The Sun.

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PUBLIC SENTIMENT DEFIED

THE SALARY THIEVES RIOTING IN ANOTHER VICTORY.

Yesterday's Scene on the Floor of the House of Representatives—The Back Pay Grabbers Carrying the Day—Ben Butler Pouring out his Vials of Wrath.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—The House of Representatives to-day spent nine hours in wrangling over the repeal of the salary grab bill. In that time the representatives stultified themselves twice, and thrice placed themselves on record in favor of a measure just as iniquitous as the one they were expected to condemn. From high noon till 9 o'clock to-night a fiercely contested battle was waged for reform, for economy, and the result is a victory for the enemies of the people. In all my experience I have never seen a more disgraceful exhibition of selfish greed than was displayed by a majority of those who pretend to represent the people in the American Congress.

For fourteen days nearly the whole time of the House has been taken up with the discussion of the salary repeal. The subject was introduced promptly upon the organization of the House by a champion of the Administration, acting under the instructions of a party caucus. It was referred to a select committee, composed of the acknowledged leaders of the Republican party, with instructions to prepare a bill which should meet the demands of the people. That committee in due time submitted to the House and the country as the result of their labors a bill which was but

A POOR, HALF-WAY MEASURE.

It in no sense met the popular demand. It was a mere tub to the whale. Instead of going to their task in a fearless and uncompromising way, this committee of Republican leaders halted and hesitated at every step. They felt behind them the lash of public opinion, and saw before them, as foreshadowed in recent elections, the utter damnation of their party; yet they were restrained by the unexpressed yet known wishes of the President. There were a few independent and fearlessly brave men who were not restrained by fear of offending the great head of this party, but they were powerless. The great majority of their fellow Republican members were unquestionably in favor of the increased salary, and they felt that so long as they had the moral support of their recognized leader to sustain them, their own party could not condemn them without condemning him also. Had the President in any way indicated his desire for repeal, not a half dozen Republican members of the House would have dared to stand out against the popular demand; but while he drew his increased pay and put it where it would do the most good, they could always find excuses for doing likewise. And now for

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE HOUSE.

Let me say that, taken as a whole, it in no wise represents the party which it claims to do. There is scarcely a man in the House who calls himself a Democrat who has a political future before him. They are men of mediocre ability and stainless moral principle. They know that this is the last time they will have their noses in the public crib, and therefore they are determined to run them in as deep, and gorge as much as possible in a limited space of time. The people next fall will take good care that neither Republicans who fear executive frowns nor Democrats who disregard their demands will misrepresent them in Congress. In order that the million readers of THE SUN may understand clearly the result of this day's work, let me briefly summarize it.

THE DISGRACEFUL RECORD.

Immediately after the reading of the Journal the regular order was the salary bill. Some unimportant business was transacted, and then the regular order was demanded, and Mr. Hale of New York obtained the floor and moved to amend Mr. Kasson's substitute, which was adopted yesterday, by striking out the words "during the present term of office," which meant that the President's salary should not be decreased even after the expiration of the present term. On this he moved the previous question, which was lost by 159 to 106. Mr. Tremaine next offered an amendment leaving the salaries of the President, Cabinet officers, &c., as fixed by the act of March last. This was voted down by a large majority. All this time the House was working up to the standpoint demanded by the people. The tide went still further in this direction. Mr. Holman of Indiana offered an amendment requiring the back pay and increased pay in excess of that fixed by the committee bill to be deducted in regular monthly installments. This was carried by 156 yeas to 101 nays, and just here came in

THE CHIEF SALARY-GRABBING DEMON,

and turned everything into a farce by his old amendment, requiring members of previous Congresses who were members of the Forty-third Congress to refund back pay. This was adopted by an overwhelming vote. From this moment the grabbers held the House in their lead. Mr. Hurlbut of Illinois offered as a substitute a bill fixing the salaries of members and Senators at $6,000, and leaving all other salaries as established by the act of March 3, 1873. It was evident that this was a compromise agreed upon by the old salary grabbers, who wanted to retain all they had stolen, and by the new grabbers, who wanted to curry favor at the White House by saving the President and his Cabinet. The previous question was called and seconded by a large majority, and then the main question was ordered and the substitute adopted by 108 yeas to [illegible] nays. At this point Mr. Hale of Maine claimed the floor to close the debate on his bill as amended.

GREAT CONFUSION

ensued, a dozen members being on their feet protesting that this was against the rules; that Mr. Hale had twice lost control of his bill by failing to obtain a second to the previous question when called. The Speaker, however, quietly stated the question as it then stood, showing that the bill as amended was still under the control of Mr. Hale. Amid much confusion Mr. Hale began his speech, which was intended to force the Republican side of the House to the work of defeating Hurlbut's substitute. He laid on the whip strong and heavy, but with little effect. He was followed by Mr. Dawes, who labored with great zeal to bring his Republican friends up to the scratch, and at one time it looked as though he would succeed; but when he sat down Mr. Garfield obtained the floor and advocated the passage of Hurlbut's substitute on the ground that the public business demanded the settlement in some form of the salary question. Mr. Hawley of Connecticut, Mr. Cox of New York, and Mr. Kasson of Iowa lent their influence to that of Messrs. Dawes and Hale, but the odds were against them. The salary grabbers having a fair working majority, sustained the previous question, and thus took the bill out of Mr. Hale's hands.

A DISGRACEFUL SCENE RE-ENACTED.

Mr. Hurlbut at once yielded the floor to Ben Butler, and then the scene of last spring, when the salary bill was under discussion in Committee of the Whole was reenacted. The members left their seats and crowded around the speaker, who poured out his vials of wrath in every direction. He lashed Dawes, riddled Hale, plucked Kasson, and decapitated Cox. Of course the press and the correspondents received their share of the general abuse and the salary grabbers, big and little, vociferously applauded. Under the cover of this the main question was ordered by 131 yeas to [illegible] nays. The faint-hearted among the grabbers now took great courage, and there were only twenty-five or thirty members who would stand upon the demand for the yeas and nays on the final passage of the bill. The leader of the Administration and of the salary grabbers won the day. The press and popular clamor was defeated and great is the joy of the salary thieves. They will sing another tune next fall.

A Duel Near New Orleans.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 17.—At 10 A. M. yesterday a party of gentlemen drove out beyond the Fair Grounds, and, having dismounted, proceeded to arrange the preliminaries for a duel. The principals were C. E. Whitney and George Drury. Mr. Whitney's seconds were Messrs. Faurie and Quintero, and Messrs. Forrier and Mantel acted for Mr. Drury. After all the preliminaries had been arranged, the contestants took their stand with great coolness and hardihood. The weapons were foils. Dr. Drury's clothes were cut in the right arm [illegible]. At the fourth pass Mr. Whitney received a deep wound in the left arm just under the elbow, from which blood flowed copiously. The seconds then held a consultation and decided the combat ended. The duelists advanced to each other, and having shaken hands in token of mutual esteem, left the ground.

In Memory of the Deceased Jurist.

The members of the State Bar met in the Assembly chamber in Albany yesterday to give expression to their sense of regret at the death of Judge R. W. Peckham, who was lost on the Ville du Havre. The Hon. Amasa J. Parker presided. Eulogies were pronounced by distinguished members of the bar, appropriate resolutions were adopted, and a committee was appointed to prepare a memorial of the deceased jurist. Committees were also appointed to attend the funerals of Judges Nelson and Parker and prepare resolutions expressive of the sense of the meeting. A letter was read from the Hon. Lyman Tremain suggesting that the members of the bar cause to be painted a likeness of Judge Peckham to be placed in the room of the Court of Appeals. After a feeling and eloquent address by the Hon. Wm. M. Evarts, the meeting adjourned.

