MYSTERY IN THE TOMBS.

THE NEW HEADQUARTERS OF THE AMERICUS CLUB.

The Rigid Exclusion of Everybody whom the Chief of the Tigers does not Wish to See — The Ingenuity of the Commissioners of Charities and Correction.

It would be difficult to imagine a deeper mystery than that which everybody tried to fathom yesterday in the pestilential Tombs. Even the wandering bootblacks and the melancholy scrub-women moved about in mysterious ways, and the solemn-visaged keepers were more than usually affected. Warden Johnston, ever of a cool, calm, cool, and collected, nervously sipped absinthe, seemingly unwilling to trust himself. Since the escape of Sharkey the Commissioners of Charities and Correction have been daily in consultation, trying to devise some means to prevent the escape of prisoners from the Tombs. President Lambeer felt equal to the occasion, and quietly awaited the propositions of Commissioners Stern and Bowen. The latter thought themselves as well qualified to judge of the condition of the sepulchre and to suggest a remedy as the President. The Commissioners knew that the public expected them to do something, and the decapitation of the keepers, if not of the Warden, was seriously proposed. It was not clear in the minds of the Commissioners that the Warden or any of his subordinates were really responsible for Sharkey's escape, but still it was thought the public might breathe easier if those officials were decapitated.

The President was in a quandary. Commissioner Stern puffed his cigar harder than ever, and Commissioner Bowen played with his watch and looked from the window of the commissioners' room in their building at Eleventh street and Third avenue. Something ought to be done. They were satisfied of that. Every time the door of the Commissioners opened their pulses trembled and feared that the order

"OFF WITH HIS HEAD,"

coupled with something suitably to be done, and the Commissioners put their heads together. They might not think alike on the question of the proper building to house the Tombs prisoners, Mr. Johnson, but any shanty would do for a jail, and if a shanty could be had for less than the Sharkey in broad daylight escaped from the prison. Why could it be raised? That was the question asked by the Commissioners of each other. Still each was willing to be dumb, and they all agreed to meet together and evolve an idea out of the nothing before them. A new theat sprung up in the brain of Commissioner Bowen. When the Commissioners had left the room he had taken a piece of paper and had traced a rough sketch of a building. He had read it to his associates and said, "We have hit it at last." It was thought that if every person who sought entrance to the Tombs was traced personally to and upon the Commissioners with a note signed by a citizen to certify his good character, one would be reasonably sure of not gradually admitting a spy, which would be good, if, forsooth, he presented it to the Warden and endorsed by him. Undoubtedly to the prison. Desperadoes, of course, would be thus debarred, and well known

THIEVES AND BURGLARS,

who certainly have no influential politicians or other friends of what some call business, or who, to earn for them, would not be suffered to lie in a pleasant building in comfort and luxury, then in their private lodging houses, were wanted the public to understand that they meant to do something toward abolishing a meeting place for criminals behind the bars with their fellows outside. They were emphatic in their commands to the Warden to be careful in admitting visitors, and that he could not present a pass signed by one of them unless they thought that the lynx-eyed Warden would take no cursory view of the pass and its holder, and that not until he was convinced that all was fair would he countersign the pass. The Warden was a man of system. He might be remembered that there were reporters of the press who could not always find it convenient to visit the Commissioners when they desired admission to the prison; but he didn't. The Commissioners evidently were not anxious that the reports should, in the interest of the jobbing gang on Ludlow street, the workings of the Institution. There were

[illegible]

THE PROTESTANT CHAPLAIN

had asked for the privilege of using the chapel, but his request was denied. This action on the part of the Roman Catholic priest, continues the report, was in direct violation of the rules of the board. We could not find by the evidence before us that any discrimination had ever been made by the board in favor of any one religious denomination, and of course we knew that such discrimination on the part of public officers, servants of the people, would be inexpedient in view of the spirit of our free institutions. To-day, as yet, the different war departments of the Government can show a precedence for any religious sect, or when dogmas of religious faith will be the test of merit in the stepping scene over the threshold of success. We therefore offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Superintendent of Wards Island be requested to remove immediately to be set forth every [illegible] as denominations shall be allotted to buildings therein, and that printed notices in different languages be posted in the chapel to inform the inmates of the new rules and regulations governing the use of the building.

