PART II.
PAGES 13 TO 20.

New-York Tribune.

SUNDAY EDITION.
DECEMBER 29, 1895.

AFRAID OF BECOMING BLIND.

AN UNEMPLOYED PRINTER'S MOTIVE TO SUICIDE.

HE LEAPED FROM THE ROOF OF A SEVEN-STORY TENEMENT-HOUSE AND WAS INSTANTLY KILLED.

Charles Wurcherer, a middle-aged printer, jumped from the roof of a tall tenement house, at No. 607 East Eleventh-st., early yesterday morning. He was killed instantly. The body was taken to a police station before his wife learned of his death. She was crazed with grief when the news was broken to her.

Wurcherer was fifty-four years old. He lived with his wife and a six-months-old baby on the fourth floor of the tenement at No. 605 East Eleventh-st. For fifteen years he worked in the same printing house, and earned good wages.

For the last three months his health had been bad. He also had trouble with his eyes. He consulted an oculist a short time ago and was told there was great danger of his becoming totally blind. The sight of his right eye was almost gone. He had to wear a black patch over it. He continually worried over the possibility that he might become blind and be a burden to some one.

A week ago the printing firm that he worked for so many years gave up business and he found himself without employment. This added to his misery. Since then he has gone around the city every day looking for other work. His quest was in vain. No one seemed to want to hire him. He thought that it was because he was getting advanced in age and because no one wanted an employe who was sick and had poor eyesight.

His wife said yesterday that he always had a horrible fear of dying. Every time he got the least sick he believed that he was seized with a fatal illness and would consult several doctors before he would become satisfied that he was not suffering from incurable ailment. He lay in his bed Friday morning until 11 o'clock. Then he had breakfast and went on his usual search for work. He returned home at night extremely despondent, as he could get no work.

He and his wife retired early. About 6 o'clock yesterday morning the baby began to cry. Wurcherer got out of bed and prepared some food for the infant. Then he opened the kitchen door and went out into the hall.

Some time later a young man rapped on the door and told Mrs. Wurcherer that her husband had jumped from the roof.

Wurcherer had gone to the roof of his home, crossed over to the adjoining roof and stood on the edge. Then he sprang off. He struck the edge of the sidewalk on his head. His body rebounded out into the middle of the street and was nearly run over by a passing truck. A number of men were passing through the street on their way to work. None of them, however, saw the man jump from the roof and their attention was first attracted when his body struck the street. A large crowd soon collected around it. The dead man was soon identified. The house from which the printer leaped to his death is directly opposite the quarters of Engine Company No. 28. The firemen ran out and picked up the body, which was placed on a stretcher and carried to the Union Market station. An examination of the room showed that Wurcherer had coolly planned his suicide. On a table was a letter which had evidently been written by him some time in the night. The letter was addressed to a friend named Oestricher, who used to work with him. It said that he preferred death to ill-health or blindness.

The letter was taken by the police and sent to the Coroner's office.

The dead man was a member of Typographical Union No. 7. A representative of the organization took charge of the body and had it removed to an undertaker's rooms.

DEAD IN THE MALTYARD.

A MYSTERY ON WHICH THE EAST FIFTY-FIRST-ST. POLICE ARE WORKING.

Martin Geitner, forty-five years old, of No. 847 First-ave., was found unconscious Friday night in Neidlinger & Sons' maltyard at Forty-seventh-st. and First-ave. He died at Flower Hospital, to which he was taken, at 3 o'clock yesterday morning. The man was said by an ambulance surgeon to be suffering from alcoholism. After being taken to the hospital, Geitner was found to be internally injured, and his face and right arm slightly lacerated. The police of the East Fifty-first-st. station think they have a murder case, and have arrested two men. The employes of Neidlinger & Sons believe that Geitner fell and struck his head on the rough pavement of the maltyard.

About twenty men are employed in the malthouse, the foreman of which is Henry Fries. These men got through loading trucks at 6:30 Friday evening, and went to the engine-room to wash themselves before going to supper. One of the last to wash was Geitner. As he finished he remarked to a fellow-workman, Jacob Gebhardt, that he was off for supper. He then left the engine-room to go through the yard. Five minutes afterward John Geisner, a workman, left the engine-room to go to supper, following the route through the yard. He found Geitner lying on his right side against the engine-house wall, unconscious. There was a bad wound on his face, and there was blood on his right hand, indicating that that arm had been cut. Geisner called the engineer, Anton Dobler, and the two men carried Geitner into the engine-room. Geisner then went into the street, and after searching for nearly twenty minutes, found three policemen talking together at Fifteenth-st. and First-ave. All ran down to the maltyard, and one of them summoned an ambulance. When this arrived, the surgeon who accompanied it saw after a short examination that Geitner was suffering from alcoholism. He did not want to take the man to the hospital, so they started for the station. On the way the surgeon said that the wound might need attention, and decided to take Geitner to the hospital.

