DECISION OF THE COUNCIL.

DR. NEWMAN ONLY AN ACTING PASTOR.

A RECONSIDERATION OF HIS DISMISSAL BY THE BANNEY PARTY ADVISED—BOTH PARTIES CLAIM THE VICTORY.

The Congregational Council called to consider the troubles in Dr. Newman's church assembled in secret session at 10:30 a. m. yesterday, in the trustees' room in the church building, to receive the report of the committee appointed to draft a reply to the three questions submitted to the council in the letters-missive. The friends of Dr. Newman and of Dr. Ranney were assembled in groups in the large audience room of the church. As on the previous days of the council, the women formed almost the whole assembly. It was expected that the council would adopt the report of the committee after a short discussion, but this hope faded gradually away and disappeared as the day advanced and every few minutes the report came from the trustees' room that the council would come out "in about an hour."

At noon the people began to grow impatient. At 12:30 p. m. their ranks were thinned by deserters who went home to luncheon. At 1 p. m. a look of resignation began to appear in all their countenances, and at 1:30 the groups were contentedly eating sandwiches. When the sandwiches of Dr. Newman's feminine friends had disappeared a sympathetic male supporter of the pastor brought in a box of candy and passed it around.

At 2:38 p. m. the council left the trustees' room and occupied the seats directly in front of the pulpit. The groups about the church moved hastily toward the platform, and when Dr. Dexter rose to announce that the report would be read by the assistant scribe the Rev. Dr. McFarland, a large and extremely silent audience was waiting to catch every word of it.

THE COUNCIL'S ANSWER TO THE CHURCH.

Dr. McFarland read slowly and distinctly. He occupied about forty minutes in delivering the answer of the council to the church. The paper was as follows:

Called together by a church in our fellowship of churches to advise as to unhappy differences existing therein, the members of this council have steadfastly asked for Divine guidance that any advice they should give might tend to the removal of alienations and the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. The council has been deeply grieved that these differences between brethren of one household should have been needlessly allowed to degenerate into serious alienations and develop into public scandal, to the dishonor of the church and the grief of all Christian people. The council bears witness, however, to the Christian courtesy with which its own work has been assisted, not only by the body inviting us to meet and investigate, but also by the brethren not participating in the call of the council. The latter have kindly come before us, given us much information that we desired, and made extended presentation of their own views and understanding of facts. In the same line of courtesy, also, was the ready consent of the trustees to the use by the council, upon request, of the house of worship. The Rev. Dr. Newman appeared before the council upon our invitation and made such statements as he deemed desirable regarding his own position. Nor has the council seen manifested before it any such spirit of alienation as to be beyond the hope of a ready reconciliation.

THE CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL.

The church which has called us together is a Congregational church. The word "Congregational" is part of its very name. The declaration of principles given in its Manual as adopted by the church, both as to freedom of the local church and the responsibilities involved in the fellowship of the churches, are the usual and common statements set forth by our church. The church is in the fellowship of our organization and is recognized and recognizes by being invited to and inviting memberships in councils. Its first pastor was dismissed by a Congregational Church council; its late pastor was installed and dismissed in the usual Congregational method by a regular ecclesiastical council of Congregational churches according to our uniform and established usages. All parties appearing before us not only admitted but earnestly insisted that this is a Congregational church, and the Rev. Dr. Newman most strenuously united in this declaration and insisted upon the loyalty of the church to Congregational fellowship and principle. Whatever the church may have been in the beginning, years have passed since its polity was open to question. That the church has nevertheless by certain serious errors violated some of our important principles, which have led it into grievous troubles, which we feel but for which our polity is not responsible; and that those errors, so far as they are embodied in the rules or caused by omission of rules, will be rectified when pointed out, we cannot doubt. In the meantime this council was bound to answer to the call of this sister church in its distress, and the actions of the church must be judged by the standards of that Congregationalism which the church professes to love.

HOW THE COUNCIL WAS CALLED.

The council was convened by the letter-missive in the usual form, issued in the name of the Madison Avenue Congregational Church, and signed by a committee in its behalf. Upon the organization of the council, however, a protest against the regularity of its call and the competency of its further action was presented by one of the deacons acting in his own behalf and in behalf of some of his associates in the same office and a majority of the trustees of the church and the society. The council proceeded to hear testimony concerning the facts connected with the call. It appeared to be in evidence, after a careful hearing of the protestants and of the committee of the church, that the letter-missive calling the council was issued on the unanimous vote of a meeting of the Madison Avenue Congregational Church, convened on the evening of February 14, 1884, by the notification of a majority of the deacons and thirty-nine of its members, which notification had been mailed to 310 members of the church—and whose addresses could be ascertained—and published in six daily newspapers. The church thus summoned assembled at the appointed time about the church doors, but being unable to obtain admission to the building, were taken and there called to order by the senior deacon of the church and adjourned to a hall in the vicinity, where organization was effected by the choice of proper officers, and a resolution was adopted by a vote of 140 church members for a call of an ecclesiastical council to consider the difficulties existing in the Madison Avenue Church and for advice concerning the issues.

