THE GREAT HAYDEN TRIAL.

ANOTHER REMARKABLE SCENE IN THE COURT HOUSE AT NEW HAVEN.

Old Ben Stevens Brought in Wrapped in a Red Quilt—His Appearance on the Witness Stand—A Direct Contradiction of Mr. Hayden's Testimony—A Sunday Club Covered with Hair and Blood—Mrs. Ward's Story.

The forty-eighth day of the Hayden trial drew a full attendance. The male residents of Rockland were out in all their unique glory, arrayed in antique bell-crowned hats, baggy pantaloons, buckskin watch guards, collarless shirts, and cowhide boots. Mr. Hayden and his relatives were early in their seats, listening to the jingling of sleighbells outside. The contending lawyers settled themselves like chess players, and the game was continued by placing Mrs. Loren Stevens on the witness stand. She testified that she attended the oyster supper in March, 1878, and could not find Mr. Hayden there between 10 and 11 o'clock. On cross-examination she said that she knew of his absence only from hearing persons inquiring for him.

Walter L. Green, a regular attendant of the Methodist church in Rockland, testified that on the day after the homicide he met Mr. Hayden in a carriage at the foot of Pea Hill not far from 9 o'clock. Mr. Hayden said he was going to Talcott Davis's house. Between 11 and 12 o'clock he again saw the clergyman in the woods near the spot where the body was found. He afterward overtook him below the spring. Both were in buggies. Mr. Huntington was in the wagon with the witness. "I asked him," said Mr. Green, "to stop his wagon, as I wished to speak with him. He said he would when he got down to the forks of the road. He stopped at the forks, and I asked him what he thought about it. He said that he didn't know but what she had been off and got into trouble, and that, rather than bear an exposure a second time, she had committed suicide. He said that she had been down-hearted and low-spirited for some time, and he thought that if the Coroner's jury could have found a knife, they would have brought in a verdict of suicide."

Oramel Huntington corroborated Mr. Green's testimony.

OLD BEN STEVENS ON THE STAND.

There was a struggle to get into the court room during the noon recess. Old Ben Stevens, once suspected of the murder, had been brought to the Tontine House from Rockland, and carried up the steps through a mass of spectators. The report of his arrival was quickly spread, and hundreds of ladies flocked to the court house. Not more than half of them gained an entrance. The crowd was so dense that the Sheriff ordered all persons standing in the rear of the court room to retire to the lobbies. At 2 o'clock a comfortable invalid's chair was placed in the witness stand. Five minutes later the old man was brought into the room in an armchair borne by two deputies. He was dressed in black, and wrapped in a bedquilt. He wore a soft black hat. His pale face and his sunken eyes told the story of his sickness. Placed in the invalid's chair he drank some medicine from a bottle, and let his head drop back on a pillow. He clasped his bony hands across his chest, crossed his thin legs, and awaited the pleasure of the court. Drs. Jewett, White, and Sanford were stationed at his side. At Mr. Waller's request the feeble old man held up his right hand, and the clerk administered the oath. There was a rush from the lobbies, and the back part of the court room was quickly crowded with standing persons. As Mr. Waller began to question the witness the room became silent.

"My name is Benjamin Stevens," he said. "I was 62 years old last March. I was born in Rockland, and have lived there ever since. I have a family of four children—three boys and a girl. They are all married, and all gone from the town. I have known Charles Stannard ever since he was a little shaver, forty or fifty years ago. I knew his daughter Mary. On the night before the homicide I was over to Smith's, in North Guilford. There had been a raising there, and there was singing and dancing. I didn't dance. It was four or five miles from Charles Stannard's house. I stayed up all night, and walked home in the morning. If I got any breakfast I ate it at home. Afterward I went over to Charles Stannard's house. This was the morning of the murder. I got to the house about 9 o'clock, and stayed there until after 1. I was there when Mr. Hayden came. When I first saw him I was sitting in the front room. I might have seen him as he came into the front room with Mr. Stannard. I think I did. He went right through the room, and he was going into the kitchen he said it was a warm day. I answered him, and that was all that was said. I was sitting in the front room when they came back. They came back through the same room, and out through the front door. [Contradictory of both Mr. Stannard and Mr. Hayden. They say they went out by the kitchen door.] I didn't go out doors while Mr. Hayden was in the house. I didn't see him after he went out. It is not true, as Mr. Hayden states, that Mary and I stood leaning on the fence, either when he came, or when he went away. I did not see Mary while Mr. Hayden was in the house. Just before he came she was hazing around and was uneasy. She would sit down on a chair and then get up and come in again and sit down on the bed, and then rush out again. She disappeared entirely when Mr. Hayden came, and I did not see her again until he had gone. I had no talk with Mr. Hayden about murder, and not one word about anything else. [Another contradiction of the clergyman's testimony.] The lumber was bought and sold before that. I saw Mary come back from the spring after Mr. Hayden had gone. She went into the kitchen with a pail of water. She was sad to great excess.