At the hospital the unconscious man rapidly grew worse, and at 3 o'clock died. The police were informed, and Detectives Murphy, Hicky and Doyle, of the East Fifty-first-st. station, arrested Gebhardt, who went away just before Geitner, and Geisner, who started off just after him. Gebhardt is forty-four years old, and lives at No. 141 Noll-st., Brooklyn. Geisner is forty years old and lives at No. 346 East Forty-seventh-st.

Before dying, Geitner returned to consciousness for a short time, and said he had been assaulted by two men, whom he could not describe.

Dr. Rudderow, the ambulance surgeon, said he had thought at first that the man was suffering from alcoholism, but that he took him to the hospital when he was found to be suffering from possible internal injuries.

The maltyard men, it was learned, had drunk a sextile of beer just before leaving the yard. Geitner was intoxicated when he went away, and is believed by them to have fallen on the bad pavement in the yard.

The two men who were arrested were remanded by Magistrate Wentworth in Yorkville.

IN FAVOR OF THE CHIEF.

DECISION ON THE STEINHART SUMMONS—POLICE WILL SEARCH VALENTINE & CO.'S SAFE.

Magistrate Kudlich, in Jefferson Market Court, yesterday heard the summons against Chief of Police Conlin, issued at the request of Benjamin Steinhart, counsel for H. Valentine & Co., who charged him with oppression. The case grows out of the raids made recently on the three bucket-shops of Valentine & Co. in this city. The Chief has had policemen in the places to prevent the removal of the safes, which are said to hold strong evidence against the defendants. This is what Mr. Steinhart calls oppression. He says that the police have kept the rightful lessees out of the places. Chief Conlin was represented by Assistant Corporation Counsel Dean. Magistrate Kudlich, after hearing the testimony, dismissed the summons.

The Chief will apply for a search warrant to-morrow, and if the safe is not opened for him, he says the police will break it open. When the police secure the evidence which they believe the safe contains the officers who are guarding the places will be withdrawn.

FOR THE HUNGARIAN PEASANT BALL.

The Hungarian peasant ball will be held next Tuesday evening at the Grand Central Palace. The ball is being arranged by the Hungarian Literary Society of New-York for a charitable purpose, and it will offer an opportunity to see genuine Hungarian peasant life. The peasant ball was introduced fifteen years ago by a leader of the Hungarian aristocracy in order to give society an opportunity of being free from severe rules of etiquette at least once a year in Hungary. These balls are always popular. One may be married there to the girl of his choice for the small sum of 10 cents, the priest or the judge of the village performing the ceremony, and for the same consideration five minutes later an absolute divorce will be granted. "A man who would kiss a girl at the ball," says the managers, "without her consent, unless he has been married to her, will be arrested, and will have to pay a fine of 10 cents."

Evening dress is strictly prohibited, and any one who disobeys this injunction will have to pay also a fine of 10 cents, and, in addition, will be compelled to wear a badge in the form of a raddish or carrot, or perhaps a bundle of straw. The large hall of the Grand Central Palace will be transformed into a Hungarian village, with Town Hall, parsonage, prison and csarda, which is the Hungarian name for a village inn. As this is the first time that a Hungarian peasant ball has taken place in this city, the committee expects to have the hall crowded. The proceeds of the affair will be spent for clothing poor children.

The pageant, which will represent a genuine Hungarian wedding, will be led by "calkos," which means Hungarian peasants on horseback, and all the boys and girls of the village will take part clothed in their picturesque Hungarian costumes. A real Hungarian peasant wedding lasts three days, and the ceremonies at the ball will last three nights.

TITLES TO REAL ESTATE.

PROTECTION FOR NEW-YORK INVESTORS.

LAWYERS AND THEIR INSURANCE COMPANIES—THEIR WORK IN REFORMING ANCIENT METHODS AND IN MAKING REALTY INVESTMENTS CONVENIENT AND PROFITABLE AS WELL AS SAFE.

Security in the title to real estate has always been a matter of great moment in the city of New-York. Down to the beginning of the nineteenth century it presented few difficulties, both because the area covered by the city proper was comparatively small, and also because the sources of titles in this area were thoroughly understood by the conveyancers of those days. Moreover, the value of land in the city at that time would bear no comparison with its present value. As the city spread its borders, however, toward the middle and upper part of the island, with the succeeding decades, and especially as the available area downtown became restricted in extent, questions of title assumed a more serious aspect. The difficulties were increased by a faulty system of recording and indexing deeds and mortgages in the Register's office. It is not surprising that mistakes occurred even in the offices of the most careful lawyers, many of which entailed serious loss upon innocent purchasers or mortgagees of land with a "flaw in the title."

