PART II.
TWELVE PAGES.

New-York Tribune.

SUNDAY EDITION.
SEPTEMBER 27, 1896.

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Novelties in Fancy Feathers, Birds and Wings for Early Autumn Wear. Ostrich Feathers and Tips, all colors and Black. Ornaments in steel, Rhinestone and Jet. Flowers for Hats and Dress Garniture. Felt Hats, Bonnets and Toques for Ladies, Misses and Children. Exclusive Novelties in Walking and Bicycling Hats.

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TRIMMED HATS FOR MISSES AND CHILDREN.

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SPLENDID NEW GOODS for Autumn Wear.

We shall offer Monday morning the most attractive Novelties in

SILKS, DRESS GOODS,
LACES, DRESS TRIMMINGS,
CLOAKS, WRAPS, JACKETS, etc.
MILLINERY, including every conceivable novelty appertaining to this department.
Full lines of UPHOLSTERY GOODS,
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LADIES' HOSIERY and UNDERWEAR.
JEWELRY, BRIC-A-BRAC, CLOCKS,
LAMPS and LAMP SHADES, etc.

The above departments are the most extensive to be found in the city, and, as our customers know, the PRICES are ALWAYS the LOWEST.

SPECIAL NOTICE.—*The Columbus, Broadway and Lexington Avenue Cable Cars pass our Stores every minute; also the cross-town line, 8th Street, Christopher Street Ferry Cars.*

BROADWAY, 8TH-9TH STREETS.

A NEW FIRE COMMISSIONER.

THOMAS STURGIS APPOINTED TO SUCCEED THE LATE A. E. FORD.

A SKETCH OF HIS LIFE—HIS POLITICAL RECORD AND VIEWS—PROMISE OF NON-PARTISAN METHODS.

Mayor Strong yesterday appointed Thomas Sturgis a Fire Commissioner, to fill the vacancy in the Board caused by the death of Austin E. Ford. The term of Mr. Ford, to fill which Mr. Sturgis was appointed, expires on May 1, 1901, if the Mayor's Power-of-Removal bill should be repealed next winter. Otherwise the Mayor elected in 1897 will have the same power to sweep out all municipal boards and heads of departments that was vested in Mayor Strong. Mr. Sturgis went before the Mayor at his office yesterday morning and the latter administered the usual oath. Mrs. Sturgis was present at the ceremony of the swearing in of her husband.

The new Fire Commissioner was born in this city on April 30, 1846. He was educated in the New-York public schools. When he was eighteen years

THOMAS STURGIS.

old he joined the Union Army, and served in the 57th Massachusetts Volunteers. During most of his service in the Army he was assistant adjutant-general of the 9th Army Corps, then in the Army of the Potomac.

After the war Mr. Sturgis went West and settled in Cheyenne, Wyo., where he lived for twenty years as a stock-raiser and banker. Eight years ago he returned to New-York, and since then he has been in business here. He is now treasurer of the Union Stock Yards Company, of Chicago, with offices in New-York, and is head of the Sturgis & Hill Building Corporation, a concern engaged in the erection of large buildings. Russell Sturgis, the architect who draws many of the company's plans, is a cousin of Commissioner Sturgis.

At the time of his appointment Mr. Sturgis was a Civil Service Commissioner, having succeeded E. L. Godkin in that office when the latter resigned on April 20 last. The salary of Fire Commissioner is $5,000. Mr. Sturgis's colleagues are General O. H. La Grange and James R. Sheffield.

Commissioner Sturgis has been an active and energetic Anti-Machine Republican, and has many times fought the Platt-Lauterbach forces in the XXth District, where he lives.

"This appointment was not solicited from the Mayor by me," Mr. Sturgis said, after he had received his commission and had taken the oath of office yesterday. "I am a Republican in politics and an earnest one, but I know no faction. I am for the election of McKinley and for sound money. Last February I started the McKinley League in my district, the XXth, at No. 498 Third-ave., and I am its president.

"I have known both Commissioner La Grange and Commissioner Sheffield for about two years, which is about the same length of time I have known the Mayor. I have little to say as to the policy I am to pursue. I propose now to familiarize myself with my new duties. My efforts will be directed toward the improvement and the efficiency of the Department, and I shall in all respects seek to place it upon a non-partisan basis. My personal action regarding promotions and appointments will be governed by questions of fitness and qualification only, without reference to political affiliations."