"I ate dinner there that day," said Mr. Stevens. "I always sat down at the table if they were eating when I was there. Charles Stannard had worked for me more than two years. I was living alone two miles away, and felt at home in his house. I had rather take victuals to his house and have the girls cook them than cook them myself. After Mary came from the spring she said: 'Now, I've got some water. I'm going to get some dinner, and then I'm going to get some blackberries.' I said to her, 'There's blackberries enough on the hill. Your father and me came across there Sunday and saw plenty of them.' She said: 'There's where I'm going.' I think we had dinner just after 12 o'clock. We had fried pork, eggs, and potatoes. Mary went after berries a spell afterward. I think I was in the front room when she left. When I last saw her she was crossing the road with a tin pail in her hand. Her father went away soon afterward, and after a little spell I went home. I have no recollection of seeing Charles Stannard after I came out of the house, and I certainly did not see Mary. I went home by the road, cutting across Stevens's corner by a path nearly opposite the Methodist church. I met Miss Scranton, about half a mile from my house. She is dead."

"Miss Scranton!" said Mr. Waller, in some astonishment.

"Oh, Mrs. Ward, formerly a Miss Scranton," the sick man replied: "I also saw Ed. Stevens working in a lot, and do not remember of seeing any one else. After I got home I looked around the house and did some chores. As I went into the house I looked at the clock and saw that it was 3 o'clock. I sat down in a chair by the open front door for a while and then laid down and took a nap. I stayed there until the folks came home. His son (Bell and wife) I don't recollect of seeing anybody go by. I heard of Mary's death the next morning."

MR. JONES'S CROSS-EXAMINATION.

"The witness is yours, gentlemen," said Mr. Waller. The old man raised his head from his pillow and wiped his face with an old-fashioned bandanna. The room was uncomfortably warm. Mr. Jones began his cross-examination as follows:

Q—You say you saw nothing of Mary after she crossed the road. A—Yes.

Q—When did you first see the body? A—The next morning.

Q—Did you see the wound in the top of the head? A—I guess I saw it that afternoon. I remember of lifting up the cloth and looking at it.

Q—When you went there that morning, did you go to see the body? A—Yes.

Q—Did you see the wound in the neck? A—Not much of it. There was a handkerchief around it, but the cloth or tape off the bandage. I didn't like to ask her father to do it.

Q—Were Susan and her father there? A—Yes.

Q—Did you ask to see the body? A—No.

Q—Where did you first see the wound on the head? A—I don't know.

Q—Did you remember whether it was that day or afterward? A—I think it was that day.

Q—Do you remember with what number of the family you first talked? A—I guess it was Mary, Charles, or Susan.

Q—Did you talk with Susan alone? A—No.

Q—Did you at any time ask her to step into the pantry? A—I did not.

Q—Do you remember where she was when you came in? A—I think that she and Charles were in the kitchen.

Q—Before you sat down did you go into any other room? A—I don't recollect. I don't think I sat down at 1.

Q—Who showed you the wound on the head? A—I don't recollect.

Q—Who went in with you to look at the body? A—Charles I think.

Q—Did you ever have any knowledge as to what caused the wound in the head? A—No.

Q—Did you ever tell anybody so? A—No, sir.

Q—Did you ever hint anybody you had a black oak stick three feet long with which one end the wound was made? A—No.

Q—Did you ever say that you had a club with blood or hair on it? A—No, sir.

Q—Have you ever said that you could produce such a club, and that it fitted the wound in the head? A—No, sir.

Q—Have you ever had any conversation with anyone since the 3d of last October, 1878, in reference to a club that might have made the wound? A—No.

Q—Do you know George Atwell and John Tallmadge of Durham? A—Yes.

Q—Did you see either or both of them on Wednesday or Thursday after Mary Stannard's death? A—Yes; they were down in Rockland.

Q—On which day? A—I think it was Wednesday; but I might have seen them both days.

Q—Were they together? A—Yes.

Q—Where did you see them? A—In Charles Stannard's dooryard.

Q—Did you have any conversation with them? A—They came in and asked me about the murder, and I told them I didn't want to talk about it. I didn't want to expose myself.

Q—Why did you not want to talk about it? A—I didn't want to be annoyed. I presume they people were asking me this and that, and annoying me.

Q—Were you fearful that you would criminate yourself? A—No, sir.

Q—What do you mean when you say that you did not want to expose yourself? A—I didn't want people coming round with a pail a dozen different stories, saying that they got them from me.

Q—Were you afraid that Atwell and Tallmadge would misrepresent you? A—No.

Q—Then why did you not answer their questions? A—Because I didn't want to talk with every man that came along.

Q—Didn't you tell the jury last now that it was because you did not want to expose yourself? A—No.

Q—Did you not say to them words that carried not the—those exact words? A—I didn't mean such. I did say so.

Q—What were you doing at the Stannard house when Atwell and Tallmadge were there? A—I was assisting Charles come and taking care of the boy Mary's child. I went with the rest of them up to the spot where the body was found.

