond and Albany Counties.

Miss. Louisa Lee Schuyler, President of the State Charities Aid Association, thanked the committee for their kind attention to the speeches and said that the gist of the matter was that the State Board of Charities had withdrawn its permits from the State Charities Aid Association to visit the Charitable institutions.

Senator Mills said that the committee would come to a decision about the bill at its next meeting.

SENATOR ROBERTSON CONGRATULATED.

FLOWERS AND TELEGRAMS—A COMPLIMENTARY RESOLUTION PASSED.

[FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

ALBANY, March 24.—Upon the desk of Senator Robertson, in the Senate Chamber of the new Capitol, there rested this morning two beautiful bouquets, one a present from the clerks of the Senate, and the other from Mrs. Birdsall, wife of Senator Birdsall. Throughout the day a stream of telegrams and letters, congratulating him upon his nomination for Collector of the Port of New-York, poured in, and he was constantly being shaken by the hand by friends who were visiting the Capital. His associates in the Senate testified their earnest regard for him in a flattering manner as soon as the Senate was called to order. Senator Fowler, one of the Democratic Senators, was acting as chairman in consequence of the illness of Lieutenant-Governor Hoskins. Senator Jacobs then presented the following resolution, which was adopted:

Whereas, It is officially announced that the Hon. William H. Robertson has been appointed Collector of the Port of New-York, therefore,

Resolved, That while this body will lose the services of one of its ablest and most upright members, the country at large will be the gainer by his promotion to another sphere of duty.

Resolved, That the thanks of this body are due and hereby tendered to the President for the nomination of Senator Robertson, and that we cordially join in a request to the Senate of the United States to confirm promptly and heartily the action of the Executive.

The resolution was seconded by Senator Wagner, and the Senator Pitts moved that a certified copy of the resolutions should be sent to President Garfield. This motion was also carried. Senator Madden, who entered the Senate after the vote was taken, requested Clerk Vrooman to affix his name to the roll of members who had voted in favor of the resolution. He said that Senator Robertson had been his political guide all his life. He closed by saying: "Among all my friends in the Republican party, there is no man, be he 'half-breed' or 'stalwart,' whose nomination for Collector would give me so much pleasure as that of Senator Robertson."

Senator Baker's friends are circulating a petition for his appointment as Surveyor of the Port. Assemblyman Brodsky is circulating a petition for appointment to the same place of ex-Police Commissioner De Witt C. Wheeler.

THE STREET CLEANING BILL.

THE CITIZENS' BILL LIKELY TO BE PASSED TO-DAY.

ALBANY, March 24.—The problem of street cleaning in New-York is in a fair way to be quickly settled by the Legislature. To-day there reached here the committee appointed at the Cooper Institute indignation meeting, bearing the reform bill drawn up at Mayor Grace's dictation. It was introduced in the Senate by Senator Strahan this afternoon. In introducing the bill Senator Strahan said:

"Public sentiment in New-York requires that the streets shall be cleaned. It demands a change of system. This public sentiment found expression the other night at the Cooper Institute. A bill has been drawn up by the Mayor of New-York and the committee then appointed. Public sentiment demands speedy action. The city is threatened with disease; we cannot act too hastily on this bill. The question of street-cleaning is now in the Committee of the Whole. I ask in behalf of the city unanimous consent that this bill be considered in the first Committee of the Whole not full."

Senator McCarthy—I rise to second the motion, because I find it is almost precisely the same as the street-cleaning feature of the McCarthy charter.

Senator Strahan—Let the bill be considered in the same committee as the McCarthy charter. Indeed, why not pass it now? I move, Mr. Chairman, that this bill be ordered to a third reading.

Senator Sessions—Oh, no; let us examine it first.

Senator Strahan agreed to this. The McCartny charter occupied the attention of the Senate, however, throughout the session. Just as the Senate was about adjourning Senator Strahan said: "I move that the Street Cleaning bill be considered the first thing after the reading of the journal to-morrow." Senator McCarthy said, "I second the motion," and it was adopted. Senator McCartny subsequently stated that he thought the Street Cleaning bill had better be considered apart from the McCarthy charter in order to insure its speedy passage. This action assures the passage of the bill to-morrow.

THE McCARTHY BILL.

FURTHER PROGRESS—THE BILL MADE A SPECIAL ORDER FOR TO-DAY.

ALBANY, March 24.—The McCarthy charter was again the chief subject of debate in the Senate to-day. It engaged the attention of the Senate for over three hours; but little progress was made with the measure. At the same time it is evident that the bill is regarded with favor by most of the Senators, and if certain amendments are made that are desired by some of the New-York Senators it will be passed.