Real estate lawyers were as zealous as property-owners and dealers to find some complete solution of the problem. Fifteen to twenty years ago matters were perhaps at their worst stage. Efforts were then begun which have resulted in a practical revolution in the methods of perfecting security in real estate titles. The first steps were taken by lawyers to secure a reform in the method of indexing and recording. Dwight H. Olmstead was the most indefatigable and earnest of these workers, and the efforts of that lawyer and his associates resulted in the present block system, which is a great improvement over the old. It applied, however, only to future transfers, and did not remedy the evils of the old records. If all the real estate records of the Register's office could have been rewritten upon Mr. Olmstead's original plan, the entire history of the real estate transactions affecting every lot or plot of ground in the city would have been set forth in the books in the most convenient form for immediate reference.

UNWILLING TO BEAR THE EXPENSE.

Such a complete reformation of the records, however, was found to be impracticable, principally because the public authorities were unwilling to incur the expense. But the leading real estate lawyers of the city were determined that effective steps should be taken to establish a system whereby real estate in New-York could be bought and sold, or mortgage loans made upon it with facility and safety. They found that their clients wanted their advice upon the sufficiency of such titles, and also desired security against the result of mistakes that might be unavoidable, but might result in great loss. They therefore devised the plan of a corporation with a large capital, that should insure to the purchaser, or the mortgagee, the real estate title which had already been passed upon by the lawyer. In this way, at even less expense than under the old system, the investor not only secured the opinion of his own lawyer, upon the sufficiency of his title, but obtained a policy of insurance that protected him against any possible loss because of defects in the title. The Lawyers' Title Insurance Company, with its capital and surplus of more than $1,000,000, and its magnificent buildings at Nos. 37 and 39 Liberty-st., running through to Maiden Lane, was the direct result of this movement.

But a still greater improvement in real-estate investment methods was to be begun and carried out by the same men. It was a great step in advance for investors upon bond and mortgage to be entirely secured against loss from defect of title. But in the case of trust estates, or where those interested were unable for any reason to obtain or to form correct judgments upon the nature and value of the mortgaged property, it has been of fully as much importance that protection against the sufficiency of the security should be given. To meet this need the same group of prominent lawyers formed the Lawyers' Mortgage Insurance Company, associating with them a number of business men of high standing, including Charles S. Fairchild, Lewis V. F. Randolph and William L. Trenholm. The plan of the company's operations is simple but complete for the purpose of insuring the title of the mortgaged property, and also the payment of the principal and interest.

WHAT IT GUARANTEES.

For a small premium, it guarantees the payment of principal and interest of any mortgage which meets its approval when the title is insured by the Lawyers' Title Insurance Company, remitting the interest on a fixed day, and seeing that taxes, assessments and fire-insurance premiums are promptly paid. It also lends reasonable amounts upon such mortgages, thus making them as available for use as collateral as railway bonds or stocks listed on the Stock Exchange. For the large investor, therefore, these companies have solved the old problem as to the safe, convenient and inexpensive transfer of New-York real estate, and also as to the making of the best class of loans by bond and mortgage on such real estate, without risk as to the title or the sufficiency of the security, and without any trouble or annoyance in the collection of principal or interest.

But there remained another class, very large in number, to be provided for. The small investor, with $500 or $1,000 only to invest at one time, formerly was unable to find opportunity to lend it upon bond and mortgage in this city, and was compelled to dispose of it in some less satisfactory manner. But the "New-York real-estate mortgage certificate" that the Lawyers' Mortgage Company is now issuing meets exactly this need. These certificates are in reality assignments by the company of fractional parts of large mortgages owned by the company. To the investor, or as he is called in the certificate, "the insured," is guaranteed the payment of the principal of his investment and interest at the rate of 4 per cent. The company attends to the collection of interest, and remits it to the owner of the certificate.

MEETING GREAT SUCCESS.

The result is to give to any small investor the opportunity, without trouble or expense, to invest sums of $500 or $1,000 at any time upon bond and mortgage, as secure and thoroughly protected as can be obtained by the mortgagee for the largest amounts. This plan is said to be meeting the greatest success.

The Lawyers' Title Insurance Company includes among its examining counsel all or nearly all the leading lawyers in the city doing any considerable amount of real-estate business. It has a council of experienced and eminent lawyers, which meets once a week to pass upon knotty questions of law or other matters of special importance arising in the business of insuring land titles. The thirteen-story building owned by this company, and occupied in common by it and the Lawyers' Mortgage Insurance Company, is built of iron, granite and marble, and has walls so thick that it is confidently believed that no fire can injure the valuable records stored therein. Edwin W. Cogeshall is the president of both corporations. Among other lawyers who are directors of one or both these companies may be mentioned David B. Ogden, Herbert B. Turner, Joel B. Erhardt, George Lord Day, ex-Judge Henry E. Howland, Charles Coudert, Francis M. Jencks, John T. Lockman, William Allen Butler, William P. Dixon, John Duer, J. Frederic Kernochan, Charles E. Strong and James M. Varnum.