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Commissioner Lynch, who is President of the Ward's Island Committee, observed that he warmly charged that the proceedings of the Ward's Island Committee were irregular, and that the examination had been unfairly conducted. A case had been made out against the Catholic chaplain, who had no copy of the charges formulated him, and the questions asked him were not answered promptly and unhesitatingly by intelligent people.

Commissioner Lynch then read his report, which set forth these facts:

On the 9th of July he visited Ward's Island. The two chaplains were examined before the committee that day. In regard to matters which had been already settled, he thought to appropriate funds for the use of any religious denomination was never questioned, said the report, until within two years. Protestants and Catholics had separate buildings set apart for their use for the purpose of worship. Freedom to exercise their religious faith had been granted to all the emigrants. While the Ward's Island institution is a creature of the State it is

UNLIKE ALL OTHERS.

It is not a charity, but all inmates pay money paid to the emigrants themselves. Prior to 1853 both sects worshipped in the same room. The Protestants asked for a separate room and it was given them, and they have worshipped in it twenty years. The room occupied by the Catholics was unfurnished, and in 1869 they applied to the Commissioners for a building. They refused to incur the expense, and their chapel was devoted to school purposes. There was now no place for them to worship in, and in 1872 the chapel was built by order of the Board, and by the same authority the chapel furniture was removed to more pretentious buildings. This cost $30,000 only, while the Sisters undertook what they did, the object of their movement was to raise funds to bind and furnish. The chapel was decorated in great part by the Catholic emigrants themselves, and to deprive them of the exclusive use of it, and to convert it into a kind of Pantheon would be manifestly unjust. It would be more just and wise to follow the course of the old boards than by mischievous experiment to introduce new discord.

Commissioner Lynch then read extracts from the minutes of various meetings of the board to show that the erection of the chapel for the use of the Roman Catholic emigrants was done by order of the board.

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Commissioner Stephenson called for the reading of all the resolutions bearing upon the subject. He stated his opposition to the erection of the chapel when the resolution to appropriate $30,000 for the erection of a Roman Catholic chapel was presented it was lost, and that when it was again brought up the words "Roman Catholic" were omitted. "I regret," said Mr. Stephenson, "that this subject has again come up, and as a sworn officer I still think that for the performance of my bounden duty, if public funds are given to one denomination to the exclusion of others, we establish a dangerous precedent. It is a step in the direction of uniting Church and State, and I, for one, shall oppose it. I do not care what sect makes the demand, it shall meet with prompt denial. The chapel was always a bone of contention in the old board, and even that board, of whose members many were Roman Catholics, would not vote to build it for any one sect, and I, for one, I therefore urge the passage of my resolution."

Commissioner Lynch offered as an amendment that the Ward's Island Committee be discharged from further consideration of the religious question, and that the Board of Emigration follow the example of their predecessors.

THE CHAPEL TO BE FREE TO ALL.

Commissioner Kauffman—The question is a very simple one. No authority was ever given by the board to build a chapel for any one denomination. I myself hold that we had no right to build a chapel. But as long as we have the chapel, and as it stands on common ground and was built with the money belonging to all the emigrants, we cannot make a discrimination between them, and, when we consider the chapel free to all, I offer this as an amendment:

Whereas, The chapel erected on Ward's Island was built with the funds contributed by emigrants of all denominations; and whereas, no one denomination has thereforeto any right to consider such edifice as built for their exclusive use:

Resolved, That said chapel shall at all times be considered a place of worship where all creeds shall be at liberty to worship, and that no discrimination in favor of any sect shall be made by the Superintendent of Ward's Island, whenever it may appear necessary, to afford more room to the worshippers than at present allotted to them on the Island.

