THE STATE UNIVERSITY.

CENTENNIAL MEETING OF THE REGENTS.

A LARGE AND DISTINGUISHED ASSEMBLAGE—A SCHOLARLY ORATION BY GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS.

ALBANY, July 9.—The attendance upon all the sessions of the present convocation has been far larger than at previous ones. This has arisen from the fact that the papers are of unusual character and of popular interest to progressive teachers, and also because they have been presented by leading educators. Furthermore, this is the centennial anniversary of the establishment of the Regents, which alone is enough to swell the attendance. Those here include Regents, Pierson, Clinton, Watson, Townsend, Curtis, Fitch, Nickelway, Upson, Bostwick, Turner and Ruggles, and Vice-President Wilson, of Cornell, President Dodge, of Madison University, Professor North, of Hamilton College, and many other college professors. A majority of the academies of the State and all the colleges are represented here, either by president, principal, teacher or trustee.

A valuable paper suggesting changes in college instruction and the establishment of chairs for special training for teaching was read by State Superintendent Ruggles, and provoked earnest discussion. The colleges furnish over 2 per cent of the teachers, said he, and the normal schools only 4 per cent. He elaborated his idea of a teacher's chances in colleges, and said the Department of Public Instruction would gladly unite with the Regents to obtain this end. A faithful and extensive portrait of the late Chancellor Pruyn was presented to the Regents by the Pruyn family. It is a little larger than life-size, the canvas being 9 by 5 feet.

There was a crush at this evening's session. Governor Cleveland presided. He was received with friendly demonstration, and briefly expressed his "appreciation of the great honor conferred upon him by being permitted to preside at the hundredth anniversary of the Board of Regents." He introduced the orator of the evening, George William Curtis, as a man intimately associated with the educational interests of the State. Mr. Curtis was welcomed heartily. At the conclusion of Mr. Curtis's scholarly oration Chancellor Pierson entertained the members of the University in attendance, over 200 in number, at his home on Elk-st.

MR. CURTIS'S ORATION.

The great Puritan poet, addressing the great Puritan general, naturally recalled his famous fields of battle, but, contemplating other and different services to the State, he exclaimed:

"While Darwent streams, with blood of Scots imbru'd,
And Dunbar field resound thy praises loud,
And Worcester's laureate wreath, yet much remains
To conquer still: Peace hath her victories
No less than those of War."

It is not the drum-beat nor the bugle-call, the proud clash of military music and the thunder of artillery, which now for nine years have bidden us to the centennial commemorations of battles, that summon us to-day. Famous in war, the stately river upon whose banks we stand is not less renowned for its victories of peace. In the long contest of armed Europe during the eighteenth century for the control of the Western continent, as in the military strategy of the American Revolution, the Hudson River was still the prize. Upon the Hudson the great contest culminated and turned toward triumph. Upon the Hudson the desperate endeavor to seize by treachery what could not be gained by honorable force was foiled. "Upon the Hudson the patriot army was disbanded, and from its mouth the defeated British army sailed away. But upon the banks of the Hudson, also, New-York, one of the united colonies, constituted herself an independent State; upon the Hudson she ratified the Constitution of the United States, and upon the Hudson Washington was inaugurated and the National Government began. Upon the Hudson Robert Fulton, with happy daring, freed the commerce of the world from dependence upon the fickle wind, and Dewitt Clinton drew to its bosom the harvests of the Western prairies, and made it the highway of commercial empire, as nature had made it the path of military power. Crowned and wreathed with the association of great and beneficent events, the rejoicing river, which its discoverer hoped might be a shorter passage to the spiced and golden East, flows through a region fairer than fabled Cathay, teeming with busy people, humming with various industry, its spacious valley the home of greater happiness, intelligence and prosperity than the valley of any other river in the world. It is to the shore of this historic stream, still murmuring with the music of the centennial commemoration of victories of the war, that we come to celebrate the centenary of an event not less significant, the first great victory of the peace that followed the war, the organization of the system of education in New-York. . . .

THE NEW-ENGLAND COLLEGES.