A Grand Matinee.

At the benefit tendered to George Warren at the Olympic Theatre this afternoon, Bryant's Minstrels, the Metropolitan Theatre company, Tony Pastor's company, and a host of volunteers will appear

CHEERING NEWS FROM CUBA.

The Surrender of the Virginius—The Growing Strength of the Patriots—Their Forces Closely Investing Manzanillo.

Private despatches containing Cuban news up to noon of Saturday last were received in this city yesterday. The demonstration by the populace on Thursday night was thought to have been a blind engineered by emissaries of the Spanish Government to enable them quietly to carry out the orders from Madrid. For while the Havanese were sleeping soundly after the fatigue of the previous night's exertions, about 4 o'clock on Friday morning the tug quietly floated out from her wharf to the buoy where the Virginius was moored, and, running under her starboard bow, sent a hawser on board. The Virginius's cable was slipped, and without a word or scarcely a sound the vessel began to move slowly toward the entrance of the harbor. She passed the line of shore batteries and was soon under the guns of Morro Castle, from which a boat put off with an officer bearing the papers and instructions from Madrid. As the Virginius was rounding the last point before reaching the open ocean, the Isabel la Catolica ran alongside and sent a line on board. The tug cast off and returned to Havana, and the war steamer with her convoy steamed away for Bahia Honda.

The surprise of the Havanese when they saw that the Virginius was gone was very great. But the absence of the war steamer explained that the Virginius had not been burned or sunk. This carrying out of the orders from Madrid seemingly without the slightest opposition from the volunteers and their friends, who had boasted so loudly on the previous evening in the Casino "that the Virginius should float in blood before she should be given up," has increased the power of the home Government and utterly destroyed the faction represented by the volunteers, who have been greatly feared, though generally detested. After what has been said by the editors of the *Diario* and *Voz de Cuba*, it is believed they will not remain on the island.

Much of the success in executing the orders of the home Government by the authorities in Havana was attributed to Minister Soler de Ultramar. It is believed that the authorities have now the power and will send a large force of the volunteers into active service in the field. They have heretofore confined themselves to patrol duty in the city, and their power has been sufficient to influence the authorities not to compel them to do any of the fighting or endure any of the hardships of the field.

There is a powerful secret organization in Havana which is believed to embrace the leading sympathizers with the Cubans. At first the doings of this society were laid at the door of the "Laborantes." But investigation into some of the recent assassinations have positively shown that the "Laborantes" had no hand in them, and knew nothing about them. On Saturday morning five dead bodies were found in the streets, each with a stab through the heart. Not the slightest clue has been gained by the police to these murders, and scarcely a morning has passed in ten days without finding one or more corpses of murdered persons. It is a terribly significant fact that in every instance the victim of midnight assassination has been a Spaniard who was known to have been conspicuous in the horrible outrages that have been perpetrated upon the families of Cuban sympathizers and members of the Masonic fraternity.

Cheering news was received on Saturday morning from Camaguey. The Cubans have more than doubled their forces, and are in close investment of Manzanillo, which must soon yield. Direct communication with the other islands of the West Indies has been opened on the southern shore, and supplies have been plentifully received through this source. The patriots are in good health and spirits, and say that they are determined to decide the question of Cuban independence at once, and end the bloody butcheries and persecutions that have filled the world with horror for five years.

The question of the emancipation of the slaves is the most important under the consideration of the authorities, now that the Virginius has been disposed of. The rapidly increasing power of the patriots, and their determination widely expressed to abolish chattel slavery has truly alarmed the authorities, and they are now seriously considering emancipation as a war measure.

An entire change in the leading men of the Cuban Junta is about to be made. Who are to hold the reins of power have not been decidedly fixed upon. But it is believed that Gen. Villegas or Aldama is to be appointed the General Agent in the United States in place of Quesada, after Cisneros has been inaugurated President in place of Cespedes. These changes are received with favor by Cubans who believe that the changes will give great strength to the struggling young Government, and increase the chance of its belligerent rights being speedily recognized.

THE VIRGINIUS SURRENDERED.

Placed in the Hands of the United States Naval Officers at Bahia Honda.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—The news of the surrender of the Virginius was communicated to this Government this afternoon by Admiral Polo, who was advised thereof by Captain-General Jovellar.

No information has been received to-night concerning the Virginius survivors at Santiago de Cuba, but no doubt exists that they were delivered up to our authorities yesterday. It would take some time for news to reach Havana from Santiago de Cuba, and this, it is considered, accounts for the fact that the intelligence of their release has not been communicated to the Government. The following despatch was received to-night by Secretary Robeson:

KEY WEST, Dec. 17.

Hon. Geo. M. Robeson, Secretary of the Navy:

The Virginius was promptly put into our hands to-day at the appointed time. Your orders will be carried into effect with all despatch. Further information will be telegraphed to-morrow. (Signed.) G. H. SCOTT, Rear Admiral Commanding.

This Government insisted that the Virginius should be given into its possession at a Cuban port, and the Spanish authorities decided that Bahia Honda was the most suitable place at which the surrender could be made.

Yesterday in the Navy Yard.

The exoneration of the officers of the Arapiles from any suspicion of agency in causing the presence of a dangerous amount of powder in the magazine of the Minnesota, discovered on Tuesday morning, is complete. Capt. Chandler reports to Admiral Rowan that blame is due only to the careless ex-gunner, whose duty it was to assure himself that the ship's magazine was perfectly empty when she was discharged from active service four years ago. At that period the Minnesota, Captain, now Rear-Admiral Alden in command, returned from a cruise in foreign seas, and at Ellis Island was relieved of all her powder save 19 charges of 10 pounds each, to be used when she entered the Navy Yard in acknowledging the salute of the receiving ship. Accidentally, however, she collided with and damaged the Vermont, a vexatious rencontre which drove thoughts of courtesy from the mind of the captain of either ship, and no salute was fired, the material for it being incautiously allowed to remain on board.

The fog probably deterred the party or parties upon whom the task of removing the Upland devolved from action, for none was taken yesterday. The divers of the Coast Wrecking Company announce that in inspecting her a few days ago they sank to their armpits in remarkably consistent mud, and had great difficulty in keeping their helmetted heads above it. M. De Montenegro, commander of the Arapiles, has addressed to Admiral Rowan a communication courteously intimating his eagerness to see the ploughing the ocean.

Capt. Shufeldt said: "The present activity in the yard will soon decrease, as orders have arrived to cease night and overtime work in several departments. It is somewhat of a pity, for many industrious, willing workmen have here found much-needed employment."

Belligerent Rights for Cuba.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 17.—The Union League of America to-day adopted the following:

Resolved, That while we do not desire unduly to interfere in international affairs, yet, by our love of liberty and justice, we claim to enter our protest against the cruelties exercised by the Spanish authorities in the island of Cuba toward a portion of its free born citizens, and more particularly toward that class of the human race still kept in bondage, and we are satisfied that no permanent peace can come to the island until the bonds of slavery are stricken from their limbs; and, in view of these facts, we urge upon our present Congress the duty of according belligerent rights to those who are struggling for liberty in that island.

Gen. Howard Courting Investigation.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—Gen. Howard appeared before the House Committee on Military Affairs to-day. He said he courted the fullest investigation, and waived any advantage that might accrue to him by the statute of limitation or otherwise, in order that he might be tried by court martial. He thought that he would be fully able to prove that he was not officially or morally responsible for any shortcomings by reason of his administration of the affairs of the Freedman's Bureau. Gen. Vincent was also present, but as the charges against Gen. Howard are not yet printed, his examination was postponed until to-morrow.

