ABBETT'S LAST MESSAGE.

PROBABLE HINTS TO THE LEGISLATURE.

CRITICISING THE NEW-JERSEY COURT OF PARDONS—MORE FREEDOM FOR CITIES—EXHIBITION OF SCHOOL WORK.

TRENTON, N. J., Dec. 12.—Governor Abbett is preparing his last annual message to the Legislature. By a beneficent provision of the New-Jersey Constitution Governors are limited to one term at a time, and three messages comprise all their formal communications after their inaugural addresses, with rare exceptions. Governor Abbett came in on an anti-corporation, equal-taxation excitement, and his last message will give the subject some final touches. The relations of the Morris and Essex Railroad Company to the State will occupy a considerable part of the message and form an appendix thereto, while the matter of abolishing the limitation of one per cent on the local taxation of railroads will also be considered. The Governor is, of course, too shrewd a politician to lose an opportunity for strengthening his Senate boom, and his message will be awaited with particular interest on account of its bearing thereupon.

Criticism upon the Court of Pardons continues to be made with more or less severity. There is a general desire that the court's business should be made public, and that there should at least be an authentic public record of every case considered. That a convict should be able to obtain pardon for two similar offences does not speak well for the court's methods, and proves the necessity for a record which can be inspected by all. The constitutional reforms which are being warmly urged would probably deal with this court among other matters, for the majority of the court is composed of the lay judges of the Court of Appeals, whose fate is sealed if any change whatever is made in the Constitution. The demand for constitutional reforms is based largely upon the desirability of simplifying and making more efficient the courts, as well as cheapening the cost of justice. Second to this is the wish for greater freedom in legislation for cities. That New-York sentiment should favor limiting the power of the Legislature over the city governments, while New-Jersey is struggling against the system, is a curious fact, and those who watch public affairs in New-Jersey are convinced that New-York would also tire of the restriction upon city legislation after a short trial.

The exhibition of school work to be made in this city on December 28, 29 and 30, under the auspices of the State School authorities, promises to be of exceptional worth and interest. The exhibits at the New-Orleans exhibition, which have been retained, will be supplemented by a variety of new evidences of the advanced position the schools of the State have taken. Teachers and pupils take the keenest interest in these exhibitions, and they are believed to have had a healthy effect in stimulating effort among the youngsters.

There is much talk of revising the Sunday laws so as to comply with the modern spirit and then to enforce the statutes that are left with rigor. It is conceded that the laws as they now stand cannot be enforced, and the dead-letter laws do the State harm rather than good. There will be an excited discussion upon the matter in the Legislature.

A summer school for teachers will be begun at Asbury Park next summer, and the authorities there have given the originators of the plan special facilities for carrying it out successfully.

CONNECTICUT FINANCES.

A GOOD SHOWING—PERMANENT REPUBLICAN CLUBS—UNITED STATES SENATORSHIP.

HARTFORD, Dec. 12.—Controller Munson's report shows that the receipts of the State from all sources for the civil list, for the year ending June 30, 1886, to be $3,480,040, and the expenditures, including $1,737,900 paid for State bonds redeemed, $3,249,597 52, leaving a balance in the treasury of $230,442 48. The largest single source of revenue is the railroad corporation tax, which is paid to the State in lump sums, and was $626,190 49; the tax from towns $437,471 69, coming next. The other large sources of revenue are the taxes from savings banks, $200,590 61, the military commutation tax, $102,472 10, and the insurance tax, divided between State companies and foreign companies doing business in the State and amounting altogether to $253,801 79. The report is looked upon as showing a better condition of financial affairs than had been expected.

The movement among the young Republicans of the State in the direction of forming permanent clubs, which shall keep "open house" for the dispensation of Republican doctrine all the year round, has reached Hartford, and the prospects are that a large club will be formed. The organization of the Bush Engineer Corps, which has kept alive for the last six years, will be merged into the proposed central club, although a committee of the corps has taken the initiative in the matter. Some 1,000 or more of the young Republicans have been asked to assist in the organization, and a meeting for the purpose will be held at an early day. The plan is to secure convenient rooms in some central locations, furnish them tastily, supply them with Republican newspapers and documents, and have them continuously open for the benefit of members and their friends.

"The Evening Post," which was founded by Governor Jewell, H. T. Sperry and J. A. Spalding some eighteen years ago, and succeeded "The Morning Post" and "Evening Press," will soon appear in a new dress and new form of eight pages, with seven columns to a page. "The Post" has been very prosperous, and with ample capital at its command has kept itself well to the front in New-England journalism. It was the leading Blaine paper in this vicinity in 1884, and judging from its columns is in favor of his renomination.

The two staff appointments of Mr. Lounsbury, which are generally known to have been absolutely made, are those of General Hiram E. Camp to be Adjutant-General, and Colonel George M. White to be Assistant Adjutant-General, the position he now occupies.

As the time draws near for the meeting of the Legislature and the election of a United States Senator approaches, it is more evident than ever that Senator Hawley's re-election will be accomplished without any break or jar.

