HOW BULLEIER WAS KILLED.

THE TRAGEDY AT THE SEVENTY-SIXTH STREET ELEVATED STATION.

A Verdict that the Carelessness of the Company and Brakeman O'Brien Resulted in the Man's Death—O'Brien Held in $1,000.

Coroner Brady held an inquest yesterday in the case of Casper J. Bulleier, who was killed at the Seventy-sixth street station of the Third avenue elevated railway on Saturday evening.

John Sturmer of 240 First avenue, who was with Bulleier, testified that Bulleier boarded the train at 106th street, intending to get off at Eighty-fourth street. On arriving at this destination, Bulleier did not hear the brakeman call the station, and did not start to quit the train until after the gate of the car was closed. The train had not begun to move, but Brakeman Thomas O'Brien refused to open the gate again. Bulleier told the brakeman that he did not quit the Eighty-fourth street station. O'Brien said he did. At the Seventy-sixth street station the witness saw O'Brien shove Bulleier out of the car on to the station platform. The train began to move, but was soon stopped. The witness went outside the car, and saw Bulleier jammed between the platform and the car. The car had to be lifted away with a crowbar before he could be extricated. Bulleier was getting out, when the brakeman shoved him. Angry words passed between them as Bulleier made his exit, but the witness was too far off to catch their import. Bulleier was sober.

August Sassman testified that Bulleier drank beer in his saloon, at 1953 Third avenue, previous to the accident, but went away sober.

Thomas A. Watson of 151 East Sixth street, who was on the train, said that he saw Bulleier in the act of leaving the train. He saw the brakeman strike or shove Bulleier in the back. The witness heard the brakeman say to Bulleier, "I'll smash your nose if I find you out-side." The witness did not hear Eighty-fourth street called. Bulleier did not try to get off at Eighty-fourth street, but only went to the end of the car, and asked the brakeman why he had not called Eighty-fourth street. The brakeman said that he had. Bulleier answered, "You lie!" The brakeman then shoved him inside the car, and shut the door. When Bulleier began to get off at Seventy-sixth street, the quarrel was renewed, and the brakeman shoved Bulleier off the car. When the witness next saw Bulleier, he was jammed between the car and station platform. Bulleier did not seem drunk.

James Atkinson of 149 East Sixteenth street said that he was boarding the train when he saw a brakeman give a man, who was making his exit, a violent push. The man turned back, and, catching hold of the gate, tried to strike the brakeman. The train just then began to move. While the man clinged to the gate, the brakeman clutched him by the clothing, and dragged him along with the train. The brakeman then called to some one to ring the bell. The witness pulled the bell rope violently. The train stopped within about fifteen feet, but in the mean time the man had been dropped by the brakeman, who was unable to hold him. The man fell into the space between the train and the station platform. The witness did not hear the brakeman say, when Bulleier touched the gate, "Look out for your life."

Andrew Griffen, a negro porter of the road, testified that he was on the platform at Seventy-sixth street when Bulleier got off. Bulleier, on reaching the platform, turned around and tried to strike the brakeman. He then took hold of the gate with his right hand. The motion of the train swung him around, so that he fell between the car and the platform.

Jas. McGovern, a white employee of the company, testified that he was on the same train with Bulleier, as a passenger. When he saw Bulleier and his companion board the train at 106th street, he said to his friends, "He's having a lively Saturday night," meaning that Bulleier was drunk. Bulleier's hat had fallen off, and somebody had to put it on for him. Bulleier's companion was dragging him.

Thomas O'Brien, the brakeman, testified that he did not see Bulleier until he got to Eighty-fourth street. When he called the station no one took any notice. When the train started Bulleier began to scold him for not calling the station, and said he was a liar when he answered the call. He (O'Brien) told the man Bulleier to go into the car and shut the door. He did not strike him. At the Seventy-sixth street station Bulleier got out. The sudden stopping of the train threw him against the witness, who put his hand on his shoulder to steady him. On recovering his balance, Bulleier turned and struck the witness three times. While striking, Bulleier's hat had went down the space between the car and the platform. The witness seized Bulleier's coat and tried to save him, but could not. He called to the passengers to aid him, but no one responded. The witness, giving as his testimony, disclaimed the responsibility of his companions who said he struck Bulleier. "In place of striking him, I did all I could to save him," he said.