DINNER FOR THE POOR AT THE CITY HALL.

A substantial meal was served to each of about 350 of the city's poor yesterday in the basement of the City Hall. The dinner is an annual affair, and is part of the charity work of Mrs. J. R. Kimball, who instituted it in memory of her late husband, the Rev. Dr. Kimball, founder of the City Hall Mission. The admission was by tickets, which were distributed without regard to sex, creed or color in the poorer districts of the city.

After all the ticket holders were supplied, the newsboys and street gamins were admitted. In all about five hundred persons were fed. The dinner comprised roast turkey, with mashed potatoes, celery and cranberry sauce, and for dessert oranges, apple pie and cheese were served. Colonel William L. Brown gave 275 pounds of turkey for the feast, which was cooked at the Astor House. Mayor Strong paid a short visit to the hostess and complimented the object of the charity.

Several young women from Brooklyn acted as waitresses. The tables were laid in the long basement corridor of the City Hall, which was decorated with flags, bunting and greens for the occasion.

TO BE GUESTS OF THE CITY CLUB.

The two Commissions appointed by Governor Morton under chapters 548 and 1,011, Laws of 1895, with a view of reporting uniform systems of legislation for cities of the second and third classes, are soon to submit their reports to the Legislature. The members of these Commissions are to be guests of the City Club at dinner to-morrow evening. An interesting discussion on legislation affecting cities may be expected.

The Commission on second-class cities is composed of ex-Judge Robert Earl, of Herkimer; James G. Cutler, of Rochester; Michael E. Driscoll, of Syracuse; Alden Chester, of Albany, and David M. Green, of Troy. The Commission on third-class cities is made up of Frederick W. Kruse, of Olean; R. F. Wilkinson, of Poughkeepsie; Hamilton Smith, of Watertown; Edgar A. Spenser, of Gloversville, and Frederick W. oHlls, of Yonkers.

COTTON GAINS SLIGHTLY.

WAITING FOR LIVERPOOL'S ACTION.

HEAVY PORT RECEIPTS MORE THAN OFFSET BY A STRONG STATISTICAL SHOWING—EUROPEAN STOCKS DECLINING.

Receipts of cotton at the ports continue heavy and had a tendency to depress the price of cotton yesterday. But the bullish comparisons of the weekly statistical compilations and a realization that heavy port receipts must be at the expense of the congested stocks at interior towns, with a fear of Liverpool coming higher Monday after its long holiday, caused a strong closing on the New-York Cotton Exchange yesterday. The general list closed at a net gain of two points for the day. March, after selling down to 7.90, closed at 7.96. Trading was light, only 65,300 bales having been dealt in. New-Orleans closed five points higher. Port receipts early were estimated at 32,000 bales against 40,512 last year. Heavier receipts at Savannah than were expected, and unexpected returns from West Point, Va., and Boston, swelled the day's total to 40,347 bales. "The Chronicle's" report, showing picking going on still in Texas, was exhibited by the bears, but withdrawn when it was pointed out that one of the counties where picking was said to be still in progress was Callahan, up in the prairie-dog section of the Staked Plains.

The spot business in the South continues light. Southern holders of spot cotton are said to almost universally show a disinclination to sell at ruling prices, and the interior markets keep firm, in spite of the declining tendency at the ports. Cotton is said to be mostly out of the hands of the farmers, and in the hands of merchants who are able to hold it. Receipts at all ports the coming week are estimated at about 190,000.

Memphis received yesterday 854 bales against 860 last year; Augusta, 508 against 814; Cincinnati, 1,205 against 3,009; St. Louis, 668 against 1,647, and Houston, 7,470 against 9,138. Houston expects on Monday 6,000 to 7,000 against 9,733 last year. New-Orleans expects on Monday 14,000 to 17,000 against 27,610 last year.

Since Liverpool closed last Tuesday for the Christmas holidays prices here declined 20 to 23 points, but yesterday afternoon they showed only a net decline of 10 points. In order to reach the level of this market Liverpool will have to come in about 3,644 lower on Monday.

According to "The Chronicle" the visible supply of cotton is larger than last week's by 140,935 bales, and smaller than last year's by 734,437 bales. The visible supply of American cotton is 206,935 bales larger than last week's supply and 777,437 bales smaller than last year's supply. The world's visible supply of cotton of all kinds is 4,092,314 bales, against 4,826,751 last year; the visible of American is 3,717,114 bales, against 4,494,551 last year. In other words, the world's visible this week of American has increased 107,000, whereas the increase this week last year over the previous week was 254,000. The amount that came in sight in the last week was 294,489 bales against 407,162 last year. The total amount in sight of this crop is 4,736,904 bales, against 6,820,952 last year.

