FIGHTING FOR A FORTUNE.

THE MONEY THAT MRS. MERRILL LEFT TO CARDINAL McCLOSKEY.

The Effort to Show that She was Not of Sound Disposing Mind when She Executed a Codicil Giving her Great Wealth to the Roman Catholic Church—Love Changed to Hatred.

On the reopening of the Merrill will case in the Surrogate's Court yesterday the Rev. Theodore A. Metcalf was called to the stand on behalf of the proponent. He testified as follows:

"I reside in Boston. Have lived there since I was a child, except while I resided in Rome, which was from Dec. 13, 1863, to some day in July, 1872, nearly nine years. In Rome I was first a student, afterward vice-rector of the American College. I knew there Dr. Bernard Smith, Professor of Theology and Propaganda, and was familiar with his writing. The signature to the codicil shown to me I identify as his. He has never, so far as I know, been to this country. I knew Mrs. Merrill; became acquainted with her in the early part of 1871. She called at the American College and sent her card up to me. I had never heard of her before. I think she simply called on me because the rector was away. Americans who are Catholics always call on the President or the Vice-President of the college. I called on her many times subsequently at different hotels, where she was lodging. I learned from her that she was not acquainted with Dr. Chetard when she called at the college, and, if I remember rightly, I introduced her to him, after his return from Paris, two or three weeks later, when she made a call upon me at the college. I used to see her two or three times a week, either I calling upon her at her hotel or she coming to see me at the college. She was a stranger in Rome, and I did what I could to serve her. I do not know that she had any friends there. I do not remember that I introduced her to any other Catholic dignitaries in Rome, and never, that I recollect of, endeavored to bring her into communication with Catholic officials. I don't remember whether I had anything to do with her having an interview with the Pope or not, but she had one, and I have an indistinct recollection that it was arranged for her by either myself or Dr. Chetard. That must have been in 1871. I never was present when anything was said to her about her will, but have myself talked with her about the disposition of her property."

The examination closing here, ex-Judge Porter, for the proponent, said that there were no more witnesses ready on that side.

Mr. Parsons filed a notice requiring the proponent to furnish testimony as to who received the will and codicil from the testatrix, in whose custody they were up to the time of their being offered for probate, and under what circumstances and in whose custody they were at that date. He spoke at length, arguing that these were circumstances that cast grave suspicions upon the authenticity and validity of the papers.

After listening to an hour of argument, Surrogate Calvin decided that the contestants might, at their own option, either go on now or have a postponement, but that before the proponent's side of the case could rest, the testimony called for by the notice would be required.

The choice offered by the Court was decided in consultation during recess, and, upon the resuming of the afternoon session, Mr. Parsons announced that he proposed to open the case for the contestants and introduce the testimony of the Rev. Dr. Harris, Mr. Thurlow Weed, and other gentlemen of advanced years, in order that it may be perpetuated; then to place Mr. George Merrill on the stand, and afterward to await the resting of the proponent's testimony before proceeding further. This being agreed to on all sides, he proceeded to state the contestants' case on behalf of George Merrill, the nephew and adopted son of Capt. N. W. Merrill and the testatrix.

George Merrill, Mr. Parsons said, whose original name was George Mellen Tibbetts, was born in New Hampshire, Jan. 13, 1831, and was adopted as a son by the persons named in 1838, when his parents died. Capt. Nat. W. Merrill was a partner of Mr. Taylor of this city, and with him carried on the shipping business, until he had amassed a handsome fortune. That fortune, the estate now in question, came into possession of the testatrix he a will executed in November, 1856, when at the same time a will was made by her and an agreement was mutually entered into by which, upon their decease, the estate should revert to this adopted son. Subsequent to the death of her husband, Mrs. Merrill became the victim of insane delusions respecting that adopted son, which so far controlled her as to lead her to make such testamentary dispositions of the property as disturbed the disposition made by the wills of 1856.

Mr. Parsons read a number of authorities sustaining the point that such delusions as it was claimed the testatrix entertained with reference to her adopted son, rendered her legally incapable of making a will.

Reverting to the narrative, Mr. Parsons went on to say that George Merrill was, by the parents who adopted him first sent to school to the Rev. Dr. Harris, at White Plains, Westchester county, thence to a school in Newport and finally to Trinity College, Dublin, where he graduated with high honors, taking the rank equivalent to senior wrangler at Oxford and gold medalist as well; that subsequently he returned to this country and took a position as superintendent of certain works in Newark, and afterward resigned that, studied law, was admitted to the bar, and went to France, where he is enjoying a lucrative and honorable practice as an American lawyer in Paris.

During the life of Capt. Merrill's wife and for some time subsequent to his decease, George enjoyed the affection and highest confidence of the testatrix, until she became the victim of the delusions before spoken of. The letters of both herself and her husband, the captain, evinced the warmest affection for George, and constantly expressed the intention that he should be their heir, and it must be evident that in doing the reverse of that purpose, the testatrix was not only doing violence to the wishes and intentions of the dead husband whom she had loved so devotedly, but to her own sense of the sort of his position. Mr. Parsons read letters written by Mrs. Merrill, in one of which she counsels George to "improve his French and German, visit ladies, and study politeness by a visit to Washington." (Half suppressed laughter in court.)