The American colonial colleges were generally founded by graduates of English Cambridge and Oxford, and chiefly by Cambridge men. The larger part of the teachers were of the same universities, and the courses of study and the general discipline were the same as in the colleges of the mother institutions. The chief difference of method lay in the conferring of degrees, which at Oxford and Cambridge was the especial function of the university and not of the college. During the colonial period there were nine colleges in the country: Harvard, founded in 1636, being the eldest, and Rutgers, in 1771, at the very beginning of the Revolution, the youngest. But most of them were poor and puny. William and Mary, the second in the list, and the mother of the eldest of college Greek letter societies, the Phi Beta Kappa, had no authority to grant degrees, and in 1730 it was little better than a boarding-school. One of its own fellows described it as "a college without a chapel, without a scholarship, and without a statute, a library without books, a president without a fixed salary, and a burgess without electors." The young Virginia planter owed little to the Virginia college. He was taught by the domestic chaplain, or if a better education was sought, he was sent to the northern colonies or to England. It was in New-England, naturally, that the most efficient colleges were found, for they all sprang from the same devoted and sturdy spirit that had established Harvard. The legend of Dartmouth, the eighth college founded in the country, was "vox clamantis in deserto." And upon the solitary shores of the upper Connecticut in 1769, where still the wildcat cried in the thicket, and the wolf hovered about the farm, and the rigors of the climate and the exposure of the frontier were little relieved, a college devoted to the higher education might well call itself a voice crying in the wilderness. But the character that heeded the voice, the impulse which founded and sustained the college, the feeling which years afterward bred in the heart of Daniel Webster's father the purpose to send his son thither, and which nourished in the son's breast the desire to go—this loyalty to knowledge as a source of power, and to intellectual training as the means of its effective exercise—is one of the proudest instincts of human nature, and one of the vital sources of American greatness. . . .

Into this realm of the higher education New-York, a trading colony with a population of various nationalities, was slow to enter and it was not until one hundred and twenty years after the settlement that a college was founded. The chief citizens of the colony were merchants, and their sons passed from the grammar school to the counting-house and to the West India Islands. The first historian of New-York, Chief Justice Smith, says that for many years he and the deputy judges were the only college graduates, except the clergy of the English Church, and in 1746, the year in which a law was passed authorizing a lottery to provide money to found a college, he knew but thirteen graduates in the province, and all of them young men. The historian draws a sorrowful picture of the condition of education. He praises warmly the charms of his lovely country-women, but he admits that there is nothing that they so generally neglect as reading; that the schools are of the lowest order, the instructors wanting instruction; the common speech extremely corrupted, and bad taste everywhere evident in all public and private proceedings.

There was naturally a feeling of shame in the province that the English universities and the colleges of New-England should educate the young New-Yorker; and, although with evident doubt and difficulty, at length, in 1751, the money was raised, and after some vigorous discussion and opposition, lest the new institution should fall under sectarian control, the college was chartered as Kings College in 1754. It was a memorable epoch in our history. In June of that year the Albany Congress assembled, in which Dr. Franklin proposed his plan of colonial union, and in the same year the French built Fort Duquesne, upon the present site of Pittsburg, in Pennsylvania. The next year or two, while the college president was teaching his dozen pupils, were the years of the French expulsion from Nova Scotia, of Washington's march to Fort Duquesne, and of Braddock's defeat; of the vain attack of Sir William Johnson upon Crown Point, and of the opening contest for the American continent between France and England, which was to end upon the Heights of Abraham. Frederick the Great was conquering in Germany; Robert Clive was subduing and stripping India; and William Pitt, as Prime Minister of England, held the mighty thunderbolts of Britain in his hand, and every day broke with the flash and the thunder of British victory.

KINGS COLLEGE AND ITS SERVICES.

This was the moment when Kings College opened its modest doors in the little town of ten thousand inhabitants at the mouth of the Hudson, and it is curious to contrast its beginning and development with the University of Gottingen in Germany, which the same King George the Second—from whom the New-York college takes its name—had founded twenty years before in a smaller town in another part of his dominions. Toward the end of the century, Gottingen was the most brilliant university in Europe for the eminence of its teachers and the variety and value of its lectures. In less than a hundred years from its foundation, it counted three thousand students, eighty-nine professors, and among them some of the most famous scholars in the world; a library of three hundred thousand volumes and five thousand manuscripts, and even now the town of Gottingen has but eighteen thousand inhabitants. The American college, when it had completed its first century, in a town which had grown from ten thousand to six hundred thousand inhabitants, showed by its catalogue one hundred and forty students and six professors.

Yet such meagre figures are not the measure of its splendid service. In the twenty years from its foundation in 1754 to the beginning of the Revolutionary War, as I have said, only one hundred students graduated from Kings College. But they were an army in themselves. The college in those creative days, when a great nation was to be born and great historic events to be achieved, trained men for leaders. It graduated scholars less apt to edit Greek plays than to make American history. It produced men of courage, insight and tenacity, who had learned from literature and the annals of all ages the resources of liberty and the sophistries of power. They were scholars of the world, not of the cloister. Their degrees admitted them "ad eundem" with Pym and Milton, with Eliot and John Hampden. However reactionary the officers of the college, John Jay and Robert Livingston, Governeur Morris and Egbert Benson, Philip Van Cortland and Henry Rutgers, with others of not less illustrious family names in New-York, were educated Sons of Liberty, and in all the advancing life of the province they were the conspicuous leaders. And when the Tory president, Dr. Cooper, a former fellow of Oxford, entered the lists for the British Government, he was vanquished by a masked antagonist from under whose visor, when it was lifted, looked the face of the marvellous boy, Alexander Hamilton, then a youth of eighteen and a freshman of the college. . . .