Mr. Sturgis lives at No. 138 East Thirty-sixth-st.

DISPOSITION OF THE MOIR PROPERTY.

THE JEWELRY BUSINESS MAY BE ENLARGED SO AS TO OCCUPY THE ENTIRE BUILDING.

There is a probability that the long-established jewelry business of the late William Moir, at the southwest corner of Sixth-ave. and Twenty-third-st., will be enlarged so as to demand the full capacity of the five-story stone and iron building now occupying the site. The question is now being considered whether this step shall be taken or whether the business shall be closed out. The final determination, it is understood from an authentic source, will not be made until after the holidays.

Upon this point a representative of the house said yesterday: "Should it be determined to enlarge and push this business, a large amount of additional capital will be put into it and the entire building will be occupied exclusively for the Moir interest. When Mr. Moir bought this property some twenty-five years ago for about $70,000 he said he was terribly afraid he had made a mistake. This part of the city has gone through a stage of great development since that time, and Mr. Moir lived to feel greatly gratified over his foresight. The time is not far distant when Sixth-ave. will be built up with large new stores and other buildings between Twenty-third and Thirty-second sts. The whole retail dry-goods tendency is up the avenue along that stretch. The indications are now that the Moir business will be enlarged and developed from this great vantage point at this corner."

All information regarding the purchaser of the Moir property a few months ago is still refused by those who are in a position to know about it. The negative assurance is given, however, by William J. Roome, the broker in the transaction, and by those identified with the Moir interest that Ehrich Brothers, who were anxious to purchase the property, are not the buyers, directly, indirectly or in futurity.

The price obtained in the recent conveyance is estimated by good judges at about $350,000, or five times what the land cost Mr. Moir twenty-five years ago. Inasmuch as the plot is only 26 feet in Sixth-ave. by 60 feet in the street, or 1,560 square feet in all, and since the building, which is a comparatively inexpensive one, cuts little or no figure in real estate transactions involving contemplated or possible improvements in the near future, this would make the price of the land about $225 a square foot, not much less valuable than the Eno property, at Twenty-third-st., Fifth-ave. and Broadway, which, although not for sale, is estimated, on the basis of its aggregated rentals, at $250 a square foot.

There are surmises by shrewd observers that the Moir property was purchased by a syndicate which proposes to put a large amount of capital into the business and evolve a great jewelry house which will attract the patronage of the great shopping district in Sixth-ave. and Twenty-third-st. and their neighborhood.

THE CARNEGIE HALL MEETING.

FRANK S. BLACK AND TIMOTHY L. WOODRUFF TO BE TWO OF THE SPEAKERS—VOLUNTEERS FOR THE CAMPAIGN.

The Republican mass-meeting in the Carnegie Music Hall to-morrow evening probably will be one of the largest meetings of the campaign in this city. If the weather is fine there will be several overflow meetings in the open air near the hall, and stands for these gatherings will be in readiness to-morrow afternoon. Republican organizations, with bands and banners, from several Assembly districts will march to the hall and will swell the numbers at the overflow meetings. People who want to secure seats in the hall will have to go early. The doors will be opened at 6:30 p. m., and all seats in the auditorium and galleries will be free, no tickets of admission being required.

Frank S. Black, the Republican candidate for Governor of New-York, and Timothy L. Woodruff, the candidate for Lieutenant-Governor, will be two of the speakers at the meeting. The other speakers will be Henry Cabot Lodge, of Massachusetts, and Edward Lauterbach, the chairman of the Republican County Committee. There will be music in the hall after the doors are opened and before the meeting is called to order by General Benjamin F. Tracy, the presiding officer.