Explosion in a Powder Mill.

ROCKLAND, Maine, Dec. 17.—The mixing mill at the Warren powder manufactory exploded about 4 P. M. yesterday. No lives were lost, the workmen having gone out a few minutes before. The mill was entirely destroyed, parts of it being blown across the river, and the building next it was badly damaged. Glass was broken in other. Houses in Warren village were shaken by the concussion.

The Weather To-Day.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—The Signal Office predicts for New England and thence westward over the northern portion of the Middle States and lower lake region the pressure will diminish, with slight rise of temperature, and possibly areas of light rain.

Boiler Explosion in a Coal Mine.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 17.—By the explosion of a boiler in the Independent Coal Mine, Contra Costa county, last night, John Hayes and James Daley were instantly killed, and David Williams supposed fatally injured.

THE MURDERED JEWELLER.

TERRILL'S MIDNIGHT RIDE FROM WHITE PLAINS TO RYE.

A Black Horse, a Blue Overcoat, a Drab Hat, a Blood-Stained Musket Barrel, and a Broken Skull—Telling Testimony in the Robinson Assassination Trial.

Yesterday in the Westchester Court of Oyer and Terminer, before Judge Tappen, the trial of Peter Terrill, indicted for the murder of Gilbert H. Robinson of Rye Neck on the 26th of April, 1868, was continued. The court house was crowded by many of the best citizens of the county. Terrill was pale and agitated. Mr. M. Fisher and his wife of White Plains testified that Terrill was in their employ at the time of the murder. He drove a milk route and did chores. Mr. Fisher had heard of the murder, and had heard that Terrill was suspected, but did not know that he went out of the house on the night of the murder. Mrs. Margaret A. Rozell testified:

On Saturday, April 24, 1868, I went to nurse a child for Mrs. Fisher. I stayed there five weeks. On Monday night following my arrival I was up with Annie, a sick child. Between 10 and 11 o'clock that night I heard one of Mr. Fisher's horses go out of the yard, under the window of the room where I was. My attention was attracted by a peculiar step of the horse. Shortly after 3 o'clock that morning I heard the same horse come in and go to the stable. Peter Terrill worked for Mr. Fisher. He slept over the kitchen. I made his bed next morning. I saw what I thought to be an army overcoat on a chair. Saw the overcoat before that on Sunday morning in a bureau drawer. On Tuesday morning at breakfast Bridget, the cook, told me that Terrill had told her that Gilbert H. Robinson, the Mamaroneck jeweller, had been murdered. When Terrill came in I said, "What a terrible murder that was. I hope the murderer will be brought to justice." Terrill

TURNED RED IN THE FACE

and dropped his eyes. He did not speak. That day I saw Terrill in the garden. He did not work as usual. He stood at times as though meditating, leaning on the hoe handle. Don't know of any other hired man sleeping about Mr. Fisher's house at the time mentioned. Made Peter's bed every morning while I was at Mr. Fisher's. The coat, or whatever it was, had been thrown carelessly on a chair. Don't remember that Mr. Fisher had any other man working for him while I was there. I think that Peter went to bed on Monday night about 9 o'clock, because Bridget, the cook, locked all the doors about that time. Don't know what time Peter got up. Breakfast was ready at 7 or half past 7, whenever the man came back from the milk route. I think it took the man about an hour to drive the milk route. Think Terrill usually arose about 5 o'clock. When I heard the horse go out I did not look out of the window. Am positive that the horse I heard was in Mr. Fisher's yard, not in the street. Am positive that it was near 3 o'clock when the horse came back. I heard it going back the same way that it went out. Next morning I said to Mr. Fisher, "Is your hired man in the habit of taking your horse out at night?" He replied, "No." That is all that was said. Am positive that it was Tuesday morning. When Bridget told me that Peter had told her all about Robinson's murder, she did not tell me who Peter's informant was. She did not say that any one had told him. Had heard of Robinson; was not acquainted with him. Peter never spoke of the murder to me. I spoke to him but once.

Mrs. Mary Richardson testified:

Am 31 years old. Live in Mamaroneck, fifteen yards from the town pump. Knew Mr. Robinson. He was a jeweller. Have known Terrill seven years. He tended bar for my husband. Robinson had his store in the same building. Terrill boarded with me. He was there a year. Then he went to board with my aunt Lutitia Seaman. He worked some of the time in a pickle factory, a hat factory, and for Gilbert H. Robinson, but loafed a greater part of the time. He boarded with my aunt the three years before he worked for Mr. Fisher. The winter before going to White Plains Terrill slept at Robinson's half the time. My aunt was blind and crazy and I had to attend to the housekeeping, and I know when he slept there and when he didn't. When Terrill went away I packed his clothes for him. He had a soldier's overcoat and a drab hat which I took particular notice of.

[A hat was shown witness and identified as Terrill's.]

Between 10 and 11 o'clock on Monday night—the night of the murder—I went out for a pail of water. My husband was out, and I looked down the road for him. After 1 o'clock I went out again, looking for my husband. I then saw Peter Terrill

COMING DOWN THE ROAD ON A HORSE.

I called to him, but he did not answer. I called again and he answered. I asked him where he was going. He said he was going over to Rye, that there was sickness in Mr. Fisher's family. I saw him cross the bridge leading to Rye Neck. On Tuesday morning I went to New York with my brother and returned in the evening. When I got home my brother, James Seaman, told me of the murder. On the Friday following I received a letter from Terrill asking what the news was in Mamaroneck. He said he would be down on Sunday. He said nothing about the murder. It stormed on the next Sunday and he did not come until the following Sunday. I met him at the gate and I said, "My God, Peter, why did you murder 'Gib?'" He said "I don't know." I then said "I hear you was down here on Monday night," just to see what he would say. He hung his head and said "Yes. I was down on this same black horse." Then he washed his hands and when he looked for his coat he could not find it. I said, "Peter, are you crazy? There is your coat on the chair." At dinner he held his face in his hands and did not eat. I said, "Peter, the way you act people will say you murdered 'Gib' whether you did or not." He said that he went to bed on the night of the murder at 9 o'clock and got up. I next saw him on Sheldrake bridge on Sunday evening. He thanked me for not speaking of Robinson's murder to his prejudice. After that I saw him again and he thanked me a second time. A year ago last July he told me that he had killed Robinson by hitting him twice on the head with a gun barrel. He thanked me the third time for not telling of it. I said I should have told it if it had not been for my husband. I saw him after that. It was at the last Presidential election. Terrill had borrowed a book and tore it. I censured him and he cursed. I told him to be careful. He said that he could prove that I was a bad woman and that no one would believe me if I did say anything about the murder. I told my husband, Mrs. Hannah Grant, and Mrs. Kaufman about what Terrill had said. I told them about it two years ago.

Cross-examined—I left my husband last spring with Capt. Burger; did not live with Capt. Burger. It was with my husband's consent. He asked me to go with him. I boarded in Third avenue, with Mrs. Doliets, three months. I made shirts. He did not pay my board. He worked at his trade. Nothing improper ever passed between myself and Capt. Burger. My husband sued me for divorce. Papers were served on me, but I did not read them nor put in an answer. My husband drank. At the first interview I asked Peter Terrill when he expected to pay my aunt his board. He said he had no money; that he had to pay the detectives to keep out of that Robinson affair. He had said that he would like to get

A SLY CRACK AT ROBINSON;

that he knew where Robinson kept his key, and that he would like to get into the safe. He said that Robinson had not paid him properly for his work, and that he would get even with him. He told me at dinner that he had killed Robinson. This was in answer to a direct question from me. He asked whether the detectives had been to see me. I said "Yes." He said, "I want you to do all you can for me with the detectives." I said I had nothing to say. I asked him what made him kill Robinson, and he said, "For money." Never told Terrill that if he appeared against me in the divorce suit that I would have him arrested for killing Robinson. Never told my husband anything of the kind. I did not go before a magistrate to make a complaint about him. The magistrate came to me. It was not on my affidavit that Terrill was arrested.