Thus, as the university had guided the controlling emigration to the country, and had fostered and directed the instinct of nationality, so also it supplied the leadership for national independence. As the debate passed from sermon, and pamphlet, and arguments in courts of law, from the town meeting and the caucus, and the committee of correspondence, to the march of armies and the battlefield, the colleges closed their doors indeed, but not until the statesmen of the Continental Congress and the Constitutional Convention had passed out of them. When the war ended, and the united colonies, loosely huddled in a chaotic confederation, were to be bound in a flexible, powerful and harmonious national union, once more the colleges furnished the builders of the State, and of the fifty-five members of the Constitutional Convention, thirty three were graduates. When the Convention adjourned, Columbia and Princeton united in Hamilton, Jay and Madison to present to the country the great argument for the Constitution, and it was Alexander Hamilton, a son of Columbia, who lifted New-York into the Union, and a son of Princeton, James Madison, who placed Virginia by her side. . . .

FOUNDATION OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY.

It was a just and commanding instinct which prompted the leaders of New-York, when the Revolution ended, to lay the broad foundation of a system of education for the State which should tend to cherish the intelligent patriotism and public virtue which had secured American independence. Education throughout the State had been paralyzed by the war. The schools were everywhere closed. The one college was practically extinct. But, in the year after the negotiation of the treaty which recognized the final separation of the American States from Great Britain, Governor George Clinton invited the Legislature to consider the question of the revival and encouragement of seminaries of learning. He was not a college-bred man, but he was a wise statesman, and one of the great Governors of New-York, and in the first confused and dark hour that followed the war he felt, perhaps vaguely and remotely, but surely, the necessity of opposing to the money-making spirit, which was sure powerfully to assert its supremacy, the spirit of letters and art. It is pleasant to think of the sturdy Governor in the capital city, in whose half-charred and neglected streets the trees had been cut down and the ruined buildings had been left unrestored, and from whose shores the long-occupying and devastating army had just marched away, pleading that not Tyre and Sidon, not Carthage and Capua, should be the model of the new State, but Athens, rather—

"Athens, the eye of Greece, mother of arts
And eloquence."

"Neglect of the education of youth," were Clinton's memorable words in his message to the Legislature of January 21, 1784, "is among the evils consequent on war." Perhaps there is scarce anything more worthy your attention than the revival and encouragement of seminaries of learning, and nothing by which we can more satisfactorily express our gratitude to the Supreme Being for His past favors, since piety and virtue are generally the offspring of an enlightened understanding." The Legislature did not shrink from declaring the duty which the Governor urged, of forming the minds of the youth of the State to virtue, and from this noble purpose of promoting public virtue, and consequent public usefulness, sprang the University of the State of New-York.

With the English practical genius and tendency to adapt existing institutions to the actual situation, rather than to attempt a wholly new system of education, the first proposition was to revive Kings College as the nucleus of a university, to be composed of all colleges that might arise in the State, the combined institution to be governed and controlled by the Regents of the University who were created by the Act. This Act practically violated the charter of old Kings College, and sequestered to the State its property; nor was it improved by an amendment giving to the clergy of each denomination the right of representation in the University Regency. Practically, also, it committed all the details of the management of the college to the Regents. Not only were they to employ the professors and pay their salaries, and to prescribe a system of discipline for the students, but they were to repair the college buildings, and to make the porter's lodge comfortable, and to pay the messenger eighteen pounds per annum, and to take care that the floor scrubbers were diligent, and to procure a bell for the college, and to direct the purchase of four cords of wood annually, and to defray the expense thereof from the treasury of the University. The minutes of the meetings of the Regents, in the days of this simple service, show how impracticable the scheme would become as the University developed, but the minutes have passages, also, which command attention.

ITS EARLY ANNALS.

On the 17th of May, 1784, a hundred years ago, the first candidate for admission to the University, in its only existing college, presented himself to the Board of Education. His name was Dewitt Clinton. His uncle George, the Governor, was the Chancellor of the University; his father, General James Clinton, was a Regent of the University; and his son, George W. Clinton, is to-day the Vice-Chancellor of the University honored and beloved. During the century no name is more illustrious in the annals of New-York than that of Clinton—hereditary honors and hereditary esteem springing, as become a republic, from hereditary merit. The next two candidates who presented themselves for admission were Philip and George Livingston, sons of Philip Livingston, who came to study where their famous kinsman, Robert R. Livingston, the Chancellor of the State, studied; for then the families most conspicuous in the public service of the State and country were associated with the college and the University, while the Board of Regents itself comprised some of the most eminent men in the State. But serious defects in the law constantly disclosed themselves, and especially it was seen that it would be impossible for a single Board to have charge of the government, direction and funds of many colleges widely dispersed through the State; and on the 31st of January, 1787, a committee, of which Hamilton, Jay, Livingston, Mason, Rogers, Clarkson and Doane were members, was appointed to report upon the condition and prospects of the University. On the 16th of February the committee submitted a report recommending fundamental changes in the organization of the University. They proposed the appointment of a distinct corporation for every college, and the establishment of a system of academies throughout the state, and that both colleges and academies should be placed under a wise and salutary subordination to the Board of Regents. On the 16th of March Hamilton submitted a bill to be laid before the Legislature, which, on the 13th of April, 1787, by the approval of the Council of Revision, became a law, and is the final form of the Act creating the University. . . .