There came into sight after this date last year to August 31, inclusive, nearly 3,100,000 bales. The following table shows the strong comparative position of cotton to-day:

		Last year.
Liverpool stock of American to-day..	850,000	1,027,000
Continental stocks of American.....	598,000	657,000
American cotton afloat for Europe....	516,000	785,000
Stock at United States ports.....	1,137,578	1,304,503
United States interior stocks.....	596,822	699,094
United States exports to date.....	2,074,801	3,406,702

THE PRINT-CLOTH MARKET.

A REVIEW OF THE TRADE FOR THE YEAR—THE WEEK'S BUSINESS.

Fall River, Mass., Dec. 28 (Special).—The cloth market has been dull during the week, the total sales amounting to only 49,000 pieces. No regular goods were disposed of, and the orders that are in are to be filled on a basis lower than 3 cents. The market has been weak, and the indications point strongly toward lower prices. The stock is accumulating at the rate of 30,000 pieces a week, and for January only 85,000 pieces are engaged for weekly delivery. The production this week was cut down, owing to the observance of Christmas.

The annual statement, prepared by Remington & Davol, was issued to-day. A brief summary follows: Production for the year, 11,090,000 pieces; stock on hand at close of year, 287,000 pieces; stock on hand at close of 1894, 140,000 pieces; stock on hand at close of 1893, 142,000 pieces; stock on hand at close of 1892, 7,000 pieces; stock on hand at close of 1891, 90,000 pieces; stock on hand at close of 1890, 583,000 pieces. Sales of year as per week reports: Odds, 3,576,000 pieces; 64x68, 3,295,000 pieces; total, 9,871,000 pieces. Prices: Highest during year, 3 5-16 cents; lowest, 2 7-16 cents; average for year, 2 4-7 cents; average for 1894, 2.7627 cents; average for 1893, 3.2950; average for 1892, 3.4180; average for 1891, 2.9596; average for 1890, 3.3443. Sold for future delivery at close of year, 1,125,000 pieces; sold for future delivery at close of last year, 1,300,000 pieces. Stock in country at close of 1886, 235,000 pieces; 1887, 221,000 pieces; 1888, 19,000 pieces; 1889, 328,000 pieces; 1890, 952,000 pieces; 1891, 278,000 pieces; 1892, 9,000 pieces; 1893, 340,000 pieces; 1894, 211,000 pieces; 1895, 464,000 pieces.

The weekly statement is as follows: Production, 189,000 pieces; deliveries, 150,000; stock on hand, 287,000; odds, 131,000; 64x68, 156,000; last week's stock, 277,000; odds, 49,000; spots, 27,000; futures, 22,000. Sales for weekly delivery in January, 85,000; February, 55,000; March, 48,000; April, 19,000; May, 18,000; June, 16,000. The market is dull and the price is 3 cents for 64x68.

NEW-YORK ATHLETIC CLUB AFFAIRS.

SOME OF THE RECENTLY SUSPENDED MEMBERS HAVE BEEN REINSTATED.

As printed in The Tribune some weeks ago, several of the members of the New-York Athletic Club were suspended for boisterous conduct. The majority of the men have since been reinstated. Exaggerated stories of the causes which led to the Board of Governors taking action in the matter have been circulated, and the flag episode has been widely discussed. A few enthusiastic clubmen were celebrating the success of the "winged foot" athletes when they met the Englishmen in the games on Manhattan Field September 14, and seeing some English flags hanging in the clubhouse they displaced them. The American flag was also treated in the same manner. The boisterous clubmen the next day regretted their horse play, particularly as it had in some way reached the ears of the Board of Governors. The latter body decided to make a vigorous investigation. The flag incident had no significance in itself, and during the international contests which took place on September 21, when the English athletes were the guests of the club, there was not the slightest expression of anything tending to mar the good fellowship which existed between the hosts and their guests. There were other causes which prompted the Board of Governors to summon some of the members before it. A few of the jolliest members celebrated the successes of the club in the past season with a little too much zeal, and it was felt that they should be disciplined. Practical joking had been carried too far. Two members of the club, George Lackey and C. D. Allen, who were suspended, have not been reinstated. Samuel Stewart, J. C. O'Brien, T. C. Dougherty and Ernest Hanbold have been reinstated. The expulsion of John Stewart, one of the governors, was caused by his refusing to resign. The Board of Governors is determined to probe the flag incident to the bottom to prevent a repetition of unseemly conduct in the clubhouse.

BALES CONTAINED TOBACCO WRAPPERS.