PROTECTION IN VIRGINIA.

NOW THAT SHE HAS A BOOM THE OLD DOMINION FALLS INTO LINE.

ALEXANDRIA, Va., Dec. 12.—Congressman-elect Jacob Yost, who succeeded at the last election in turning Randolph Tucker's district into the Republican column, speaks glowingly of the advance of protectionist sentiments in the Old Dominion. "I made the fight," said he, "solely on the tariff issue. Instead of harping on personal differences on the race question, I went into every precinct in the district and devoted all my speeches to an exposition of the necessity of protecting Virginia's growing industries and the ruin to them which must follow the adoption of a low tariff or absolute free trade. I was surprised at the attention I received from men of all parties and the manner in which they showed their preference for calm argument instead of the brass bands and hurrahs to which most of them had been accustomed. My words would have had little effect, however, but for the material evidence I would point to on all sides. Of late years factories have been built in all parts of the district and hundreds of industries put in operation. With the advance of prosperity came a recognition of the necessity of protecting our products from competition with the pauper-produced products of Europe, and it did not take much effort on my part to show the people dependent for subsistence on the new industries that Democratic methods of reducing the tariff would either break up their factories or reduce their wages. The fact is that when the people find nothing to protect they were free traders, but now that they have industries which literally depend for existence on a protective tariff, they no longer see the charms of free trade. So it is all over the South. As long as we fight on the tariff issue we can carry Virginia."

CHIEF ENGINEER MELVILLE NOT DEAD.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 12.—Recent articles published relative to the family of Chief Engineer Melville, United States Navy, of Arctic fame, have been so far from the truth as to do him great injustice. It has been represented that Mrs. Melville was a widow, a wronged woman and a helpless mother. Chief Engineer Melville is not dead, but is at present employed upon special and important duty by the Navy Department. On the occasion of the judicial proceedings for the custody of the children, to which Chief Engineer Melville reluctantly but necessarily was made a party, Mrs. Melville swore that she was able to care for the two younger children who were awarded to her. Maude, the oldest daughter, was awarded to her father's care and support, and he at once placed her in a boarding-school, from which she was removed on specious pretexes by her mother, with whom she has since remained. So far from Mrs. Melville being dependent upon Miss Maude's exertions on the lyric stage, it is a matter of fact that since the care of the two younger children rested with her her husband has regularly and without a failure transmitted her on the 17th of each month a check for $70, or $840 annually, for their maintenance. This has been done of his own volition, there having been no demand for alimony, nor a suggestion from her, nor a judicial decree that any sum whatever be paid by him. His last remittance of this sum was made on November 17, and all the checks bear her indorsement. As this remittance is for the maintenance of the younger children it is probably so applied, and this may be the cause of the elder daughter's efforts to secure maintenance by her vocal talent.

SUFFOCATED BY ESCAPING GAS.

Charles Kelly, age sixteen, was found this morning in Mrs. Gilmore's boarding-house, No. 92 Sixth-ave., yesterday. Mrs. Gilmore smelled gas in the upper hall about 9 a. m. It was traced to Kelly's room. The door of the room was broken open. Kelly was lying in bed and the gas was pouring from a burner. Kelly worked for D. Young, a baker, at No. 156 Sixth-ave. He was an orphan. He had been with Mrs. Gilmore about two weeks and always appeared cheerful and contented. Nothing was found in his room to indicate that he committed suicide, and it is thought that he blew out the light.

BERNARD TIGHE ARRESTED.

Bernard Tighe, alias "Byron," who struck his brother-in-law, Thomas Ramsey, of No. 278 Furman-st., Brooklyn, on the head with an axe on Saturday night, and inflicted a fatal injury, was arrested yesterday at Tenth-ave. and Twenty-first-st. A general alarm had been sent out by Superintendent Murray. Officers Bannon and Tyrell, of the Sixteenth Precinct, went off duty at 6 a. m. yesterday, but instead of going home, they went out to look for Tighe, whom they knew. After a short search they met him in the street. The prisoner was turned over to the Brooklyn police.

THE TRADE IN COAL AND IRON.

RENEWING THE MINING CONTRACT SYSTEM—NEED OF CARS—NEW BLAST FURNACES.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 12.—The receivers of the Reading Railroad Company have concluded to have their coal mined upon contracts for the present, instead of leasing the collieries. This, it is stated, will save nearly $500,000 in the course of a year.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company has begun the movement of anthracite coal over its Pennsylvania Schuylkill Valley Railroad, starting with thirty cars a day, to be increased this week to fifty cars. The shipments of anthracite to Baltimore and Washington over the Baltimore and Ohio have become so large as to absorb a considerable portion of the Reading Railroad equipment, and the result of this has been to greatly straiten that corporation in its efforts to get cars to meet the requirements of this trade.