W. B. Simpson, conductor of the train, who was at the further end of O'Brien's car, said that, after starting the train at Seventy-sixth street, he saw Bulleier lying along the side of the train striking at O'Brien, who only warded off the blows.

The following verdict was made:

> Casper J. Bulleier came to his death by injuries received Saturday, Jan. 22, 1881, at the elevated railroad station at Third avenue and Seventy-sixth street, by the Thomas O'Brien, the brakeman, and the Manhattan Elevated Railroad Company, guilty of carelessness in causing the death of said Casper J. Bulleier.

O'Brien was put under $1,000 bail to appear before the Grand Jury. Bail was furnished by a representative of the company.

BOLTING FROM THE MACHINE.

Philadelphians Forsaking Party in the Interest of Municipal Reform.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 27.—The machine managers of both parties have overshot the mark. The events of to-day show that the Tax Office, with its yearly spoils of a quarter of a million, will be wrested from the hands of the politicians and placed in the hands of the citizens. This Tax Office at present furnishes the funds to run the Republican machine.

Some time ago a committee of 100 citizens, all Republican business men, held a convention and named John Hunter, who has made his mark in Councils as a Republican reformer, for Tax Collector. They also nominated William S. Stokley for Mayor, but threw him over when he failed to make requisite pledges. The Republican Convention a few days ago nominated for Mayor William S. Stokley; for Tax Receiver, George G. Pierie; and for City Solicitor, present incumbent, Mr. West. Thus there will be two Republican candidates for Tax Receiver.

There was talk of a coalition between the reformers and the Democrats, but the Democratic leaders decided, in opposition to the rank and file of the party, that a straight ticket should run. They had trouble in finding a candidate for Mayor, and had picked out two or three men, but they all declined unless a ticket could be drawn with Hunter's name on it. Samuel G. King was finally picked out for Mayor Edward Worrell for City Solicitor, and William J. Ridgway for Tax Receiver. Delegates were chosen on Tuesday, and a majority of them, the Tax Receivers' Convention were or Hunter, most of them having been instructed to vote in convention for his endorsement. Yesterday, however, the leaders deliberately bought up enough delegates to serve their purposes, and when the convention met Sedgw. McGrath was nominated. Over a third of the delegates refused to vote, and withdrew and nominated Hunter. Subsequently they paraded down Chestnut street to Independence Hall, and said the greatest enthusiasm speeches were were made by Comptroller Pattison and others urging the bolt.

The Mayor's party convention nominated King, but not until a letter had been read from the gentleman refusing to run unless Hunter could be on the same ticket. King is a Democrat who has made a name in the Common Council. The City Solicitor Convention nominated Worrell. The beginning and the end have come. All the anti-Ring Republicans will support Hunter for Receiver of Taxes, and there does not seem to be any doubt of his election. If Mr. King will run for Mayor he will receive a great many Republican votes and will probably be elected. The City Solicitorship, which is the least important, will be close.

The greatest interest was manifested all day over the work of the Convention. The building in which the Tax Receivers' Convention met had was surrounded with excited people. When the news came that McGrath, who is a very weak man, had been nominated, a howl went up. He was forced upon the party by the leaders in spite of the wishes of the great majority. So bitter was the feeling that the machine men refused to allow the bolters to remain in the hall, so they went in a body over to the headquarters of the Republican Reform Committee of One Hundred, where all sorts of enthusiastic speeches were made about Hunter. At Independence Hall Hunter was in a committee meeting when the bolters arrived, and the excitement was intense. The reformers, who are coaching Hunter, are making strong efforts to elect Mr. McGrath, Hunter, and the light must be come off will be the finest ever fought here.

The objects to be gained are the right investigation of the gas trust, where Hunter charges that $1,000,000 a day has been wrung from citizens, and the prosecution of the Tax Office, which will divert $250,000 from the pockets of the machine leaders into the treasury every year. To effect this reform the citizens on both parties will combine on Hunter, and elect him as they did Thomas Comptroller in the November election.