In answer to questions intimating that the witness had been impelled by motives of revenge in swearing against Terrill, and that she had been bribed not to appear against him, she made and reiterated a flat denial. She continued:

At Parker's butcher shop, a short time after the murder, I had a five-dollar note changed. I received a two-dollar note which had been torn in two and pasted together with a ten-cent stamp. I made shirts for Terrill and mended his clothes. One time he asked me to lend him five dollars. He also said he had no clothes fit to wear. I said, "Where are your brown pantaloons?" He said he had made away with them at Fisher's. The soldier's blue overcoat which Terrill wore he took from my aunt's garret before he went to Fisher's.

THAT TWO-DOLLAR NOTE.

Edward Parker identified the $2 note spoken of by Mrs. Richardson as the one he had given her. It came from Terrill and was once Robinson's.

The prosecution rested. The defence called Mrs. Mary Ann Theil. She testified:

One evening, about three years ago, Mrs. Richardson was walking down the road with me. I said, "Isn't it awful about 'Gib' Robinson?" She said, "Yes." I said, "I believe Peter Terrill did it." She said, "Don't you believe it. Peter Terrill didn't do it. Mr. Beers knows the most about it." Mrs. Richardson's character in Mamaroneck is very poor. Everybody in Mamaroneck believes her to be a liar. Nobody believes her. I wouldn't believe her under oath. I have seen her walking with Capt. Burger.

Sylvanus Seaman, brother of Mrs. Richardson, testified that his sister told him that Mr. Beers had given her a book worth $20 not to say anything about Terrill's complicity in the murder. He added:

Do not know what my sister's character is. I don't hear many people speak about her. I think she is a liar. I wouldn't believe her under oath.

The District Attorney drew from the witness the fact that he had quarrelled with his sister and other relatives on account of his wife.

The court adjourned until to-day.

A Great Jurist's Funeral.

A special train of eight cars from the Grand Central depot at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon carried a large number of lawyers and Judges on their way to the funeral of the late ex-Justice Samuel Nelson. Among them were Judge Woodruff, Judge Blatchford, ex-Judge Shipman, Judge Smalley, William M. Evarts, Edwards Pierrepont, Chas. O'Conor, Edwin D. Stoughton, John R. Porter, Charles M. Keller, Clarence A. Seward, Sidney Webster, Commissioner Betts, J. S. Bosworth, Stephen P. Mack, Benjamin D. Silliman, Charles J. Blake, Joseph C. Carter, Murray Hoffman, Theodore W. Dwight, Joshua M. Van Cott, William Tracey, George S. Curtis, Edward H. Owen, George Gifford, A. J. Vanderpoel, James Thompson, E. C. Benedict, Judge Donohue, Henry E. Davies, and Samuel Hand. The service is to be performed in the Nelson mansion in Cooperstown at 2 o'clock to-day. It is expected that there will be a larger concourse of lawyers and Judges at the funeral than has ever gathered on a like occasion in this country.

Waiting for a Swindler.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 17.—Francis Massey, who figured at Cape May last summer as a British Lord, but who was discovered to be bogus, and fled in confusion and disgrace, afterward going to England, is expected in this city to-morrow by the steamship Pennsylvania from Liverpool.

He will meet with a warm reception on his arrival. Several Philadelphia detectives will go aboard the ship before she touches the wharf to take his Lordship into custody on charge of swindling. He comes under a false name, but the fact of his departure from Liverpool was cabled.

A PISTOL IN A BARROOM.

What Recorder Hackett Knows About the Trigger, and What Assistant District Attorney Rollins Doesn't Know About It.

The case of John Simpson, an up-town plumber, tried in the General Sessions yesterday for an alleged felonious assault upon William Moynahan, became extraordinary from the different impressions created by the testimony. The undisputed facts were that on the evening of July 10 the complainant, Moynahan, with a Mr. Stead, an elderly man, went into Mr. Zimmerman's beer saloon, Fortieth street and Sixth avenue. They found there Mr. Simpson, his friend, named Hinchley, and a policeman in civilian's clothes. Mr. Stead knew Simpson, and saluted him cheerfully with the words, "Hello, fraud, are you here?" Simpson answered, "Hello, old usurer, are you here?" Moynahan called for drinks, and Stead slipped money into his hand to pay for them. He didn't wish "the house," as he expressed it, to be invited to join in the bibulation, and his demonstrative way attracted the attention of Simpson, who conceived himself to be insulted. "What's the reason you don't treat?" asked Simpson. "Oh, you've had enough out of me," said Stead. "You've swindled me out of the amount of those notes, about a thousand dollars, and that's enough." [Mr. Stead on the witness stand was anxious to test the story of his purchase of bad notes, but the Court would not permit.] Mr. Simpson repelled the insinuation that he had done any wrong, very energetically. He applied to Mr. Stead several unprintable epithets, and called him a usurer. At this point Moynahan interfered in behalf of his elderly friend, and struck Simpson in the face. Shortly afterward a pistol shot was heard, and there was a general confusion. The ball entered the lower part of the door. It was claimed on the part of the prosecution, conducted by Assistant District Attorney Rollins, that the prisoner had tried to shoot Moynahan. Recorder Hackett inquired particularly about the position of the persons engaged in the affray, and learning that Simpson was only three feet from Moynahan when the shot was fired, his mind rejected the theory that Moynahan was shot at. He could not understand how a man with a straight-barrelled revolver could miss a man he was shooting to kill at the short range of three feet, and indicated to Mr. Rollins a purpose to instruct the jury that the facts testified to by the witnesses did not make out a case of assault with intent to kill or with intent to do bodily harm.

Mr. Rollins, however, insisted that the case should go to the jury, and that the defence should be detailed. The Recorder said he would not, in the face of this objection, do anything which might even seem to trench upon the province of the jury, and he therefore told the prisoner's counsel to proceed in calling his witnesses. They swore to a state of facts which put Moynahan and his friend Stead entirely in the wrong. Mr. Hinchley and the policeman swore that Stead not only provoked the quarrel, but after Moynahan had struck Simpson, had urged him to "put a hole" through Simpson, and that Moynahan had thereupon gone through the motions of a man drawing a pistol. The prisoner's witnesses also swore that the discharge of the pistol in his hands must have been accidental, and a number of them, including Police Inspector George W. Dilks, testified that Simpson was a man of good character for peace and quietness, and on the night of the affray was, with the assistance of the officer, hunting for some burglars who had robbed his place of business. Mr. Rollins summed up, strongly insisting upon a conviction, and the Recorder, after carefully explaining that the determination of the question of guilt or innocence rested wholly with the jury, made an argument in the prisoner's behalf. The jury were evidently confused by the disagreement of the Recorder and the District Attorney, and they were out an hour before they found a verdict of not guilty.

THE COMPTROLLER'S ECONOMY.

Rejecting the Claims of Honest Men and Paying Costs to the Lawyers.

Before Judge Larremore yesterday a number of suits against the city were tried, and judgment in each case was rendered in favor of the claimants.

Patrick McDonnell's suit was for $87 as City Hall cleaner. The only defence was that there was no appropriation applicable to the payment of the claim. Judgement was rendered for the full amount on the pleadings in the case.