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A vote was then taken, and Commissioner Kauffman's resolution was adopted, Commissioners Lynch and Stephenson for once agreeing and voting against it. The board then adjourned in good humor.

A Labor Strike in Brooklyn.

Yesterday morning the journeymen plasterers, in obedience to orders of the Plasterers' Union of Brooklyn, struck against the proposed reduction of wages from $4 to $3.50 a day. Work was stopped all over the city, and the strikers attracted much attention. Mr. Gallagher, President of the Journeymen Plasterers' Union, was arrested and placed under bonds for alleged intimidation and violence. The complaint against the case is that a Mr. Chamberlain is erecting buildings in St. Mark's avenue by contract. The boss plasterer, Mr. Gaffney, owing his men about $200. The society of journeymen plasterers decided that the work should not proceed until the men were paid. Mr. Chamberlain tried to get men to finish the work, but the rules of the society were imperative. He then employed a number of colored men, but they had been not well advised of the state of the trade, and they were visited by Gallagher, and intimidated into quitting the job. A number of bricklayers who were employed on the same job refused to continue the work. There were need, and it is said the lives of the men threatened. Hence, the man was arrested and held over to keep the peace.

Two Sewing Machine Agents Drowned.

COLUMBUS, O., Nov. 25.—Yesterday afternoon F. M. Brandice and Emma Turner, agents for a sewing machine company in this city, left here with a horse and wagon to deliver sewing machines to parties near Westerville, on business. In attempting to cross Big Walnut creek the horse got beyond his depth and was drowned. The man and woman clung to the wagon for four hours, and though their struggles were witnessed by several persons, no assistance could be rendered. Efforts were made to save them, and just at dusk they disappeared from view, and were no doubt drowned. Miss Turner is a family connection of the city. It is supposed that the relatives of Mr. Brandice all reside in Germany.

The Erie and Midland Railroads.

An arrangement has been effected between the Erie and New York, and Oswego Midland companies whereby all freight carried on the latter is transshipped at Middletown and carried to New York by way of the Erie. This is a boon done since the New York and Oswego Midland and New Jersey Midland were separated. New switches have been erected, and [illegible] This will continue indefinitely, and probably lead to the lease, or a third rail by the Erie Company.

THE EMIGRANTS' CHAPEL.

THE RELIGIOUS WAR ON WARD'S ISLAND SETTLED.

Action of the Commissioners of Emigration Yesterday—Report of the Ward's Island Committee on the Chapel Dispute—The Old Hope of Contention Buried.

The all-important question discussed and acted upon by the Board of Emigration yesterday was that relating to the chapel on Ward's Island, which, like the ancient castle in Alnwick, has made almost enough trouble to set two nations by the ears.

Mr. Stephenson, Chairman of the Ward's Island Committee, read his report. Divested of a mass of interesting but comparatively unimportant details, the report embodies the following statements:

The resolution of the 10th of June concerning the erection of a chapel on Ward's Island having been referred to the committee, a meeting was held on the 9th of July, Commissioners Stephenson, Starr, and Quintard being present. The committee, after careful examination of the laws governing the Board of Emigration, found that the Commissioners had no right to apply the money in their treasury to the erection of a house of worship to be used by any one denomination to the exclusion of the others. A resolution giving the exclusive use of the chapel to the Roman Catholics was lost; yet the building has been taken possession of by the Roman Catholic chaplain, fitted up and decorated and adjudged as a Roman Catholic chapel, and this, with material belonging to all the emigrants, irrespective of religious faith.