The Executive Committee of the Reform Committee of One Hundred met to night and determined to back Hunter to their utmost power. A resolution was all have been adopted endorsing King for Mayor and it been known that the party would. The probabilities are, however, that he will not run unless McGrath retires. A full meeting of the one hundred will be held to-morrow and another of the Independent Democrats.

NEW YORK'S LATEST CHARTER.

A Report which the City Members of the Committee had Not Seen.

ALBANY, Jan. 27.—The features of to-day's session were the Assessment discussion in the Assembly and the McCarthy Committee's report in the Senate.

The result of the talk in the Assembly was the adoption of a resolution for a joint legislative committee of thirteen members to consider and revise the Assessment laws, and also the passage of a resolution fathered by Gov. Cornell authorizing him to appoint a commission of experts to report on the same subject before April 15. A lengthy debate was had, in which many of the new members participated, showing that the subject is one of interest among the people.

The commission plan was vigorously assailed by Skinner, Spinola, Patterson, and some others, and justly so in the light of this State's experience in tax commissions. Crapser, the blunt St. Lawrence farmer, created something of a sensation by declaring that the people had selected him and his colleagues to come here and do this very work which it was now proposed that Gov. Cornell should select other individuals to perform. Instead of coming to the Capitol and attending to their duties, he asserted that it was the habit of the legislators to lounge around the Delavan corridors and invent schemes to avoid their duties and farm out willing individuals upon the taxpayers.

It is already seen here that the adoption of both the commission and the committee plan is likely to lead to confusion and disagreement.

Dickey, a Republican member from Orange, who is a Newburgh newsdealer, annoyed by the accumulation of trade dollars, called up his resolution to-day urging Congress to declare that coin a legal tender. The House, wearied with the long debate on the assessment question, came near passing it, when Baines of Ontario moved to refer it to the Federal Relations Committee. Dickey defeated him on this, and it was in a fair way of carrying when Skinner got the floor and declared it to be a species of inflation, and Husted made a sharp speech, characterizing the proposition as absurd and ridiculous. A clamor of votes followed, and the resolution was barely beaten. A motion to reconsider was tabled.

The report of the McCarthy committee creates no surprise and little comment here, further than a general declaration of opinion that the scheme cannot find sufficient favor in its present shape to get it through. It is something of a commentary on the manner of legislating for New York that neither Senator Strahan, the Republican member of the committee, nor Senator Bixby, the Democratic member, who were the only city representatives on the committee, knew the contents of the report or the bills prepared and introduced yesterday. The Senators from Syracuse, Little Falls, and Comstock's Landing have wholly ignored the New York Senators in the matter. McCarthy went home for the week to-day, and nothing further will be done in the matter until Strahan and Bixby put in their minority report.

The bill for holding a spring election in April, 1881, at which a Mayor and a Board of Aldermen are to be elected. It provides for the appointment by the Mayor of all heads of departments, Police Justices, and marshals without confirmation by the Board of Aldermen, and for the removal of heads of departments and marshals without the approval of the Governor. It reduces the number of departments and consolidates some of them. The heads of all the departments are reduced to one, except the Departments of Public Charities and Correction, Taxes and Assessments, and Police, which are allowed two Commissioners each. The Department of Parks is to be vested with the charge and control of the parks only and the sidewalks adjoining the same, and all works now under charge of the department are to be transferred to the Department of Public Works. The duty of cleaning the streets is to be removed from the Police Department and imposed on the Mayor, with whom all responsibility in the matter must rest. The Board of Estimate and Apportionment, to regulate and control all city expenditures, is to consist of the Mayor, who is to act as Chairman, the President of the Board of Aldermen, the Comptroller, and three citizens. Members in the same, not serving connected with the city Government, or with any Board, commission, or office supported by, or the salary of which is paid from the city treasury. No person should be appointed to office who will not give his time and attention exclusively to the duties he is required and paid to perform. There are to be no special statutes which authorize work in the city, and require its bonds and stocks to be issued to an unlimited amount to provide for the expense thereof. The powers of the city officials under these statutes are by this bill restricted and regulated. The entire amount to be raised on the bonds and stocks of the city is to be expended $1,000,000 in any one calendar year. Provision is made for the abolition of the unbalanced bid system, and for a proper supervision in executing city contracts.