Thomas Wild, an officer of the Marine Court, sued for his salary from January to May, 1872. The Comptroller put in the defence that by an act of the Legislature the courts were limited to twelve officers each, and that the claimant's name was not on the pay roll during this time, and consequently he was not entitled to any payment. Mr. A. R. Lawrence for the plaintiff introduced testimony to prove that he had been an officer since January, 1857, and had never received notification that he had been discharged. A motion to dismiss the complaint was denied, the Court holding that the omission of the name from the pay roll did not invalidate the claiming and giving judgment for the full amount, $592, with interest.

Edward B. Holly, another Marine Court officer, obtained a judgment for the same amount.

John H. Michael sued for services as surveyor for the paving of Seventh avenue. The Comptroller's defense was that the Department of Public Works had no power to appoint him to this position. It was shown on the other hand that the contractor was paid $67,000, and that the certificate of the plaintiff was used upon which he received his payment. Judge Larremore allowed the full amount of the claim, $3,398, with over $700 of interest.

Thomas Sweeney, one of the officers of the Court of Common Pleas, sued to recover from 1st of June, 1870, to July, 1872, the difference between $1,200 and $1,500 a year. It appeared that on June 1, 1870, the Board of Supervisors raised the salary of these officers from $1,200 to $1,500 a year, but they had never been paid at the increased rate. The defence was that they had signed the pay roll in full, and that no appropriation had been made for the increase. The other side claimed that the pay rolls had been signed under protest, at the same time asking for full payment. The Court left it to the jury to say whether the money was received under protest. The jury decided in the affirmative, and judgment was thereupon rendered for the full amount, $702 50.

John M. Jackson is an architect, residing at Florence, Italy. In 1868 he was employed by the Croton Aqueduct Board to prepare a model for a gate for the new reservoir in Central Park. He executed the work, for which he charged $3,300, and $200 more is asked for the storage of the model in Munich. Mr. Dean, on behalf of the city, claimed that the Croton Board had no power to authorize any such models. Mr. Lawrence, in reply, introduced a special statute, passed in 1860, conferring upon the board authority to erect this gate, and claimed that that carried with it the power to contract for the construction of a model. The model is still at Munich. The Court directed judgment for $3,300, with interest.

Robert J. Murray, inspector at the opening of 104th street, and P. J. Murtha, inspector at the opening of part of First avenue, each recovered judgment for $241.40 for services.

The Wonders of the Electric Spark.

A small company of gentlemen interested in telegraphy assembled last night at 66 Broadway to test the capability of the new system recently introduced by the Automatic Telegraph Company. A message of 102 words was transmitted to Washington in twelve seconds, then in seven, then in five; and messages were received from the same place at the rate of 1,000 words a minute. Despatches were received from Old Prob, who had not a word to say about the New York fog, and from other temporary residents of Washington who were interested witnesses of the experiments in the office in the capital. The rapidity with which messages can be transmitted by the new system can be limited only by the physical power of the operator. When the improvements which Mr. Edison is now making in his Newark laboratory are completed it will be an every-day experience to send and receive from 1,200 to 1,800 words a minute, the message coming in printed slips ready for the printer, and as legible as the page of the most carefully printed book. When the President's message was sent from Washington it required fifty-nine minutes to transmit it over eight wires of the Western Union line. By the Automatic Telegraph it was sent over one wire in twenty-two and a half minutes.

The California Senatorship—The First Vote in Joint Convention.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 17.—The Senate and Assembly in joint convention at Sacramento to-day voted for United States Senator for the long term. The first ballot stood: Booth, 57; Farley, 41; and Shafter, 28. It is conceded on all sides that Senatorial matters are in a critical position. Eight or ten men, believed to be sound against railroad monopoly and in favor of Booth, fell down, but it is hoped they may yet come to his side.

Send Him to the United States Senate.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Dec. 17.—The Senate last night unseated Mr. Hatch, Republican Senator for Hale county, who was elected last spring to fill a vacancy. It seems that Hatch was three years ago Postmaster at the county seat of Hale county. Moneys were missed from the mails, and Hatch made affidavits accusing Sanborn, his clerk. After Sanborn had been confined in jail several months, the investigation pressed Hatch so close that he wrote a confession of his own guilt, which was published, and he agreed with Special Agent Petherbridge to pay up. Suit was commenced in the United States court, and Hatch was turned out of office. Hatch then ran for the Senate and was elected by a large majority, but on the above showing the Senate declared him ineligible.

A Hotel and Five Persons Burned.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Dec. 17.—The Dayton Hotel, at Dayton, Nevada, was burned last night. Messrs. L. D. Gould, Thomas Younger, John Morton, A. Nash, and Mr. Clvater were burned to death.

THE IMPENETRABLE FOG.

NEWFOUNDLAND RIVALLED BY NEW YORK CITY AND HARBOR.

The Wheels of Traffic Clogged—The Perilous Navigation of the Rivers—Accidents on the Rail and on the Waters.

The fog which settled over the city and its surrounding waters on Tuesday night did not lift until 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon. It settled again in an hour, and remained. During more than thirty hours ingress or egress by way of ferries has been tedious and even hazardous, and in some directions travel has been completely stopped.

The morning light merely changed the black to impenetrable gray. Serious delay to thousands of business men was caused by the fog being the densest from 4 to 9 in the morning, when the ferry boats carry crowds from New Jersey, Long Island, and Staten Island to their business in the city. The ceaseless clanging of fog bells and the shrieking of whistles made a pandemonium on the water, and the sounds were made more impressive by the surrounding darkness. The few glimpses that were caught of the heavens showed a blue expanse, with scarcely a cloud. From the high lands New York seemed to have been submerged in the ocean, on which Trinity Church spire was anchored as a buoy.

The ferry men say that the fog was the heaviest they ever saw. The fog is more dangerous by day than in the night, as lights may aid in steering clear of vessels in the darkness.

THE DELAY ON THE FERRIES.

On the East river the Roosevelt street and Hunter's Point ferries made no trips. The others ran at long intervals. The closing of the Williamsburgh ferries drove their traffic to Fulton and Catharine ferries. This and the lengthening of the intervals of the Fulton ferry boat trips from seven to twenty minutes filled the Brooklyn ferry houses with crowds. To accommodate foot passengers, no horses and wagons were permitted to cross to New York by the Fulton ferry until it was nearly noon. They made a line extending up Fulton street nearly half a mile. Wall street ferry in the morning plied with one boat, and Hamilton and South ferries with two at irregular intervals. The morning Staten Island boats were an hour behind time.

The North river ferry boats ran closer to time than the East river boats. On the long Hoboken ferry, boats arrived from a half to an hour late, and on the Chambers street ferry few trips were made.

Both lines of Harlem boats were laid up, as their speed made them almost sure of collision with strange craft.

No serious accidents occurred. Slight damage was done to one North river and several East river boats.

The Nebraska, early in the morning, in crossing to Grand street, New York, from Williamsburgh, missed her slip and ran into a ship, and her passengers were landed at Delancey street, which was reached by clambering over several coal barges. On Fulton ferry the Farragut damaged her rudder by running into a sloop, and the Winona's railing on one side was stripped off in a collision with a schooner. The Arizona of the Roosevelt ferry had her planking and railing on one end ripped up in a collision with a sailing vessel. The Pavonia ran into a tug and the steamer Thomas Cornell, but without serious damage.

GOING IT BLIND.