Surrogate Calvin (gravely)—That must have been a long time ago.

Mr. Parsons—Pardon me, I have read it wrong. It should have been "politics" instead of politeness.

Mr. Parsons read from another letter written by Mrs. Merrill to George, as follows:

"I love you as my own, and think of until you have a grand call him Nathaniel W. Merrill, in honor of your uncle, to be as kind to him as you were to me. If you have not so warm a heart as you have, you have a pure one, or which I am beginning to doubt sometimes, when I see you so perfectly tender concerning, for which I am indeed thankful."

Yet this same woman, Mr. Parsons continued, under the influence of the insane delusions which influenced the making of her will, cut out the very name which, cut out of it, "fingers of a portrait of this adopted son, and pinned it up on the wall, and said that she loved to see him hanged—hanged by his lying tongue."

Mr. Parsons said that for years before her insane delusions respecting George mastered her senses, she was always brooding upon the subject, and constantly, thinking of it, writing about it, and dreaming of it.

After Mrs. Merrill's death there were found among her effects many letters from Bishop Bacon, to whom she first willed her property after disinheriting George; from Dr. Barnard Smith, from Dr. Chetard, from Cardinal Cousin, Lorenzo Maffei, all showing that her mind must have been very weak, and that they had preyed upon her weakness to obtain the bequest of her estate to a high dignitary of the Church.

Among the letters she wrote while under those influences was one to George, the formerly well-beloved in a tender vein, in which she penned:

"I said that I had expected to write to and one element of food in you that I had before known of the sweetness of your character, but that I had kept quiet and had suffered the more prodding so I begin to see that you are as sweet as your mother, only you become so blind that you cannot distinguish right from duty, and may you have every trial, disease and affliction that was ever sent on man, and may I live to see you hung upon the gallows. And, in your distress, I give to you the curse of her you have so pelted for twenty-seven years. I give you the curse of the widow."

The final exciting cause of Mrs. Merrill's insane fury against George was his marriage, although in marrying he chose a wife who was in every respect such as in her sane days Mrs. Merrill would have approved.

Rev. Dr. Robert W. Harris, Protestant Episcopal minister of St. George's Church, Astoria, was the first contestant's witness. He testified to his long and intimate knowledge of Capt. N. W. Merrill and his wife, and to the fact that he had been George's tutor at White Plains. He spoke very highly of George, and bore witness to the great affection demonstrated by the old couple for their adopted son. Concerning Mrs. Merrill, he said: The last time that I saw her was in November, 1861, at my present residence. It was the first time I had seen her in several years. Her visit to me was on George's account. She was much excited, and her language was incoherent, so that the impression produced on my mind by her actions and words was decided, if not complete, insane at that time, and I so stated to my family. She talked a great deal against the family George was going to marry into, and against him, making no direct charges, but dealing in innuendoes to lower him in my estimation.

A Woman Accused of Robbing the Mails.

RICHMOND, Va., Feb. 5.—Miss Emma Davenport, aged 25, was brought to Richmond yesterday under arrest, charged with robbing the mail at Goochland Court House, in this State. Special Mail Agent Henderson, who worked up the case, makes affidavit that she was employed at the Post Office at Goochland, and that while so employed she stole two packages of jewelry and one silk dress pattern. Her father has been Postmaster at Goochland for many years. She will be examined to day.

GRANT'S POSTMASTER-GENERAL.

How Marshall Jewell Interested Himself in the Case of a Soldier's Widow.

Not long after the Hon. Marshall Jewell returned from St. Petersburg to become Grant's Postmaster-General he was visited in his office by a lady and gentleman from a Western State. The lady was a widow, an accomplished woman, whose husband had been killed in the war. She had applied to Grant for a small post office in her native State—a post worth possibly ten or eleven hundred dollars a year—and came East with letters of recommendation from a dozen or more of the most prominent Republicans of the Northwest. The President appointed her without a moment's hesitation, and sent the customary request to Jewell to make out the commission. The office in question was one of those falling by law under the President's control, and not within that of the Postmaster-General.

Jewell's anger was great at this invasion, as he termed it, of his official rights. "If the President jumps my department," he exclaimed, "at the request of every woman who comes along, he will have to find another Postmaster-General."

When the lady went with her escort to obtain her papers, she found the Postmaster-General in a state of considerable excitement.

"Did you know, madam," said he, tipping back his easy chair and inserting his thumbs in the pockets of his vest, "that this appointment was made by the President without consulting Me?"

"I did not know that was necessary, sir," timidly replied the lady.

"Necessary, madam," thundered the late Minister at the Court of the Czar, "it was a violation of official courtesy—a personal affront to a Cabinet officer. Sit down there—no, in *that* chair—and wait till I return."