The nature of this meeting and the circumstances of its assembling can only be understood by the remembrance of the fact that a previous church meeting, called by the persons on a notice read from the pulpit, and anticipated to be held on the 31st of January previous, had been overpowered by the presence there of a large number of persons not members of the church, who unlawfully insisted upon voting upon all questions, and by noisy disturbances, preventing the proper transaction of any business, necessitated the dissolution of the meeting without any legal action subject to the rule of the Board of Deacons. Against the validity of the meeting of February 14, and the propriety of the council's call and procedure under it, the council has received no other protest than that of some of the officers of the church or congregation aforesaid, pending in the instance of church action adverse to the call of the council having been in any quarter undertaken or alleged. While, therefore, it was manifest to the council that grave disagreements existed between different officers and different members of the church, and while some of the antecedents of this meeting were unusual, the council could see no reason for denying or questioning the validity of this meeting and its action as the meeting and action of the Madison Avenue Congregational Church. No specific rules concerning the call of church meetings seem ever to have been adopted in this church, save in reference to the one particular of amending the manual; and the right of a Congregational church to assemble at the call of its officers cannot be questioned.

For the same reason that the council sustained the validity of the meeting of the church calling it, it could but conclude, also, that it had it been validly invited by the Madison Avenue Congregational Church, and that under that invitation it was duly empowered to consider and advise upon the questions presented for its consideration. As expressive of this conviction and as indicative of its readiness to fulfil the duty laid upon it the council, before considering the matters in dispute, adopted the following resolution:

Voted, That while we record certain irregularities in the proceedings of the body calling this council, nevertheless we do not regard them as of a nature to invalidate the action of the Madison Avenue Congregational Church, and will proceed to the consideration of the questions proposed for its consideration.

DR. NEWMAN'S RELATIONS TO THE CHURCH.

First, It being in the judgment of the council settled that the church calling us is a Congregational church and that this is an advisory council properly convened in accordance with regular and long-established Congregational usage, the first question of the letter-missive presents itself to us, namely: What is Dr. Newman's relation to the church?

The conditions of a Congregational pastorate are both ecclesiastical and legal. Ecclesiastically they involve (1) the stated performance of pulpit and pastoral service; (2) that this is to be so done that the Congregational churches of the vicinage can assume for it a certain responsibility, since a church which unwisely should place in its pulpit one who in doctrine is unsound or in practice unfaithful would harm not itself alone, but the entire sisterhood of churches with which it is affiliated. Congregationalism in every such case requires each of its neighboring churches to take counsel with neighboring churches whenever it fills its pastorate. This is done through the medium of an ecclesiastical council (to which each invited church sends its pastor and one delegate) which looks into the facts, and when satisfied of the safety and propriety of such procedure publicly installs or recognizes the new pastor. It was indeed urged upon this council that of late years Congregational usage had so far relaxed in this respect that installation by council can no longer be regarded as essential to a full Congregational pastorate. The council, having considered this plea, is of opinion that while it must be conceded that a considerable majority of the Congregational ministry, but mainly as regards those serving the younger and smaller churches of our order, is not now installed, this fact is not due to any general dissatisfaction with, much less any repudiation of, the fullest recognition of the duties of the fellowship and mutual responsibility of the churches; but to an unwillingness on their part to enter through installation into legal relations which might subsequently prove embarrassing. What is urged by those who have spoken and acted most strongly in opposition to our ancient way as to this, is not that appeal to council be dispensed with on the occasion of entrance upon new pastorates, but that the council be called even where the tenure of office is limited to a single year and that examination be had; only that the result of that council be so managed by "recognition" in room of "installation," that possible legal complications, should a pastor outstay his usefulness, may be avoided.

Still further, this council believes, in language urgently commended to the churches by the National Council of the last year, in Concord, New-Hampshire, "that while counting by churches, there is a majority who do not fill the later usage, not counting by the membership of churches, the majority of the Congregationalists still call upon councils to install their pastors"; and this is true in the States of the West, as well as of those in New-England. Under these circumstances this council judges that no good reason exists for so serious a departure from the fundamental principles of our polity as must necessarily be involved in the disuse of that recognition of the fellowship of the churches which requires that the councils always be called to sanction and complete a new pastoral relation, while disuse would destroy a safeguard needful to the wellbeing of our churches themselves.

Moreover, whatever discussion may have been had upon this subject, no change has been admitted into our denominational usage or the principles in regard to it. The full Congregational pastorate therefore still requires: (1) A formal call from a church to be its pastor. (2) A formal acceptance of that call by the minister. (3) A consummation of that contract through some definite form of installation. One further point is involved in this connection. The so-called Boston platform of 1872, which was largely the work of the late Dr. Leonard Bacon, which embodied his maturest wisdom in regard to our polity, and which as to the point before us had received the unanimous indorsement of the great representative Boston council of 1865, contains this clause: "A minister who is not a member of some Congregational church is not in fact and ought not to be counted, in connection with the churches, a minister of the Congregational order, though he may be worthy of confidence and fellowship by virtue of his ordination, in connection with some other body of evangelical churches."