All the arrangements for the meeting have been made by the Campaign Committee of the Republican County Committee, which has its headquarters in Parlor G of the Fifth Avenue Hotel. The Committee on Speakers of the County Committee, of which John Sabine Smith is the chairman, has announced the following list of men who have volunteered their services as speakers in the campaign:

George W. Arnold,	Columbus O. Johnson,
Robert C. Alexander,	Robert N. Kenyon,
Antonio C. Astarita,	Edward Lauterbach,
George A. Baker,	Julius M. Mayer,
E. Valentine Buck,	Samuel McMillan,
Cephas Brainerd,	Anson G. McCook,
Cephas Brainerd, jr.,	Charles H. Murray,
Theodore T. Baylor,	Alfred E. Ommen,
B. L. Burrows,	William M. Olcott,
Charles D. Baker,	W. C. Plummer,
John F. Baker,	Frank D. Pavey,
William H. Bellamy,	James W. Perry,
John Proctor Clarke,	Horace Porter,
L. E. Chittenden,	L. E. Quigg,
Charles H. T. Collis,	William C. Reddy,
Thomas A. Church,	Theodore Roosevelt,
John J. Collins,	Elihu Root,
Alexander V. Campbell,	James R. Sheffield,
T. C. Campbell,	George W. Stephens,
Charles H. Dennison,	C. C. Shayne,
Edwin Einstein,	A. H. Steele,
I. Albert Engiehart,	Charles N. Tainter,
John Ford,	Charles H. Treat,
Isaac Feinberg,	L. L. Van Allen,
Orin C. Frost,	John R. Van Wormer,
Abraham Gruber,	Otto Irving Wise,
Henry Gleason,	Edmund Wetmore,
Frederick D. Grant,	James R. O'Beirne,
Judge Ernest Hall,	Howard Paveson Wilds,
James W. Hawes,	O. H. La Grange,
W. C. Hill,	James L. Wells,
Edwin A. Hartshorn,	J. M. Wall.
Job E. Hedges,	

A WOMAN'S STRUGGLE WITH A ROBBER.

SHE HOLDS HIM IN A HALLWAY UNTIL HE STRIKES HER A VIOLENT BLOW.

Edward Murphy, twenty-four years old, of No. 330 East One-hundred-and-twenty-seventh-st., was held in $1,000 bail by Magistrate Kudlich, in the Harlem Court, yesterday morning for trial on a charge of burglary. Mrs. Mary Cunningham, who lives on the top floor of the tenement-house at No. 255 East One-hundred-and-eighth-st., went out shopping on Friday afternoon with her daughter Mamie, fifteen years old, and her sister, Mrs. Kate Neary, who lives in the same house.

When the party returned and were about to enter Mrs. Cunningham's rooms they heard a suspicious noise inside. Mrs. Neary remained in the hallway with Mamie Cunningham, while Mrs. Cunningham unlocked the door and stepped inside. She saw Murphy, whom she had known for some time, run to the kitchen and climb out on the fire-escape. She stood for a moment, stupefied from fright, and then shouted that there was a burglar in the house. Murphy walked along the fire-escape, clambered through a window leading into the hallway, and made a dart for the ladder leading to the scuttle.

Mrs. Neary, who is a plucky woman, seized him, and Mamie ran down to the street to look for a policeman. Murphy struggled to escape from Mrs. Neary's grasp for some time, and at last he struck her a violent blow on the side of the head, dazing her and causing her to loosen her hold.

The burglar then climbed the step-ladder to the roof, and made his way over nine houses to the scuttle of No. 217, down which he went to the street. Mamie Cunningham saw him come out of the house and followed him. The fugitive ran through One-hundred-and-eighth-st. to Third-ave., up the avenue to One-hundred-and-ninth-st., and through One-hundred-and-ninth-st. to Second-ave., with the girl in close pursuit. He turned up Second-ave., and she lost sight of him. When Murphy found that the girl was no longer following him, he went to the house of Mrs. Wallace, No. 201 East One-hundred-and-fourteenth-st., with whom he is acquainted. Mrs. Wallace was moving, and he offered to help her.

Meantime Mamie Cunningham had told Policeman Dee what had happened, and the two started up Second-ave. to look for Murphy. At One-hundred-and-fourteenth-st. and Second-ave. they met Mrs. Wallace's twelve-year-old daughter, Dora, who told them that Murphy was in her house. The policeman went to the house and arrested him.

Mrs. Cunningham found that her rooms had been ransacked, and that a large quantity of clothing had been packed for removal. Nothing was missing, however. Murphy gained entrance by forcing the fanlight over the kitchen door.

Parishioner—Do ye think if I left ony money tae the kirk I would get salvation?
Minister—Weel, I wouldna like tae be positive, but it's weel worth trying.—(The Sketch.