Trembling before the majestic wrath of the Hon. Marshall Jewell, the lady obeyed, while the aggrieved dignitary put on his overcoat and overshoes and hurried from the room. The lady's escort looked out of a window and saw the Postmaster-General wildly hail, run after, and overtake a horse car bound for the west end of the town.

After an absence of two hours the Postmaster-General returned with a bland smile upon his face. "I have arranged that matter with the President," said he.

"You were very kind, sir," said the lady, "to take so much trouble. I wasn't aware when I came in that there was any informality about my appointment."

"Pardon me," said Jewell, politely, "you misunderstand. The President has withdrawn the appointment. Hereafter he will consult Me!"

The lady went sadly back to her Western home, and paid out of an almost empty pocket the expenses of her thousand-mile journey. But the Hon. Marshall Jewell's official dignity was vindicated.

The gentleman who had acted as the widow's escort in Washington had a friend, an influential Republican Senator. He requested this Senator to call on Grant and remonstrate with him on the injustice done the lady.

"Oh, I can't afford to offend Jewell," said Grant, after listening in silence to the remonstrance. "He commands the support of the better classes—the reform element—and that's what my Administration has wanted these seven years."

JAMES DIXON'S WOOING.

The Circumstances Preceding His Sentence to a Term in State Prison.

Mrs. Margaret Clifford, a rosy widow, testified yesterday in the General Sessions that James Dixon became a boarder in her house at 111 Ninth street, Jersey City, and, feigning love, offered marriage. She referred him to her mother, who extracted from Dixon that he had a wife and ten children in England. He would, however, marry Mrs. Clifford after his wife's death.

This information cooled, but did not interrupt the wooing. On the 23d of January Dixon disappeared. Mrs. Clifford missed $65. On the 27th she received this letter:

DEAR MARGARET: I am my knees before God, do humbly beg of you to forgive me for what I have done to you. You have been good to me, and the devil was in me, but God only knows how I am suffering. I was robbed every cent, the same as I robbed you on that fatal night on Wednesday. I have been out and about, walking the streets with no money, no friends, no home, and my only treasure lost to me forever. Oh, if you will meet me at the Chambers street ferry on Tuesday night at 8 P. M. and tell me you forgive me, I will jump on the river as a forfeit to my behavior to you. Or I have robbed myself of the only happiness worth in this world, and do not care to live without it. Darling, I come about for, although you can never forget me, I hope you will forgive me. I know, dear Margaret, if you bring a policeman, they will send me to state prison, which would be too good. Come, and nothing more shall be said about it, and I will then go home, and the same night. Do not delay me this, for I will be on the boat waiting. I cannot say more, as my head is so bad I can hardly write. Do as you think best, and may you have every trial, disease and affliction that was ever sent on man, and may I live to see you hung upon the gallows. And, in your distress, I give to you the curse of her you have so pelted for twenty-seven years. I give you the curse of the widow.

The signature looked as though it had been made by the claws of a fluttering bird. Mrs. Clifford did not deny Dixon the meeting, but she was escorted by a police officer. Dixon tried to break the officer's grasp and spring into the river.

Judge Gildersleeve sentenced Dixon to State prison for three years.

MRS. TAYLOR'S JEWELS.

Difficulties that the Administrator of her Estate has Encountered.

Mr. James W. Clelland, who obtained letters of administration from the Kings County Surrogate's Court last Friday, to recover the property left by Mrs. Caroline Taylor of 184 Clinton avenue, Brooklyn, to her daughter Carrie, aged 17, and a younger sister, has encountered unexpected difficulties. The professed wife of Taylor, who returned with him from Paris, it is averred, took a case of jewels worth $25,000, some silk dresses, and other property belonging to the late Mr. Taylor to her residence at 5 Park avenue, Hoboken. Mr. Taylor was found dead in bed on Jan. 5. The Coroner's jury rendered a verdict of death from excessive use of alcoholic drinks.

The administrator is endeavoring to recover the jewels for Mrs. Taylor's daughters. He called on Justice Strong yesterday, and was informed that under the New Jersey laws he could not obtain the property as administrator. He has applied for a requisition from Gov. Robinson for the arrest of the woman, who professes to be Mr. Taylor's widow, on a charge of grand larceny. She has been kept under surveillance night and day, and the letters of administration were granted, to prevent escape, in case that should be meditated.

MRS. WALLS AND BABE.

In the New York Hospital and in the Jefferson Market Police Court.

On New Year's night Bella Walls of 226 West Eighteenth street, with her four months old babe, abandoned her husband Edward, and was not seen seemingly him until she walked into her old home on Monday evening last. She was drunk, but she carried her babe, saying that she was going to the Foundling Asylum. Her husband was absent, and she demanded money from his mother. She was given a few cents, and with the money she bought whiskey, and after she drank it she became exceedingly stupid and went to sleep. This was what her mother-in-law wanted, as she declared to ship out and tell her son where she had left his wife and child.