The Chair referred the bill to the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Strahan moved its reference to the Committee on Cities, but to this Mr. Wodlin earnestly objected, and the bill was finally recommitted to the special committee.

FLAMES IN BROADWAY STORES.

Large Losses to Dealers in Dry Goods and Laces by Fire and Water.

The six-story double building at the northwest corner of Broadway and Franklin street was discovered to be on fire shortly after 6 o'clock last evening. The fire alarm signal was rung three times in quick succession, and as the wires are again in order throughout the lower part of the city, the response on the part of the Fire Department was prompt. The signals called for the presence of eleven steam engines, and they were soon humming away in the immediate neighborhood. Five hook-and-ladder trucks and the water tower were also summoned by these calls, and the men of all these companies, with both the upper and lower insurance patrol, were soon swarming about the building.

The fire started in the fourth story, about midway of the Franklin street front. It was first attacked by streams from that side, both from the street below and through the windows by firemen who clung to slippery ladders and by others who threw the nozzles through blinding smoke almost into the flame itself. Other lines of hose were quickly led to the roof of the burning building and those adjoining. The fire tower poured in its great stream from the corner, and the flames were checked and drowned out.

The building is numbered 365 and 367 on Broadway, and was erected in 1853 by William Taylor, whose restaurant there is still remembered by most New Yorkers. Taylor's saloon is now in the St. Denis Hotel. In 1866 he sold the building to the Merchants' Union Express Company for $400,000. The offices of the company are on this corner for some years. By a consolidation of this company became known as the American Merchants' Union Express. It is now the American Express Company. It still owns the building, but does not occupy it.

The business store in the first story, as well as the basement and sub-cellar, were occupied by Sweetser, Pembrook & Co., importers and jobbers of shape and fancy dry goods, silks, shawls, cloaks, dress goods, and notions. In their busy seasons the firm carries stock to the amount of one million dollars, but at the time of the fire, the fall and winter goods being well cleared out, and the spring stock just beginning to come in, the value of the stock was not far from half a million dollars. The damage is entirely by water, but it is severe especially in the basement and cellar floors, which were literally flooded. Fifty per cent. is considered a liberal estimate for salvage, and their loss is therefore heavy. Their insurance covers the loss.

The first floor and the top story were occupied by Lawson Brothers, importers of and dealers in laces and embroideries. Their stock was valued at $250,000 in taking account of stock a few days ago preparatory to moving on Monday next. The goods are extremely susceptible to damage by water or smoke, and it is estimated that the loss will reach fully $100,000. Nothing could be realized upon the insurances.

The floors, fourth, fifth, and sixth lofts were occupied by S. and M. Davidson & Co., manufacturers of shirts. Their stock was valued at $150,000, and their loss will probably reach $100,000. They are insured. It was in their part of the building that the fire originated, but its cause could not be ascertained last night. The damage to the building is about $25,000. Adler Brothers & Newhouse, dry goods, and Bridge, Lotz & Co., importers of woolens and cassimeres, at 369 Broadway, had their stock slightly damaged by water.

TO GET RID OF INCOMPETENTS.

Representative Sparks's Plan for Weeding Out the Growth of Army Officers.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—The House Committee on Military Affairs agreed to-day to report favorably Representative Sparks's bill, which authorizes and directs the Secretary of War to constitute a Board, to consist of one Major-General, one Brigadier-General, and three Colonels, three of said officers to be selected from among those appointed to the regular army on account of distinguished services in the volunteer force during the late war, and before whom the Secretary of War shall cause to appear all officers of the army deemed by him to be the proper discharge of their duty from any cause except from age, injury received, or disease contracted in the line of their duty, and directs said Board to examine and report fully and specifically the nature and extent of such alleged unfitness, and that, on recommendation of such Board, the President shall muster out of the service any of the said officers so reported, with one year's pay, but that such muster out shall not be ordered without allowing such officers a hearing before such Board to show cause against it.

A MYSTERIOUS GAS EXPLOSION.

Heavy Stone Steps in Fast Eighty-first Street Lifted into the Air.

