THE DOINGS OF CONGRESS.

CONSIDERING THE CHINESE BILL AND THE PERUVIAN CLAIMS.

Personal Explanations in the House—A Bill for a Labor League Railway—An Explanation Asked from the Secretary of War—The Utah Contested Election Case.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—Mr. Windom, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, reported in the Senate an original resolution which, he said, covered the subject matter of Mr. Bayard's resolution on Friday last and the matters then referred to by Mr. Edmunds. It provides that the Committee on Foreign Relations be instructed to inquire into all the circumstances concerning the alleged loss or abstraction from the office of the Secretary of State of certain papers and documents mentioned in the message of the President, sent to the Senate on Jan. 24, and report thereon with recommendations, and that it inquire into all the circumstances of the alleged action of the diplomatic representatives of the United States at the republics of France and Peru in being personally concerned in any contracts or arrangements of a public or private nature with the Governments of either of those countries, or with corporations or associations having relations with or asserting claims against, or grants derived from either of the same, and also that it inquire whether any member of Congress or any other officer of the United States has had any personal interest or concern in any of these matters, and report thereon with such recommendations as may appear to it proper in the premises, the committee to have power to send for persons and papers and to sit during the sittings of the Senate.

Mr. Ingalls suggested that, as the resolutions were important and not fully understood, they lie over and be printed, so that Senators could see them. It was so ordered, and the subject went over for one day.

Mr. Beck offered a resolution calling on the Secretary of War for an itemized statement of how, by whom, and under what exigency or orders, the annual appropriation of $200,000 for the year ending June 30, 1882, for mileage of army officers has been expended in eight months, and whether the estimate of $52,000 which was asked for by them to meet the deficiency will be sufficient for the remaining four months, with his reasons for assuming that this amount will be sufficient. Adopted.

Mr. Gorman introduced a bill to provide for the construction of the Delaware and Chesapeake Free Ship Canal for military and naval defence, and for commercial purposes.

Mr. Ingalls introduced a bill to authorize the President to appoint Alfred Pleasonton a Brevet Major-General and place him on the retired list.

Mr. Sherman introduced a bill directing the printing of 5,000 copies from the engraved plates of the memorial card prepared in honor of the late President Garfield for distribution by the Senate.

The Senate then took up the Chinese immigration bill to carry into effect the treaty by suspending the coming of Chinese laborers for twenty years after the sixty days succeeding the passage of the act. It allows them to come during these sixty days, and those who were in the country at the date of the treaty, Nov. 17, 1880, to go and come at pleasure. The bill does not apply to Chinese officials, or their servants, and it excepts from the suspension Chinese merchants, travelers, students and teachers, who, in coming and going, are to be registered at the Custom Houses, and are to produce passports from the Chinese Government showing that they individually belong to the excepted classes. The time for the treaty takes effect is optional with China or the United States, and the preamble to the bill recites that in the opinion of the United States the coming of Chinese laborers endangers the good order of certain localities in its territory.

Mr. Beck moved to amend by adding a new section, declaring that the words "Chinese laborers," wherever used in the act, shall be construed to mean both skilled and unskilled laborers and Chinese employed in mining.

Mr. Farley moved an amendment prohibiting State and United States courts hereafter from admitting Chinese to citizenship and repealing all laws in conflict with the act.

Mr. Miller of California, who introduced and reported the bill, then made a long speech advocating its passage.

In the House, Mr. Skinner introduced a bill authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to furnish to Senators and Representatives impressions from the engraved card of invitation to the Garfield memorial services, on the payment of the cost thereof and ten per cent. additional. Passed.

Mr. Kelley, Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, reported a bill repealing discriminating duties on tea and coffee, products of the possessions of the Netherlands. Passed.

Mr. Cox introduced a bill amending the Revised Statutes so as to provide that all foreign private steam vessels carrying passengers going out of any port of the United States shall be inspected under United States laws. A similar bill was passed at the last Congress by the House, but failed in the Senate.