To apply now these principles to the case in hand. The council finds that Dr. Newman is still in full connection with the Methodist Episcopal Church, and amenable to its discipline as a located preacher in the Quarterly Conference of the Methodist Church. The council finds further, that the Madison Avenue Congregational Church gave him a call to become its pastor, plainly meaning thereby its settled pastor, not only according to the general Congregational usage but according to the specific usage of this church in former years; that Dr. Newman so understood that call and deferred his acceptance, with the express statement that meanwhile he would do the duties of an acting pastor, and that, although subsequently orally announced to the congregation his acceptance of what he termed the permanent pastorate, he made no communication to the church as such, and has never been settled or installed in any way as its pastor, nor have the Congregational churches of this vicinage ever had the opportunity to consider the question of assuming such responsibility in regard to him as most necessarily be involved in his becoming the pastor of a sister church with which they are in fellowship. Dr. Newman cannot, therefore, be regarded as Congregationally pastor of the Madison Avenue Congregational Church. He is, therefore, its acting pastor. Such a relation is not permanent in any sense, but may be terminated at any time by either party to the same.

LEGAL ASPECT OF THE QUESTION.

The legal aspect of the question of the pastorate is now to be considered, it having been insisted upon in behalf of Dr. Newman, whatever may be alleged as a defect in his claim on ecclesiastical grounds, that his legal title to the permanent pastorate is indisputable. The Madison Avenue Congregational Church is a legal society incorporated under the third section of the general act of the State of New-York passed in 1813, which provides for the incorporation of religious societies. Under the act the church edifice and other temporalities are vested in the corporation administered by a board of trustees, elected by the members of the church and congregation of one year's standing who contribute to the support of the church according to its usages. Those who are members of the congregation are not necessarily members of the interior religious and organic body known as the church. The corporation itself is not a religious body, but acquires its civil and property capacity from the aid and use of the religious body formed within it, but which is not endowed with a property capacity. The corporation has no creed or legally prescribed denominational character, cannot admit members into or expel members from the church, or exercise any disciplinary authority over church members, or in any way interfere with the internal government or affairs of the church as a religious body. Shortly stated, the work of the corporation is secular and the work of the church is religious. The incorporated church exists for religion, whereas the corporated church society has no reason for its existence except the secular care and conservation of the religious body known as the church, in respect of which it was incorporated.

The religious body or church whose case we are considering is organically related to the church corporation under section 3, of the act passed in 1813. It is a Congregational church by the long established usage of the Congregational denomination. Its church members by the vote of a major part thereof at a church meeting duly convened invite a minister to become their pastor; but the temporalities being invested in an incorporated society, the members of the church cannot fix the salary of the pastor, the incorporating act requires it to be ascertained by a majority of the persons entitled to elect trustees "at a meeting to be called for that purpose, and such salary when fixed shall be ratified by the said trustees or a majority of them by an instrument in writing under their common seal, which salary shall thereupon be paid by the said trustees out of the revenues of the said church, congregation or society." The fixing of the pastor's salary thus necessitates the concurrent action of the incorporated society and its trustees whenever the religious body calls a minister to be its pastor; but the participation of the society is secular and is limited to the fixing and payment of the salary.

THE CALL TO DR. NEWMAN.

The facts relating to the call of Dr. Newman to the pastorate of this church appear from the records of the church and of the Board of Trustees and the oral statement made to the council by the parties. The church minutes under date of December 22, 1881, show the appointment of a committee to call a pastor; under date of January 4, 1882, show a report of a committee recommending the call of Dr. Newman to become permanent pastor, and the adoption of a resolution "that the Rev. John P. Newman be hereby called to the permanent pastorate of this the Madison Avenue Congregational Church"; under date of January 9, 1882, a report of the committee presenting Dr. Newman's letter acknowledging the call, in which he says: "While under existing circumstances I must hold the same for a respectful and prayerful consideration, yet I very cheerfully consent to supply the pulpit for the time being and to do the other duties of an acting pastor." Dr. Newman's letter was entered upon the minutes, and it was then resolved "that the Rev. Dr. J. P. Newman be requested to supply the pulpit and to discharge the duties of acting pastor of the Madison Avenue Congregational Church for the time being, pending his consideration of the call of said church and society to its permanent pastorate, and that the salary of Dr. Newman for performing said duties be and it is hereby fixed at the rate of $6,000 per annum." Dr. Newman was informed of this action of the meeting.