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had asked for the privilege of using the chapel, but his request was denied. This action on the part of the Roman Catholic priest, continues the report, was in direct violation of the rules of the board. We could not find by the evidence before us that any discrimination had ever been made by the board in favor of any one religious denomination, and of course we knew that such discrimination on the part of public officers, servants of the people, would be inexpedient in view of the spirit of our free institutions. To-day, as yet, the different war departments of the Government can show a precedence for any religious sect, or when dogmas of religious faith will be the test of merit in the stepping scene over the threshold of success. We therefore offer the following resolution:

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EVACUATION DAY.

The Annual Feast of the Veterans of the War of 1812.

"Cuba is taken; the Spaniards have surrendered," were the words of a gentleman from New Jersey when he saw the flags that decorated the city yesterday. At sunrise Adjutant J. Gould Warner, the adopted son of the Veterans of the War of 1812, hoisted the Stars and Stripes on the old block fort in the Central Park, and at noon the venerable survivors were received as guests of the Sixth Regiment N. G. S. N. Y. in the armory, in Fifteenth street. Thirty-nine of the heroes answered at roll call. This is the largest number that ever attended one of these reunions. John Hilbrook, aged 95, is the oldest, and John Strain, aged 71, of Sailors' Snug Harbor, the youngest of the survivors. He showed his friends a photograph of his two daughters, who are twins, and only eight years old. He was a drummer boy in the War of 1812, and carries a medal presented by Admiral McDonough for his faithful services. After roll call the Veterans were mustered in the drill room by Col. Duly and Major-Gen. Raymond, and then Major King and other officers of the regiment escorted them to the banquet hall, where they sat down to a feast. At the close of the feast Major King addressed his guests, and a letter was read from Col. Frank Sterry regretting his unavoidable absence on account of pressing business. Adjutant Warner made a nice little embroidered speech on the "British evacuation," followed by resolutions for redress for the Cuban outrage, and offering the Veterans' services to the Government in the event of a war with Spain.

After the feast some of the most venerable warriors gathered around the tables and sang Revolutionary War and love songs, concluding the hour with recollections of prisons and wonderful escapes. A few of the Veterans wore their ancient regimentals.

The Seventh Revived by the Mayor.

The Seventh Regiment celebrated Evacuation Day by a street parade. Starting from their armory at 2 o'clock, they marched down the Bowery and Chatham street and halted at the eastern entrance to the City Hall Park, while one or Police Captain Leary's officers went to inform the Mayor that the hour for the review had arrived. His Honor, who was at lunch, put down his knife and fork, and leaving untasted a smoking hot pork chop, hastened to the City Hall. Then, preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms bearing his flag, and followed by the venerable Hurlow Weed, Major-Gen. Duryea, Police Commissioner Russell, the President and several members of the Common Council, the Earl of Rosebury, and Mr. Frederic Ward, Aid-de-camp to the Governor-General of Canada, the Mayor descended the steps and took his position. At a signal the regiment, preceded by its band and drum corps, marched past the reviewing stand. At the western gate of the Park they countermarched and formed in line facing the City Hall. The ranks were opened and the Mayor and his guests passed down the line. Then the ranks were closed and the regiment in column of fours wheeled to the left and passed out of the Park into Broadway, the regiment paraded ten companies of twenty-four files front. All their movements were executed with their customary precision.

THE $3,000,000 QUARREL.

Brother and Sister Flatly Contradicting Each Other before the Surrogate.

The familiar faces of several families, their neighbors, and professional advisers, gathered in the Surrogate's court room yesterday morning; but one clan after another disappeared, leaving the big quarrel for the biggest fortune in possession of the Court's attention. The eldest son of the late Malford Martin, William A. Martin of 135 Lexington avenue, the only witness, was a partner with his father in the wholesale grocery business from 1842 to 1845, after which he was employed with his brother on the estate in dispute. Henry collected the rents; William invested the money and collected the total.

Malford Martin's immense fortune original, first, from his wife's inheritance; secondly, from the wholesale grocery business; and thirdly, from judicious investments and transactions in real estate. At the time his contested will was made, the distribution of real estate among his children was not far from equal. But to a share also in the bulk of the property, or personal property they assert their rights.