The Soft Coal Pool Committee meets to-morrow to arrange the percentages, and the result, it is pretty well understood, will be as follows: Clearfield, 32; Cumberland, 28; Elk Garden, 5; Beech Creek, 11; Chesapeake and Ohio, 9; Norfolk and Western, 11; and Erie, 4.

It is estimated that within the last six months no less than $5,000,000 has been spent in this State in the improvement of iron-producing properties. Fresh orders are coming into the car works in this State, and within the last two weeks orders have been placed with them for 1,500 freight cars. The Baldwin Locomotive Works are still engaged up to their greatest capacity in filling orders.

A number of blast furnaces are projected in the coal and ore producing portions of the central and western portions of the state. It is now contended that iron can be produced in these regions as low as $10 a ton, with which price the Southern made irons cannot compete.

The Thomas Iron Company has not yet named its price for iron in 1887, and the other companies, tired of waiting upon them, have placed orders largely ahead at prices ranging from $20 50 to $21 a ton for No. 1. It is believed that the Thomas Iron Company is quietly placing orders to a large extent at the same figures, and that when the open price is made it will not be over $21 a ton.

NEW DEPARTURE OF THE WHITE STAR LINE

TWO TWIN-SCREW STEAMERS TO BE ADDED TO ITS FLEET.

The White Star Steamship Line is to introduce a new feature in the regular transatlantic steam service. The company is to have two new steamships with twin screws, and one, the Majestic, has been begun and is to be ready for service in June, 1888. The other vessel is to be the Olympic, and her keel will soon be laid. Several steamers have been built with twin screws, and there are three or four running from Liverpool to this port at irregular intervals in the winter time, and to Montreal in the summer. They are called the Hill Line steamers, but have not yet made noted speed; so that the proposition of the White Star Line is an experiment.

Various objections have been presented by naval engineers against twin screws. The long projecting shafts on either side of the vessel and the supporting struts must retard the speed appreciably, and these cannot be avoided except by making the lines alt full, which would injuriously affect the sailing qualities of the vessel. Then the complaints made now of the vibrations of the stern, caused by the revolutions of the single propeller, are increased with twin screws. Twin screw engines, whether independent or geared, take up more space, are not so economic in running and cost more for repairs and renewals than the single screw engines. The arguments in favor of the twin screws are that there is not the same danger of total breakdown as there is with a single screw from a broken shaft or broken propeller blades; that they do not bring so great weight on the rudder-post, and that a vessel may be more easily handled, since one screw may be reversed and the other kept running ahead when turning round.

ONE OF PAUL BOYTON'S SCHEMES.

HE TALKS OF A CENTRAL AMERICAN RAILROAD—HINTS OF FILIBUSTERING.

Several of the morning papers contained the following advertisement yesterday:

WANTED—1,000 able-bodied young men for railroad work in Central America; men accustomed to firearms required; wages $30 a month; passage paid; $25 advance before sailing. Apply to Armand Cico, agent for Capt. Paul Boyton, at "The Ship," No. 2,376 3d-ave.

When Paul Boyton left New-York last spring his "Ship" and many of the curiosities collected by him in his voyages were purchased by a friend for his establishment in Harlem. Little has been heard of Boyton since he left the city for South America, where, it was said, he intended to swim up the Amazon in his bathing suit. Last Friday night, while some of his friends were speculating upon what had become of him, the door of the room opened and Boyton walked in. His face was sun-browned, his hair was as long as a cowboy's, and he wore a broad-brimmed white felt sombrero with black ribbon tied around it.

After greetings had been exchanged, Boyton said that he was only in the city for a few hours, and that he had to start at once for Chicago on urgent business.

"I am going to build a railroad," he said, "through Central America. I have the contract and I want to take with me a regiment of New-York boys. There's plenty of labor down in that country and it's as cheap as dirt. What I want the boys for is to keep the men in food and protect our property. It's the Lord's own country down there, and there's fun and fortune for those who want to go. I want 1,000 able-bodied men who know how to shoot when they have to."

Boyton started for Chicago on Saturday, but his agent, Armand Cico, a Mexican, remains in the city to conduct the business. He confirmed the statement yesterday made by Boyton, but was unable to say just where in Central America the new railroad is to be built. Boyton, it was said, would not return to New-York from Chicago, but was going on to the City of Mexico, to consult with persons there who are interested in the road. It was said that he had arranged for the passes and equipment of the men who shall volunteer to go with him. About twenty-five men applied yesterday in answer to the advertisement. They were most of them young, determined-looking men, of good physique, and expressed their willingness to go anywhere that Paul Boyton should lead them.

An old acquaintance of Boyton smiled shrewdly when asked what he knew of the plan, and added: "From one or two hints that I got, I don't believe there is any railroad in it at all. That would be too tame for Boyton. He means business every time. If he takes 1,000 New-York boys from the city, they'll be heard from shortly in Mexico. My private opinion is that the scheme is the one that Editor Cutting is hatching to invade Mexico. He is getting an army of cowboys together for the purpose, and Boyton wants a few New-Yorkers with him."