We have seen no evidence that Dr. Newman ever communicated to any meeting of the church his acceptance of the church's proffer of the permanent pastorate, and we do not see that any binding civil contract was ever entered into establishing the legal status of a permanent pastorate. We do not regard a later announcement from the pulpit to the congregation that the call had been accepted or the later report appearing to have been made to the trustees to the same effect, as binding upon the church, as neither the congregation nor the Board of Trustees was competent to make a pastorate or to receive a notification of its acceptance which would be binding upon the church; and we have seen no evidence that the pastor's salary was ever ascertained and fixed by the society in the manner imperatively prescribed by the act of 1813.

We therefore conclude that Dr. Newman's claim to the permanent pastorate of the church cannot be supported upon mere legal grounds, to wit, on the ground of a proffer of the society duly made by the church and duly accepted and notified by Dr. Newman. We think that his second claim to the pastorate is not valid beyond his "consent to supply the pulpit for the time being, and to do the other duties of an acting pastor," which was communicated to the church by his letter of January 7, 1882.

A CHURCH MEETING RECOMMENDED.

Second—The council declines to express an opinion as to the continuation of the present acting pastor. It is a serious question to be determined by those who have instituted this service, and we think that in the light of this result of counsel and in looking at all the circumstances it is not within the province of this council as an advisory body to go further. This, however, it would advise: That at the earliest date practicable, after notice given from the pulpit, a meeting of the church be held, to be presided over by some member of another Congregational church mutually agreed upon, and to be attended only by church members qualified to vote, that the duplicate church officers should resign, and that any vacancy thus created should be filled by a new election. We advise that at such meeting the question of the dismissal of Dr. Newman, as acted upon February 14, be reconsidered. The council regard such a meeting as the wisest manner of avoiding a perpetuation of a division in which two hostile parties may each purport to be the church. By this action the church will and itself in a spirit of calmly and kindly to consider all questions relating to the pastorate and its other interests, and the council suggest that at such a meeting all questions at issue be calmly and prayerfully considered and decided by vote, and that such decision be acquiesced in by any minority. The suggestion of such a meeting is made solely in the interests of harmony and is not intended to qualify the council's expressed belief that the meeting by which the council was called was a legitimate meeting of the church, and that its officers are entitled to respect as such.

The council finds that many of the recent misunderstandings might have been avoided had the rules been clearly in conformity to Congregational usages and principles. We instance the entire absence of any directions as to the method of calling a church meeting, and the provision by which the church members and pew-holders meet and vote as one body in the calling of a pastor, as wrong in principle. Church and society should meet separately as distinct organizations and transact business as such. A call to the pastorate or proposals for its termination should be acted on concurrently, the church taking the initiative.

THE RIGHT TO HOLD CHURCH MEETINGS.

Third—The question is asked of the council: "Has a Congregational church the right to hold a business meeting in its own church?" This, of course, refers to the meeting-house controlled by the society with which the church is in connection, and to the right to hold therein meetings composed exclusively of church members. The answer is plain that whenever the usual and orderly connection of a church and society exists the church has an undisputed right to hold such meetings in the edifice at its pleasure without asking consent of the society or trustees. In such cases the trustees hold the edifice for the primary beneficial use of the church, nor have they any right to interfere with the holding of such meetings on any supposed or apprehended ground of obnoxious use. It is for the church alone to decide what business it will transact there.

The council is apprehensive that at least a portion of the recent disturbances has arisen from undue anxiety respecting the merely temporal interest of the church enterprise. When secular interests and secular support are made unduly prominent it is certain to result in a want of spirituality if not also in pecuniary disaster.

In conclusion, the council would express the earnest hope that so far as these unfortunate agitations have alienated the members of this church and society from regular attendance upon the worship and prayer-meetings of the church, they forgive and forget the past and return to their common Christian duties. And it earnestly prays that time, patience and the grace of God may make all crooked things straight and all rough places plain, and that the glory of God may be revealed to them and they may see His salvation together.

HOW THE COUNCIL VOTED.

As soon as Dr. McFarland had finished reading Mr. Abbott sought permission to ask a question about the meaning of some parts of the answer which he thought were ambiguous. Dr. Dexter said that the answer would speak for itself and implied that the council had embodied its opinion in reasonably clear English. The Rev. Dr. William M. Taylor offered prayer and then the council adjourned after a vote of thanks had been given to the ladies of the church and the trustees.

Dr. Dexter said after the council adjourned that the discussion had been perfectly harmonious and that the report had been adopted unanimously. Three delegates abstained from voting, five had gone away and thirty-one voted for the report.

DR. NEWMAN MORE THAN SATISFIED.

For several hours after the council adjourned the people stood in groups in the church and discussed the answer and its probable effects. Most of the groups consisted of Dr. Newman's friends. Some of them were jubilant and hailed the council's action as a decisive victory for Dr. Newman. Others thought that matters stood exactly as they did before the council met. A number of the pastor's friends and two or three members of the council met Dr. Newman in his study. Dr. Newman said:

I consider this a victory for our side. I never claimed to be anything more than the least acting pastor and never pretended that I was the denominationally settled pastor of the church. All that I claimed was that I had a contract with the only persons who had the right to call and pay a pastor. I have no objections to the proposed joint meeting and I think that it will probably take place. The advice of the council to reconsider the vote of the Harvard Home meeting dismissing me is a virtual rebuke to those who engaged in that meeting and a victory for us. I am more than satisfied with the council's work.