Q—Can you tell us what you did to aid the family? A—No, I cannot.

Q—What was the question that Atwell and Tallmadge asked you? A—They asked me if I could tell them anything about the murder—if I was guilty, or something to that effect. I told them I couldn't talk about it.

Q—Was there anything else said? A—I don't recollect.

Q—Will you swear there was not? A—Yes.

Q—How long had you known these two men? A—Since I was five or 20 years old.

Q—Do you say that they asked you no more questions? A—I don't recollect.

Q—Did you not talk with them about a club? A—I don't recollect.

Q—Have you any doubt about it? A—No.

Q—Did you not with your hand indicate the length of the club? A—I don't recollect.

Q—And didn't you tell them that you would produce it at the proper time? A—No.

Q—You say you were in the sitting room of the Stannard house when Mr. Hayden came in on the day of the homicide? A—Yes.

Q—Is your memory pretty good? A—Yes.

Q—Did you say so in Madison? A—Yes.

Q—Did you see Mr. Hayden when he drove up? A—I saw his horse through the window.

Q—Was the horse panting and sweaty? A—I don't know.

Q—Did you ask Mr. Hayden where he had been? A—No. [Mr. Hayden says he did, and that he replied that he had been to Middletown.]

Q—Did you ask him whether he had driven far? A—No, sir.

Q—Do you know of any means by which Mr. Hayden came into possession of this information about the lumber? A—No, sir.

Q—When were you hired by Samuel Scranton to purchase the lumber? A—Why, I never was hired by him. I never bought any lumber for him at all.

Q—Who were you dickering for? A—Smith.

Q—What Smith? A—John Smith.

Q—Where did he live? A—Over in Guilford.

Q—How long before the homicide was this? A—About two weeks.

Q—What was the arrangement? A—He said that I might offer him $17 for the lumber, and I told him he could not get it for less than $20. [Mr. Hayden gave these figures in his testimony, substituting Scranton's name for Smith's.]

Q—Did you ever tell anybody of this? A—I have no recollection of doing so.

Q—Did you not go to Hill's place to inquire about the lumber? A—Some time before.

Q—When was the lumber sold? A—I think Hill himself sold it to Smith the day before the murder.

Q—Were you present? A—No.

Q—How did you know it? A—Smith told me on the night of the raising that he had bought it.

Q—Did you have any knowledge that Nehemiah Barr and Ellmore Scranton talked about buying it? A—Barr told me so. [This agrees with what Mr. Hayden says Stevens told him.]

Q—You had this knowledge, then, when Mr. Hayden came along? A—Yes.

Q—Did you ever tell anybody of that? A—Not that I know.

Q—What kind of a day was it when Mr. Hayden stopped at the Stannard house? A—It was pretty warm.

Q—It was very natural that you should ask him whether he had driven far? [Mr. Hayden's testimony.] A—I never said anything to him at all.

Q—Will you swear that you did not? A—Yes, sir.

Q—Did you hear him ask for water? A—I heard him ask Charles for water, and Charles said he had some up, but it was warm.

Q—Where was this? A—They were out doors.

Q—Are you sure that Charles was out doors? A—I think he was.

Q—Where were Mr. Hayden's children when he came in? A—They were playing and hazing around somewhere. I don't exactly know where.

Q—Do you remember that the little girl spoke to her father when he drove up? A—No.

Q—Was Mary in the room when he came in? A—She was there two minutes before he came, but when he got into the house I missed her. It was a hot day, and she had been down town twice running around. I don't know where she was.

Q—Did she come coming out any change to you before Mr. Hayden came? A—No.

Q—Were you counting it at the very instant that he drove up? A—No.

Q—How long he stayed? A—A few minutes.

Q—When did Hill's barn blow down? A—At the time of the Washington tornado.

Q—What lumber did you let Hill have for sale? A—Yellow pine flooring and matched stuff.

Q—What time did you let the Stannard house on the morning of the homicide? A—Between 8 and 9 o'clock.

Q—Had you been to bed the night before? A—No.

Q—Had you been drinking? A—No. I'll tell you the reason. I couldn't get any thing to drink.

Q—Did you say so when testifying in Madison? A—Yes.

Q—Who were in your family on Sept. 3, 1878? A—I don't know.

Q—Didn't you say in Madison that Odell Stevens, his wife and three children, lived with you? A—I think I did; I don't remember.

Q—Have you not and here today that you slept on the afternoon of the homicide with the rocks came home? A—I've slept in the states—Odell and his wife were there.

Q—How long had they been there? A—They came there in May, I guess.

Q—Did Susan Hawley ever work for you? A—Yes.

Q—When? A—She came the week before another girl, and stayed a month afterward. She worked for me at different times. I paid her no money, and she made it her home when she was out of work. I had her to sea.

Q—Have you slept nights at the Stannard house? A—Yes.

Q—Did you do so at times when Wilbur Stevens and Odell kept house for you? A—Yes.

Q—Are you a man of property? A—Yes.