NEWS FROM CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA.

The Consul-General of Costa Rica in Paris having asked for a salary, the Government has replied that it cannot pay for its Consular service, and has cancelled his exequatur, along with those of several other Consuls, at the same time thanking them for their previous services.

In Colombia the provinces of Boyaca and Cundinamarca have recently been devastated by heavy floods. An immense number of sheep have perished and villages have been destroyed.

The Lieutenant-Colonel of the 2d West Indian Regiment was recently tried by court-martial at Jamaica for drunkenness. He was cashiered, and his sword, which had been taken away from him, was delivered to him in the presence of the regiment.

Peru is now agitated over the question of the expulsion of the Jesuits. Many cities and towns have sent to the National Congress protests against the act of banishment.

The Chilian Times, in speaking of the recent earthquakes in Chili, says:

A rather violent shock of earthquake occurred at Iquique on October 18 at 3.05 a. m. The direction of the shock was north to south and its duration about two seconds. Three earthquakes occurred at Antofagasta on October 18. The first shock, which lasted thirty seconds, occurred at 3 a. m.; the second at 5 a. m., and the third at 10 a. m. No noise accompanied the shocks, the direction of which was north to south. A violent shock of earthquake was experienced at Tacna on October 13 at 4.30 a. m. An earthquake occurred at Copiapo on October 18 at 3.20 a. m. The intensity of the shock, although it lasted from fifteen to twenty seconds, was slight. A violent earthquake occurred at Osorno on October 3 at 4 p. m. The direction of the shock was west to east, and its duration forty-five seconds.

The Colombian Government is trying to negotiate a loan of $15,000,000.

Sarah Bernhardt is now in Peru, where she has been received with enthusiasm.

THE HEALTH OF BROOKLYN FOR A YEAR.

Health Commissioner Alleson, of Brooklyn, sent his annual report to Mayor Whitney on Saturday. The city's mortality is 21.44 deaths per 1,000, while London's death rate per 1,000 is 19.08; Paris, 25.79; Berlin, 22.82; Vienna, 26.69; Liverpool, 26.08; New-York, 26.34; Philadelphia, 20; Chicago, 21.76; St. Louis, 20.83. This shows that of these named only one foreign and two domestic cities have a death rate as low as Brooklyn's. During the year ending December 1, 1885, there were 7,528 cases of contagious diseases reported; during last year there were only 4,564, a reduction of nearly 300. There were only 291 cases of typhoid fever as compared with 435 in the previous year.

Of 158,751 quarts of milk inspected during 1886, 5,026 quarts were found adulterated and 5001 skimmed. Condemned meat is summed up as follows: Beef, 52,304 pounds; veal, 3,852; mutton, 6,541; pork, 2,131; poultry, 3,040 pounds. The year's vital statistics are as follows:

Total number of deaths to December 1	14,339
Births recorded	10,752
Marriages	4,000
Deaths in 1885	15,369

The report closes with a reference to the late Dr. Fisk.

HENRY D. GARRETT RECOVERING AT BELLEVUE.

Henry D. Garrett, the lawyer, who was taken to Bellevue Hospital on Saturday, suffering from poisoning by nux vomica, was reported much better yesterday. A stomach pump and powerful emetics were used by the surgeons and his life was saved. Beyond declaring that he took the nux vomica by accident he said nothing to his attendants bearing on his case. Unless he suffers a relapse he will be returned to Jefferson Market Prison today so that he may attend the examination before Justice Patterson to-morrow, which his sickness interrupted.

THE CREGAN INVESTIGATION.

A GREAT DEAL OF EVIDENCE COLLECTED—PROSPECT OF A LONG HEARING.

No investigation by a political committee has excited more interest than that of Captain Michael Cregan and his lieutenants in the XVIth Assembly District, which will begin this evening in a room in the Cooper Institute Building. The committee, consisting of Theron G. Strong, Leonard Hazleting, John D. Lawson, Solon B. Smith and John E. Brodsky, is one that is thoroughly representative of the Republican party in this city, and its decision, if unanimous, will be acquiesced in by all factions of the party.

The case has been thoroughly worked up on both sides. It looks as if there would be plenty of contradictions, backed up by affidavits on both sides. Assemblyman Robert Ray Hamilton is conducting the case for Allen Thorndike Rice, and has received able assistance from John H. W. Killeen, the candidate for the Assembly in the XVIth District, who believes that Captain Cregan sold him out. In this case Captain Cregan "caught a Tartar," and if he is convicted of treachery toward Mr. Rice it will be largely owing to the exertions of Mr. Killeen, who has busied himself in collecting evidence, procuring affidavits from people who are in a position to know just what was done on election day, including some of Captain Cregan's captains of election districts, and in aiding the committee in other ways at some personal risk to himself.