Surrogate Hutchings made an important ruling in the law of evidence. Mrs. Walker, a contestant daughter, having sworn to a conversation between the decedent and her brother, William A. Martin, who was one of the executors and trustees, William A. Martin was called to contradict her testimony. The Surrogate ruled that the question could be put to the witness whether his sister's testimony on this point was true or not; but that the witness being jointly as well as witness, could not go on and give his version of what had been said, because it would be violating the rule.

Mrs. Walker's and her brother's testimony squarely disagreed.

The Department Reports and the President's Message.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25.—The Postmaster-General was the first of the Cabinet officers to finish his report and contrary to custom furnished copies to the press in advance of transmission to Congress. The report of the Secretary of War is printed, but awaits Gen. Sheridan's and several other accompanying papers. The Secretary of the Navy has commenced but not yet finished his report. That of the Secretary of the Interior is in forwardness. The report of Attorney-General Williams will be printed in the form of correspondence in parallel type and will make several printed volumes. The report of the Comptroller of the Currency is nearly ready for the press.

All the other reports of the heads of bureaus are either in type or ready for the printer.

The President's message will not be printed in advance of transmission. Mr. Williams, in the main, followed as heretofore under President Grant's administration, and comes given only to the local press and for telegraphing.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury on the finances will be printed but not distributed before the message shall be ready for congress. The public printer has largely forecasted the work so as to keep pace with all demands upon his bureau.

A Life Insurance Quarrel Ended.

Ellen O'Reilly sued the Guardian Life Insurance Company, in Brooklyn, for the amount of a life insurance policy. She stated that in January, 1870, she and her husband paid $212 for a policy insuring both of their lives for 20 years, payable to the survivor in case of the death of either; that her husband died in Providence, and that the company refused to pay her the amount.

The answer of the company was that it had not sufficient proof that Ellen O'Reilly was at the date the wife of Michael O'Reilly, nor of the death of Michael O'Reilly as set forth in the complaint. The company also averred that the plaintiff had not complied with the terms of the policy. Also that plaintiff and said Michael failed to pay the premium which became due on the 1st of January, 1872, which premium it claims has never been paid.

A verdict was found yesterday for the plaintiff in the sum demanded by her with interest.

Something New in Railroad Accidents.

SUSQUEHANNA DEPOT, Pa., Nov. 24.—On Saturday night, on the Jefferson Branch, between here and Carbondale, a freight train was passing Herrick station, where the road lies through a piece of woods. The night was dark, and a fearful gale was blowing. When about in the centre of the woods a large tree was torn from its roots by the wind and thrown across the boiler of the locomotive. The boiler was crushed, and the hot steam and water escaped with a fearful noise. The engineer, Frank Thomas, the fireman, and the flagman of the train were in the cab. The tree broke in two when it struck the boiler, portions falling on either side of the track. As the road is down grade from Herrick to Carbondale, the locomotive kept right on down the hill, scattering boiling water and steam the entire distance, and went thundering into Carbondale, frightening the yard men almost out of their wits, but doing no damage.

Chain Lightning in the Post Office.

A clever exhibition of skill was given by the corps of lightning workers in the Post Office yesterday, under the direction of General Superintendent Yeomans. Two hundred and fifty thousand circulars which made a pile the size of a barstack were unexpectedly received at 6 o'clock, and the entire edition was made that they could be stamped, assorted, and mailed inside of fifteen minutes. The feat was accomplished with three minutes to spare. Samuel Wallace, the champion boy stamper of the United States, cancelled at the rate of 250 circulars a minute.

Contents of the Weekly Sun.