AN ASTOR BUILDING OFFERED

IT IS SAID THAT ONE HAS BEEN PROPOSED FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES.

THE DISTRICT IN WHICH IT IS HAS AMPLE ACCOMMODATIONS—THE USE OF A SUITABLY LOCATED STRUCTURE MAY BE GIVEN—OPENING THE OLD BUILDINGS.

It was rumored yesterday that William Waldorf Astor had offered to the Board of Education the use of the large building at No. 1,511 to 1,515 Broadway, between Forty-fourth and Forty-fifth sts., belonging to the Astor estate, for school purposes. A Tribune reporter called at the offices of the Astor estate, at No. 21 West Twenty-sixth-st., yesterday afternoon, but could obtain no confirmation of the report, as the offices were closed for the day. The reporter saw Dr. Hunt, one of the assistant school superintendents, however, who said he had heard that such an offer had been made by Mr. Astor, though his knowledge of the matter had not come from any official source.

Dr. Hunt said that the Astor building could hardly be of service to the school authorities in helping them to provide accommodations for the thousands of children of school age now running in the streets, as in the district where the building is located there are more sittings in the schools than there are children to fill them. Where the overcrowding exists is, for the most part, on the East Side above Seventy-seventh-st. and below Fourteenth-st. It was understood that the condition of affairs had been explained to Mr. Class, an agent of the Astor estate, and that upon learning that the Broadway building offered little relief to the overcrowding, he had promised to look over the other properties belonging to the Astor estate, and, if possible, to pick out some more favorably located building.

To-morrow all the old buildings in which the repairs were still being made when the schools opened two weeks ago will be opened with one or possibly two exceptions. Grammar School No. 37, at No. 113 East Eighty-seventh-st., accommodating 1,750 pupils, will not be opened for some time, a dispute between the contractor making the repairs and the Building Department having delayed the work for some time. A large force of men are now at work on the building, however. The school is in one of the most crowded districts in the city, and its closed doors have been the cause of many complaints from parents whose children attended the school last year. Primary School No. 43, at No. 599 East One-hundred-and-fortieth-st., accommodating 200 pupils, may be opened to-morrow. If not, the repairs will be completed in two or three days' time. In some of the buildings repairs on the heating apparatus are still in progress, but the work in most cases is trifling, does not interfere with the regular school sessions, and will be completed within a few days.

Dr. Hunt said to a Tribune reporter yesterday: "A condition very much like that which exists in the schools to-day was prevalent in 1893, when I was president of the Board of Education. At that time there were exaggerated reports of overcrowding in the schools and of children of school age being turned away from the classrooms to run in the streets. I had accurate reports submitted to me from every school in the city as to the number of sittings and the attendance. The result was that 19,000 vacant seats were found in the grammar schools and 12,000 in the primary schools, making a total of 31,000 sittings for which no children presented themselves. Of course, these vacant benches were in the districts where the school population was small, principally in the upper part of the city, while in other districts thousands of children were turned away. Had the buildings been scattered through the city according to the distribution of the school population, nearly all the children in the city of school age could have been accommodated.

"One of the great difficulties we have to contend with now is that many parents persist in sending their children to schools outside of their own districts, which are already overcrowded, not being satisfied, some for one reason and some for another, with the schools nearest their homes, where in all probability there are plenty of vacant seats. It is likely that some rule will be adopted compelling children to attend the schools in their own districts."

DRILL SEASON SOON TO BEGIN.

MEMBERS OF THE 69TH REGIMENT TO BE READY FOR WORK ON OCTOBER 5.

The armory season of the 69th Regiment will begin on October 5, and company drills will take place weekly from that date until further orders. Colonel Smith has detailed Adjutant Abeel as instructor of the regimental recruit class, and Sergeants-Major Roche and Devane as his assistants.

Company drills during the early part of the season will be devoted to elementary instruction. The school of company will follow. A part of each drill night will be devoted to the systematic and thorough instruction in the manual of arms. Majors Lynch and Spellman are ordered to report to the commanding officer of the regiment on October 5 at 8:30 p. m. for instruction respecting duty of supervising drills of companies. Colonel Smith in his order heartily commends the soldierly spirit which characterized on all occasions the performance of duty by officers and enlisted men during the recent tour of duty of the regiment at the State Camp, and expresses his gratification at the excellent discipline at all times maintained. He hopes that no effort will be spared by the officers and men of the regiment to advance its interests and promote its efficiency and increase its membership to the maximum.