The investigation will be conducted in a manner perfectly fair to both sides. Nothing will be kept back. The make up of the committee precludes the idea that it was appointed for "whitewashing" purposes. The delay in completing it was owing to the fact that Chairman Root wanted it composed of men in whom the Republican County Committee and the Republican party generally in this city would have entire confidence. There will be probably several hearings, and it is doubtful whether the committee will finish its labors in time to report to the County Committee at its regular meeting on Tuesday evening, December 21.

UNWIELDY ASSEMBLY DISTRICTS.

The decision of the Tammany Committee on organization to divide the XXIVth District delegation in such a way as to give separate delegations from the XXIIId and XXIVth Wards because of the great extent of territory and the rapidity with which it is being populated, has called attention to other districts, notably the XIXth and XXIId. The XIXth District extends from Fifty-fourth st. west of Eighth-ave., to Spuyten Duyvil. It is more than nine miles long. It comprises what was formerly five villages but is now being rapidly built up. The average number of election districts to an Assembly district is thirty. This district has forty-three and for Assemblyman casts a vote of 11,656.

The XXIId District is even more disproportionate in point of population than the XIXth. It is bounded by Fifty-ninth-st., Ninety-first-st., Lexington-ave., and the East River. It cast at the last election 14,498 votes for Assemblyman, and has fifty-eight election districts. For the same office its neighbor, the XXIst, cast only 8,017 votes.

The most populous Assembly district in the State is the XXIIId, comprising what is generally known as Harlem. Its growth within the last half-dozen years has been phenomenal. Year after year the Police Commissioners increase the number of election districts in order to accommodate the voters, and each succeeding year the rate shows that certain election districts must be again divided to comply with the law providing that where more than 400 votes are polled the district shall be divided. This Assembly district alone has a vote almost equal to some Congressional districts. At the last election the total vote cast for Assemblyman was 17,379. It has sixty-six election districts.

Leaders and candidates alike are praying for a new census and reapportionment of the Assembly districts.

TWO CONGRESS VACANCIES.

The death of Abraham Dowdney and the election of Abram S. Hewitt as Mayor make two vacancies in the Congress delegation from this city with the beginning of the year. Mr. Hewitt represented the Xth District, containing the XIth, XVIth and XVIIIth Assembly Districts; and Mr. Dowdney the XIIth, containing the XXth and XXIst and that part of the XXIId Assembly District lying between Fifty-ninth and Eighty-sixth sts., Lexington-ave. and the East River. The terms of Messrs. Hewitt and Dowdney expire on the 4th of March next. Most of the prominent Democratic leaders favor holding special elections to fill the vacancies in these districts, on the ground that New-York city should not be shorthanded in this Congress for almost an entire session. Mr. Hewitt will have to resign before January 1, and it is felt that he might just as well resign, so that the Governor may order special elections to fill the two vacancies at an early day. Mr. Hewitt's district is the one where Allen Thorndike Rice and F. B. Spinola ran at the last election, and where it is alleged Michael Cregan's treachery defeated Mr. Rice.

COUNTY DEMOCRACY FACTION FIGHTS.

The meeting of the County Committee of the County Democracy to-morrow evening promises to be a lively one. The troubles of the VIth District will come up again, in the shape of charges of treachery against the William Harney faction at the last election. The most interesting faction fight, however, will be that of Daniel Patterson, the County Democracy leader in the VIIIth District, and his former lieutenants, whom he deposed on the eve of election. It is understood that the facts of the "Tim" Campbell and Thomas F. Grady fight for Congress in the VIIIth District will come out. "Tim" received the united Democratic and Republican nominations, and yet came within 380 votes of being beaten in a total vote of 24,166. "Tim's" explanation is that he was "sold out" by the men who took his money and promised to support him. "Dan" Patterson declares that this was intended to be done in his district, and his action alone prevented it. It is supposed that "Tim is now getting ready the "red hot" poker which he spoke of in his speech to the Oriental Club.

TROUBLE IN THE CENTRAL UNION.

THE RESOLUTION ABOUT THE CAPITALIST PRESS LAID ON THE TABLE.

As was expected the action of the socialistic members of the Central Labor Union in expelling the reporters from the meetings of the union was the principal topic of discussion at the yesterday meeting. As usual the Socialists met in the morning and decided, among other things to act together when the matter came up. Delegate Feury occupied the chair. The first subject brought up was a motion to request the Board of Aldermen to pass over the Mayor's veto the resolution requiring the New-York Steam Company to limit the pressure in its pipes to fifty pounds per square inch. This motion was passed. W. O. Cloyes, from the Hat Salesmen's Union, introduced a resolution against *The Leader* for taking the advertising of non-union hat retailers. This was the beginning of a noisy session that lasted throughout the meeting.

Ludwig Jablonowski, the Socialist who has been one of the leaders in the movement against the reporters, opposed the motion and said that he would do as the capitalistic press did, as long as men were willing to pay for advertisements. The friends of the hat salesmen were not strong enough to carry the motion and it was lost amid an outburst of disappointed and victorious yells. John Dougherty, when there was a silence for him to be heard, introduced again the recommendation to keep the reporters of the "capitalistic" press from getting the doings of the union and to compel all trades unionists not to read the "capitalistic" papers. The better class of the delegates were in favor of admitting the reporters and of allowing the men to read any papers they wanted to, especially as the "capitalistic" press give them better accounts of the meeting than their own papers do. The resolution was finally laid on the table after a long and loud discussion.