The fog in the upper part of the city was impenetrable. It enshrouded the streets and hid the buildings entirely from view. Locomotion was slow and attended with great danger. At the crosswalks men moved with extreme caution, in fear of being hurt by vehicles whose approach could not be discerned through the gloom. The car conductors experienced difficulty in keeping a tally of the streets, and were frequently compelled to step to the sidewalk to learn where they were. Below Tenth street the vapor was less dense, and walking and driving not so hazardous.

Locomotive No. 4, used as a pusher, ran into a Yonkers south-bound passenger train yesterday morning at Fifty-seventh street and Eleventh avenue. The passenger locomotive was badly damaged, but no one was injured. The down train had switched off at Fifty-second street, but owing to the fog the engineer of No. 4 could not see the train ahead and switched on the same track.

The fog did not reach above Fordham on the Harlem Railroad, nor above Yonkers on the Hudson. Above these points the sun was clear all day long.

Last evening Thomas Williams of 201 East Twentieth street while walking in Avenue C, at Nineteenth street, became lost in the dense fog, and walked off of the bulkhead into the East river. He was rescued by Officer Muldoon of the Twenty-second street police. Subsequently Capt. Tynin found it necessary to station officers at that place during the fog to prevent farther accidents.

A GREAT WORK BEGUN.

Laying the Corner Stone of the New Bridge Across the Hudson at Poughkeepsie.

POUGHKEEPSIE, Dec. 16.—An immense concourse witnessed the laying of the corner stone of the proposed bridge to cross the Hudson at this place, to-day. A special train reached here from Hartford about noon, bringing the Mayor of that city and representatives of the Common Council and about one hundred of Hartford's influential citizens. The fast train up on the Hudson River road brought leading Pennsylvania Central Railroad folks, including J. Edgar Thompson, Mr. A. L. Dennis, John J. Blair, A. Carnega, G. F. McCandlass, J. H. Lindville, and others.

At noon a grand procession was formed of all the military and civic societies—George Parker, Grand Marshal—and marched to Reynolds's Hill, where the corner stone was to be laid. Here thousands had congregated to witness the ceremonies, which were conducted by Grand Master James W. Husted of Westchester. The exercises were entirely Masonic, and similar to those which surrounded the laying of the corner stone of the new Capitol at Albany. After the corner stone was laid cannon were fired and the bells of the city were rung. The procession moved up town again, and there the distinguished guests were tendered a banquet at the Opera House. The welcome speech was made by Mayor Eastman. The Opera House was handsomely decorated, and the tables, which were provided for three hundred persons, were loaded with good things. After the speech-making and eating the most of the guests returned to their homes on the early evening trains.

When completed this bridge will save over one hundred miles of railroad track between the New England States and the Pennsylvania coal fields. The entire length will be about one mile, of which about half—a trifle less than 2,500 feet—is over the channel of the river, and the other half consists of approaches, being mainly on the east side. The height of the bridge from the water to the bottom chord of the huge trusses is 130 feet, and the trusses themselves will be about sixty-five feet high, so that the entire elevation of the track above high water mark will be nearly two hundred feet. There will be four piers in the channel, and one on each side close to the bank, so that the main bridge will consist of five immense spans, each five hundred feet long. The land approaches will be made up of shorter spans.

Honest Trotting.

One of the most important meetings of the Trainers' and Drivers' Protective Associations for the promotion of the interests of the American trotting turf was held last evening at Twenty-eighth street and Broadway. It seems that the National Association and the drivers and trainers will be likely to act in unison at the next meeting of the National Turf Congress in February.

CURIOSITIES OF CRIME.

Charles Eggler, the young German who was convicted of the murder of Ettie Conklin in Locke, N. Y., in May last, has been sentenced by Judge Rumsey to be hanged on Friday, Feb. 6.

On the 15th inst. two cases of whalebone, valued at $470, were stolen from Louis Bock out of Cortlandt alley, rear of 366 Broadway. Yesterday afternoon they were found at Ninth street and First avenue by Capt. Walsh in front of a stable.

Christian Ziegler and Christian Blaicher, Germans, of South Orange avenue, Newark, disputed on Tuesday night, and Ziegler stabbed Blaicher in the neck, inflicting a serious wound. Blaicher struck Ziegler with a sledge hammer, injuring his head. Both men are seriously hurt, and the physicians in attendance deemed it unadvisable to remove them. Policemen have been detailed to secure the survivor, in case either dies.

HOURS OF LEISURE.

Fifth annual ball of the Spanish benevolent society "La Nacional," Irving Hall, Dec. 19.

Semi-centennial of Morton Commandery, No. 4, Knights Templars, Academy of Music, Dec. 22.

Grand charity fair and entertainments in the Masonic Temple, by the Sisters of the Mystic Star, Dec. 18 to 24.

Dramatic, literary, and musical entertainment and hop of the Max Bayersdorfer Association, Turn Hall, East Fourth street, Dec. 23.

Temperance mass meeting, under the auspices of Mariners' Division, S. of T., No. 448, in the Mariners' Temple, Oliver and Henry streets, to-night. Free.

The Young People's and Mutual Relief Associations of Olivet Chapel, Second street, are holding a fair and festival in the chapel for the benefit of the poor.

Wm. Skiddy Wood, A. M., will deliver his celebrated lecture on the "Criminal Institutions of New York," before Father Mathew Society, No. 4, at their hall corner Houston and Sheriff streets on Sunday, 21st inst.

THE CONDITION OF THE TREASURY.

Immediate Relief Necessary to Save it from Bankruptcy—The $44,000,000 Reserve Nearly Half Exhausted.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—Several prominent members of Congress to-day, while expressing their views against the proposed holiday recess, said if the Senate agreed to the House resolution for that purpose more than a month must elapse before anything could be done for the relief of the Treasury. They alluded to the fact that while the redemption of the loan of 1858 involved additional obligations, the extraordinary appropriation of four millions for the navy exceeded what could possibly be saved by a reduction of the estimates, and besides the Secretary had already drawn eighteen millions and a half from the forty-four million reserve without which the Treasury would now be bankrupt. The reserve was constantly being drawn upon, and therefore it was imperative, with a due regard to the public credit, to pass measures of relief without delay. What these should be they were not prepared to say, but they, with others, were prepared to restore the duty on tea and coffee and tobacco, which were the more easily collectable, or they would agree to a temporary loan of say $50,000,000. At all events Congress should not think of a holiday adjournment until ample provision be made for the Treasury, the receipts of which yesterday were not more than one-third of what they would have been but for the effects of the panic.

THE KELSEY COMPLICATIONS.

A Wrangle Over the Reward Offered for the Body—New Lawsuits.

In April last Mr. J. A. Woodhull, Supervisor of Huntington, was authorized to offer a reward of $1,000 for the discovery of Charles G. Kelsey's body. Mr. Woodhull has always been credited with a leaning toward the tar party, so instead of obeying his instructions literally he offered $750 for the body dead, and $250 for the discovery of Charles G. Kelsey alive. Kelsey's brothers offered a reward of $500. On the 29th of August a pair of legs were found floating in Oyster Bay by John Franklin and William Ludlam, and after a prolonged inquest the jury identified them as those of Charles G. Kelsey. Prior to the inquest Supervisor Woodhull viewed the remains and said he was satisfied they were those of the murdered man. After the inquest the Kelsey brothers applied to Judge John R. Reid, who is also Surrogate, for letters of administration, which were granted. Then Franklin and Ludlam claimed their reward. The Kelsey brothers paid their $500, but Supervisor Woodhull put them off time after time on the plea that he had no money. Afterward he offered to pay one-half of the amount, declining to pay the balance because only one-half of the body had been found. He agreed, however, to submit the affair to arbitration before Judge Reid, but before the hearing was had, and after the town auditors had authorized the Supervisor to borrow $750 to pay the reward, Dr. Geo. B. Banks, one of those originally indicted for riot and assault, and Isaac Rogers, one of the sureties for Royal and Rudolph Sammis, who are indicted for murder in the second degree, obtained an injunction forbidding Mr. Woodhull to pay the reward, on the ground that the body was not that of Kelsey. At the suggestion of Mr. Thos. Young, counsel for the claimants, Supervisor Woodhull retained the Hon. Henry C. Platt, who at once went before Judge Reid and succeeded in getting the injunction order vacated. This done, the counsel for the claimants called on Supervisor Woodhull, but were coolly informed that he did not intend to pay it. At midnight on Sunday the attorney for the defendants (Banks and the Sammis brothers) roused Judge Reid from his rest and obtained another injunction, which was served upon the Supervisor before breakfast Monday morning. Franklin and Ludlam are about to bring suit against Supervisor Woodhull in the Supreme Court for the reward, claiming that as he has not acted in accordance with his instructions he should be held personally liable.