The mother lay sleeping on a bed, with her babe by her side, and one arm thrown over it. Fearing that the child might smother, Mrs. Walls, senior, tried to rouse her to sense and take it away, the mother in law determined to carry it with her to its father. But, on reaching the sidewalk, she changed her mind and carrying the babe, she went to Acquatic Hall, Eighteenth and Eighth avenue, where she never saw before, and where was standing near her doorway, to hold it until she returned. Gasner accepted the bundle. The time seemed to be long awaiting the return of its grandmother, and as the child began to cry, Gasner became suspicious that a foundling had been foisted upon him. Therefore he took it to the New York Hospital and left it there. Then he went back in the direction of 226 West Eighteenth street and saw in the hands of Police officer Curtis the woman who had given him the child. Gasner confessed his share in dealing the baby. The latter was there also, and after Gasner had made an unsatisfactory explanation to Mrs. Bella, he was arrested too, and the party set out for Jefferson Market Police Court, stopping by the way at the New York Hospital to pick up the little cause of all the trouble. Justice Kilbreth, having heard this story, bundled the party out of the court room.

A Suit for $1,500,000.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 5.—Representatives of the National Bank of Commerce of New York entered suit today against the National Bank of the State of Missouri for the recovery of $1,500,000. The petition recites an agreement entered into by the two institutions on Dec. 26, 1872, whereby the first-named bank loaned the other $1,000,000 in the form of a continuing loan. Of this amount $400,000, with interest, is still due. It is further claimed that the St. Louis bank is indebted to the New York bank in the sum of $1,500,000 for money paid on its account up to the date of its suspension. Another half million dollars is claimed for money loaned in the course of banking accommodations to the date of the suspension. The State Bank of Missouri is in the hands of a receiver.

Peril on the Ice.

WATERTOWN, N. Y., Feb. 5.—Last evening Mr. and Mrs. E. Forbes of Depeyster, N. Y., attempted to cross the St. Lawrence river at Morristown, with two horses and a covered carriage, without a pilot. They took the wrong road, and when about one-third of the distance across, the ice broke, and all fell into the river. Parties from the American shore hurried to rescue, and succeeded in saving Mr. and Mrs. Forbes and one of the horses. The other horse and the carriage went to the bottom.

Harry Harley Acquitted.

From the Titusville Herald.

The many friends of Mr. Henry Harley will be glad to learn that the suit arising out of the difficulties of the Pennsylvania Transportation Company, in which Mr. F. M. Shelds, the well known banker of Oil City, preferred a criminal charge against Mr. Harley of obtaining money under false pretences, was decided, on Saturday, at Franklin, before Judge Bredin, in favor of the defendant.

Six dress shirts to measure, $9; undershirts, drawers, and neck wear, half price. J. W. Johnston, 260 Grand st.; also, 427 Sixth av., cor. 26th st.—4dr.

HENRY W. GENET'S STORY.

TO BE A RECONSTRUCTED MEMBER OF SOCIETY IN NEW YORK.

What he Says About Ex-Sheriff Brennan and William M. Tweed—His Doings Since his Return to the City—No More City Politics.

Henry W. Genet passed the day yesterday very quietly at his old home at Second avenue and 125th street. He denied himself to all but a very few intimate friends, saying that after an absence of four years, he desired a little time to rest and renew his acquaintance with his family. His hair is slightly tinged with gray, hardly enough to be noticeable, but is getting thin on top. He wears his side whiskers a little longer than was his wont, and has grown a strong, handsome moustache, in which are sprinkled a few gray hairs among the brown. His eye is as bright as ever, and his tread as firm. His full, round voice has lost none of its power. He is growing rotund, weighs 210 pounds—the highest he ever weighed before was 216—and has the look of a man with whom the world is going well. He said:

"I came back on Monday morning, after riding all night in the cars, and after the fatigue of the day I feel yet pretty tired. On leaving the train I jumped into a coach and, with a single friend, was driven at once to the Chambers street entrance of the Court House. I had on a heavy overcoat, a soft felt hat, and a light shawl tied about my neck. I walked up the steps, passed a number of old acquaintances, none of whom seemed to know me, into the court room, and actually brushed against one of my bondsmen, Mr. Peter Knapp, without his recognizing me. There was no great crowd, but you can scarcely imagine the pride and pleasure I experienced in seeing in the court room a number of New York's most substantial and respected citizens, who had come there for the sole and only purpose of giving bail for me if it was needed. I am deeply touched by this evidence of their friendship. After leaving the court room in company with my firm, stanch friend, Mr. Sheppard Knapp, I went up to Harry Feiter's, where we met a number of other old friends and acquaintances. Then we took a coach to the Brower House, where we met old Col. Joe and any number of others; but few knew me though, and as I was not anxious for any sensation on my return, I did not make myself known to any who did not recognize me. Then we drove through Central Park, stopping for a few minutes at Mount St. Vincent; from there to Cozzi, Joe Black's in Harlem, where I stayed only about ten minutes, and then straight home. Arriving here, I was astonished to find the house full of ladies, the wives, mothers, and sisters of my old friends and associates. I feel deeply touched by this proof of their kindness and faithfulness, and in a little time I shall prove to them that they were not deceived in me.