The walking delegates in the building trade are having a hard time of it. The master builders are employing special watchmen to keep them out of their buildings and to arrest them if they attempt to interfere with the men who are at work. They are becoming frightened, and yesterday they asked the law committee to instruct them as to their rights as walking delegates.

BROOKLYN KNIGHTS ORGANIZING FOR REVOLT.

An important meeting was held yesterday afternoon in the Brooklyn Academy of Music by Montauk Division, Knights of Labor, to help on the effort to obtain a charter for a new District Assembly. About 1,500 representatives of ten local Assemblies were present, and were called to order by John V. Brown. Eugene McCarthy, of Local Assembly No. 7,277, was chosen to preside. An address was presented and speeches were made opposing the idea of remaining longer connected with District Assembly No. 49. It was stated that the Cleveland Convention agreed to give them a charter for an independent Assembly, but the Executive Board had not granted it, owing to the opposition of No. 49 to a division. Resolutions were unanimously adopted favoring the formation of a separate District Assembly.

FUNERAL OF CAPTAIN W. H. COURTNEY.

The funeral of W. H. Courtney, captain of Company F, 13th Regiment, who died at the Presbyterian Hospital on Friday from the effects of an operation performed to remove a cancer from his throat, took place in the chapel of the hospital at 2 p. m. yesterday. Besides the family and personal friends of the captain, the people present included the company which he had commanded, in full uniform and wearing a mourning badge on their sleeves; U. S. Grant Post, No. 327, G. A. R., also in uniform; Colonel Fackner and staff and most of the line officers of the 13th Regiment, in civilians' attire; Brigadier-General McLeer, General Barnes, General Gates, ex-Lieutenant-Colonel Beadle and ex-Captains Hempstead and Squires. The body, dressed in full regimental uniform, lay in a plain black coffin on a catafalque near the chancel rail, and about it were several large floral offerings.

The services were of a military character, the ritual of the Grand Army of the Republic being read by Chaplain Foster, of the U. S. Grant Post. When the body had been placed in the hearse a procession was formed headed by the field musicians of the 13th Regiment, with draped bugles and muffled drums, and followed by Company F, with seventy men in line under command of Captain Collins and Lieutenants Silliman and Alexander; U. S. Grant Post, with eighty men in line commanded by James Hewitt, the hearse guarded by details of four men each from the regiment and the post, and the family and friends in carriages. The line of march was through Seventieth-st. to Lexington-ave. to Forty-second-st., to the Grand Central Station, where the body was placed on a special car attached to the train starting at 4 p. m. to be taken to Albany and buried in the Rural Cemetery there. A detail of line officers and a firing squad of six privates from the 13th Regiment and an escort squad from Grant Post accompanied the body to Albany, where it was to be met by Company B of the Tenth Battalion, N. G. S. N. Y., and buried with all the military honors of the rank.

WILLIAM H. APPLETON IMPROVING.

William H. Appleton was much improved yesterday, and it was thought that he would be able to leave his house in a few days. Mr. Appleton contracted a severe cold some days ago, which was attended with fever. Though the symptoms were at no time such as to cause the family alarm, on account of his age some apprehension was felt that his illness might prove serious.

AMERICAN NAMES ON FOREIGN CUTLERY

MANUFACTURERS PROTEST AGAINST THE FRAUD—A BILL IN CONGRESS TO REMEDY IT.

The cutlery manufacturers in this country are awaiting with much interest the result of the bill introduced in Congress by Senator Platt, designed to prevent frauds on American manufactures. It provides that "no article of foreign manufacture shall be admitted at any Custom House of the United States, when such article or the box or package containing it is so stamped, marked, branded or labelled as to represent that such article was manufactured in the United States."

The executive committee of the Associated Cutlery Manufacturers of the United States has sent to both houses of Congress a memorial, of which the following is the substance:

Before cutlery was made in this country, English blades were regarded as most excellent, and German blades as most miserable in quality. Such is their reputation to-day. There are about forty manufacturers of cutlery of all descriptions in the United States. The business as a whole has never been extremely profitable, but the goods manufactured have been of such excellent quality as to naturally gain favor with customers and win reputation for American cutlery. German manufacturers and their agents were losing their trade, and were quick to profit by the demand for American cutlery. They not only stamped and labelled their own goods with American names and devices, but also persuaded large buyers in all sections of the country to have the buyers' names, or the name of the State or town in which they did business, imprinted upon the goods sent to them. As a result we have not less than three hundred American names in use upon foreign-made cutlery.