Mr. Calkins, Chairman of the Committee on Elections, submitted the report of that committee on the contested election case of Campbell against Cannon, accompanied by a resolution declaring that neither the contestant nor the contestee is entitled to the seat. He also submitted a minority report declaring Mr. Campbell entitled to the seat; while Mr. Moulton submitted a further resolution, signed by Messrs. Atherton, Davis of Illinois, Moulton, and Jones of Tennessee, declaring that Mr. Cannon was duly elected a Delegate to Congress. The reports were tabled.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on the Military Academy Appropriation bill, which appropriates $318,857.

Mr. Atkins of Tennessee, in speaking to a formal amendment, referred to an editorial in the New York *Times*, commenting on the debate which took place in the House on Saturday last, in which he, Mr. Bland of Missouri, Mr. Atkins of Ohio, and Mr. Singleton are spoken of as the attorneys of the Star route thieves, and which denounces his statement that Postmaster-General James had paid $70,000 to the New York Central for the purpose of securing the Presidency of a bank of which Mr. Vanderbilt was owner. He asserted that he had based his statement on the published letter from Postmaster-General James to Mr. Vanderbilt. If he were incorrect, he was ready to acknowledge his mistake. He would not harm anyone, and would throw out no insinuation against any person. The editor of that paper had published to the country a brazen and infamous untruth when he intimated that he (Mr. Atkins) had been in any way the representative of the Star route contractors. Any person making an intimation to that effect was a base slanderer and calumniator without courage to stand to his words.

Mr. Hiscock heartily endorsed all that had been said by the gentlemen from Tennessee as to his record and position in regard to the Star route service. He also defended Mr. James.

Mr. Bland of Missouri, who was also classed among the attorneys for the Star route thieves in the *Times'* article, suggested that if he and the other members alluded to had been appointed to prosecute the Star route plunderers instead of the gentlemen who had been selected the thieves would have been indicted and prosecuted. All the saving which Postmaster-General James had made in the service on Star routes had been wiped out on railroads.

Mr. Singleton of Mississippi said he did not know whether he was the Singleton alluded to in the *Times'* article. He had not spoken on the subject, but, and he done so there would have been no language too strong for him to employ in denouncing the Star route plunderers.

Mr. Neal of Ohio indignantly denied the charge made against him in the *Times'* article.

On motion of Mr. Blackburn, an amendment was adopted appropriating $10,000 for astronomical instruments, etc., to equip the new observatory at the Academy.

The committee then rose and reported the bill to the House, and it was passed.

Mr. Robinson of New York, by request, introduced a bill to organize the National Labor League Railway Company of America, for the purpose of constructing, operating, and maintaining a railway from the Atlantic seaboard to Chicago, St. Louis, and Council Bluffs. It provides that, for the purpose of establishing equal rights in the commerce among the States, and for the purpose of securing a railway highway under such civil control as to prevent combinations against the public good," certain gentlemen shall be appointed a commission under the name of the National Board of Inter-State Transportation. In the list of names appear these: Francis B. Thurber, Thomas Kilsella, A. B. Mullett, J. B. Escasine, J. Pope Bodnutt, Nicholas Muller, and William R. Grace, who with their colleagues are authorized by the bill to carry out its purposes by determining upon the terminal points of the railroad to be constructed, and to issue capital stock to the extent of $40,000,000. The bill further provides that when the road has been constructed to Council Bluffs, it may be continued to San Francisco, and in aid of its construction grants to it every alternate section of the unoccupied public lands through which it may pass for fifty miles on each side of the track. In order to relieve the wants of labor, depressed by a contraction of the currency," the workmen employed in building the railroad shall be paid by the Government $1 a day and the remainder of their wages in certificates of indebtedness redeemable in 3.65 bonds. The bill was referred.

Well Equipped.

A reporter of the Norfolk (Va.) *Virginian*, recently referred to that paper to a conversation with Prof. Cromwell, the world renowned art exhibitor, wherein he states that he had some year or so before suffered excruciating torments from rheumatism, and that he had tried all kinds of medicines and so-called cures—all without effect. He heard, however, of St. Jacobs Oil, and resolved to give it a trial, which he did, and he stated that its effect on him was almost magical. A complete cure was effected, and since then he had never suffered from rheumatism. But in order that he might be at all times prepared for the enemy, he never travels without carrying in his trunk a bottle or so of St. Jacobs Oil.—*Adv.*

TO BUILD A NAVY.