The common school system which the Regents first suggested was not committed to their direction. But its rapid growth and wide development showed how closely adapted it was to the wishes and tastes of the people of the State. In fifty years from the first Act which appropriated money for the schools, there were nearly eleven thousand school districts, and more than six hundred thousand pupils, and the movement for the freedom of the schools had already begun. In the same time five colleges had been chartered, but none of them with affluent or even adequate revenues, and the Regents of the University were devoted chiefly to the care of the academies. There are now twenty-two colleges in the State, but the academies have been the chief care of the Regents. The design of Hamilton, as inferred from the Act of 1787, has never been fulfilled. He conceived, doubtless, an institution which should be an active and intimate fraternity of all the colleges and academies of the State, as Oxford University is composed of the colleges in the city of Oxford. . . .

FUNCTIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY.

Hamilton, however, no more designed a scholastic than a political confederation, and undoubtedly the University of New-York is not what he foresaw. It is but a pleasant and unnecessary fiction, that it is a kind of American Oxford. It is a fiction, because there is no vital resemblance between the institutions. It is pleasant, because of the association with the venerable English school. It is unnecessary, because the University of New-York has a distinct, and dignified and beneficent character and function of its own. That function, during the century, has been twofold—it has been both direct and representative. The foundation of the University marks the establishment of a system of education extending from the common schools to the colleges, and in this system it has fulfilled an illustrious part as the official intermediary of the secondary or higher schools, chartering academies and colleges, receiving their reports, providing for the teaching of teachers, conducting a vast and progressive scheme of examinations to determine a suitable grade of academic studies, and to adjust the ratio in which the bounty of the State shall be distributed, and finally, responsibly supervising the State Library, now of more than one hundred thousand volumes, and the State Museum of Natural History, renowned for its paleontological treasures. This is a service of complex and infinite detail, requiring incessant attention, the utmost promptness and accuracy, signal administrative ability, and a wise and comprehensive direction. It is, therefore, with just pride that the Regents may truly say, upon their first centenary, that this ancient and most important trust of the service of the State has been discharged with a fidelity, an efficiency, and an economy, which I will not say are unequalled, but which are certainly unsurpassed in any other department of the State Government. The annual appropriation for the Regents is but nine thousand dollars. There are no salaries paid except for those of the office, for actual work, and every dollar of the Regents' appropriation stands for a full hundred cents' worth of effective service. Modest, unostentatious, in the best sense conservative, and devoted to a lofty and ennobling duty, it is not without reason that the members of the Board of Regents are selected for their unpaid service with an impressive and dignified ceremonial, and that the State chooses to appoint her representatives and guardians of the interests of higher education in the Commonwealth with the same solemnity with which she selects her Senators in the National Legislature. It was with the same sense of fitness that some of the Regents, in days somewhat more formal than these, caused the church bells to be rung to announce their entrance into a town to visit the academy, that the mind of youth might be impressed with a due sense of the dignity of these representatives of the State interest in academic education. The praise of the efficient work that I have described belongs mainly to the administrative officers of the Board at the capital of the State, of whom the secretary is the executive agent, and in nothing is the State of New-York more fortunate than in the character and ability of the eleven gentlemen who during the century have held the office of secretary and assistant secretary of the Board of Regents of the University. Had every office in the State been filled with the same single regard to personal character and especial fitness, the annals of New-York would seem to be those of Sir Thomas More's well-ordered Utopia, or Plato's ideal republic.

This is the first of the great services of the Board of Regents of the University, and of this service there has been no intelligent denial.

ITS MORAL AND INTELLECTUAL INFLUENCE.