The first important amendment was made at the suggestion of Senator Strahan. It provided that the Commissioners whose terms should expire before the 1st of June should go out of office, and that their successors should not be appointed, thus leaving several of the departments with only two commissioners. Senator Strahan had the date changed till May 1, when he said the terms of most of the commissioners expired. Senator McCarthy said he would accept the amendment if Senator Strahan would except the Dock Commissioners from its provisions. Senator Strahan accepted the amendment.

There then followed a long debate as to the meaning of several sections of the bill. Senator Bixby was confident that there was no provision made for filling the places of the two Police Commissioners left by the bill if they should die during their terms of office. He also doubted if the public would grieve much over such a calamity. Senator Fowler was also confident that by the terms of the bill Police Commissioner Matthews after leaving office in May, 1881, and enjoying private life for two years, could return to office in 1883. Senator Foster said that after the Police Commissioners were deprived of street-cleaning he could see no good reason for reducing their numbers to two.

Senator Strahan then provoked a long discussion by moving to strike out the section transferring the Board of Excise to the Police Department. He said there was not a Senator from New-York City who was in favor of the proposed change. In his opinion it would demoralize the police to give them the active supervision of the liquor saloons. They should stand guard over the excise system but not foster it. Senator Bixby eulogized the present Board of Excise.

Senator McCarthy in defense of his bill said that the system of supervision of the liquor saloons by the Board of Excise was an exceedingly inefficient one.

Senator Strahan's motion to strike out the section was adopted by a vote of 19 to 7. The bill was then made a special order for to-morrow.

GENERAL BUSINESS.

SEVERAL IMPORTANT BILLS REPORTED—A NEW-YORK PIER INQUIRY ORDERED.

ALBANY, March 24.—The Assembly Committees reported several important bills. Among these was a consolidated act, bills of Mr. Andrews and Mr. Dayton, for the better protection of mechanics. It is for the purpose of securing the payment of laborers and others upon buildings. Very stringent provisions are made to secure this result. Mr. Dayton's bill for the Letter protection of school-teachers in New-York City was reported favorably by the Committee on General Laws. This bill provides that no teacher shall be discharged except for cause, and an opportunity has been granted for defence by the Board of Education. It is intended to give the same security of tenure now possessed by the police.

The Committee on Insurance reported favorably Mr. Hamilton's bill prohibiting the Courts of this State from entertaining jurisdiction of actions on policies of insurance in certain cases. This bill is aimed at foreign insurance companies that may seek to remove actions against them to the United States Courts. The bill in regard to legislative printing, specifying the form of contracts, was reported favorably by the Committee on Printing. This is a bill intended to lessen the cost of legislative printing.

The Committee on Navigation reported favorably Senator Seebacher's bill to punish persons who may throw garbage or ashes into New-York Harbor. The Committee on Ways and Means reported the annual Supply bill. A full account of the chief appropriations in this bill was given in THE TRIBUNE of Wednesday. The appropriations amount to only $325,000. Upon motion of Mr. Chickering, the Chairman of the committee, the bill was made a special order for to-morrow morning.

Upon motion of Mr. Congdon, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Mr. Throop's amendments to the Code of Civil Procedure were ordered to a third reading and passed.

Mr. Duguid, chairman of the Committee on Commerce and Navigation, created a sensation among the New-York members by asking the Assembly to pass a resolution instructing his committee "to investigate the subject of the leasing and the building of piers in the City of New-York," and that "the committee be authorized to sit in New-York and send for persons and papers." Mr. Alvord opposed the adoption of the resolution, declaring that all "Smelling Committees" were a failure. Mr. Browning stated that the resolution was introduced for the purpose of disclosing the apparent facts that no piers on the Hudson River front were set apart for general public business; all the piers being in the hands of private persons. The resolution was passed by the decisive vote of 75 to 18. The Assembly passed by a unanimous vote to-day the bill punishing with severe penalties the throwers of vitriol and other corrosive substances.

Erastus Brooks's bill appropriating $50,000 for the establishment of a reformatory for women was passed be the large vote of 106 to 5. This is one of the few bills appropriating large sums of money which Governor Cornell is likely to sign.

Senator Schroeder's bill exempting several beautiful streets in Brooklyn from being used by elevated railroad companies was reported favorably. The streets exempted are Lefferts-place, Lafayette-ave., Downing-st. and Washington-st. The Committee on Canals reported adversely Senator Foster's resolution providing for the abolition of all tolls on the canals and their maintenance by taxation. The Senate Committee on Public Health reported favorably the Assembly bill providing for the organization of a night medical service in Brooklyn.