The recent seizure by Custom House authorities of 145 bales of tobacco from Havana, consigned to S. J. Davis & Co., No. 292 East Twelfth-st., was because sixteen of the bales were found to contain "nests" of wrappers, whereas the bales were marked as containing fillers only. The duty on fillers is 25 cents a pound, while the duty on wrappers of the quality concealed in the bales is $1 50. The sixteen bales contained about 1,500 pounds of wrappers, which made a difference of about $2,000 in duties. Davis & Co. said they did not know of the fraudulent packing of the tobacco. Their invoice did not show the presence of wrappers. Colonel Dudley F. Phelps, the law officer of the Custom House, said he did not believe Davis & Co. were cognizant of the attempt to defraud the Government. An investigation will follow to fix the responsibility.

THE HOLIDAY WHOLESALE FRUIT TRADE.

In speaking of the holiday fruit trade, a prominent wholesale fruit merchant said to a Tribune reporter, yesterday: "The trade was good, but not exceptionally active, notwithstanding the prevalence of mild weather. Mediterranean oranges sold freely at good prices, the supply of California oranges having been limited on account of heavy rains on the Pacific Slope. Jamaica and other West India oranges which were strictly sound also commanded high prices, but so many were received in poor condition that the average prices obtained were low, and in some cases the shippers sustained considerable loss.

"There was a good demand for choice bananas, but those of inferior grade were almost entirely neglected. Large fancy pineapples were in good demand at high prices, receipts being small. Sales of Almeria grapes were limited. The season's business is now practically ended, and trade will be dull for several weeks, with lower prices in prospect.

"Oranges now range in price from $3 50 to $4 a box; lemons, from $2 to $3 75; bananas, from $1 to $1 12½ for choice "firsts"; Havana strawberry pineapples, from $5 to 12 a hundred, and Almeria grapes, from $6 to $12 a barrel. There are now on the way here from Mediterranean ports about 116,000 boxes of oranges and 145,000 boxes of lemons, which are due to arrive at early dates. These will give an ample supply of lemons, and together with shipments from the West Indies and California will furnish an abundance of oranges, for which low prices are expected by the middle of January."

B. Altman & Co.

SALE OF
Housekeeping Linens
will commence
THURSDAY, Jany 2.

18th St., 19th St., and Sixth Ave.

MARKET IN GOOD CONDITION.

COMPARATIVELY LARGE NUMBER OF REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS.

THOSE BY PRIVATE CONTRACT AMOUNT TO $1,650,000—BUSINESS IN VACANT LOTS AND PARCELS FOR IMPROVEMENT THE MAIN FEATURE.

Despite the fact that the last week included a holiday, the transactions in real estate by private contract reached the respectable total of about $1,650,000. The buying was well distributed throughout the city, and embraced every description of property. The business in vacant lots and other parcels susceptible of profitable improvement was perhaps the main feature of operations. The auctioneers' announcements comprised legal sales entirely. The principal trades through brokers were as follows:

SALES IN THE WEEK.

H. H. Bliss sold to William Broadbelt the four-story stone dwelling No. 765 St. Nicholas-ave., 20x60x100 to railroad land, for $32,000.

Lalor & Beringer sold for Gutwillig Bros. the premises No. 35 University Place to Morris S. Wise, on private terms.

Jefferson M. Levy sold to the Roberts estate the four-story building and lot, 26x100, No. 156 Greenwich-st., for about $40,000.

Dr. H. Loewenthal, of Atlantic City, N. J., sold the four-story brownstone double flathouse No. 419 East Eighty-sixth-st., lot 25x90, to Fanny Bernstein, for about $18,000. It was purchased by the seller in 1881 for $18,750.

F. B. Jennings sold the five-story brick building No. 40 Broad-st., lot about 20x98.9, for a price under $100,000. It was purchased by the seller in 1893 for $77,500.

Ronald H. Macdonald sold, in conjunction with L. J. Phillips & Co., for Louis Stein, of Stein Brothers, the four-story brick building, lot 25x98.9, No. 50 West Twenty-eighth-st., for about $60,000, to Waldo Hutchins.

Burgstede & Klenke sold the five-story flathouse No. 34 Morningside Drive, 25x90x100, for T. J. Jenkins & Brother, to A. Ruehl on private terms.

Lewis B. Crane sold for Cornelius W. Clark the five-story tenement-house, No. 315 East Fortieth-st., lot 25x75.5x25x67.2½, for about $30,000. It was purchased by the seller in October, 1895, for $21,000.

Emil Seibt sold the building and store, No. 850 Third-ave., lot 25x100, on private terms. It was purchased by the seller in 1887 for $28,000.

Lionel Froehlich sold the private dwelling No. 120 East Seventy-fourth-st. for Mrs. R. Mendel to a Mr. Rubinsky for $18,000.

CONVEYANCES AND MORTGAGES.

The following table shows the conveyances, mortgages and buildings projected in New-York the last week, compared with the corresponding week last year:

CONVEYANCES.