THE WEEKLY SUN published this morning contains the following:

The Spanish Inferno—An Eye-Witness's Account of the Slaughter at Santiago. A Man Threatening the American Legation in Florida. The Prisoner of Washington Exposed in American Forts. Facts and Fancies Concerning the Election of William M. Tweed. Sentence by Judge Davis—The ex-Arbiter of New York Politics in a Felon's Cell. Bankers Suffering from Sore Feet. Failures of Public Worship in New York. Some Uses of Suffering. Henry Ward Beecher's Sermon on Heroes and Heroines. Important from Washington—President Grant's New Cabinet Officers Not Yet Decided Upon. Tom Ochiltree's Escape of a Convicted Murderer in Female Costume; How the Panic Pinches Lively Times Among the Pawnbrokers. The Internal Revenue Bureau Shaken to Its Foundation. Sorrow and Joy in Society. Sensational Suicides. Life Old Scores. The Political Situation in France. Modern Scandals Hidden; How Truth is Falsified and Facts are Distorted. Odd Life Insurance Speculation, the Methods Resorted to by New Yorkers; of the Death of John D. Hall; A Minister's Wooing; To Relic in the World. Interesting Account of the Death Comes Day on a Crowded Ocean Steamer. Dr. Deems's Sermon on the Sin of Gambling. Odd Sights in the Tweed Trials on Fashions and Dress; Not Contraband and Industry; Most Odious of Fashions; Artist's and Actor's Wives; Tweed's Pedigree; Black Crook Ballet; Financial Intelligence and Markets.

THE WEEKLY SUN contains a complete epitome of the news of the week from all parts of the United States and the American continent. Copies in wrappers ready for mailing to old country may be had at the Publication office. Price five cents. For sale by all newsdealers in city and country.

The "Plastic Truss," sold at Pomeroy's, 744 Broadway, N. Y., is warranted to be the best in the world.

TWEED'S SIDE PARTNERS.

HOW GOODS WERE FURNISHED FOR THE NEW COURT HOUSE.

The Great Chairmaker's Trial Under an Indictment Charging Forgery—Some Conflicting and Perplexing Testimony.

James H. Ingersoll and John D. Farrington's trial was continued yesterday in the Oyer and Terminer. It is charged that the defendants, on Dec. 30, 1870, forged the indorsement of Heath & Smith to county warrant No. 6,325, drawn in their favor for mason work on the New Court House for $15,138.40.

Mr. Peckham briefly opened the case. Mr. Ingersoll had been one of the Court House Commissioners. He presented a bill for County Court House work in the name of Heath & Smith, though that firm had some months before ceased to exist. The bill showed that the articles and services were furnished by Heath & Smith after the firm had ceased to exist, and on it a warrant was made out. Mr. Peckham read the bill at length, and called Eugene A. Heath, who testified:

ONE OF THE FIRM.

I am one of the firm of Heath & Smith, organized in 1867 by Smith and myself. Smith had charge of the factory, I of the business. In June, 1869, we dissolved the firm by mutual consent. The endorsement on this warrant is not my handwriting. Smith's handwriting, I believe. It is Mr. Farrington's. He was private secretary of Mr. Ingersoll. Ingersoll was President of the Heath & Smith Manufacturing Company, organized on our dissolution. He became President in 1870, and is President now. I am familiar with Mr. Ingersoll's handwriting. The signature to this bill is his. He was at the time County House Commissioner. The firm of Heath & Smith never furnished these articles. They never had any account with the city or county or any of its boards. The signature E. A. Heath is not mine, and was never authorized by me. The signature Heath & Smith is not in the handwriting of either of our firm, nor was it authorized by me. The firm of Heath & Smith never got any part of the money named in this warrant, and had no claim on the county. I don't believe the company had any part of this money. I don't know what they thought. (Clerk for $15,000 dated Dec. 29, 1870, seemed to witness.) The body of this is in Mr. Ingersoll's handwriting; the endorsement is in mine.

Q—What was that check given for? A—If given at all it was a loan to the company. I don't remember that particular check, but about that time Mr. Ingersoll made considerable loans to the company. (A check