In the Assembly to-day the chair presented a memorial from officials of the City of New-York against Mr. Everett's bill providing for a greater supply of water in that city which was referred to the Committee on Cities.

Among the other bills reported in the Assembly were the following:

Amending the Bridge Company Incorporation Act.

Prohibiting the courts from entertaining jurisdiction of actions on policies of insurance in certain cases.

Amending the act providing for the incorporation of County Cooperative Insurance Companies.

For the protection of persons insured, or holders of life or accident policies of insurance.

To regulate the charges of Marine Insurance Companies upon the canals of the State.

Supplementary to the laws to provide for religious societies.

Amending the act to facilitate the formation of agricultural and horticultural societies.

The bill to legalize the certificate of payment of the capital stock and the acts of a meeting of the stockholders of the Great Eastern Gold Mining Company of New-York, was passed. So was the bill extending the time in which physicians and surgeons may register.

The bill amending the act providing for a revision of banking laws was also passed.

The bill providing for the incorporation of companies to erect apartment houses was ordered to a third reading, and subsequently read and passed.

In the State Senate to-day Mr. Murtha presented a petition of 259 members of the Maritime Exchange of the City of New-York in favor of the act to abolish compulsory pilotage at Hell Gate, East River.

A hearing on the bill to repeal the charter of the Cable Towing Company was given by the Canal Committee to-day. The committee then went into executive session on the bill.

URGING THEIR PREFERENCES.

A meeting of residents and property-holders of the Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth Wards, favoring rapid transit up Third-ave., was held at Parshall's Hall, Washington-ave. and One-hundred-and-sixty-seventh-st., last evening, Civil Justice James R. Angel presiding. The committeemen whose duty it had been to circulate a petition to be given to the Mayor, acquainting him with the wishes of the citizens in regard to a rapid transit railway up Third-ave., reported that upward of a hundred signatures had been secured within a few days. Another committee, appointed to collect signatures to a petition to the Supreme Court, asking it to take the depositions of the signers, reported that fifty-seven names had been secured. According to a law enacted in 1875 to provide for steam railways in this county, upon the representation, verified by oath, of fifty reputable householders of the county to a Justice of the Supreme Court, the Mayor may appoint five commissioners who have full power to lay out the road.

The chairman stated that Senator Murtha, of Brooklyn, had presented a bill in the Senate forbidding a rapid transit road on a street less than 210 feet wide. This was evidently aimed at the proposed route of the road which the residents were in favor of. It was resolved that Senator Forster and Assemblyman Niles should be requested to look into this bill and defeat it if possible. The meeting adjourned to meet March 31.

BUSINESS OF THE READING COMPANIES.

PHILADELPHIA, March 24.—The following is a comparative statement of the business of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad and the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Companies for the month of February, 1881:

Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company, 1881—Gross receipts from all sources $1,136,427 69; gross expenses $805,116 33. Net profit $531,321 36. 1880—Gross receipts from all sources $1,085,161 78; gross expenses $687,273 65: net profit $397,888 13.

Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company, 1881—Receipts $803,625 63; expenses $703,544 90; profit $100,080 73. 1880. Receipts, $530,472 35; expenses, $609,559 69; loss, $79,087 34. During the month of February the company mined from its own and leased lands 338,072 tons of coal; total for the year to date, 978,544 tons; February, 1880, 223,169 tons; total for 1880 for same period, 956,317 tons.

[*For other Railway News See Second Page.*]

THE NEW-YORK YACHT CLUB.

At a meeting of the New-York Yacht Club last evening, Commodore Waller presiding, the annual regatta was appointed for June 16, and for it $2,500 was appropriated. It was arranged for special classes of keel schooners and keel sloops that may not enter for the regular prizes, with a cup to be sailed for by each class. Rear Commodore Oelrichs offered a cup, valued at $500, to be sailed for by sloops in the course of the annual cruise. It was accepted. Messrs. Krebs, Center and Tams were appointed a special committee to accept any challenge and arrange for any race for the American cup. Commodore A. C. Rhind, United States Navy, was appointed on the Committee of Yachting Etiquette. Nineteen new members were elected, including George W. Quintard, Henry Havemeyer, George E. Pollock, Harry Oelrichs and Charles May Oelrichs.

COLORED MEN SEEKING RECOGNITION.