Dr. Quint said that in the secret session of the council the overwhelming opinion was that the church alone could not dismiss Dr. Newman. The reason the council did not decide that Dr. Newman was the legal permanent pastor was that the church alone had acted upon Dr. Newman's acceptance of the pastorate. Dr. Newman replied that the church and society had jointly acted upon it, and Deacon Foster showed Dr. Quint the record that indicated such action.

"Then there has, indeed, been a blunder," exclaimed Dr. Quint.

Deacon Foster thought the action of the council had not changed the situation of affairs in the least. He said that a joint meeting might possibly be held. Sheppard Knapp and many others of Dr. Newman's friends considered the answer of the council favorable to the pastor and thought that a joint meeting would be held and that all differences would be reconciled.

DR. RANNEY AND HIS FRIENDS JUBILANT.

Dr. Ranney's friends were all sure that a signal victory had been gained for their cause.

Said Trustee Hopkins:

I never was so happy in my life. I feel as if I was in the seventh heaven; I do, really. Everything is settled now and every point has been decided in our favor.

Dr. Ranney and his faithful deacons sat together in his dining-room and talked it all over. The doctor was highly elated with the result. The victory was his, he said, and he was willing to carry out every suggestion of the council to the letter. He couldn't see that the friends of Dr. Newman had a "leg to stand on," and thought that every claim of his own had been substantiated. His four faithful followers said in substance "ditto to Dr. Ranney."

DEACON FOSTER VERSUS THE REV. DRS. DAY AND TIFFANY.

The following letter was sent to THE TRIBUNE last night:

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: You published this morning a statement concerning the Rev. Dr. Buckley and Deacon James P. Foster. The following is its introduction: "Mr. Foster made the following statement of the affair to a TRIBUNE reporter":

Dr. Buckley met me when I was going up the aisle and he said to me: "You are a friend of Dr. Newman and I want to say to you that I have more facts in my possession than this letter of Dr. Davis and I propose to expose the columns of *The Christian Advocate* to them, and they will damage Dr. Newman more than anything that has yet come out." I asked him if he had any right to put matter into his paper damaging to Dr. Newman in any way, and told him he had better be careful. He said he didn't propose to keep still any longer, and he proposed to lay out the three hundredths of the case, and he should make interesting reading for the readers of *The Christian Advocate*. "I don't know whether you see the paper," he said, "but I shall take the pains to send it to you and let you see what interesting matter I can put into it about the character of Dr. Newman." I replied: "Any corporation which has a newspaper as its organ, and proposes to open its columns to defame the character of a minister of the Gospel, will suffer." I will further say that if *The Christian Advocate* dares to publish anything against Dr. Newman it will be immoral and libelous, and it will be held to account for it.

Having been present at the interview, we have to say that what is attributed to Dr. Buckley is misrepresenting.

Also that not one word of what is attributed to Deacon Foster was uttered by him to Dr. Buckley or in his presence. J. R. DAY,

March 13, 1884. O. H. TIFFANY.

After the receipt of the letter from the Rev. Drs. Day and Tiffany, a TRIBUNE reporter saw Mr. Foster and asked him if he desired to answer their statement. In reply he gave the reporter the following letter for publication:

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: The report published in this morning's TRIBUNE of an interview with me, in regard to a conversation between Dr. Buckley and myself, is correctly given. The statements attributed to Dr. Buckley are not misrepresented. And I have witnesses to the statement that Dr. Buckley threatened to open the columns of *The Christian Advocate* and publish what he claimed to be more facts in his possession, that would damage Dr. Newman more than anything that had come out; and that the Rev. J. R. Day, who was present, leaned forward over the back of a pew and said it was time that these other facts should appear. I asked him what the reason was for attacking Dr. Newman and he replied that the facts would justify such an act. I again emphatically repeat that Dr. Buckley, of his own accord, offered to send me *The Christian Advocate* for the next two or three weeks in order that I might see what interesting matter he could put into it about the character of Dr. Newman.

It is barely possible that my reply that "any corporation which has a newspaper as its organ and proposes to open its columns to defame the character of a minister of the Gospel will suffer," was not heard by Dr. Buckley, as he seemed more or less nervous and excited at the time that he made this threat to expose Dr. Newman with his alleged facts; and Dr. Buckley may have stepped back a few feet from where I was standing. But Dr. Tiffany distinctly heard and understood my last reply.

I am willing to add that I have prepared a notice to the publishers of *The Christian Advocate*, warning them against any libellous matter which may appear in their columns from the pen of Dr. Buckley, as they will be held responsible for any such utterances.

March 13, 1884. JAMES P. FOSTER.

HOME NEWS.

PROMINENT ARRIVALS.