The Number and Kind of War Vessels the Naval Committee's Bill Calls For.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—At a meeting of the House Committee on Naval Affairs last week a sub-committee was instructed to prepare a bill embodying the recommendations, which have been decided upon by the full committee, in regard to strengthening the United States Navy. To-day the full committee received the report of the sub-committee, and authorized Chairman Harris to report the bill to the House with a favorable recommendation. The bill provides that the Secretary of the Navy shall cause to be constructed six cruising vessels of war of open hearth steel of domestic manufacture having a tensile strength of not less than 55,000 pounds nor more than 60,000 pounds to the square inch, and to be provided with sail power and full steam power. Two of the vessels are to be of not less than 5,000 nor more than 6,000 tons displacement, and to have the highest attainable speed, and not less than an average speed at sea of fifteen knots per hour under steam alone. They are to be armed with four breech-loading rifled cannon of not less than eight-inch calibre, and not more than twenty-one breech-loading rifled cannon of full power of not less than six-inch calibre. Four of the vessels are to be of not less than 4,300 nor more than 4,200 tons displacement, and to have the highest attainable speed, and not less than an average speed at sea of fourteen knots per hour under steam alone, and to be armed with four breech-loading rifled cannon of not less than eight-inch calibre, and not more than fifteen breech-loading rifled cannon of not less than six-inch calibre. The Secretary of the Navy is further directed to cause to be constructed one steam ram of steel having a displacement of not more than 2,000 tons and an average speed at sea of not less than thirteen knots per hour, and four steam cruising torpedo boats not exceeding in length 125 feet and having a maximum speed of not less than twenty-one knots per hour, and four steam harbor torpedo boats not exceeding in length 100 feet and having a maximum speed of not less than seventeen knots an hour, all to be constructed of steel.

The sum of $10,000,000 is appropriated for the construction and equipment of these different vessels, which sum, or so much as may be necessary, is to be immediately available on the passage of the act.

The Secretary is directed to organize a board of naval officers and experts for his advice and assistance, to be called the Naval Board of Advisory Survey, to serve during the period required for the construction, armament, and trial of the vessels, this Board to consist of five officers on the active list of the navy and two persons of established reputation and standing, experts in science and in the arts of shipbuilding, steam engineering, and naval ordnance, to be selected from civil life. These civilians are to be paid such sum, not exceeding $50,000, as the Secretary may direct, provided that no person shall be a member of the Board who has any interest, direct or indirect, in any invention, device, or process to be used in the construction of the vessels, their engines, boilers, or armament.

One-half of the vessels, including their engines and boilers, are, if practicable, to be built in the navy yards of the United States having the best facilities, and the other half are to be built in whole or in part by contract. The Secretary must require of all persons contracting for the building of the vessels, their engines, boilers, or armament, bonds with approved sureties for the faithful performance of such contract, and must retain at least twenty percentum of the contract price until the contract is completed and the work accepted.

The Secretary of the Navy is authorized to cause either or any of the six cruising vessels of war to be equipped with interior deflective steel armor, if upon full investigation it seems to be practicable and desirable, and if it is approved by the Board or a majority thereof in writing. The Secretary is to invite all reputable manufacturers of vessels, steam engines, boilers, and ordnance, having or controlling regular establishments, and being engaged in the business, and officers of the navy, and especially all naval constructors, steam engineers, and ordnance officers of the navy having plans, models, or designs of any vessels of the classes authorized or of any part thereof, within any given period not exceeding sixty days to submit the same to the Board for examination. If any such plan, model, design, or suggestion is adopted, for the use of which any citizen not an officer of the navy would have a just claim for compensation, the Secretary of the Navy is to report the facts to Congress, with a statement of the amount which, in his opinion, should be paid.

The bill will be accompanied by an elaborate report, which is now being prepared by Chairman Harris.

EARLY AND DEAR STRAWBERRIES.

Where they Come From, How they Come, and the Prices Paid for Them.