The second great service of the University is not measured, like the first, by statistics and details. It is a service of moral influence, of intellectual elevation. For the University of the State of New-York is the perpetual witness of the imperial commonwealth to the profound truth of George Clinton's words, that "piety and virtue are generally the offspring of an enlightened understanding." It is the continuing declaration of the State that the higher education promotes a higher national and local life, that colleges and academies are not roots of feebleness but sources of strength, and that there is no more insidious enemy of free, popular institutions than the man who derides trained and educated intelligence. If in other countries, what the State honors the people honor, because they are accustomed to be led by the Government, in this country, what the State honors the people honor because they are the Government. They know that neither the college, the academy nor the common school, the counting-room, the workshop or the caucus, can do more than inspire, develop and regulate innate powers and disposition. But they have learned, for their own history teaches, that the youth who earnestly desire the knowledge and the training which the college supplies, are those who become men that the country wants; and they plainly see and gladly own that no community can serve its own best and highest interest more effectively than by providing, amply and worthily, for the utmost possible development and discipline of the moral and intellectual powers with which it is endowed.

NATIONAL CAPITAL TOPICS.

THE FARRAGUT PRIZE MONEY.

WASHINGTON, July 9.—The General Deficiency bill provides for the payment of the third instalment of New-Orleans prize money, generally known as the "Farragut prize money." The amount appropriated has to be distributed among about 5,000 claimants. It will take six weeks or two months to make the necessary computations and preparations, and it is desirable that the claimants should know that no claim can be paid until that time has elapsed, and that in no case can applicants forward their claims by a visit to Washington.

ORDERS TO NAVAL OFFICERS.

WASHINGTON, July 9.—Lieutenant William H. Scheutze has been ordered to the Dispatch; Ensign Harold H. Eames to the Nantucket; Ensign E. A. Anderson to the Passaic; Ensign W. R. M. Field to the Alarm; Paymaster William J. Thomson to the Lackawanna; Passed Assistant Paymaster O. C. Tiffany to the Tallapoosa; Assistant Engineer J. H. Fitts to the Vandalia. Lieutenant C. McR. Winslow has been detached from the Coast Survey and ordered to the Dispatch; Lieutenant C. H. Amsden from the Dispatch and ordered to the Nautical Almanac office; Ensign R. P. Schwarm from the Coast Survey and ordered to the Nantucket; Paymaster W. W. Woodhull from the Lackawanna and ordered home; Passed Assistant Paymaster H. R. Smith from the Tallapoosa and ordered to wait orders. Passed Assistant Engineer John H. Toppin has been granted three months' leave of absence, with permission to go abroad. Naval Cadet E. B. Weeks has resigned.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, July 9, 1884.

A CONTRACT AWARDED.—A contract for supplying post office lock boxes to different post offices throughout the country has been awarded to Yale & Towne.

ONE-THIRD IN ADVANCE.—The Secretary of the Treasury to-day made advance payment of $333,333 1-3 to Edmund Richardson, president the World's Exposition at New-Orleans, being one-third of the $1,000,000 appropriated by Congress as a loan to the Exposition.

WHISTLE TO BE REPLACED.—The Light House Board has ordered the replacement of the whistle on the whistling buoy off Fire Island, coast of Long Island, which was lost recently, and is supposed to have been stolen.

RELIEF FOR THE PIEGANS.—The passage of the Indian Appropriation bill has resulted in placing means at the disposal of the Indian Office to relieve the Piegan Indians in Northern Montana, who have been reported as starving.

THE DISAPPEARANCE OF D. ALBERT.

A GROWING BELIEF THAT HE DID NOT PERISH IN THE WHIRLPOOL RAPIDS.

BUFFALO, July 8.—The case of D. Albert, of Utica, who was supposed to have been accidentally drowned or to have committed suicide in the whirlpool rapids at Niagara Falls, is being investigated by Policeman Madigan, of Suspension Bridge, who claims to have secured sufficient evidence to lead to the belief that a conspiracy was formed to swindle an insurance company. The only evidence of the death of Albert is the fact that his clothes were found on the old Maid-of-the-Mist landing and that he disappeared from the Frontier House where he had been stopping. It appears that on June 28 he called at W. J. Mackay's insurance office at Niagara Falls and took out a $5,000 accident policy in the Traveller's Insurance Company, of Hartford, paying for a year. In the application he gave his name as D. Albert, age forty-five, residence Pittsfield, Otsego County, N. Y., and his occupation as that of a commercial traveller. The policy was made payable to Davis McIntyre of Pittsfield. Albert was trouble and wanted to know a good place on the river to go fishing. Last week Albert reappeared at Suspension Bridge and registered from Utica. His signature on the Frontier House book agreed with that on the application and his description tallied, except that he was dressed differently and claimed to be out of work and sick.

He paid for a week's board in advance, taking the money from a pocketbook which is now missing. In a memorandum book which has been found, he refers to having sent his insurance policy to Ezra McAlway, who served life at Gettysburg, and says: "He is the truest soldier I ever knew, now broken in health like myself. I will never see him and his children be speak about sometimes."

Officer Madigan has in his possession a letter signed by McIntyre advising Albert to insure in the Traveller's Company because it was good. The night before Albert disappeared he was seen taking a bundle to the landing and it is thought possible that it contained an extra suit of clothes, for his valise is empty.