German cutlery was sold in this country before American cutlery was made. Its German reputation was fast becoming its sepulchre, although sold at an extremely low price. It appears now almost entirely under American names. The community is led to believe that the three hundred counterfeits are genuine, and these foreign manufacturers, who killed their own name and trade with poor goods, are fast destroying the American reputation. The importer pays duty on these American-imprinted goods as cheap German goods; they are sold to the consumer as the best American goods. The importers sell to the jobbers at a price that destroys the business of the legitimate American manufacturers, as the jobber can sell the goods to the retailer as American goods.

We have made the fight at large cost for American reputation on cutlery, and just as we were ready to reap some benefits from its acquisition, foreigners, who had disgusted the trade with their inferior wares under foreign names, send our patterns abroad and have them reproduced under enticing American names, with ten times the agencies to distribute them and the advantage of being able to sell them at a much less price than we can afford. As the goods are greatly inferior in quality, it is a fraud upon the public, but in a rapidly increasing and ever-changing population, by continually adding fresh American names, they confuse the consumer, and the task of educating the public as to which is genuine and which is bogus seems to us an endless one, which would probably entail bankruptcy upon many American companies before it could be accomplished.

WHAT THE BASEBALL MEN ARE DOING.

ONLY TWO MEN SECURED FOR NEW-YORK—PITCHERS OBJECT TO NEW RULES.

The published report that the local League club had given O'Rourke to the Chicago club in exchange for Gore can be officially denied. The New-York club paid $3,500 to Chicago for the release of Gore.

Gillespie and Richardson are the only members of last season's team who have signed with the New-York club. The management expects little trouble in having the other men sign. The Brooklyn club has also secured only two players, McTamany and Swartwood. Several Brooklyn players are expected to spend the holidays in Brooklyn—Smith, Clarke, Harkins and others—and they will probably sign contracts then.

The Arbitration Committee will meet at the Fifth Avenue Hotel on Monday next at 6 p. m. The American Association meeting will be held on the following Wednesday.

The latest rumor and one without any probable foundation is that the American Association will refuse to admit the Cleveland club, but will take in a team from Indianapolis. The Kansas City club's franchise is to be purchased and, with the players, transferred to Indianapolis. The rumors probably arose because A. G. Spaulding went to Indianapolis last week to purchase some horse hides to make ball covers.

The St. Louis champions are suffering from an annoyance peculiar to all champions. Not only has the Chicago and New-York clubs held out defiant challenges for a spring series of games, but the Detroit nine now comes forward and challenges the St. Louis men. The Chicago and Detroit clubs will be accommodated, but Von Der Ahe does not seem to relish a contest with the New-York club.

The League and American Association club managers made so many raids into the International League territory that the minor clubs will suffer next spring from a lack of pitchers. All pitchers of any promise have been taken by the larger clubs. The protection accorded the minor clubs by the national agreement seems to be the kind of protection that kills.

The National League of colored baseball players was formed in Pittsburg during last week. The colored men are enthusiastic over their organization and feel confident that their association will meet with success. There seems to be no reason why the colored men cannot play baseball as well as their white brethren. Clubs will be placed in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Cincinnati, Louisville, and Pittsburg. Applications were also received from Boston and Cleveland.

The Kansas City club refuses to sell the release of pitcher Whitney to the Pittsburg nine. The cowboys say that no money can buy the release of their great "grasshopper."

The diminutive "Dave" Force has not signed, and would make a good short stopior the new Cleveland club.

"Danny" Richardson is a valuable player and is a good substitute for almost any position on a nine, but he is not heavy enough to play third base regularly for the team that will be put in the field to represent the New-York League club next season.

The local club has always been a weak one as far as baserunning is concerned. People cannot understand whether it is laziness or ignorance that makes the players get over the ground so slowly. The general opinion favors laziness, for the players on infrequent intervals show wonderful bursts of speed. Manager Mutrie should spend the mornings next spring chasing the players around the bases with a heavy rattan as a persuasive power.

Several pitchers have already informed their managers that if the news rules are enforced they will lose nearly all their effectiveness. Such men as Keefe, Crouthers, Baldwin, Radbourne, Ferguson and Clarkson will not mind the change. They could deceive the batters if they were compelled to deliver the ball standing on their heads.

STAKES OF THE BROOKLYN JOCKEY CLUB.

The Brooklyn Jockey Club has opened fifteen stakes to be run for next season. The total added money is $21,250. Five of the stakes are for two-year-olds; the added money for them is $6,000. Five are for three-year-olds with $7,500 added. The other five are for three-year olds and upwards, $8,250 added. Entries for the stakes close January 1. The grounds will be much improved before the opening of the spring meeting. Grass seed has been sown on the infield and is said to have caught finely, and it is expected to make a beautiful lawn. Other bare spots about the grand stand have been similarly treated.

WINNING A SIX DAYS' BICYCLE MATCH.

OMAHA, Dec. 12.—The six days' bicycle race for the championship of the United States closed here at 10:30 o'clock last night and was won by John S. Prince, who made 767 miles and nine laps, beating the championship record made in Minneapolis last month by twenty-seven miles. Frank Dingley, of Minneapolis, covered 765 miles, Albert Shock, of Chicago, 756 miles; "Tom" Hardwick, of Kansas, 746, and E. N. Ballock, of Omaha, 672.