Q—Are and he tell the truth when you say you are worth several thousand dollars? A—It is hard to tell what a man is worth until he is dead, and then you can't always tell.

Q—Did you ever sleep at Stannard's house? A—Yes.

Q—How often? A—I can't tell.

Q—Once a week? A—I don't think so.

Q—Didn't you furnish money for the house? A—No, sir.

Q—Didn't you say so when on the stand at Madison? A—I have no recollection of saying any such thing.

Q—Were you not in the habit of sleeping there? A—In cold weather in the bedroom, and in warm weather on the lounge.

Q—Reading from a printed report of Mr. Stevens's testimony in Madison: "I may have said that I took had rather take meat two miles to Stannard's house and have it cooked than to cook it yourself, and that you slept on the lounge in preference to the bed in the house?" A—No.

Q—And your son's family was at your house at that time? A—I didn't board them.

Q—Didn't you sleep on Susan's bed that very Tuesday of the homicide? A—I flopped down on it, but I didn't sleep.

Q—Where was Mary at that time? A—Down town, I suppose. I don't know.

Q—And you stayed on the bed until she came back? A—No.

Q—Was there anybody there in the house but yourself and Susan? A—No. She was in the kitchen baking. Mary was out when I got there.

Q—Did you not say in Madison with that family that you occupied the bed of one of the females? A—Well, the bed was there, and they didn't have chairs, and they used to sit down on it.

Q—How long was it before Mary returned? A—About half an hour.

Q—Was she there all the morning? A—No. She went down town again to the store.

Q—Did you give her $5? A—I handed it to her. I didn't give it to her.

Q—Is Susan pregnant? A—Yes.

Q—Were you in the habit of eating, sleeping, and lying down whenever you chose in the Stannard house? A—Yes.

Q—Did you keep any account of what you had and furnished? A—No.

Q—And this had been going on ever since Susan left your place? A—Off and on.

Q—Where were you when Mary started for blackberries? A—In the front room.

Q—You told her where to get them? A—Yes, before dinner.

Q—Didn't you say, "Go up by Big Rock, and you'll find plenty of berries"? A—Yes, I presume I did. She said, "There's where I'm a going."

Q—Did she ask you where to go? A—No; I told her where to go.

Q—You generally went that way home, did you not? A—When I had work that way I went that way, but when I went direct to Stannard's house I went by the main road.

Q—Do you not say in Madison that in going to Stannard's house you frequently went across? A—I don't remember. Most of the time I went by the road.

Q—Which is the longest? A—Some say it is the quickest going across.

Q—Did you go out of the house with Mary when she went under the tree? A—No.

Q—Where was her father then? A—He was not there.

Q—Susan testified that you came in the house after Mary went hazing. A—I may have stepped out of the door a minute in the gate.

Q—When was this? A—After Mary went away.

Q—Do you remember of going to the kitchen afterward and talking with Susan? A—No. Susan was in the kitchen.

Q—You had reason to know where Mary was when you went home? A—I supposed she was up where she had been down town twice running around.

Q—It was a warm day, was it not? A—Very warm.

Q—And a hot, sunshiny road? A—Yes.

Q—And it was dusty in the woods? A—I suppose so.

Q—Then why did you take the road in going home and not the woods? A—Because there was more of a breeze on the road.

Q—Do you not remember the reason you gave in Madison? A—No.

Q—Did you not say in Madison that you did not see a living being while on the way home except two boys? A—I think I said I didn't talk to a living being while on the way home.

Q—Did you not say that you saw no one but the boys? A—I don't think so.

Q—Why did you not say that you met Mrs. Ward? A—I don't think of it—didn't think it was of any consequence.

Q—Do you testify that no one saw you, as you know, while your family came home that evening? A—Like enough they did.

Q—Do you know Fred Dowd? A—Yes.

Q—Did you see him on Sunday after the Madison trial? A—I don't remember.

Q—Did you talk with him about the case? A—Not that I remember.

Q—Did you not tell him that you were going to tell Sheriff Hall, or Hall, or Stowell, that you were pretty full on the day of the homicide? A—No.

Q—Did you have any conversation as to your condition with Mrs. Ward, or any one else, that day? A—I passed with them, but I don't recollect anything of it.

Q—Did you not speak of Mrs. Ward in the conversation? A—I don't recollect that there was a report that Mrs. Ward thought she saw Hayden when he crossed the path, and asked him to hold a stall light.

Q—Did you not tell him that you had found a woman who would swear that she saw you on the road home, and that you guessed, by God, that she'd swear she saw Hayden? A—No, sir.

Q—At Madison, were you asked whether you had a knife? A—Yes.

Q—Although you gave it up, did you say that it was the same you had in your pocket? A—Yes.

Q—When you said out on the steps did you not say to some one, "They wanted my old knife, but, by God, I've got a knife that will do the business?" A—No.

Q—Have you ever said in the presence of Ellsworth Beach or that when Mr. Hayden drove up to the Stannard house you were lying on the bed with Willie Mary's boy? A—No.