VERMONT CROP PROSPECTS.

A LARGE YIELD OF APPLES—CORN AND HAY INJURED BY DROUTH AND FROST.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

TROY, July 9.—Dispatches from the North announce that the apple crop of Central Vermont will be extremely large. Hay and rye are light. Corn and potatoes are now coming forward rapidly and grass has taken a fresh start since the recent rains. But reports are by no means favorable to abundant crops. The grass was badly scorched by the hot weather. In the low lands especially the harvest will be extremely light. There will be a falling off of 30 per cent in the potato yield, giving no more than enough for market and home consumption. Hay left over last year now sells for an advance of $4 a ton over the price of one month ago. Corn is uneven, there being fully two weeks difference in the crop in the same field in many places, owing to the effect of the late frosts. Vegetables and garden produce are two weeks behind.

FAILURE OF CANNING FACTORS.

ALLIANCE, Ohio, July 8.—Bailey & Co., proprietors of one of the largest canning factories in Eastern Ohio, at Marlboro, five miles northeast of this city, have made an assignment. Their assets and liabilities are not known. It is said that many business men here have been caught by the failure. Insufficient capital to carry on the business and recent heavy losses are supposed to have caused the suspension.

ALLEGED PRE-EMPTION FRAUDS.

DULUTH, Minn., July 8.—An application has been made in the Land Office here for an order of investigation into the titles of some of the most valuable mineral land in Minnesota, on which new mines are being opened, on a charge that the titles were procured through pre-emption frauds by men hired by one Strong, an agent for George C. Stone, S. D. Munson and Charlemagne Tower. The application has been forwarded to the Land Office at Washington.

A DEFAULTING COUNTY TREASURER.

GALVESTON, July 8.—A dispatch to *The News* from Brenham says: "C. C. Leith, the defaulting treasurer of Washington County, was surrendered by his bondsmen and lodged in the county jail last night. He says he cannot tell where the money has gone, as he did not speculate, or gamble, nor was the safe robbed, and that not much over $20,000 is gone."

COTTON FACTORIES CLOSED.

PETERSBURG, Va., July 8.—The Swift Creek and Blandford cotton factories have stopped work, throwing out of employment a large number of hands. Other cotton factories here are only working half time, as is also the case with many tobacco factories. The cause is the dull season and the over-production of goods.

THE COURTS.

IMPOSING UPON A CONFIDING WIDOW.

HOW MR. GIRO OBTAINED SOME OF MRS. COX'S MONEY—A WOMAN WHO WANTED A PROTECTOR.

Mrs. Caroline C. Cox, a relative of P. T. Barnum, brought suit in the Superior Court against Baldiberto Giro for obtaining money from her by false pretences. Giro was arrested on Tuesday on an order issued by Judge Freedman and lodged in Ludlow Street Jail. Giro was connected with the Christiancy divorce case. Mrs. Cox was married to her present husband in June, her name, when she met Giro, being Thompson, and her home Bridgeport, Conn. Her large property she found difficult to manage, and as she desired to make a change in February she answered the following matrimonial advertisement:

Refined middle-aged gentleman of position and means desires the acquaintance of refined, handsome, middle-aged lady of means; view, matrimony. SINCERE, 149 Up-town.

She stated that she was a widow who desired a refined and honorable gentleman for a husband, and she enclosed a photograph of herself "that he might judge for himself whether she was handsome." Finally she met Giro, by appointment, in the ladies' waiting-room at the Rector Street Elevated Railroad Station. The next day she called at his office, No 53 Broadway, room 13, where she found him in company with Lorel Flagg. Giro told her that he owned gold and silver mines in Mexico worth millions of dollars, a railroad that was valuable, and that his income from his father's estate was $300 a month. He made a proposition of marriage to her, offered to invest her money for her where it would bring her enormous profits, and to make her happy by taking her to Paris.

Mrs. Cox says that she believed all that he said, and accepted the proposition of marriage. Then Giro began to invent stories by which to induce her to place her money in his hands. He told her that if she refused he would lose all the money that he had invested. He got Mrs. Cox to invest $500 in "The Stiner Cyclone Company," a theatrical adventure, which failed immediately, and her money was not returned to her according to the agreement. Mrs. Cox stated further that Giro made improper proposals to her, which she indignantly repelled. When she demanded the return of her money and property he refused. He afterward apologized to her and she insisted him to get out of some trouble that he had with a young woman whom he did not want to marry. Mrs. Cox says that she has sustained damages to the amount of $11,583.

It was said at the Sheriff's office yesterday that no attempt to procure bail in Giro's case had been made.

CENTRAL PARK AND OTHER PARKS.