"But I called last night and did not find you at home," the reporter suggested.

"Exactly, for I did not then wish to see any gentlemen of your cloth, for I desired no noise made over my arrival. So I stayed in my room long enough to say to who you do to everybody; that I called my name Genet. We took a good comfortable cutter, and slid along up to John Barry's, where we stopped for half an hour or so; from there we drove up to 'Gabe Gasse's,' where we spent perhaps an hour more, and at both places I met such a cordial, hearty welcome as I never met before in my life within me. Then I returned home as quietly as I went away."

"Why did you disappear so suddenly and unexpectedly four years ago?"

"As I left unlawfully, I started I had not the slightest intention of leaving. Neither Sheriff Brennan nor Deputy Sheriff Shields had the least intimation that I was going away. The idea came upon me suddenly that I was about to be unjustly punished. The public mind was excited, it was necessary to have a victim, and I seemed to be the selected victim. I was unjustly accused and unjustly convicted. Later on the light it came to me that if I went away and stayed away until the excitement and mad desire to punish somebody, no matter who, had passed away, until men's minds were calm and reason again allowed to govern people would see that wrong was being done me, and I should come out unharmed. I acted on the impulse of the moment, and time has proved that it was a correct one. I now return prepared to defend myself in a court of law, and prove my innocence. I shall have no fear, and I know that I am in the right, and can show it by documentary proof. I never was one of the Commissioners for building the Harlem Court House. I was simply attorney for the Board, and acted only under its direction. All this I can show to the satisfaction of any reasonable man. If the judgment is not made and I am given a chance.

"The judgment, then, you believe to be unjust?"

Mr. Genet arose from his seat, and, with uplifted hand, and his voice trembling with earnestness, said impressively: "Before high heaven, and in the presence of the living God, I swear to you, as I would swear if these were the last words I was to be permitted to utter on earth before appearing to make answer for my words to my Creator, that I am innocent of the charge of which I am accused, and have been found guilty. Let that pass, though. It is all over now, and I hope soon to have the opportunity to vindicate my good name, and I shall embrace it all the more eagerly, not for my own sake, but for the sake of my family and their friends, who have been true to me. Whatever else may be said of Harry Genet, it cannot truthfully be said that he ever wronged man, woman, or child of one dollar."

"What arrangements were made for your coming back, or what guarantees were given you?"

"No arrangement or compromise of any kind whatever was made with either the city or the state authorities. Nor did I come back to turn informer about others. I know nothing of the King's operations, and I did not belong to its Twenty. Every testimony proves that; but if I had known, I should not have turned informer, as an informer, if I never returned at all. I kept no communication with my counsel, Wm. A. Beach and Nelson J. Waterbury. As soon as they advised my return I came promptly back, and that is all I have to say about it."

"And where have you spent all these four years?"

"Oh, I cannot tell you that. I don't want to make a sensation and I don't want to be a hero, I don't intend to please mine enemy by writing a book, and I don't intend to give you the material for a sensational article."

"What are your plans for the future?"

"First, and most important, I am not going to have anything more to do with politics—that's settled. Next, I am going up in the country to rest for a day or two, and see my pet horse 'Barbary.' The old chap is 23 years old now, and we have had fun and fight together. I almost think he will speak to me when he sees me. Then I am coming back to the city and going down town to engage an office, and I will commence life anew. I am going to be reconstructed. That is what you call it nowadays, isn't it? I am going to work in earnest, and Harry Genet will become a staid, sober-sided, valuable, and eminently respectable member of society.

NAVAL INVESTIGATIONS.

Inquiry into the Fraudulent Transactions at Mare Island Deferred.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5. Mr. Whitthorne, Chairman of the Committee on Naval Affairs, has been for some time engaged in correspondence in regard to doubtful and fraudulent transactions at Mare Island Navy Yard. His informant is extremely anxious to have an investigation proceed forthwith, and appears to have facts to justify the charges he makes. At present, however, Mr. Whitthorne feels it would be unwise to send any members of the committee from the seat of war before them, and the investigation will be accordingly deferred until after the close of the session, with a reasonable probability that permission will be asked to sit through the recess. A letter to this effect was sent to San Francisco by Mr. Whitthorne to-day. The formal investigation and examination of witnesses by the Committee on Naval Affairs will be deferred until returns are obtained from the Navy Department in regard to contracts, standing indebtedness, and specified expenditures in the Navy Department. Tabulated forms have been prepared with great care by Mr. Whitthorne, giving the outlines of the most exhaustive inquiry.