Q—Do you ever tell anybody so? A—No.

Here the cross-examination closed.

On a redirect examination Mr. Stevens said that he had given nobody any false impressions, and he had not been off his premises, or anywhere outside the road, since he had been sick or since Oct. 15, the date of the beginning of this trial. When he gave Mary Stannard the five dollars on the day of the trial the girls were talking about wanting gingerbread. He said: "Here, child, I owe your father $3 and you may as well have it now as any time. I can give it to the orange when you get back from the store." Mr. Waller asked the witness whether he had ever been unduly intimate with Susan Hawley. The decrepit witness, however, objected, and the question was withdrawn.

Mr. Stevens was then wrapped in his bedquilt and carried from the court room. Dr. White says his pulse stood at 128 when the stand. He was put to bed in the Tontine, and will probably be sent back to Rockland to-day.

The court adjourned to Tuesday

THE BROKEN GROCERS' BANK

RECEIVING DEPOSITS WITHIN AN HOUR OF THE SUSPENSION.

The Directors Unite in Laying the Blame on the President, and the Depositors Angry with the President and the Directors Both.

The Grocers' Bank has been placed in the hands of a receiver. The determination to wind up its business seems to have been reached not only without the assent, but without the knowledge of all its directors. The announcement was received with astonishment by nearly all the stockholders, depositors and old friends of the concern. On New Year's night, twenty-four hours after the bank had closed its business forever, there was more than one influential director who had not heard even the rumors of the action and branded the story as a malicious falsehood.

The Grocers' Bank transacted business in its own building, at 59 Barclay street, on the corner of College place. This building was once known as the Sewall House, and later still it narrowly escaped destruction by the famous Barclay street candy factory fire. The banking establishment was founded in October, 1852, and the most conspicuous of its founders was Chas. Denison, the head of a wholesale grocery house that prospered half a century. He was its first President, and his son was its last President. The bank survived many calamities. It was seriously injured in the panic of 1857, and still later a cashier absconded from it with a large sum of money.

A year ago the President of the institution was Samuel B. White of West Farms, in this county. He was markedly unsuccessful in administering the affairs of the bank. Its trade declined, and its ventures were not always successful. He resigned at the request of the directors, and Charles Denison, his brother-in-law and the son of the first President of the bank, was elected to the chair. In order to restore the business to a sound basis the capital of the institution was reduced from $300,000 to $225,000. Since the incoming of this last President the stockholders have had reason to believe that an era of renewed prosperity was at hand. The assets increased, and the number of depositors nearly doubled. Nevertheless it is agreed by all the directors to whom THE SUN'S reporters have spoken that it was owing to the acts of President Denison that the bank's closing is due. The loans of money to Mr. Lloyd Haigh, the contractor who furnished steel wire to the Brooklyn Bridge were authorized by him. President Denison's son is a clerk in Mr. Haigh's office. Since Mr. Haigh's failure last week it was believed by the directors that these sums of money, amounting to $60,000, were a loss. Many of the directors had received such assurances of the solidity of Mr. Haigh's securities that when they heard of his failure they were not alarmed by the news, while other directors, stockholders, and depositors received assurances that the Grocers' Bank was secure as late as Wednesday afternoon. On that afternoon a certified check from the Grocers' Bank was refused by the Importers' and Traders' National Bank. A rush of business was transacted at the Grocers' Bank on Wednesday afternoon. News of the fate of the certified check is said to have reached some of the depositors of the Grocers' Bank, some of whom drew out their funds, but money was received until the close of the day. It is said that a Mr. Sterns paper deposited $2,500 in the afternoon, and it was during the afternoon that a deposit was made by the manager of the Astor House. President Denison had called a meeting of the directors, and they assembled at 4 o'clock. The President and Vice-President were wholly unnerved. He read a statement of the condition of the bank, and detailed the particulars of the relationship of J. Lloyd Haigh to the bank. The directors of the bank who were present were Messrs. George M. Leventritt, Vice-President, M. W. Cobb, Charles Denison, Charles E. Townsend, F. E. Skelding, H. Offerman, and F. W. Bruggerhof.

The statement read by the President showed that there were sufficient funds with which to meet the claims of all depositors and to secure the stockholders from loss. Some of the directors advocated recourse to the suspension of payments in order to gain time and to prevent a possible run upon the bank. Others spoke of sharing the burden of the bank's loss. Mr. Blair, counsel to the board, submitted a resolution authorizing the immediate suspension of business. The President advocated the passage of this resolution, and carried his point. Finally, Mr. Joseph Perjam, the cashier, was sent to Albany, may be to consult the Superintendent and the Attorney-General permission to place the bank in the hands of a receiver.