	1894. Dec. 21-27, inclusive.	1895. Dec. 20-26, inclusive.
Total number for entire city.....	205	227
Amount involved	$1,680,337	$1,691,620
Number nominal	130	134
Number 23d and 24th wards, omitting new annexed district (Act 1895).....	32	47
Amount involved	$140,950	$103,658
Number nominal	15	30
Number 23d and 24th wards, including new annexed district.....	—	52
Amount involved	—	$105,904
Number nominal	—	32

MORTGAGES.

Total number	220	256
Amount involved	$2,804,188	$3,421,532
Number over 5 per cent.....	102	111
Amount involved	$708,163	$586,363
Number at 5 per cent.....	89	108
Amount involved	$1,056,750	$2,038,169
Number at less than 5 per cent.....	29	37
Amount involved	$1,039,275	$800,000
Number of above to banks, trust and insurance companies	38	39
Amount involved	$1,251,900	$1,056,500

PROJECTED BUILDINGS.

	1894. Dec. 22-28, inclusive.	1895. Dec. 21-27 inclusive.
Number of buildings.....	37	23
Estimated cost	$326,700	$1,385,150

FLAMES IN A FLATHOUSE.

DAMAGE AMOUNTING TO $10,000 IN A NINTH-AVE. BUILDING.

Three alarms were rung soon after 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon for a fire which was discovered in the cellar of the King Flats, at Nos. 855 and 857 Ninth-ave. The flames broke out first in the rear of the cellar of No. 857. Some one rang for the firemen, but all the engines which were due on the first call were at another fire at Eleventh-ave. and Forty-seventh-st. The delay in getting the firemen gave the blaze a chance to spread, and the flames reached up through the airshaft to the roof, ruining nearly every apartment in the building. The first company of firemen that reached the burning building had a second alarm turned in, and this was quickly followed by a third alarm, to which Chief Bonner responded.

The fire communicated to the building at No. 855, and did considerable damage to the apartments in that house. All the tenants had ample time to get out of the buildings by the stairways, and no rescues had to be made by the firemen. No one was injured, although the tenants were much frightened. The firemen got several lines of hose directed on the building, and in less than an hour the flames were drowned out. The buildings are six stories in height, and each contained twenty families. Stores are on the ground floors. Chief Bonner estimated that the total damage by the fire would be about $10,000. A majority of the families whose apartments were damaged have their loss covered by insurance. Chief Bonner said that there was nothing to indicate anything suspicious about the origin of the fire. It broke out in the woodsheds in the rear of the cellar. A lighted candle left in one of the sheds probably caused it.

At the first cries of "Fire!" several panic-stricken women appeared at the windows, with children in their arms, and screamed. A crowd of men and boys who had gathered in the street shouted to them that descent by the stairway was safe, and they were induced to come down that way.

BABIES HOLD A RECEPTION.

There was a gala time yesterday at the New-York Foundling Hospital, Sixty-eighth-st. and Lexington-ave. The little tots of the institution had invited their friends to be present at the Christmas tree and reception, which began at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. A large number of people who are interested in the Foundling Hospital responded to the invitation, and they were well repaid for their visit. An excellent programme had been arranged by Sister Irene, the superior of the Sisters of Charity, who are in charge of the hospital, and by Mrs. Paul L. Thebaud, who is the president of the Ladies' Society connected with the hospital. All the children who took part in the programme were from three to five years old. The entertainment began with a welcome, which was given by two little tots named in the programme Cyril and Teresa.

Then there was a "Baby Operetta," in which the youngsters danced and sang. Then the boys gave a tableau of their own. Archbishop Corrigan, who was on the platform, was delighted with the performance of the children and frequently applauded their efforts.

After the entertainment the little ones were assembled in the kindergarten room, where an immense Christmas tree, the gift of Mrs. Thebaud, was placed. Every one of the children—and there were more than six hundred of them—received a Christmas gift. Then they sat down to supper.

Among those present were Father Higgins, Provincial of the Dominicans; Father O'Connolly, secretary to the Archbishop; Father Lily, Mrs. Alexander, Mrs. Acosta, Mrs. Oelrichs, Mrs. Crain, Mrs. O'Shea, Miss Crimmins, Miss Hewitt, Mrs. Arnold, Miss Beales, Mrs. O'Connor and Mrs. Doelger.

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THE COURTS.

SIMON STERNE'S OFFICE TELEPHONE.

HIS INJUNCTION AGAINST ITS REMOVAL CONTINUED.

Judge Ingraham, in the Supreme Court, yesterday handed down a decision continuing the injunction obtained some time ago by Simon Sterne enjoining the Metropolitan Telegraph and Telephone Company from removing the telephone in his law office, No. 56 Beaver-st.

In October, 1894, the company gave notice that it would raise the rate on its telephones from $150 to $240 a year on account of putting in new metallic circuits. Mr. Sterne paid no attention to the notice, and when on November 31, 1894, he was informed that if he did not pay his telephone would be removed, he got a temporary injunction.