A loud explosion startled the residents of Eighty-first street, between Fourth and Madison avenues, at 8 o'clock yesterday morning. On the north side of the street, near the middle of the block, is the large brick building of St. Joseph's Industrial Home, under control of Sisters of Mercy. The children were at breakfast at the time, but their fears were calmed by the attendants, and little excitement was produced in the institution. Its front stoop had been blown into fragments.

There is little doubt that it was a gas explosion, but how fire could have been communicated to gas under the stoop is yet an unsolved mystery. The top of the stoop is formed by a broad flag of Nova Scotia stone, the outer edge of which rests on a heavy brick wall. The flag forms the only connection between the wall and the building. There is an open space between the wall and the house. On the outer side of the wall the steps of Nova Scotia stone were built up. They were supported by solid brick walls at their ends, as well as by a wall in the middle, and beneath them, consequently, there were two caverns, as tight as exceptionally good masonry could make them. Each of the nine steps was composed of a slab 10½ feet long, 18 inches wide, and 18 inches thick.

All of these steps were lifted off by the force of the explosion, thrown eight or ten feet in the air, and deposited a mass of débris upon the sidewalk in front. The side and the rear walls were not injured. The centre supporting wall was wrenched a little out of perpendicular. No one was near the stoop when the explosion occurred. No gas pipe ran under it. It is said that a lighted cigar will not set fire to gas. It is conceivable that some person having lighted a cigar and thrown the burning match down upon the stoop, the gas issuing from a crevice may have been lighted, but in this case it must have hung fire until the person had passed beyond the stoop. Otherwise he would surely have been injured by the explosion.

The cause of the ignition of the gas is looked for in another direction. In the summer, gas from a leaking main or service pipe escapes upward through the earth to the open air. In the winter the frost confines it and it is often first discovered in the cellars of neighboring houses. Earth is apt to settle under service pipes, and through the openings thus made the gas finds an easy path. It was said yesterday, by way of illustration, that a mole might find his way in some soils all up and down a block by running under the service pipes.

The smell of gas was very strong, and especially since Wednesday noon, a strong smell of gas in the houses opposite the Home. Yesterday afternoon all the windows in the cellar and basement of Mr. Ely's residence, 64 Eighty-first street, nearly opposite the place where the explosion occurred, were opened to allow gas to escape. There was strong smell of gas in the cellars of other houses in the same row. In the basement of B. C. Thornell's residence, 64 Eighty-first street, the smell was intensely strong. No gas could be smelled in the Home. The gas escaping from a large leak permeated the soil beneath the frost and found vent in cellars. It also found its way into the cavernous stoop of the Home, until it formed there an explosive mixture with the air. It is conjectured that somebody who has not yet come forward may have been looking for leaks in one of the cellars on the south side of the street, and that the gas and air may have been ignited as it issued through a crevice. No noticeable explosion occurred where the light was applied, but it is thought possible that the flame may have followed the gas beneath the service pipes across the street into the cavity beneath the stoop. There must have been a running explosion, like that of an infinite series of gunpowder, under the street; but this, it is argued, may have been so slight as not to attract attention. However that may be, those who examined the stoop after the explosion are of opinion that it must have been almost air tight.

A report was spread that gunpowder had been used under the stoop, but, aside from the extreme improbability of this story, the stones and brickwork are not blackened, as they would have been by gunpowder.

The Harlem Gaslight Company owns the main that runs along the north side of the street, while the Knickerbocker Company owns the main which runs along the south side. Officials of the gas in the cellars declared that it came from the Knickerbocker Company's main. Their gas is not made from coal, as is that of the Harlem Company. Col. Long of the Harlem Company was busy yesterday, with a corps of men, searching for a leak in that company's main, but without success. The Knickerbocker Company had no men at work.

MRS. CRAVE'S PECULIAR WOUND.

Likely to Live Several Days, though no Hope of Her Recovery is Entertained.

Although the symptoms generally developed by serious injury to the brain have not shown themselves in the case of Mrs. Catherine Crave, who was shot by William Sindram at 4 Charlton street on Wednesday, no hope of her recovery is entertained. She has been seen by several doctors, one of them a professor of surgery in a leading medical college, and all have agreed that her wound will prove a mortal one.