Mr. Thurlow Weed, who is an old depositor at the bank, was astonished at the report. He had been with the Weeds on Wednesday, and had remarked the cheerfulness of the officials. He said that but for the lateness of the hour at which he received a considerable sum of money he would have made a large deposit in the bank. He said that he had opened an account with the Grocers' Bank at the request of Senator Murphy. He still has a small deposit undrawn. Ex-Collector Murphy said on New Year's Day that he had not heard of the bank's collapse. He had not kept posted upon the affairs of the management of the bank, but had left the direction to others. Mr. Lansing, the manager of the Astor House, had very recently received extremely favorable information as to the bank's condition, and he doubted the genuineness of the announcement. Mr. Joseph Scheider, a director in the bank, was completely astonished at the action of the other directors, although he was in the bank on Wednesday and had met and conversed with Mr. Leventritt, the Vice-President, on the following morning. Mr. Leventritt sent word that he was prepared to say nothing about the matter, and added that information could only be obtained at the bank. Many calls were made at the house of President Denison, 3 Park avenue, but he could not be seen.

As soon as the bank opened yesterday morning the doors were besieged by a crowd anxiously as to the prospects for getting their money. At first the reply was: "The directors are about to have a meeting, and we will have a statement ready for you soon—probably by 1 o'clock." Each of the directors who entered was buttonholed and closely interrogated for particulars. Among them Mr. Francis E. Skelding was prominent, and he was profuse in his protestations that no depositor would lose a cent by the bank, and that even the stockholders would receive their shares in full. He said: "I think the difficulty is only temporary, and that arrangements will be made to open this bank again and go on and transact business. I've been at work all night, and haven't had a mouthful since yesterday, and I will stay all night if necessary." Mr. Skelding remained outside the directors' room for some time answering questions, and said in making reassuring promises to several of the depositors: "I am positive that all will be paid in full after a brief delay. My money is in here and the money of my family, and I am determined to stay here and do all I can to see that the best that can be done for the depositors is done. I and my family own 400 shares of stock in this bank, and we have no thought of losing anything."

"Well," said Mr. Meyer Stern, who is one of the largest depositors, "I cannot understand how the bank should fail. If your statement of Dec. 13 is true. There you make a plain showing of a surplus. What I want to know is how the bank could come to be insolvent in so short a time. I venture to say that if all your securities are safe, you never ought to have failed."

"I assure you that all our securities are safely locked up. We have not taken anything away, and there has been no defalcation."

"Then all I have got to say," continued Mr. Stern, "is that you have lost your financial heads. If you have got the securities that you ought to have according to your statement, sworn to on Dec. 13, I venture to say that any business man could take them and realize on them in twenty-four hours. You must know, as a business man, that such is the case."

"I did not doubt that we could go on," continued Mr. Skelding. "I was ready to advance money to help the bank through, and I am satisfied others could have been found to do the same. I believe that our President, Mr. Denison, got frightened and lost his head. If it had not been for that we should have gone on. As it is, we have got to make the best of it."

"Why can't you give us a statement of the condition of the bank now?" inquired an indignant depositor.

"We cannot interfere with the clerks and officers who are attending to that duty," said Mr. Skelding. "Just as soon as we can get a meeting of the Board we will have a statement made out." This promise of a statement was repeated by several other directors, who constantly held out the idea that the forthcoming meeting would furnish some explanation for the depositors. But 12 o'clock passed and there was no meeting. Then the story was that they were waiting for the cashier to come in, that he had been there in the morning, and would be in soon.

Soon after 1 o'clock the door of the directors' room was opened and one after another came out. Then it became known that a receiver had been appointed, and that S. V. S. White, of 10 Wall street, was the man who had qualified for that office, or was momentarily expected to qualify.

Mr. Geo. M. Leventritt, the Vice-President, was surrounded with eager inquirers at the instant he emerged from the directors' room. He confidently reiterated that he had the utmost confidence in the ability of the bank to pay every creditor. He distributed many copies of the official statement of the condition of the bank on Dec. 13, and averred that in every particular that statement would do for the present except as to the loans to Mr. Haigh.

"How much do you say that is?" inquired an anxious depositor. "Was it $60,000?"

"No, sir," replied Mr. Leventritt, emphatically. "Mr. Haigh owes the bank about $60,000, and I think we can pay every cent we owe, even if we lose all that Mr. Haigh owes, which is not probable."

"If that is true, what have you closed your doors for?" persistently inquired Mr. Meyer Stern. "If your statements are true, you ought to go on and do business. How do you explain that?"

Mr. Leventritt answered that he was opposed to the bank stopping, and had not seen the necessity for it. He was disinclined to go into particulars, but contented himself with saying that his own money and that of his family was in the same boat with the rest, and he did not fear losing it.

One after another of the directors who came out confirmed the report that Receiver S. V. White had qualified, and that the directors had no power to do anything more officially, but must simply turn over the books and papers to the receiver. Mr. Meyer Stern did not miss an opportunity to address every director he knew, and tell him that, if the published statements of the bank's condition were true, the President who was so anxious to suspend operations had lost his financial head.