Mr. Sterne's contention was that the rate was extortionate, and that there was equally good service given in other parts of the country at much lower rates. He said that he was satisfied with his old telephone and that he cared nothing for the new improvements. His determination was to see, he said, if a telephone company, like a railroad, was a common carrier, and thus bound to take his custom, and whether the company was a public or a private business, and was subject to the regulations of the courts.

In the matter of showing the profits of the company, its report was filed at the time of the first injunction. It showed that the profits in 1881 were $11,000; in 1882, $86,000; in 1883, $241,000; in 1886, $576,000, while last year a dividend of 20 per cent was declared.

This continuation of the injunction holds until the trial of the action.

HEAVY ARREARS OF ALIMONY.

Judge Andrews, in the Supreme Court, has ordered that the contempt proceedings brought by Augusta C. Davidson to punish her husband, George L. Davidson, for having failed to pay her alimony for the last twenty-six years, amounting to $50,000, be heard in the Special Term of the Supreme Court on the affidavits and papers already made in the case.

The defendant contended that when his payments lapsed more than twenty years ago, and his wife had him locked up, there was an arrangement made between him and his wife that he should support and educate their son until the latter reached his majority, in lieu of further payments of alimony. Davidson said that he had done this, and he wanted the proceedings dismissed. The Court, however, sends the case to Special Term on the contempt question.

A RECEIVER'S SALE SUSTAINED.

Judge Andrews, in the Supreme Court, Chambers, has just handed down a decision denying the motion of the Phoenix National Bank and other creditors of the Old Staten Island Dyeing Establishment to set aside the sale of the works made by the receiver in May last, on the ground that the price secured was inadequate, although the sale had been thoroughly advertised. The Judge denies the motion, and thus upholds the acts in the premises of Lucien Oudin, the receiver, and grants him costs of the motion.

COURT CALENDARS FOR MONDAY.

Supreme Court—General Term—Recess.

Supreme Court—Chambers—Before Beekman, J.—Court opens at 10:30 a. m. Motional calendar called at 11 a. m.

Supreme Court—Special Term—Parts I, II and III.—Adjourned for the term.

Circuit Court—Parts I, II and IV.—Adjourned for the term.

Circuit Court—Part III—Before Ingraham, J.—Calendar called at 10:30 a. m.

Common Pleas—General Term—Will meet at 2 p. m.

Common Pleas—Special Term—Before Giegerich, J.—Court opens at 10:30 a. m. Motions.

Common Pleas—Equity Term—Adjourned for the term.

Common Pleas—Trial Term—Part I—Adjourned sine die.

Common Pleas—Trial Term—Parts II and III—Adjourned for the term.

Surrogate's Court—Chambers—Before Fitzgerald, S.—No day calendar. Wills for probate: Henry B. Brant, Mary J. Trusty, Anna C. Harkness, Rose L. Parker, Patrick H. McCullogh, Thomas McCoubray, at 10:30 a. m.; Peter Stanton, at 2 p. m.

Surrogate's Court—Trial Term—Before Arnold, S.—Court opens at 10:30 a. m. No day calendar.

Superior Court—Special Term—Before Dugro, J.—Court opens at 10 a. m. Motions.

Superior Court—General Term—Adjourned for the term.

Superior Court—Equity Term—Adjourned for the term.

Superior Court—Trial Term—Parts I, II and III—Adjourned for the term.

City Court—General Term—Adjourned for the term.

City Court—Special Term—Before McCarthy, J.—Court opens at 10 a. m. Motions.

City Court—Trial Term—Parts I, II, III and IV—Adjourned for the term.

REFEREES APPOINTED.

Supreme Court.

By Beekman, J.

Alden vs. Alden—Albert Stickney.
Robinson vs. Goodwin—William Allen.
Matter of Hyde—Lawrence Godkin.
Hart vs. Del Douno—David Provost.
Matter of Home Tablet Company—Francis D. Hoyt.
Matter of Pianophone Company—George N. Messiter.
Callery vs. Westfall—Louis L. Delafield.

By Andrews, J.

Ferris vs. Casey—John H. Judge.

By Patterson, J.

People, etc., ex rel Manhattan Railway Company vs. Barker—Lawrence Godkin.

By Ingraham, J.

Maurhofer vs. Mittnacht—Lawrence Godkin.

Common Pleas.

By Giegerich, J.

Matter of Crilly—Gideon J. Tucker.
Matter of Achsan—Maurice H. Blumenthal.
Kennedy vs. McKone—Christian G. Moritz.

Superior Court.

By Dugro, J.

Bauerdorfer vs. Vix—Thomas J. Purdy.

RECEIVERS APPOINTED.

Supreme Court.

By Beekman, J.

Harry B. Bradbury vs. the Tucker Automatic Horse F. Company—Damon H. McClain.
Solomon Jacobs vs. Philip Schaefer—Charles O. Seymour.
Bertha