The large ball struck a very strong part of the skull, that known as the cheek bone, and passing a little upward struck, as the physicians think, the petrous bone of the internal ear, which is the hardest bone in the body. It is believed that this bone was shattered, but that the ball did not pass through it. Blood ran from the ear on that side. The woman has vomited blood, which cannot be satisfactorily accounted for. The doctors have not dared to probe for the ball beyond the depth of about an inch, even with a soft rubber instrument. But with this soft probe broken bone was detected. It is thought to be almost certain that the base of the skull is fractured. Such patients often live four or five days, retaining all their mental faculties; but suddenly they begin to loose consciousness, and death soon follows.

Miss Clover says she was in the kitchen when Sindram entered the front door. She listened and heard some one creeping very quietly up the stairs. Then she ran into the hall and saw Sindram part way up. She asked him what he had to do in that house. Sindram answered gruffly that he wanted to see her mother. At that moment Mrs. Crave came quietly creeping down the next flight of stairs. Sindram went on up slowly, and Miss Crave saw him take from his pocket something bright.

Miss Crave says she then called to her mother to run up stairs, as Sindram had a pistol. By that time Mrs. Crave was at the head of the first flight of stairs. Instead of running, she threw her apron over her mother's face, pushed her up the window behind her and shouted for the police. Sindram at once fired, the ball passing under the woman's arm and through the window. Then she turned and faced the man. Sindram ran up the one or two remaining steps, held his revolver within a few inches of Mrs. Crave's head and fired.

When Sindram left his mother's house at Union Hill on Wednesday he quarrelled with her and said she would never see him again. He was going, he said, to the place in Fulton street where his brother Adolph worked, and that he should never come home again. He did not go to the house in Fulton street.

Newburgh Clergymen Protesting Against Sunday Railroad Work.

TURNERS, Jan. 26.—The New York, Lake Erie and Western Railroad company is preparing the Newburgh branch, which runs from Greycourt to that city, and also the Newburgh and New York Railroad, which runs from that place to that city, and which the first named subsidiary operate in connection with their road for the laying of sidings and range rails. They will not lay the track rail, but will take up and re-lay one of the present rails. At the point that rails be obtained are exceptionally good, the company decided to use them for the purpose of laying the sidings, and to take up the rail in the connecting lines to the traversing double.

This work has been in charge of Newburgh, most and of whom have lived in the place. Yesterday the company had some men at work laying the sidings, and they had a meeting on Monday morning, at which it was decided to take action against the work being done on Sunday. Rev. Dr. Ten Broeck, Rev. Dr. Ward, Rev. Dr. Weston, Rev. Dr. Thompson, J. Wilson, Jr., Assemblyman Ward, Ex-Assemblyman Wm. A. Wheeler, Supervisor Lee, and others were present. Mr. Wheeler said that the Rev. Dr. Ten Broeck had prepared a petition against the work being done on Sunday, and had appointed a committee to present it to the company. Mr. Wheeler said he had drawn a paper in the form of a petition which he presented and discussed at a future meeting.

For the Veteran Circus Man.

The benefit performances to Frank Whittaker, familiarly known as "Pony" Whittaker, the circus man, who died here some months since, the circus man who died here some months since, the result of injuries received by a strong fall in the Bowery, took place in the circus rooms Holmes yesterday afternoon. Among those who took part in the variety performance were Tom Pastor, Hon. Oliver Frank Girard, Miss Mary Arnold, and Miss Lizzie Russell, Tom Pony Pete, Miss Rosie Morton, Miss Lizzie Conway, and a Miss Wright, Miss Fanny Francisco Maddern, the Smith and Cooper Brothers, Dooley Compton, the Three Rosalies, Charles Bennett, the Mitchell Brothers, Charles Bennett, the Mitchell Brothers, Walter Kane and Mr. Hartley, awaits Kalamaoo, the Japanese Conjuror, Mr. Hartley, the Sparrow, Miss Orfell, Adolphus Hardy, the Australian Boy, Miss Wilson, Professor Lewis, a performance on the Jews harp