About the smallest director who came out was Mr. Edward Beach. He took no pains to conceal the fact that in his opinion some one ought to be arrested and punished for getting the money of the bank on false pretenses. To one of the depositors who asked him for an explanation he said emphatically: "The fact is, we have lost money on property that we supposed to be in a certain place and under our control, and when we came to look for it it wasn't to be found." This remark of Mr. Beach's relates to a transaction of the bank with Mr. Haigh, which, late in the day, took the form of a rumor that the bank had loaned money on forged paper. Several of the directors denied positively any knowledge of any forged paper. The only paper to which such a report could possibly refer is the warehouse receipts for steel, valued at $50,000, upon which the directors say they supposed they were lending money.

Mr. J. Lloyd Haigh was seen in his office, 31 John street, and when his attention was called to the report he readily made an explanation. He said: "The warehouse receipts, which are in the possession of the Grocers' Bank, do not now represent any property, and I do not consider that they are held as security for any money that I now owe to the bank. It is true that I did have a loan from the bank at the time those receipts were given. But that loan was paid to the bank by me. I intended to get the receipts back, and it was a mere oversight that I did not get them. As a matter of fact, these receipts for steel represent property over which I have no control or ownership, and which is the property of others, which was more in private stores. I did not require the warehouse receipts to remove the property, and therefore was not particular about getting them back. I am sure that those receipts were not pledged by me as security for any part of the $60,000 that I obtained as a loan. The bank has good notes and other securities for at least one-half of my indebtedness."

"How about the other $30,000? Do you think that was loaned to you without security?" inquired the reporter.

"Yes," said Mr. Haigh. "I had had dealings with the bank, and they knew me, because I had obtained former loans and paid them."

"Can you tell whether the directors regarded those warehouse receipts as representing property, and whether they did not think they had any security in them for your loan?"

"Of course I cannot tell what they thought. I did not meet with the Board of Directors, and cannot tell. My transactions were with other officers—the President."

"What are the prospects as to repayment of the loan made to you by the bank?"

"I have not the slightest doubt that I shall be able to pay every cent. Upon looking over my affairs carefully I am fully satisfied that I can pay every dime. If my creditors should offer a compromise I should say that I should prefer to pay every dollar, and I do not think the Grocers' Bank will lose one cent by me. The large rise in the price of iron has been very beneficial to my business, and I have hopes of not only paying 100 per cent., but also of having a surplus of $175,000."

But among the depositors and most of the directors the transactions of the bank with Mr. Haigh were spoken of openly as the primal cause of the bank's ruin, although Directors Leventritt, Mr. S. B. White, and Mr. Bruggerhof persisted that the bank should not have suspended. Mr. S. B. White, formerly President of the bank, said: "I am one of the largest depositors, and I have not the slightest fear of losing. I assure you that I think there was no necessity for the bank to close, and that President Denison was unnecessarily frightened."

Ex-President White was asked about this. He asked who made the statement. He was told that a stockholder had done so. He spoke forcibly but without anger.

"I think more of him than that," said he. "He lies. All the money that was loaned to Haigh while I was in office was paid back. As to the loans that are still unpaid, I know nothing. The Presidential cashier negotiated the loans, and I understand he obtained security. They can tell you about that."

Justice Gilbert, in Brooklyn, yesterday, fixed Receiver White's bonds at $100,000. The appointment was made on the petition of Charles Denison, George Hennigues, and Joseph Bertan, stockholders of the bank, who set forth in their petition that the bank had a paid-up capital of $225,000, which is divided into 7,500 shares at $30 each. The petitioners say that the Assignee may be compelled to sell the shares, that the bank has recently met with heavy losses, and that it has a large number of creditors its liability to depositors alone being $570,000. The resources of the bank, in their opinion, were not adequate to pay its liabilities, as the assets were not of a sufficiently stable amount, were of doubtful value, and the capital had become so largely impaired that there was danger of insolvency. They claim that it is necessary that a receiver should be appointed to secure equitable distribution of the assets of the bank and secure the stockholders and depositors.

Mr. White is a Wall street broker, and member of the Stock Exchange. He is a conspicuous member of Plymouth Church, and was one of the church committee that investigated the Beecher scandal.

President Charles Denison was found at his residence last evening. He said there was nothing he could say that had not already been reported in the care, and that he preferred that his lawyers, Blair, Snow & Rodd of 102 Broadway, should answer all questions. On being urged to say something touching the story that some of the bad paper in the possession of the bank was forged, "I have heard," said he, hesitating and speaking with caution, "some rumors to that effect."

The following is a rough statement of the actual condition of the bank on Dec. 29, as learned from several sources:

LIABILITIES.

Capital stock	$225,000
Deposits, about	570,000
Dividends unpaid, about	10,000
Certified checks, about	26,000
Total	$831,000

RESOURCES.

Loans and discounts, $750,000, of which about $250,000 are doubtful, making actual about	$500,000
Legal tenders and specie, about	17,000
Due from other banks, about	7,000
Clearing House, about	30,000
Real estate	30,000
Total	$584,000

Of the $250,000 doubtful loans and discounts, $100,000 are said to be by some of the bank officials absolutely worthless, consisting of loans on different mill companies' stock, which is said to be of no value in the market. There is a loan of $30,000 to ex-Collector Thomas Murphy carried by the bank at $15,000 actual value. It is said that this is secured by real estate, the appreciation in which will realize the full amount due by him.