In the Park Department investigation yesterday, Deputy Tax Commissioner Henry Bracken said that the first maps furnished by the Department of Public Parks to the Tax Department were furnished in 1880 and since that time six volumes of maps had come in. John Y. Culyer, chief engineer and superintendent of the Brooklyn parks, said that he had the care of 800 acres of parks besides other roads, and he considered them as well kept as they could be with the money devoted to that purpose, but that more money was needed to keep them in first-class order. Continuing, he said:

"It would cost much more per acre to maintain Central than Prospect Park. Outside of London and Paris there cannot be found in the world such a large number of equipages as can be seen any day in Central Park, and no fair comparison of the cost of maintaining Central Park with that of keeping up the parks in Philadelphia or other cities can be made."

A RECEIVER FOR ROONEY'S PROPERTY.

Patrick Rooney, a comedian, had a discussion with Charles Evans, a variety performer, as to the amount of patronage each drew, and each placed $100 as a wager in the hands of Theiss, in Fourteenth-st. Later Rooney made another bet of $100 with Evans that he would beat him on the first bet. As he had no cash with him, Rooney put a check for $500 in Evans's hands. The treasurer of the London Theatre decided against Rooney, and Evans kept the check, sending an order for Rooney to get the $200 in Theiss's hands. This Rooney refused to accept, and he sued Evans. The suit was discontinued and Evans took judgment against Rooney for costs amounting to $34, and issued execution, which was returned unsatisfied. Yesterday Rooney was taken before Judge McAdam, in the City Court, on supplementary proceedings. He swore that he had only a watch and chain, a diamond cluster ring and a few articles of personal property, and James McNulty, of No. 13 Chambers-st., was appointed receiver of his property.

BITS OF COURT NEWS.

Judge Van Brunt yesterday denied the application made by Aldermen O'Neil, Duffy, Fitzpatrick, McLoughlin and McQuade, in their private capacity as taxpayers, for an order to compel the Controller to appear for examination as to the money he has paid to non-resident officeholders since March 10, 1884. On that date the Aldermen passed an ordinance directing the Controller to refuse to pay salaries to persons not entitled to vote in this city.

Judge Van Brunt yesterday granted an order naming George C. Holt a party defendant in the suit of John H. Morris, assignee, against William S. Warner and others.

COURT CALENDARS—THIS DAY.

SUPREME COURT—CHAMBERS—Before Lawrence, J.—Nos. 12, 13, 33, 56, 73, 109, 121, 124, 125, 130, 132, 135, 166, 176, 180, 196, 201, 237, 238, 239.

SURROGATE'S COURT—Before Rollins, S.—No day calendar.

SUPREME COURT—SPECIAL TERM.—Before Freedman, J.—No day calendar.

COMMON PLEAS—SPECIAL TERM—Before Larremore, J.—No day calendar.

MINES AND MINING.

SALES AT THE NEW-YORK MINING EXCHANGE.

NEW-YORK, July 9, 1884.

Name.	Actual Sales. Open Bgn.	High est.	Low est.	Final.	Shares Sold.
Amie	06	.06	.06	.06	100
Bulwer	.80	.80	.80	.80	100
California	.40	*.40	.40	.40	1,200
Con. Virginia	.40	*.47	.37	.37	4,400
Con. Pacific	.45	.47	.43	.47	700
Homestake	9.00	9.50	9.00	9.50	210
Imperial	.90	.90	.90	.90	1,000
Iron Silver	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	100
Navajo	4.10	4.10	4.10	4.10	100
Rappahannock	.17	.17	.17	.17	1,000
Sierra Nevada	1.50	1.55	1.50	1.55	300
Sonora Con	.03	.03	.03	.03	3,000
Satro Tunnel	.14	4.17	3.14	.15	17,700
Union Con	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	100
Total sales for the day					31,010

* Buyer 60 at .43.
† Buyer 60 at .50.
‡ Buyer 30 at 18.
§ Buyer 30 at 18.
‖ Seller 30 at 13.
¶ Buyer 30 days.

CLOSING PRICES OF CALIFORNIA STOCKS.

SAN FRANCISCO, July 9, 1884.

	Yesterday.	To-day.		Yesterday.	To-day.
Alta	1.07½	2.00	Hale & Norcross	.50	4.17½
Belcher	.27	.25	Mexican	.75	1.00
Best & Belcher	2.12½	2.25	Navajo	4.12½	4.12½
Bodie Con	2.50	2.12½	Ophir	.92	1.12½
California	.30	.30	Potosi	1.15	1.17½
Choller	2.37½	3.25	Savage	2.25	2.12½
Con. Pacific	.40	....	Sierra Nevada	1.25	1.37½
Con. Virginia	.30	.30	Union Con	.85	.95
Crown Point	1.25	1.37½	Utah	.50	.60
Gould & Curry	1.50	1.75	Yellow Jacket	2.00	2.50

The Best and Belcher Mining Company has levied an assessment of 50 cents per share.