Notice is given of the promotion of Quartermaster Sergeant John A. Delany, of Company G, to Battalion Quartermaster with rank of first lieutenant, and of Corporal John F. Bolger to the second lieutenancy of Company G.

The following non-commissioned officers have passed the examining board and received their warrants: First Sergeant Patrick Mulligan, Company E; Sergeants Matthew Walsh, Company E; Patrick C. Barry, Company I; Corporals James M. Leonard, Company E; Hugh Murphy, Company E; John Sullivan, Company I, and Philip O'Connor, Company B.

MURDERED BY HIS FORMER PARTNER.

Meridian, Mass., Sept. 26.—A. S. Barnes, a photographer of this city, on Thursday night started upstairs to bed. Mrs. Barnes, standing at the foot of the stairs, heard him in conversation with some one and then heard a groan. A minute afterward a man came bounding down the steps with a pistol in his hand, and as he passed she recognized him as J. C. Kassebaum, who had been associated with her husband in business. The man made his escape. Mrs. Barnes screamed, and people who came to her assistance found Mr. Barnes dead, his head being gashed in several places and a bloody hatchet lying beside him. His pockets had been rifled, and robbery was apparently the motive. Officers with bloodhounds are after the murderer.

THE LETTER A PURE FORGERY.

ANOTHER SCHEME OF THE FREE SILVERITES EXPOSED.

The Tribune is almost daily in receipt of clippings from free-silver papers of what purports to be a letter written by "J. Francis Forsythe, banker, at No. 11 Wall-st., New-York," to Judge R. C. Bell, of Fort Wayne, Ind., in which the laboring people are spoken of as the "lower classes," and in which $1 a day on a gold basis is declared to be enormous pay. The letter also declares that rice is nutritious food and that pie is not good for the "lower classes." The letter is a forgery. There has never been any such person as J. Francis Forsythe at No. 11 Wall-st., or anywhere else in the financial community. J. Francis Forsythe is a myth.

In its first form, early in September, the letter was always dated at No. 711 Wall-st., which is, of course, a fictitious address. As it appeared in Mr. Bryan's old paper, "The Omaha World-Herald," a real address, No. 11 Wall-st., was used. It is only fair to say, however, that since publishing the letter "The World-Herald" has editorially repudiated it, and expressed the conviction that the whole thing is a fake.

A LIFE PRISONER RELEASED.

HIS SENTENCE COMMUTED BY THE GOVERNOR AFTER TWENTY-THREE YEARS' IMPRISONMENT.

John Fitzgibbon, an Englishman, was liberated by Warden Sage of Sing Sing yesterday morning. He was received at the prison on April 24, 1873, for life, on conviction for manslaughter in the first degree in Justice Brady's court for the killing of his wife in New-York. His sentence was commuted by Governor Morton to thirty-nine years' imprisonment, with commutation of imprisonment to twenty-three years and a few months. The prisoner is now fifty-four years old.

A petition for his pardon was sent some time ago to the Governor by the British Minister to this country. When last winter a resolution was adopted by the Legislature petitioning the English Government to pardon certain American citizens of Irish birth held for political offences, including Dr. Gallagher and others, an amendment was offered by Senator O'Sullivan, of New-York, wherein it was suggested that the release of Fitzgibbon might act as a sort of international reciprocity on the part of the State of New-York. Governor Morton signed the commutation on March 28. The commutation was due yesterday and the release took place. Warden Sage gave him $22, the balance of money due him which he had earned while in the prison; $10 from the State, as usual, and 60 cents, his carfare to New-York. He left the prison in the company of three friends from New-York. When asked if he had any plans for the future, Fitzgibbon said he had none, and that he would have to look about for something to do.

Fitzgibbon was a good and obedient prisoner, and had never been punished for any infraction of the prison rules. He had charge of cleaning up the prison yards. Some time ago the British Minister wrote the Governor a letter citing Fitzgibbon as a meritorious case for clemency. Warden Sage spoke in high terms of him, and he and his assistants always trusted Fitzgibbon more than any other man in the prison. As he took his departure the Warden shook hands with him and wished him good luck.