Reducing the Salaries of Teachers.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* At the last meeting of the Board of Education a plan was announced for saving money by taking off some of the salaries of janitors, teachers, &c. Fearing the committee that had this in hand have, by an oversight, omitted to cut off anything from the salaries of certain educational officers, I beg leave to give a list, and ask, if these could not live on less as well as the teachers.

Lawrence D. Kiernan, clerk	$5,000
John Davenport, Auditor	4,000
Henry Kiddle, Superintendent of Schools	5,000
Norman A. Calkins, superintendent of Schools	4,000
Samuel A. Carter, Principal Normal College	7,000
Thomas Hunter, President of Normal College	5,000
Thomas Hunter, teacher on Saturdays	300
Alexander S. Webb, President City College	5,000
David B. Scott, Professor City College	4,000
David B. Scott, teacher Normal College	300
Total	$35,600

This sum is paid to eight men, and gives an average of nearly $5,480, which is a very handsome sum indeed in these hard times. It is well worth considering whether these men, whose duties are not heavy, would not be handsomely paid with $4,000. And a similar reduction could be made on all the list with advantage. At all events, to apply the rule the worthy Commissioners are constantly citing to the teachers, "Intending candidates found ready to jump into their shoes even at the reduction proposed." A. C. H.

E. C. S.
Stands for Elliott's Catholic Snuff. It cures Catarrh. Price 25 cents, at drug stores.—4dr.

Col. Ingersoll lectures on "Ghosts," at Chickering Hall, next sunday. Tickets at S. Hubbard's, 23 Union square, to-day.—4dr.

CRUELTY IN TRENTON PRISON.

The Legislative Committee Beginning an Investigation of the Charges.

TRENTON, Feb. 5.—The committee to investigate the charges of cruelty in the punishment of convicts in the New-Jersey State prison met to-day and organized by the selection of Senator Moore for Chairman and J. A. McLaughlin as clerk. The sessions are held with open doors, and there was a large attendance of spectators. Dr. Thomas J. Corson, whose letter to the Grand Jury brought the charges to light, was the first witness examined. He said that he did not know of his own knowledge that the punishments cited in his letter were inflicted, but he had every reason to believe that they were, his informant being Dr. W. W. L. Phillips, the prison physician, who named the "boot heel gag," the "stretcher," the burning with alcohol, and the "douche," and described their uses and effects. Dr. Corson said that he had been prison physician for three and a half years, and that the most severe punishment inflicted during his term of office was the confinement of a convict in a dark dungeon for six days on bread and water diet. He gave the names of several persons whom he desired to be subpenaed before the committee as witnesses.

The Hon. W. Rudd Deacon testified that he had been refused admission to the prison by Gen. Mott, the keeper, and claimed that as a member of the Legislature he was an official visitor and had a right to visit and converse with prisoners. He was cross-examined at length by Gen Mott, and acknowledged that he had been admitted to see prisoners before and since Gen. Mott was keeper. He had been to see Josephus Sooy, Jr., the defaulting State Treasurer, who is serving out a three years' sentence in the prison. Mr. Sooy, he said, never refused to see him. He said he had no charge of cruelty to make against Gen. Mott, and only desired to have his rights as a member of the Legislature defined.

The investigation was adjourned until to-morrow evening at 5 o'clock.

OUR IMPERFECT JURY SYSTEM.

How the City Has Lost $75,000 Through Official Negligence.

The Board for the Enforcement of Jury Fines met yesterday in Commissioner Dunlap's office. Mr. Dunlap presented his report for 1877. It said that the receipts from fines were $12,800, and the expenses of his office $11,940.50, and that the balance, $859.50, had been paid into the city treasury. Among the names of the persons given in the report as having paid the fine of $50, rather than serve as jurors, were those of John Jacob Astor, Joseph J. Alexander, B. T. Babbitt, William Belden, William E. Dodge, Jr., Rufus Hatch, William Steinway, George Cabot Ward, and Frederick A. Constable.

Mr. Fiske of the Commissioner's office said that 3,000 persons had been fined since last May. As many notices had been served in that time, of which fully one-half were excused from fine and duty in consequence of their having had not received notices. Thus $75,000 was lost to the city through the Sheriff's department, which served the notices.

John Knish, wine dealer at 6 Rivington street, testified that a notice was served on him in November, the busiest month. He represented as much to the person serving the notice, who retracted it, as he understood. The officer returned in two weeks and served another, and soon he was fined $50 for not attending the first summons. The indisinement he offered the server of the first notice was a drink. On motion it was agreed to remit Mr. Knish's fine.

KILLED BY CHLOROFORM.

Miss Wilson Dying while Under the Hands of a Staten Island Dentist.