Gilsey House—Ex-Governor William Claflin, of Massachusetts....*Hotel Brunswick*—Ex-Senator D. E. St. John, of Newburgh, N. Y....*Fifth Avenue Hotel*—Adjutant-General Elisha Dyer, Jr., of Rhode Island; the Hon. D. A. Ross, of Quebec, and Robert Dixson, M. P., of South Australia.....*Windsor Hotel*—J. N. Du Barry, third vice-president of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, and L. J. Seargeant, of Montreal.

WHAT IS GOING ON TO-DAY.

Senate Committee on Cities, City Hall, 10:30 a. m.
Senate Committee on Commerce, Mercantile Exchange, 10:30 a. m.
Brown University Alumni dinner, Delmonico's, evening.
Lock Island Railway suit before Justice Lawrence.
Essex Republican League annual dinner, Newark.
Annual meeting Accountants and Bookkeepers, No. 20 Warren-st., 7:30 p. m.
Jersey City Republican Executive Committee, 8 p. m.
Special meeting of Board of Aldermen.
Meeting of Newark Common Council, 8 p. m.

NEW-YORK CITY.

Monsignor Capel occupied a seat on the bench yesterday with Justice Dallas at the Tombs Police Court.

The Chamber of Commerce yesterday re-elected, as Pilot Commissioners, Samuel Harding and Ambrose Snow.

FIVE YEARS' IMPRISONMENT.

James Rogers, of First-ave. and Eighteenth-st., was one of seven men who attacked and robbed Paul Jaehnitz, a private of Company H, 5th United States Artillery, on March 5. He was convicted in the Court of General Sessions and was sentenced yesterday, by Judge Gildersleeve, to five years in the State Prison.

TO APPEAL FROM A LIFE SENTENCE.

John Daly, age twenty-six, who was convicted of murder in the second degree in 1877, and sentenced to imprisonment for life, has been brought to the Tombs from the Auburn Prison and will appeal to the Supreme Court for a revision of his sentence. It is contended that his crime should have been classified as manslaughter.

TAKING THE WRONG MEDICINE.

Felix Hart, a lawyer, living at No. 529 West Forty-fourth-st., was taken to Chambers Street Hospital yesterday morning suffering from the effects of a dozen of corrosive sublimate which he said he had taken by mistake for a cough mixture that he was using. Dr. Powers used the stomach pump on him, and he is in a fair way to recover.

FIRE INSURANCE PREMIUMS.

A statement just issued by the New-York Board of Fire Underwriters shows the premium receipts in New-York City of the fire insurance companies, for the six months ending December 31, 1883, to be $2,599,933. The local companies received $1,279,485; the agency companies $485,430, and the foreign companies $835,018.

COMING INTO PORT LEAKING.

The Dutch ship "A. & W. C." arrived here yesterday from Manila in a sinking condition. On March 6, after battling with a succession of westerly gales, several heavy seas broke over her, stove in her bulwarks on the port bow, and started the deck seams. From that time until reaching port the pumps were constantly worked to keep the vessel afloat.

ROBBING A BURYING GROUND.

Charles Meyers and Emil Rodenburger were arrested on Wednesday night by the night watchman of the Trinity burying grounds in Tenth-ave. They were in the act of removing parts of the railing from a grave. The grounds have been robbed in this way before, the thieves selling the railings for old metal. They were held in default of $1,000 bail.

THE STRIKE AT STRAITON & STORM'S.

Straiton & Storm's striking cigarmakers met yesterday morning in Bohemian Hall in Fifth-st. The strike committee reported that the outlook was favorable. Resolutions of sympathy with the Cincinnati cigarmakers who are locked out were unanimously passed. A ball will be given at Irving Hall on Saturday night for the benefit of the strikers. The Progressive Union has issued a circular giving a list of the names of Straiton & Storm's goods and asking the public not to buy them.

MAYOR EDSON JOINS THE THIRTEEN CLUB.

The Thirteen Club ate its twenty-seventh dinner at Knickerbocker Cottage last night. Chief Euler G. Henry Witthaus presided. A letter of regret was read from S. S. Cox, who had been invited and was expected to deliver an oration. Mayor Edson accepted membership. Richard J. McGowan, of Chicago, applied for hints as to the Club's "formation, organization and subsequent conduct," in the name of thirteen citizens of Chicago who intend to form such a society.

IN COLLISION WITH A STREET-CAR.

As Broadway car No. 52 turned from Worcester into Canal-st. yesterday afternoon, a heavily loaded truck struck it and smashed in all the windows on one side of the car. Broken glass and window sashes flew in all directions, and a dozen passengers tumbled over one another, panic-stricken for the moment. On examination it was found that the car had sustained the most serious injuries, the passengers escaping with a few slight scratches from broken glass.

A PRACTICAL JOKE ON THE ACTING MAYOR.