WHY HAVANA CIGARS ARE HIGHER.

EFFECT OF GENERAL WEYLER'S ORDER FORBIDDING IMPORTATION.

If any one wants to know why he doesn't get as good imported Havana cigars as he used to for the same price, he will find the explanation in the fact that the price of those cigars has gone up from $100 a thousand to $120. This is because of General Weyler's proclamation of last May, when he said that no tobacco should be exported from the devastated island of Cuba. One province alone was excepted in his orders—that of Remidias—from which Americans still obtain tobacco, inferior, however, to the clear Havana to which they are accustomed.

Weyler's proclamation was issued on the ground that he must do something to keep Cubans in the city of Havana from starving or going over to the insurgents. When the Spanish and insurgent armies had devastated about all the tobacco crops on the island, the Havana cigarmakers could secure only little for manufacturing purposes. There was so little, in fact, that if any was exported there would be none left. This would throw all the cigarmakers in Havana out of work. So what little has been raised this season is kept in the city and made into cigars. These are exported, but in such small quantities as compared with the usual trade that the price, as has been said, was raised $20 on a thousand.

In normal years the Cuban tobacco crop averages 120,000 bales. This year it will not exceed 12,000. In normal years the leaf is exported to this country to the extent of say 5,000 bales a week in the fall. This fall, taking the last week for instance, the importation is forty-eight bales, and this all from the Remidias district. The tobacco from this district is heavier than the good Havana, and is seldom used by cigarmakers there in their manufacturing.

There are thousands of bales belonging to Americans, lying on the island, with no prospect of their being moved. There is no attempt made at smuggling tobacco across to Florida, as every one knows Weyler's disposition of those who are caught disregarding his decrees. If this tobacco owned by Americans could be got out of Cuba, it would command the fanciest kind of prices. Efforts have been made to accomplish this, but in every instance Weyler has proved inexorable. There are practically no crops being grown on the island this season except in the Remidias district. Even there the farmers do not expect to produce more than a fourth of their usual crop.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE FAIR.

While the front doors of the Madison Square Garden were kept closed yesterday, the back doors were wide open under a careful guard of laborers, and the American Institute Fair was in active preparation for the opening at 8 p. m. to-morrow. Many fine exhibits will be shown to the public in the sixty-fifth exhibition of the Institute. There is much heavy machinery downstairs in the Machinery Hall, from the eighty-horse-power high-speed engines to gas engines, the printing presses, type machines and grinding machines. There will be much working machinery on the main floor when the fair opens.

At 8 o'clock to-morrow night the doors will open to the public, and thereafter, until October 29, Sundays excepted, the fair will be open from 10:30 a. m. to 10:30 p. m. There will be many features in the exhibition worthy of special notice. Beginning on October 5 there will be in the Concert Hall a display of flowers, fruits and vegetables under the direction of the Committee on Agriculture and Horticulture. This exhibition will be only a part of the whole, without any extra charge.

CUSTOMS SERVICE RETRENCHMENT.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF COLLECTOR KILBRETH—EFFECT ON INCOMING VESSELS.

The recommendation of Collector Kilbreth in relation to retrenchment in the customs service at the port of New-York, which was asked for by the Secretary of the Treasury, has been forwarded to Washington. The saving proposed between October 1 and June 30 next, the end of the fiscal year, is considerably more than $50,000. The principal economies will be in the Surveyor's and Appraiser's departments. The special night force of forty inspectors attached to the Surveyor's staff, which was appointed to examine baggage on vessels arriving after sundown, will, according to the Collector's recommendation, be abolished, and that will mean that vessels reaching Quarantine after sundown will not be allowed to land their passengers until next morning.

Under the present administration, the expenses of the Appraiser's department have been increased $10,000 a month. In view of the falling off in imports, it is considered that this extra expense and something more can be lopped off.

It is suggested in the recommendations that existing vacancies in the Custom House and in the Naval Office shall not be filled. The forces in the Custom House and the Naval Office have not been increased in years, and it is not thought practicable materially to reduce them.

LOCAL BUSINESS COMPLICATIONS.