An inquest was held yesterday by Coroner James Demarest of New Brighton, Staten Island, in the case of Sarah Wilson, aged 21 years, a domestic in the family of Mr. Thos. Seguine, at Annandale, Staten Island, who died suddenly yesterday morning from an overdose of chloroform administered by Dr. Harvey. She had been suffering from diseased teeth, and she sent for the dentist of the village, Dr. Harvey, who found it necessary to draw six of her teeth, and he administered the usual dose of chloroform, which acted on the patient while three teeth were being extracted. After that he deemed it considered it necessary to give the patient another dose of chloroform. He did so, and within four minutes after the last tooth was drawn Sarah Wilson was found to be dead.

The death created intense excitement, and at the inquest a man holding certificates was present. The jury returned a verdict that the young woman came to her death from an overdose of chloroform accidentally administered.

NEWARK'S CITIZENS' INSURANCE CO.

The Stockholders Vote to Discontinue Business—Directors Elected.

The Directors of the Citizens' Insurance Company of Newark held their annual meeting yesterday, and re-elected the old Board of Directors, with the exception of Messrs J. M. Smith, H. M. Rhodes, W. M. Ransom, Joseph Cabell, A. O. Malie, Robert Matches, B. O. Cordell, Isaac Sargent, J. R. Rhodes, G. J. Dorrance, and W. W. Hoffbeck. The following were elected in their places: J. B. Kilburn, Samuel Street, C. S. Graham, A. S. Cook, C. Dutching, Alex. Philips, A. L. Arnold, Wessel Sickel, J. H. Bamber, J. Dorrance, and H. Kase.

While the election was being held, the stockholders met and voted to discontinue the business of the company. Jacob Weiss, Samuel Street, A. L. Arnold, and B. H. Jacques were appointed as a committee to examine the assets.

ANOTHER BOILER EXPLOSION.

The Accident that Happened to the Steamboat Argo at Barren Island.

At 11½ o'clock yesterday morning Capt. Fitzgerald, Engineer Velser, and Fireman McQuade were around their turks by the explosion of the rending steamboat Argo's boilers. The boat was fast at her dock at Barren Island, and had been made trim for the night. Capt. Fitzgerald and his men, finding that Brennan had communicated the vessel, returned aboard to get their pocket a flight with the flames, saved the hull and machinery.

The Argo belonged to Frank Swift of the West Thirty-eighth street ferry dock. She had been in many years employed in the transport of dead animals from the city to Barren Island. Her sister boat, the Nashoba, takes her place.

Contents of the Weekly Sun.

THE WEEKLY SUN, published this morning, contains:

The Eastern Question—An Armistice Signed between Turkey and Russia—The Preliminaries of Peace—Other Topics in Eastern Complications—The Proposed Congress—The Ex-Khedive Ismail—Cuba—Mr. Tilden's Letter—Hayes and Lee Bradley Going Back on their Friends—Surrender of Himself to J. M. Wells—Hayes and Joe Bradley Going Back on their Friends—A Pleasant Nourishing Pulmonic—Cod Liver Oil, in combination with Phosphite Nutritine, is approved by physicians. All druggists. Depot, 2 Platt st.—4dr.

SILVER STILL THE THEME.

SENATOR CONKLING ON THE REMONETIZATION PROPAGANDA.

Why Senator Eaton Opposes the Pending Bill and why Senator Howe Favors It—The Famine in China—West Point's Faculty.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5.—In the Senate Mr. Conkling (Rep., N. Y.) said he had received for presentation a large number of petitions from citizens residing in many counties of New York all favoring the remonetization of the silver dollar of 412½ grains. They were all printed in the same form, and were the product of organized effort, such as had been seen in the abolition of the franking privilege. They did not represent the opinion or the conviction of the people of the State of New York. The Legislature of that State had determined that after this year all taxes and duties therein should be rendered in coin, and had just declared its conviction that gold was the true standard of exchanges and of final satisfaction. One of the petitions came to him with a foot note in writing below the printed matter. This foot note was signed by sixty residents of Montgomery, in the county of Orange. In this foot note, referring to the printed matter, the petitioners said that, after consulting with their townsmen, they looked with contempt upon the tissue of sophistry and falsehood contained therein, and they regarded those advocating remonetization as being nearly an equal mixture of idiot and knave. The petitioners did not want to have forced upon them a debased coin. Should silver be made as plentiful as dust, poor men could not get one cent of it unless they had labor or the product of labor to give in return. They protested against the passage of any law for the unlimited coinage of silver. He had read this foot note signed by these sixty petitioners because he thought it right they should be heard as well as the others.

Mr. Kernan (Dem., N. Y.) introduced a bill for the relief of the American Growers' Association of the City of New York. Referred to the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads.

The Senate then went on with the Silver bill.