THE OLD WORLD'S NEWS.

Proposed Increase of President MacMahon's Salary.

VERSAILLES, Dec. 17.—The Assembly to-day, despite the opposition of the Left, decided to discuss the bill empowering the Government to nominate Mayors of cities immediately after the budget is acted upon.

The Committee on Finance to-day voted to increase the salary of President MacMahon, in order to enable him to give fêtes at Paris. This action does not imply the removal of the National Capital to Paris.

The Acheen War.

PENANG, Dec. 17.—A rumor is current here that the Achinese made a night attack upon the Dutch forces, surprising them. A heavy battle was fought, the result of which is not yet known.

SINGAPORE, Dec. 17.—The body of Dutch troops under the command of Gen. Van Swieten, which lately landed on the coast of Acheen, have had an engagement with the Sultan's army and defeated it.

An Iron-Clad Oath for Bishops in Germany.

BERLIN, Dec. 17.—An ordinance is officially promulgated to-day, ordering that in future all bishops, upon their installation, shall swear to maintain the completest subordination to the State and coöperation in the suppression of all disloyal intrigues.

A Council of War in Madrid.

MADRID, Dec. 17.—A council of war has been appointed, consisting of Gens. José Concha, Caballero de Rodas, Valmaseda, and Portilla, to examine the plan of a campaign submitted by Brig.-Gen. Donato for the complete crushing of the Cuban insurrection.

FLASHES FROM THE OCEAN CABLE.

The borough of Huntingdon has elected Mr. Karslake, Conservative, to the House of Commons, by 158 majority.

The Papal Nuncio at Paris has been notified that the Archbishops of Paris, Cambray, and Valencia have been elected to the College of Cardinals.

Fifty arrests have been made at Barcelona, Spain, of persons engaged in the recent demonstration in favor of declaring Barcelona an independent canton.

NEW JERSEY.

John E. Owens, the comedian, was seriously injured during the performance of "Toodles" in Newark on Tuesday night, and is lying ill at the Continental Hotel.

The testimony given at the trial of Edward Brennan on charge of murdering his wife, at High Bridge, yesterday, substantiated that of the day before. Nothing new was elicited.

Robert Smith, of Bishop street, Jersey City, while attempting to cross the cut of the Newark and New York Railroad at Jackson avenue, on Tuesday night, lost his way and wandered into a quagmire. He was unable to extricate himself and could make no one hear his cries, so he remained stuck in the mud all night. A butcher rescued him at daybreak.

LONG ISLAND.

August Longbeen, who was awaiting a trial on charge of attempted murder in the Astoria Court House jail, dodged out of the yard yesterday and escaped in the thick fog.

The propeller Wamsutta, of New London, went ashore on the east side of Matinecock Point in the fog yesterday. She lies on a sandy bottom and is not seriously damaged. The tide was nearly high at the time.

Yesterday afternoon Mr. W. Underhill and his wife of Oyster Bay, while returning from Brooklyn in a buggy lost their way near Woodhaven, and getting on the railroad track were struck by a train. The vehicle was splintered and Mr. and Mrs. Underhill were badly hurt.

SPARKS FROM THE TELEGRAPH.

The next meeting of the Cornell Investigating Committee will be held in Ithaca at 10 A. M. on Friday.

The Hon. George Brown has been appointed to the Ottowa Senate to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of late Senator Blake.

At the municipal election in Stone Mountain, Ga., yesterday, a Mayor and Council who are pledged to grant no more liquor licenses were elected by a handsome majority.

At Antigonish, N. S., on Tuesday, Mr. Isaacs, Independent, was elected to Parliament by a large majority over the Government candidate. The Hon. Mr. Ross, Minister of Militia, was elected to Parliament in Victoria county, C. B.

The President has pardoned Samuel G. Brown of South Carolina, convicted of Ku-Klux crimes, and sentenced to five years' imprisonment. He had served two years. The President has also pardoned Robert Riggins of South Carolina, sentenced for five years for similar offences.

The Illinois Farmers' Convention met in Decatur on Tuesday. President W. C. Flagg, reviewing the growth of the society, said that at the first meeting, one year ago, only about forty counties were represented. Now every one of the 102 counties in the State had its clubs, and in a majority of the counties the farmers carried their ticket at the last election.

The Union League of America met in Philadelphia yesterday, President J. G. Negley of Pennsylvania in the chair. Officers elected for the ensuing year: Hon. J. G. Negley of Pennsylvania President, ex-Governor Wm. A. Newell of New Jersey First Vice President, Col. Thomas R. Rich of Maryland Second Vice President, Charles G. Baker of New York Secretary, William V. Alexander of New York Treasurer. The League reiterated its faith in its political principle and in President Grant.

LIFE IN THE METROPOLIS.

DASHES HERE AND THERE BY THE SUN'S REPORTERS.

The Rollwagen Will Complications.

The conflicting interests involved in an inheritance of half a million dollars were represented yesterday before Surrogate Hutchings. An array of lawyers extended the whole length of two long tables, and for two hours they argued a point preliminary to the fight which is to be their feast. Frederick Rollwagen, the testator, died on the 11th day of last October. Three sons are the only children surviving. A deceased daughter is represented by seven grandchildren of the testator. The sons are bequeathed only a life interest in a small part of their father's estate, the bulk being given in fee simple to Magdalena, his widow, who also is to receive one-third of the income of everything. A possible posthumous child was mentioned in the will, who would inherit one-fifth of the estate, and in case of its death that fifth was to go to the mother, Magdalena. Samuel S. Browning, one of the deceased daughter's children, applied to Judge Fancher a month ago for an ancient English writ known as "deventre inspiciendo," but in the delay of action the babe was born. Its arrival postponed the beginning of the suit in the Surrogate's Court. The whole subject under discussion the two hours of yesterday was Emily, the wife of one of the sons. The motion to make her a contesting party in the proceedings was opposed on the ground that her husband had only a life interest in the testator's estate, and could never have more unless the will was broken; that both the husband and wife were young, and he had as fair a prospect of outliving her as she him, and her right of dower was too remote to allow her to become a party to the proceedings. The Surrogate held this under advisement.

Dry Goods Failures.