DR. COLLYER ON HANDSHAKING.

HE DRAWS A LESSON FROM A RECENT WELL KNOWN INCIDENT.

The Rev. Dr. Robert Collyer, in the Church of the Messiah, selected for his text yesterday morning a passage from that portion of the Book of Kings where Jehu, in bidding Jehonadab good-by, said: "Is thine heart right? If it be, give me thy hand." In introducing his sermon Dr. Collyer said that the forefathers called a handshake handfast, as the shake of the hand was the outward expression of an honest heart. He continued:

The thought came to me quite naturally as it may have come to you when you read the story some days ago touching the meeting of great eminence in the Nation who have been good friends as friendship stands among those who want to stand highest among us by climbing on the shoulders of their fellows; how they met in company and one held out his hand, comrade-fashion, and for the sign of handfast, but the other, saying no word, simply refused the grip, because he had good reason to know that there was no truth of the heart in it of loyalty. And the question has been hinted at our hreides, and in the marts of business, as well as by the journals that help to do our thinking for us, while we have drawn our own conclusions very much as we found ourselves on this or that man's side of the question that was a far wider reach, and, as we think, a deeper one. It may be no secret, also, that my own heart has not been drawn latterly to the man who stood there quietly and held back his hand for the reason we have heard of. It was drawn to him on the instant, and remains with him so far for what it held that day, it was a brave thing to do and true, and holds the lesson we may all lay to our hearts, that of loyalty of man to man, before the incident be quite forgotten. I said that we imagine other questions touching such men so far wider and deeper—wider they may go, deeper they cannot go, if your American citizen of conscience or intuition is to be also a gentleman of real honesty, without fear and without reproach.

I move no previous question, but take up the question just as it stands. He might be right in the thing he had done who held out his hand for handfast and he may have been in the wrong who refused the grip of loyalty. And yet I think we can do this one man was false to his manhood if what he had written could be proven, and his long-time friend was true there and then—who was his friend no more. It was no more a question of good manners, but of truth in the inward parts and sincerity and loyalty to word and deed. And so I said the truth stands as good for one time as for any and all time. It seems to be the truth to be made good again, as it seems, by much reiteration, that I must also be slow good heed how I give my hand when I cannot give something from my heart with it. When my fellowman has good reason to know when this is the truth about hand fast, he must not accept it but must refuse the sign and pledge.

The true lesson of the day is simply this. We are often known to give our hands and usually do so idly, for I hate to believe in the total depravity of the hand. And apart from all questions that go before or come after, the gentleman who drew back the other day did the true thing then and there, while it would be better for them both as it would be for all men of their calling and standing, if they did not do quite so much of it, especially at certain times and seasons.

AN INDIAN HAS HIS HEAD HURT BY A PONY.

There was a report Saturday afternoon that a Sioux brave, of the Wild West Show, had his neck broken by a "bucking" pony at the Madison Square Garden. The story was a greatly exaggerated one. A pony escaped from his stall and knocked the Sioux's head against a post when the Indian tried to catch him. The Sioux did not recover consciousness for ten minutes.

THE McQUADE JURY TAKES A WALK.

HOW THEY USED THEIR SUNDAY REST.

READING EXPURGATED NEWSPAPERS, SNIFFING SALT AIR AT THE BATTERY.

The McQuade jury determined yesterday to send itself down to history as an indolent body of twelve men good and true. They had been able to bear three days of trial in the Court of General Sessions without wincing, but when it came to perambulating the streets in Broadway mud, they hesitated. Some of their number were anxious to sally forth from the Astor House for a stroll, but others strenuously objected. This settled the fate of some, for Captain Curry, who had the jury under his thumb, declared that a walk would be controlled by the unit rule, and he would not take the men out in sections. It was not until evening that weariness and constraint brought the unite rule into action.

The jury has rooms on the top floor of the Astor House on the Broadway front, whence they can look down at an acute angle at the cause of all their misery, the Broadway Surface Railroad. The jurors were distributed yesterday as follows: Room No. 336, Adolph Libko and Charles H. Hinds with Officer Myhan; No. 338, Henry Ottenberg and Jacob Rosenberg with Officer Dolan; No. 340, George K. Davis and Walter S. Rockwell with Officer Cullen; No. 324, Bayard Woodruff and John W. Musgrove with Officer Bennett; No. 322, Job Gossman and Maynard Hollister with Officer Oakford; No. 326, Cyrus Schoonmaker and John J. Ross. Captain Curry and Colonel Bodine occupied No. 342 at the head of the hall.

The jurors were somewhat weary over their vigils of the preceding three days in court, and had hard work in getting up at 8 a. m. But they accomplished the feat and were ready for breakfast at 9 o'clock. They ate heartily, and after breakfast returned to their rooms. They natur