BALTIMORE, March 24.—A State Convention of colored voters met to-day at Douglass Institute to take action with regard to a more equable division of the Federal patronage in the State of Maryland to colored Republicans. There were delegates present from the City of Baltimore and from eleven of the twenty-three counties of the State. The Rev. D. P. Seaton, of Frederick, was called to the chair, and the usual committees were appointed. The Committee on Resolutions presented several reports, that which was adopted declaring that the distribution of Federal patronage in this State is not in accordance with the principles of the Republican party, and that the colored voters are entitled to a fair division; that a committee be appointed to represent the condition of the colored voters of Maryland to the President, and request him to appoint no gentleman to a leading position who does not pledge himself to give a fairer distribution to the colored voters of the State. The committee provided for was appointed and the convention adjourned.

THE YORKTOWN CENTENNIAL.

RICHMOND, Va., March 24.—The headquarters of the Yorktown Centennial Association, at the Exchange Hotel in this city, were formally opened to-night. Speeches were made by Governor Holliday, the Hon. John Goods, president of the Centennial Association, and others. "The Star-Spangled Banner" was sung by the German societies, this being the first time it has been sung here since the war on any public occasion, and the playing of "Yankee Doodle" by the band. Both were greeted with vociferous cheers.

PRIZE ESSAYS AT WILLIAMS.

NORTH ADAMS, Mass., March 24.—The Grave prize essays, over which there has been so much rivalry at Williams College among sixteen contestants, were finally announced this morning as follows: Austin B. Bassett, Albany, N. Y., "Ancient and Modern Jew;" C. M. Demond, Boston, "Woman and Shakespeare;" George W. Driscoll, Syracuse, N. Y., "Ireland, Her needs and future;" Bliss Perry, Williamstown, "Nihilism;" Halsey A. Sweezy, River Bend, L. I., "Presidential Elections;" William F. Weeks, St. Albans, Vt., "Charles Kingsley as a Humanitarian." The Hon. Mention, F. B. Barda, New-York, "Women in Shakespeare."

TRYING TO INDICT MR. NICHOLS.

WITNESSES BEFORE THE GRAND JURY.

THE MANAGEMENT OF THE STREET CLEANING BUREAU UNDER CLOSE SCRUTINY—COMMISSIONER NICHOLS SAYS IT IS POLITICAL PERSECUTION.

Witnesses have been under examination for several days by the Grand Jury of the General Sessions relative to the management of the Street Cleaning Bureau, with the purpose, as has been reported, of indicting Police Commissioner Sidney P. Nichols and possibly others connected with the Bureau of Street Cleaning. The final examination of the principal witness, a man formerly connected with the Bureau, was finished yesterday afternoon, and it is understood that the Grand Jury directed the District-Attorney to draw an indictment for misdemeanor against Commissioner Nichols.

The Commissioner and his counsel were informed of the action taken or contemplated by the Grand Jury yesterday afternoon. They claimed that it was only a part of the political persecution of Mr. Nichols, begun two years ago by the Irving Hall leaders because he clung to Tammany Hall and its adverse fortunes; or that it was ill-considered action growing out of the recent public indignation at the condition of the streets. They were in ignorance of the particular allegations which the witnesses had made and of the offence which was to be charged.

Ex-Coroner Richard Flanagan, once a warm friend of Mr. Nichols, but latterly at enmity with him, in conversation last evening intimated that the indictment had been ordered upon evidence showing that $800,000 had been spent in cleaning the streets but that no streets had been cleaned.

A reporter for THE TRIBUNE called a few minutes before midnight upon John D. Townsend, who is Mr. Nichols's legal adviser, and with whom it is known that Mr. Nichols had been closeted during a large portion of yesterday. Mr. Townsend had gone to bed, and manifested a disinclination to give the reporter an audience. He agreed, however, to answer inquiries in writing. Thereupon the reporter sent him a note reciting that the object of the call was to get any statement that he was willing to make relative to the indictment of his client, Mr. Nichols. To this Mr. Townsend returned the following answer:

I am not aware that Mr. Nichols has been indicted. There has been a rumor about for some days that certain politicians, for their own purposes, were making strenuous efforts to destroy what patronage was left to Tammany Hall by forcing Mr. Nichols if possible to resign, from fear of indictment; but I fancy that is all there is about it. The action of the Grand Jury, however, is secret, and no one is supposed to know what takes place within its sacred precincts; and no one ever does—or hardly ever.

A RICH WOMAN'S CRIME.

A tall and handsome woman, about twenty-five years of age, fashionably dressed and wearing expensive diamonds, was arrested in the upper part of the city last night by Detectives O'Neil and Von Gerichten, and locked up at Police Headquarters. The carriage in which she was taken to Police Headquarters also carried a large trunk and several satchels containing the prisoner's baggage. Accompanying the New-York officers was Detective George A. Hartman, of the Chicago Police Force, who had a warrant for the woman's arrest and a requisition, signed by the