Mr. Eaton (Dem., Conn.) said that he would vote for the amendment proposed by the Finance Committee for an international conference to fix the relative value of gold and silver, but he desired to submit an amendment. To-day 454½ grains of standard silver were equal to the gold dollar. He would make the silver coin worth one hundred cents, and under his constitutional oath he would do it now, and not wait for the report of any international commission. Believing that the stamping of silver by the Government as money appreciated its value, he would make the silver dollar consist of 440 grains. He moved to amend the bill by striking out 412½ grains and inserting 440 grains. The bill was defective and faulty. Catch terms about the value of the metal in the silver dollar would have no weight. That statesman would terribly fall who permitted the clamor of demagogues to guide his action in dealing with these questions. Mr. Eaton then criticised the speech of Mr. Voorhees as tending to prejudice against capital. Let there be no more nonsense. Brave men did not fear it, and honorable men would never indulge in it. But for the unwise action of Congress, the sommer-ial men of the country would have resumed specie payment before the 1st of March next. There were some things which Congress could do to assist the people, for it could reduce the expenses of the Federal Government, cut down the army and navy, reduce the number of cadets at West Point and Annapolis, and open up new avenues of trade and commerce. Let American capitalists purchase ships on the Clyde and everywhere, and let an American register to them. We would then understroll our great rival, England, everywhere.

Mr. Howe (Rep., Wis.) said that the debt never would be paid in gold or silver, for the simple reason that the coin did not exist with which to pay it. The debt must be paid in commodities. He then argued that if the creditor insisted upon the payment of the bond in gold, he must rest upon the equity of his claim, and not upon the law. He favored the remonetization of silver because it was an American product, and he would legislate against it. Demonetization was a deliberate effort to wipe out half of one of the means of our people to pay their debts.

Mr. Teller (Rep., Col.) submitted the following amendment:

That the holders of silver bullion may deposit with the Treasurer or any Assistant Treasurer of the United States, such silver bullion in amounts not less than twenty ounces or 900 fine, and receive therefor certificates of not less than $100 each, computing a dollar of 412½ grains of standard silver, which certificates shall be a legal tender for the payment of such certificates on presentation at the treasury where issued. If the bullion so deposited shall be coined, the seigniorage shall be paid to the depositor in coin, or in coined dollars, part in bullion and part in coin, at the option of the depositor. The bullion received shall not be melted in the amount of more than ten thousand dollars in any one month, nor be legal tender for the payment of any debts whatever.

The Senate then adjourned.

House of Representatives.

Mr. Rice (Rep., Mass.) presented the majority report of the Pacific Railroad Committee, with a bill extending the time for the completion of the Northern Pacific Railroad, and Mr. Morrison (Dem., Ill.) presented the minority report. Printed and recommitted.

Mr. Shelley (Dem., Ala.) offered a resolution calling on John Sherman for a detailed statement of the expenses of the Southern Claims Commission. Referred.

Mr. Hewitt (Dem., N. Y.) presented two petitions, one from New York and one from Boston, asking Congress to help relieve the famine in China. He said that there were now in China 9,000,000 of people in a state of starvation, and that children were daily sold for food. He understood that the balance of the Chinese indemnity fund now in the State Department amounted to over a million dollars. To this money the people of this country had no just claim, and it should have been returned to China long ago. It should now be returned on the condition, in the most gracious and efficacious manner possible.

Mr. Cox (Dem., N. Y.) said that he was satisfied beyond a doubt that the United States had no right whatever to that fund. He knew it was the duty of Congress to alleviate sufferings at home, but he would legislate in advance the favor of the House for a bill returning the money to China.

Mr. Wright (Dem., Pa.)—If we are indebted to the Chinese Government, it is our duty to pay that debt. But I find that a loan is made for national and individual contributions in aid of the suffering people of China. To that I object. These memorialists say that the dearth is famine in China. I say that we have a famine in our country. We have at this moment 2,000,000 of men out of employment, and if there is any individual or national charity to be bestowed, we ought to look first to our own households. Business is paralyzed, and abundant want stalks through the land. There is not a gentleman in this floor who does not see it every day. Let me ask this House whether it expects to adjourn without doing something for the alleviation of the suffering of the people of this land. Members have gone from here to their districts without having at least made an effort to do something.

The memorials were referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Stephens (Dem., Ga.), Chairman of the Committee on Coinage, Weights, and Measures, reported the testimony taken on the proposal to coin gold coinage, &c., and asked to have it printed. So ordered.

The House went into Committee of the Whole on the Military Academy Appropriation bill.

On the suggestion of Mr. Hurlbut (Rep., Ky.) the item of $7,000 for additional pay of professors for length of service was stricken out.

Mr. Mayham (Dem., N. Y.) moved to strike out the item of $900 for the pay of one instructor of practical military engineering in addition to a regular first Lieutenant.

Mr. Riddle (Dem., Fla.) moved as a substitute that no rations or quarters be furnished, and no commutation.

Mr. Hewitt said that no officer of the army was furnished with rations, and that as to quarters for professors at West Point, these were furnished by the Government. He wanted to know whether it was proposed that the Government should charge rent. Such a proposition must have originated in ignorance of the law and ignorance of the practice.

Mr. Clymer (Dem., Pa.) said that there were for two many professors at West Point. There was one to every 5½ students, and their pay, exclusive of quarters, &c., amounted to over $600 more than the cost of supporting the 310