In the Clearing House report of the bank for the week ending Dec. 27 the average amount of loans and discounts is given at $721,000; amount of specie, $68,500; legal tenders, $59,100; average net deposits, $755,300.

Mr. Foster, the assignee of Mr. Haigh, said yesterday that he did not understand the rumors of forgery. No other creditors except the bank had set them adrift. As to the bank directors' statement he had only a hearsay knowledge. He has found Mr. Haigh's assets to be greater than was at first supposed. He said that Mr. Haigh still has wire in some Brooklyn warehouses.

The directors of the Grocers' Bank who were chosen at the last annual meeting were Charles Denison, William E. Townsend, Henry W. Cobb, F. W. Bruggerhof, George M. Leventritt, Amos R. Clark, Samuel B. White, Joseph Scheider, W. P. Ward, James English, William B. Mott, Francis E. Skelding, and H. Offerman. Messrs. Ward and Offerman have never accepted the offices or attended a meeting of the Board.

Mr. F. W. Bruggerhof of Thorburn & Co., John street, one of the directors, said: "I was at the meeting when the President announced that we must suspend. I was thunderstruck. I had no idea of such a thing. I had heard of Mr. Haigh's failure, and knew that we had loaned him some money, but I did not know about the circumstances, as the loan was made by the President. I had the most implicit confidence in the security that I supposed we held. I knew that the price of iron had gone up, and believed that the property under our control was sufficient to cover the loans to Mr. Haigh. I did not know that the possession of the warehouse receipts did not control the disposition of the property. The President, since the President has acted with the most implicit confidence in Mr. Haigh; in fact, with the simplicity of a child. The directors at the meeting were compelled to acquiesce in the decision to suspend, because they were taken by surprise, and Mr. Denison was so completely broken down and overcome with the situation—so utterly disparaging, that we had no time to prepare resources to avert the calamity. If we had had notice we might have arranged matters so as to avoid."

Ex-Collector Murphy, when interviewed, Billy Birch, who anxiously inquired about the fate of some of his capital, but could not obtain any satisfactory answer.

During the morning ex-Judge Roche visited the Grocers' Bank and had a chat with the cashier and Vice-President, with reference to a deposit of $12,000 made by a client recently, against which no checks have been paid. Judge Roche claimed that the deposit of his client was a special one, and that at the time it was made the bank officers must have known of the precarious condition of their affairs. He therefore demanded the return of the deposit in full and instantly. He did not get the money. The cashier referred him to the receiver.

Kidney and urinary trouble is universal. The only safe and sure cure is Hop Bitters—try one at—Ads.

What's nicer than a box of Greenfield's candies, 949 Broadway?—Ads.

THE LIGHT IN MENLO PARK.

MISCHIEF MAKERS IN EDISON'S LABORATORY ON NEW YEAR'S.

The Inventor's Temper Disturbed—Lamps that Might be Broken in Gunpowder Without Peril—Some Misstatements Corrected.

So many people visited Menlo Park on New Year's Day that fears were at one time entertained that their weight would break down the second floor of the frame building, which is Edison's laboratory and workshop, where they all congregated. And some of them behaved very badly. Eight electric lamps were stolen. One clumsy fellow got his feet entangled in the rubber hose constituting a part of the delicate apparatus for obtaining a vacuum in the bulbs, and, in blundering his way out, tore down and destroyed the apparatus. A malicious rascal was caught trying to destroy the current and put out the lights by putting a piece of metal across the exposed connecting wires. When he was bounced out, he or other fellows of his kind tore down some of the connecting wires outside and stole the lamps. Even kind, patient, and good-natured Edison was angry before the day ended, and perhaps his ill humor was slightly increased by the knowledge that an insignificant pseudo scientist was in the crowd vilifying him and belittling the result achieved. Yesterday Edison's good humor had returned, but there was much greater care and prudence in admitting visitors to the laboratory.

The lights yet glowed steadily all day and night. Some of them have now been burning 218 hours, and are as bright as when first lighted. It is not in any degree true, as has been publicly said, that some of the lamps are burning less brilliantly than when first set up. Some are less brilliant than others, but what they are at the beginning they continue until the end. The explanation of the variance is very simple. Thus far the processes of carbonizing the little paper horseshoes has been necessarily inexact, and, consequently, imperfect. They are made by hand, and practically carbonized by guess. It is intended that each shall have a resistance of 100 ohms, but they may be 95 or 105 ohms without making any material difference. When, however, the resistance rises to 120 or 130 ohms, as it easily may because of imperfect carbonization, a more powerful current is required to produce the desired incandescence than that regulated for the lamps having the lesser quantities of resistance. Out of ten carbon horseshoes made by present processes, six only are good. All this will be remedied in a few