Last week Edson Bradley & Co., 495 Broadway, failed for upward of $400,000. Later in the week West, Call & Whittemore suspended, and yesterday the notes of Oberholser, Keefer & Co., dry goods jobbers, 327 Broadway, went to protest. The crash has been expected by the last named firm for several days. Their purchases were made when goods were high, and instead of a brisk fall trade they found that no concessions in price induced heavy purchases and their stock diminished only in value. Their notes were rapidly maturing and no feasible plan of meeting them presented itself, so on Monday they called together one representative of each of their five principal creditors, and placed the books and stock in their hands. Mr. Page of Faulkner, Page & Co. is Chairman of this creditors' committee. Yesterday and Tuesday they were engaged all day in taking stock and examining the books. The liabilities are ascertained to be $600,000. This is distributed among 150 creditors, principally commission and jobbing houses. The purchases of the house were made chiefly from these classes of dealers, so that their foreign indebtedness is very light. The creditors generally have agreed to abide the recommendation of the creditors' committee.

The firm of Oberholser & Keefer is two years old. The senior partner brought some capital from a Western city. Mr. Keefer had been a partner of Edson Bradley. The two furnished $50,000 capital, and had besides $150,000 special capital. Their business reached $3,000,000 a year.

Edson Bradley & Co. have offered the creditors a compromise based upon 65 per cent. of their indebtedness. It is likely that their terms will be accepted.

An Old Quarrel Settled.

Mr. E. Delafield Smith, the Corporation Counsel, rendered an opinion yesterday in regard to the relative authority of the Superintendent of Markets, who is one of Comptroller Green's subordinates, and the Superintendent of Incumbrances, who belongs to Commissioner Van Vort's department, over the markets and the streets bordering on them. Mr. Smith says that both have the power to clear the avenues and approaches to the markets, and to preserve the streets and sidewalks to their legitimate uses. But neither has the power to let or to permit to be permanently incumbered any part of a street, sidewalk, or place opened to public use. He adds that the streets and sidewalks are held in trust for the people at large, and that all ordinances of the Common Council authorizing either of these officials to make the streets and sidewalks about the markets a source of income to the city, or a convenience to individuals, are null and void.

The Brooklyn Coroners.

Supervisor Fletcher, Chairman of the Coroners' Investigating Committee, was at work all day yesterday in his researches among the records of the Brooklyn Health Officer and the County Clerk's archives. On the previous day he found thirty-four names charged on two of the Coroners' monthly bills for which the certificates of death were missing from the Health office. A search in the County Clerk's office discovered inquisitions corresponding to every name on the bills. The inquisitions are seemingly properly signed by jurors, and the place of holding it is fully set forth in each case. If they are fictitious it can easily be proved by going to the places named or by seeking out the jurymen. Supervisor Fletcher said yesterday: "They may or may not be all right. It is easily proved, and until it is I don't want an impression to go out that we have found something wrong when we haven't."

Nominated to be Rejected.

Nelson K. Wheeler, the nominee for the Police Justiceship in the new district formed by the Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth Wards, called on Mayor Havemeyer yesterday. He says that he is only sixty years of age and adds that although he is a resident of Delaware county, he has spent three or four months in each of the past three or four years in Westchester county with Mr. William B. Ogden, his brother-in-law.

Mr. Ogden says that the salary of a Police Justice will make him very comfortable, and thinks that if he is confirmed he will live in Westchester county during his term of office.

An Alderman said yesterday that Mr. Wheeler would probably be rejected, as the City Fathers did not wish to deprive Mr. Ogden of the privilege of taking care of his relatives.

The Gamblers.

John McCormack, the proprietor, and Levi Smith, the dealer of the faro game at 818 Broadway, were arraigned for examination, yesterday, before Justice Morgan. Only two witnesses were examined. The testimony of these, Capt. Byrne and Officer Selvin, went to show nothing further than that the men were arrested. After hearing these witnesses Justice Morgan adjourned the hearing until Friday.

LOSSES BY FIRE.

In Lombard & Ayres benzine tank containing forty gallons benzine, foot of West Sixty-sixth street. Loss $500.

Public School Building No. 18, in Maguire street, Williamsburgh, was partially destroyed last night. Loss $2,500.

JOTTINGS ABOUT TOWN.

The Grand Jury inspected the Police Central office yesterday.

No action was taken yesterday in the Board of Education on the question of corporal punishment.

The Chamber of Commerce has memorialized Congress concerning the routes of steamships on the Atlantic.

Signor Salvini will visit the Italian school of the Children's Aid Society at 46 Franklin street this evening at 7½ o'clock.

Nicholas Stepisic while unloading rails at foot of West Thirty-second street yesterday, fell into the water striking his head on a canal boat, and was taken out dead.

Two thousand dollars in money was handed to the Property Clerk at Police Headquarters yesterday. The money was taken out of safes seized at the policy headquarters, 252 Bowery.

Mary Jennings, aged 70, of Sixty-third street and Madison avenue, while crossing at Fourth avenue and Sixty-fifth street, was run over by a New Haven train and had her leg and arm broken.

Mr. Lathrop L. Sturgis, of the firm of Sturgis, Clearman & Co., who died on Tuesday, will be buried from his late residence, 116 East Nineteenth street, to-morrow morning. He was eighty years of age.

A person calling himself W. Hastings, and pretending to be a secret agent of the Administration, applied to Judge Benedict yesterday for the indictment of a number of Congressmen for conspiracy. He did not mention names.

Mr. Willard F. Warren, formerly Clerk of Orleans county, and later Superintendent of Exports in the Custom House, has been appointed from the Auditor's Department to be Deputy Collector. The promotion is well merited.

The gambling houses of the Twentieth Ward doing a thriving business. Three in Eighth avenue and Thirty-sixth street were soliciting customers last evening. One private boarding house up town has been rented at an exorbitant rent for a new deal.

Elias Livinger, of 57 Pitt street, yesterday accidentally shot Gottlieb Walzer, of 153 Stanton street, while exhibiting his pistol. Walzer was seriously injured. In his ante mortem deposition, which was taken before Coroner Keenan, he exonerated Livinger.

The inquest in the case of Dora Bolan, whose funeral was stopped some time ago by the health authorities, was concluded yesterday before Coroner Keenan. Verdict, death by metro-peritonitis, caused by a miscarriage, produced by some cause to the jury unknown.

Coroner Herrman held an inquest in the case of Michael Collins who was run over on the 29th ult. by car 115 of the Broadway and Seventh avenue line at Eighth street and Sixth avenue. The jury censured the driver, George Hanson, for not stopping the car in time.

Brown, Hall & Vanderpoel, the Sheriff's attorneys, were officially informed yesterday that John Tyler Kelly, Martin J. Keese, Aaron Aarons, Mark Lanigan, William Beard, Charles A. Brown, Diederich Gale, and Bernard Maguire had been appointed Deputy Sheriffs by Sheriff-elect William C. Conner.

Ex-Senator Graham, charged with embezzling funds of the Walkill National Bank, while in the United States Circuit Court room, yesterday was arrested on a bench warrant, one of his sureties having asked to be released from the bond, and it appearing that three others of his sureties had been indemnified for the risk they had taken. He was remanded for trial.

The Rev. Frederick Bell, who has the Home for Women in Water street, has a call to be pastor of a church in Brooklyn. This "Primitive Methodist" Church, of which little has been heard, has existed obscurely for thirty years. Growing stronger, it is building a new meeting house in Bridge street, near Park avenue. Whether he will leave the Fourth Ward is not decided.

Peter Bonner, a roofer, of 181 Elizabeth street, while working yesterday replacing the broken tiles of the French Mansard roof of 41 Spring street, missed his footing off the leader which served as a protection, and, falling backward, rolled off to the roof of the adjoining house. For a few minutes the terror-stricken neighbors stood paralyzed as they saw Bonner holding convulsively to a chimney. Every effort was made to encourage him to hold on until assistance could be procured, but losing his hold, he fell into the alley beneath and was killed.