ASSIGNMENT BY THOMAS J. CONROY IN THE FISHING TACKLE AND BICYCLE TRADES.

Thomas J. Conroy, the well-known dealer in fishing tackle, at No. 310 Broadway, made an assignment yesterday to Jeremiah Sullivan, giving preferences for $14,496—to Thomas H. O'Connor, $1,850; Chatham National Bank, $3,875; Sarah R. Green, $8,771. The business is a very old one, having been established more than fifty years ago by the father of the assignor, and the latter has carried it on since 1875. The failure is attributed to losses in business of about $10,000 on sales this year, because more persons now go wheeling than go fishing, and also because of heavy expenses, large rent and cut prices of drygoods stores which sell fishing tackle. While the banks have been particularly good-natured toward Mr. Conroy, they were compelled to pull in a little, which made it difficult for him to get ready money. The liabilities are $24,000 and assets $13,000. Mr. Conroy and William A. Willard compose the Willard & Conroy Manufacturing Company, dealers in bicycles, at the same address. They also made an assignment of the bicycle business to Henry H. Collard, giving a preference to the Central National Bank for $1,750. This assignment was forced by the individual assignment of Mr. Conroy. The liabilities are $4,200, and assets $3,700. The bicycle firm is regarded as very nearly solvent, even at a sacrifice. The business was hurt considerably by drygoods stores selling bicycles at low prices.

Joseph Carmel and Nathan Lack, composing the firm of J. Carmel & Co., manufacturers of boys' and children's clothing, at No. 39 Bond-st., made an assignment yesterday to Nathan Spiegel, giving preferences to Julius L. Straus, Owego, N. Y., $973; Philip Schulang, $2,750; Henry Wallner & Brother, $1,623. They have been in business here for the last seven years. In February last the firm claimed assets of $41,798, with liabilities of $15,284.

George B. Tench, jobber in shoes, at No. 531 Broadway, has made a transfer of all his stock and accounts, through Max Altmayer, to secure six out-of-town creditors, whose claims amount to $5,076. Mr. Altmayer said the six creditors had taken possession of the stock. The liabilities are about $7,000. The trouble was the result of bad trade, inability to make collections and the pressing demands of creditors.

Deputy-Sheriff Butler has levied on the office furniture of the New-York and New-Jersey Bridge Company, at No. 80 Broadway, under an execution for $374 in favor of the Union Trust Company for rent. The sale of the furniture has been set down by the Sheriff for next Friday, unless the claim is previously settled.

A RECEIVER'S ACCOUNTS APPROVED.

William Blaikie, as referee, has filed a report in the Supreme Court approving the accounts of George H. Strobridge as receiver of the New-York Book Company. The report shows that the receiver has received $15,289 51. The expenses of the administration of the receivership have been $5,957 80, and claims amounting to $32,853 53 have been filed against the company.

John B. Alden was formerly president of the company. There was considerable litigation over its affairs.

A PUBLISHING COMPANY IN CONTEMPT.

Justice Beekman, in Special Term, Part II, of the Supreme Court, yesterday rendered a decision confirming the report of William G. Davies, referee, finding that "The Jeweller's Weekly" Publishing Company was guilty of contempt of court in violating an injunction obtained by the Jewellers' Mercantile Company restraining the defendant from publishing information from the books of the Jewellers' Mercantile Company, Limited. Justice Beekman did not impose a fine, but said that he would do so after hearing counsel.

HEAVY EXPORTS OF COTTON.

THE SHORT CROP BEING SHIPPED ABROAD AT AN UNPRECEDENTED RATE.

One of the chief causes of the turning of the tide of gold from Europe into this country recently has been the phenomenal European demand for American cotton. The reserves of the British and Continental mills got almost to the lowest figures on record last season, something like 1,000,000 bales less than in the previous year, and it is to replenish these exhausted mill stocks that a great fleet of tramp steamers, as well as the swifter and stancher craft of the regular transatlantic lines, is now loading at American ports with cotton for Europe. The extent and importance of this movement can be seen by glancing at the figures up to date as compared with the shipments two years ago, the record-breaking year of cotton exportation, when the great volume of 6,726,000 bales went abroad out of an American crop of 9,900,000 bales. Last season, owing to the higher price, the foreigners took as little of our cotton as they could get along with. Even under these circumstances they had carried away about 4,500,000 bales when the season closed.