THE PETROLEUM MARKET.

New-York, July 9.

The speculation in certificates seems to be drifting into the hands of local traders. Prices are governed daily by the purchases of "shorts" on slight reactions upward or the renewal of sales when the market yields readily to pressure. To-day there was no news from the oil fields, and the only feature of the speculation was the failure of the "bears" to push their early advantage in the dealings. The transactions were larger than they have been for several days. After opening at 60¼ prices fell to 59⅞ cents, but in the afternoon there was an advance to 61⅝ cents. The close was steady at a slight reaction, which left the final price only a shade above yesterday's last figures.

The range of prices and the total dealings were as follows:

	N. Y. Pet.	Con. Ex.
Opening	60¼	60
Highest	61⅝	61⅝
Lowest	59⅞	59⅞
Final	61	61
Sales, barrels	6,462,000	8,068,000
Clearances, yester ay	6,246,000	11,613,000

The clearances in Oil City were 4,075,000, and in Bradford 1,620,000 barrels.

The refined market was unchanged.

COTTON MARKETS—BY TELEGRAPH.

LIVERPOOL, July 9.—12:30 p. m.—Cotton steady. Middling Uplands, 5¾d; do Orleans, 5¾d. Sales, 7,000 bales, including 500 bales for speculation and export; receipts, none. Futures steady. Uplands Low Middling clause, July and August delivery, 5 1-64d; sellers 5 1-32d; do August and September delivery, 5 1-64d; do September and October delivery, 5 1-64d; do October and November delivery, 5 3-64d; do November and December delivery, 5 5-64d; do December and January delivery, 5 5-64d. 4 p. m.—Cotton—Futures closed easy. Uplands Low Middling clause, July delivery, 5 3-64d; sellers; do July and August delivery, 5 3-64d; sellers; do August and September delivery, 5 15-64d; sellers; do September and October delivery, 5 15-64d; buyers; do October and November delivery, 5 25-64d; sellers; do November and December delivery, 5 25-64d; sellers; do December and January delivery, 5 28-64d; sellers; do September delivery, 5 15-64d; sellers.

GALVESTON, July 9.—Cotton quiet; Middling, 11; Low Middling, 10½; Good Ordinary, 10; net and gross receipts, 33 bales; exports coastwise, 55 bales; stock, 1,7[illegible] bales.

SAVANNAH, July 9.—Cotton quiet; Middling, 11; Low Middling, 10⅞; Good Ordinary, 10; sales, 5 bales; stock, 277 bales.

NEW-ORLEANS, July 9.—Cotton dull; Middling, 10⅞; Low Middling, 10⅛; Good Ordinary, 9⅞; net receipts, 42 bales; gross receipts, 1 bales; exports to Great Britain, 7,017 bales; coastwise, 3,308 bales; sales, 300 bales; stock, 57,054 bales.

BUFFALO, N. Y., July 9.—Flour steady and unchanged. Wheat dull; sales 16,000 bush. No. 1 Hard Northern Pacific, $1 01; 5,000 bush. do July at $1 01; 6,500 bush. No. 2 Red at 95c. Corn dull and lower. No. 2 Mixed at 54@55c. Oats easier; No. 2 Mixed, 34c. No. 2 White, 36c. Rye and Barley neglected. Railroad freights unchanged. Canal freights to New-York: Unsettled—Wheat, 3½c. asked, 3½@3¾c. bid; Corn, 3½c. Oats, 2½c. Receipts—Flour 3,900 bbls; Wheat, 54,000 bush.; Corn, 96,000 bush. Shipments—Flour, 26,000 bbls.; Wheat, 30,000 bush.; Corn, 63,000 bush.

THE MONEY MARKET.

SALES AT THE STOCK EXCHANGE, JULY 9.

THE GENERAL LIST.

Name.	Actual Sales. Open'g.	High'st.	Low'st.	Final.	Closing prices. Bid.	Ask'd.	Shares Sold.
Can Pacific	43¾	43¾	43	43¾	43¾	43½	550
Can Southern	29¼	29¼	29	29	28½	29	400
Center Pacific	8¾	8¾	8¾	8¾	8	9	400
Cent of N J	56	56¼	*55¾	56	55½	56	400
Cen Pacific	36	36	35¾	35¾	35½	35¾	4,570
C & O 1st pref	13¾	13¾	13¾	13¾	1.3¾	13½	100
C & O 2d pref	7	7	7	7	7½	8½	50
C & Alton	128	128	128	128	129	129½	300
Chic & N W	84¾	84¾	84¼	84¼	83½	83¾	18,710
do pref	127¾	132¾	122	123	123	124	657
C M & St P	64¾	66¾	65	65	65	65¼	68,535
do pref