Acting-Mayor Kirk was sitting at Mayor Edson's desk in the City Hall yesterday, when Alderman Grant entered the room and under the pretence of speaking to Mr. Kirk laid his hand on all the electric bell knobs in the desk. The private secretary, chief clerk, doorkeeper, messengers, janitor and other employes connected with the Mayor's office, and a roundsman from the police station, answered the summons. Mr. Kirk ordered the policeman to arrest Mr. Grant, but the Alderman rushed out of the building.

TRANSACTING BUSINESS BY HIMSELF.

A meeting of the Actors' Fund trustees was called for 2 p. m. yesterday. About 2:15 Harry Miner rushed in with an apology for his late appearance, and found himself the only trustee present. He elected himself chairman and proceeded to transact the regular business. He was joined later by Samuel Colville. Relief was sent to various applicants, and a committee of two was formed to consider the annual benefit. Mr. Miner stated that the Fire Commissioners refused to allow the firemen to sell tickets; the statement was received by the committee with marked tokens of disapproval.

THE OLD PRODUCE EXCHANGE FOR SALE.

The old building and site of the Produce Exchange are being offered for sale. The price asked is $350,000. The lot has dimensions of 108 feet in Whitehall and Moore sts., 75 feet in Pearl-st., and 94 feet in Water-st. The building has fire-proof walls seventy-five feet high, and is in good condition. Negotiations are being conducted for its sale to a railroad company, but bidding will probably be attracted from other corporations. The building has light on all sides, and the neighborhood is, in the opinion of real estate men, destined to see a concentration of much capital about it.

CABLE RAILWAY FRANCHISE.

The Rapid Transit Commissioners yesterday discussed the propriety of compelling the New-York Cable Railway Company to pay either a fixed sum or a percentage of the receipts into the city treasury for the franchise granted by the Board. President Smith and Mr. Byrd thought that this should be done. Mr. Earle said that by prescribing a low rate of fare, with transfers to the crosstown routes without extra charge, the people would attain a greater boon than would accrue from a cash payment to the city for the franchise. No action was taken.

FLORENZ RECOMMENDED TO MERCY.

Protas Florenz, of No. 312 East Forty-sixth-st., who fired a shot at Dr. Michael A. Farrie, of No. 230 East Forty-sixth-st., was convicted yesterday in the Court of General Sessions of assault and battery, with a recommendation by the jury to the mercy of the Court. His counsel declared that he was made insane by domestic troubles of which Dr. Farrie was the cause, and Mrs. Florenz testified that Dr. Farrie had made an assault upon her and that she obtained a judgment of $500 against him in the City Court. Florenz was indicted for assault in the first degree, but the jury found him guilty only of assault in the third degree.

THE MASON-BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION.

The Mason-Builders' Association was formed on Tuesday evening, at the Hotel Brunswick, with the object, in general, of promoting the building trade, and, in particular, of furthering the interests of the mason-builders. The officers are: President, John J. Tucker; vice-presidents, Richard Deeves and John M. Hogenkamp; secretaries, Charles F. Wills and Henry M. Tostevin; treasurer, Samuel Lowden; executive committee, Marc Eidlitz, James B. Smith, Frank C. Tucker, Frank M. Weeks and Daniel Herbert. The president said that it was necessary to organize to meet the disturbances in the labor market. Another meeting will be held next Tuesday.

MISSING HIS OVERCOAT IN A THEATRE.

Michael Loesch, an organist living at No. 73 East Fourth-st., attended the Union Square Theatre on Monday evening, and placed his overcoat on a vacant seat beside him. He missed the garment toward the close of the play, and went in search of it. In the lobby he found a man wearing a coat much too large for him, which on examination was found to be the one sought. Mr. Loesch compelled the man to surrender the coat, and then had him placed under arrest. In the Jefferson Market Police Court yesterday the prisoner described himself as Michael O'Brien, of No. 84 East Broadway. He said that he took the coat by mistake, and on discovering it waited about to find the owner. Justice Patterson committed him to answer at the Court of General Sessions.

TRYING TO SEE THE CIRCUS FOR NOTHING.

While the performance was going on in the Madison Square Garden on Wednesday evening, the noise of breaking glass in the centre of the building was heard, and Alexander Lindell, an attendant, was struck by a piece of broken glass. His wound was dressed, and yesterday in the Jefferson Market Police Court he appeared as complainant against David Mulcahy, age twenty-one, of No. 219 East Eighteenth-st., who with four others had climbed to the roof of the building. They took up their position beside a slightly raised skylight, and when one of them displaced the prop the window pane fell out. He expressed his willingness to pay for the damage he had caused, and on the injured man withdrawing the complaint Justice Patterson discharged him.

BROOKLYN.

Tickets for use on the roadways on the East River Bridge have been issued.

Many removals and alterations are in progress in Fulton-st. below the City Hall.

Twenty-two stamp agencies have been established by Postmaster McLeer. Each agent is paid $24 a year.

On the suit of Agnes Emmert against Henry Ritzheimer, to recover $5,000 for betrayal under promise of marriage, a jury in the City Court yesterday returned a verdict for the full amount.