"The New-York Financial Chronicle" shows that up to last Friday the exports of this new crop of cotton, from September 1, had been 284,119 bales, as compared with 81,278 bales in the corresponding time last year, and as compared with 188,000 bales between September 1 and 28, 1894, the season of the banner exportations. This is an excess of 100,000 bales over the exports of the record year for the short space of twenty-five days. To make the position stronger, the statisticians show that on last Friday there was on shipboard at the various ports awaiting clearance, as good as exported, though not yet counted in the exports, 161,830 bales, as compared with 78,515 last year at the same time and 132,166 for the record year.

Evidently the foreigners are after this crop with an eagerness never before approached by them. At the rate they are taking it away they would carry off not less than 8,000,000 bales. As the crop is expected to be under 8,000,000 bales, and there is no surplus cotton to speak of in this country, the interesting query arises, Where are the American spinners, whose wants in a normal year (and the undoubted election of McKinley will mean a year prodigiously better than normal) are not less than 3,000,000 bales, to get their cotton from? This has doubtless occurred to the American spinners, for since September 1 they have bought 104,845 bales, against 63,964 bales last year, for the first twenty-five days of September.

PUSHING WORK AT FORT HANCOCK.

PROPOSALS FOR CONSTRUCTING THE BUILDINGS TO BE INVITED AT ONCE.

Washington, Sept. 25 (Special).—Not only have the plans for the new artillery post at Fort Hancock, Sandy Hook, been formally approved by Secretary Lamont, but orders have been issued from the Quartermaster-General's office to Captain Devol, who will have charge of the construction work at the new station, to issue proposals inviting bids for the erection of the necessary buildings. This order was sent to Captain Devol on Tuesday, and it is expected that he will cause the necessary advertisements to be published at once. Highly commendable progress by Army officials having charge of the establishment of this important station has been made in all the preliminary stages, and the indications are that the closing steps will be pushed to completion with all dispatch consistent with thoroughness.

Captain Devol, although the junior officer of his corps, is said to be well fitted for his important responsibilities and to possess the intelligence, zeal and firmness of character necessary in a successful constructing quartermaster.

LIEUTENANT WILLIAMS'S TROUBLES.

Lieutenant William M. Williams, a retired officer of the Army, whose brother officers have been wont to speak of him as "Oily Bill," is in misfortune again, and is ordered to appear before a court-martial at Fort Wayne, Mich., upon charges of non-payment of debts. It was in 1890 that he was tried and convicted for failing to pay his bills, and he was sentenced to be dismissed from the service. General Schofield pronounced the sentence a miscarriage of justice, due to the inefficiency of the judge-advocate of the court, and the sentence was modified to suspension for five years. He has since been put on the retired list. In May, 1893, he was again complained of by several people for contracting debts on the strength of his official position and forgetting to pay them, and was again ordered before a court-martial at Fort Wayne. It is rather an unusual occurrence for an officer to be tried the second time before he has completed the sentence for the first. Lieutenant Williams is an Ohio man, who enlisted in an Ohio regiment in July, 1862, and in June following he was promoted to be a lieutenant. In November, 1867, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the regular service in recognition of his gallant and meritorious service in the pursuit of the rebel guerilla, Morgan, through Indiana and Ohio. Under his name in the Army Register is this note: "For the anomalous position of this officer see General Court-Martial Order 3, A. G. O., January 6, 1891, and General Court-Martial Order, 65, A. G. O., June 13, 1893."

NO BOND SALE TILL AFTER ELECTION.

Controller Fitch announced yesterday that there would be no sale of the city's stocks or bonds until after Election Day. Then more than $10,000,000 worth of the city's paper will be offered to the public to bid upon. This will be the largest amount ever offered for sale here at one time.

This determination on the part of the city means that the schoolhouse sites that have been condemned will not be bought until after the sale, and it means, too, that the city will in the interim have to borrow money to pay its expenses until the taxes begin to come in in October and November.

The Sinking Fund Commission by its action at its last meeting exempted over $9,000,000 worth of bonds from taxation. They will be offered for sale at the one time, with $1,000,000 dock bonds also authorized and about $1,000,000 more that will shortly be authorized for sale.