Property belonging to the late Knickerbocker Life Insurance Company was sold at auction yesterday, by direction of Receiver C. H. Russell. Twenty-five houses brought $97,500.

Louis Abrams sued the Van Brunt-st. and Erie Basin Railroad Company to recover $20,000 for the loss of two fingers on his left hand and three fingers on his right hand, by being run over by a street car. A jury yesterday gave him $1,000.

The Women's Baptist Foreign Missionary Society of Long Island held its annual meeting in the Strong Place Baptist Church yesterday. Mrs. W. H. Wyckoff presided. The annual report, read by Mrs. Potter, showed encouraging work. The receipts of the year were $2,501 17. The Rev. Dr. Clough, of the Telugu mission of India, and other returned missionaries, made addresses.

NEWS FROM THE SUBURBS.

VARIOUS PHASES OF TEMPERANCE WORK.

The temperance interest in Plainfield, N. J., continues unchanged. On Wednesday afternoon the Women's Christian Temperance Union, which has 250 members, held a temperance prayer-meeting, and in the evening the Reform Club held a regular business meeting. The club has 625 members. The St. Mary's Roman Catholic Total Abstinence Society has been taking in many new members lately. The Dominican priests were earnest temperance advocates, and their influence has been felt in the increased membership. On Sunday evening temperance meetings will be held in the Methodist and Reformed churches. Dr. Buckley, of *The Christian Advocate*, will probably speak in the Methodist Church. A gospel temperance meeting will be held in the afternoon in the Holly Tree Inn, and will be conducted by Mr. Van Emburgh. Members of Howell Division, Sons of Temperance, went to Dunellen on Wednesday evening and started a division there. Ex-Mayor Wale has purchased the old Second Baptist Church at Central-ave. and Second-st. for the Reform Club, paying $1,000.

A reform movement is now progressing in Rockland County, N. Y., especially in Orangetown. For many years the Excise laws have been openly violated and no punishment has been meted out to offenders. This spring citizens, regardless of political affinity, have been roused to a serious consideration of existing evils. Meetings in the interest of law and order have been held in nearly every village in the county, sermons of like purport have been preached to all denominations, and Temperance candidates for the offices of Excise Commissioner and Overseer of the Poor have been nominated by the Nyack Law and Order Association. These candidates have been approved by the Republican Town Convention. The Democratic candidates, with the exception of a few for the minor offices, represent the liquor interests, and the issue will be closely fought at the polls on Tuesday. Many grocery stores in Nyack have been selling liquor on the postmaster's orders; some liquor shops have no license; while nearly every one has violated the excise laws. Two liquor dealers in Spring Valley were recently convicted and fined, and one suffered both fine and imprisonment, being yet in New-City Jail. It is believed that one result of the fight will be the closing of a score of drinking places in Nyack. There are forty licensed groceries in the town and an unknown number of unlicensed places. If the law and order candidates are elected, the Town Board of Excise will be in the hands of the temperance people.

NEWARK.

The Essex County Republican Committee will meet this afternoon.

George Lambert, a blacksmith, of No. 149 East Forty-first-st., New-York, was found insane in the streets yesterday.

Brevet Major-General Plume inspected the 5th Regiment N. G., N. J. at the armory last night.

Mr. Richardson, of Richardson & Hall, No. 32 Mechanic-st., said yesterday that the trouble in his firm was due to his partner having given a bill of sale to the acting trustees of the company. The liabilities are $15,000.

Judge Frank Fort, the legal representative to the opposition to police removals by the Common Council, said yesterday that he would carry the case to the Court of Errors and Appeals.

United States Commissioner Patterson yesterday took testimony in the suit of the receiver of the Mechanics' National Bank against Christopher Nugent. The question at issue is whether the bank or the judgment creditors of Nugent shall be preferred. Expert Lewis testified that the deficiency of the bank was about $2,400,000. He had found that between $1,800,000 and $1,900,000 had been misapplied on drafts made by Nugent & Co., and of other credits to the account of the firm and of Christopher Nugent. The assets of the firm amount to $160,000.

JERSEY CITY.

Articles of incorporation of the Hudson Telephone Company were filed yesterday in the County Clerk's office. The capital stock is $6,000, and Lewis B. Wood, E. F. C. Young and James Underhere are the incorporators.

A. H. Randolph, a brakeman on the West Shore Railroad, who was injured at Haverstraw on Monday, died yesterday at the Charity Hospital.

Alexander Allore, a canal-boat captain was convicted in the Court of General Sessions yesterday of attempting to scuttle a canal-boat belonging to a man with whom he had had a quarrel, and sentenced to six months in the Penitentiary.

NEW-JERSEY.

MIDDLEBUSH.—The semi-centennial of the Reformed Church will be held Wednesday evening.

ORANGE.—The Salvation Army has secured Lindsley's Hall in which to hold meetings.....A pigeon-shooting tournament will take place to-morrow at Washington and High sts.

NEW-BRUNSWICK.—John B. Gough will lecture in the First Methodist Episcopal Church this evening