The taste of strawberries in February is not so common in New York as it is pleasant, but any one may have all he wants at $1.25 a quart, and they will be very good berries, too. Together with 3,000 quarts of berries, which were received by E. P. Loomis & Co., in Barclay street, from Jacksonville, Fla., on Saturday, there were then 5,000 quarts in the market. Yesterday 1,500 quarts more arrived. The berries grow in the open fields on the St. John's River, Florida. They are picked just before they are quite ripe, and are packed in trays, each holding twelve quarts. The trays are laid in great refrigerators, nearly as large as a New York ice wagon, and one of them, when filled with strawberries, is quite as much as a truck load. When a refrigerator is shipped by way of Jacksonville and the sea the ice is renewed several times before the berries, then nearly ripe, arrive in New York. Since far this year they have come in perfect condition, and have quite the flavor and sweetness of the Northern-grown berry, which appears in June. The first berries from Florida this year arrived here on Jan. 28, and Southern berries will continue to come until the last of April. The early prices were as high as $3 a quart at wholesale, but after the first few the berries were sold to the retailers at from 40 cents to 75 cents a quart, which is less than they brought a year ago, when for a month or more they ranged at $1 a quart at wholesale. The supply is abundant now, and in April, when the prices fall to 30 cents wholesale, there is no profit in the Hothouse strawberries, raised in or about New York, sold for $7 a quart in January.

Florida tomatoes are now arriving in abundance, packed in ice, and in good condition. They sell at wholesale at from $1.25 to $1.30 a peck. Each tomato is wrapped in tissue paper in the most tempting fashion. The consumers of these luxuries now are the private families up town, and a few restaurants.

Capt. Madge Recalls an Episode.

In the trial of the divorce suit of Pedro Montelis against Emma F. Montelis yesterday, before Judge Larremore, Thomas I. Madge, with whom Mrs. Montelis's name is mentioned, testified that on one evening, while on his way to Central Park, he saw that Montelis was watching him, and while he remained for a short time behind some shrubbery he heard Montelis say in Spanish to one of his companions, while they appeared to be looking for him: "If I find him I will kill him like a dog."

The witness said he then confronted Montelis, and asked, "How do you do?"

"I don't know you," was Montelis's answer.

"I am Capt. Madge," said the witness.

"How do you do? You have grown so stout I didn't know you," said Montelis.

"What are you doing here?" Madge asked.

"Just taking a walk."

"So am I. Good evening," and they parted.

Mr. Madge denied in the most positive manner that he ever visited Mrs. Montelis's house in Thirty-first street, that he ever kissed her in the hallway of the house in Fifty-ninth street, or that she ever sat on his lap in the house in Brooklyn. Then he swore, "before God and all the people present," that there had never been the slightest intimacy between himself and Mrs. Montelis.

The Blackwell's Island Bridge.

Dr. Rainey of Long Island City, Isaac H. Cocks of Westbury, Henry W. Rowland of Jamaica, S. B. Parsons of Flushing, and Col. Pearsall of Glen Cove, five of the seven committemen appointed at a public meeting held in Long Island City three weeks ago to take steps toward holding a mass meeting to discuss the proposed Blackwell's Island bridge, met yesterday in Miller's Hotel, Long Island City. The committee has undertaken to select thirty-five persons, five from each of the six townships in Queens County and five from Long Island City, who with the original committee are to form a committee of forty-two to set the bridge project in motion. The committee men are to be men of wealth and who will take stock in the enterprise. The mass meeting is to be held in Jamaica in about a week.

To Hold Out Till All Employers Yield.

All twenty-three lodges of the Coopers' Union in the Manhattan district reported yesterday that they were in accord with the movement for higher wages. The men from O'Connor's shops in Water street, who had been notified to withdraw, complied with the notice yesterday. The strike is now universal. Weidman's cooperage in Williamsburgh and Dalton's in Greenwich street acceded to the men's terms yesterday. The strikers resolved to allow no union men to resume work until all the bosses accede to their demands. At Cosmopolitan Hall, East Broadway, to-morrow night the coopers will receive delegations from outside trades unions in sympathy with the strikers.

A Noteworthy Shad.

The first North River shad of the season was hanging up in Eugene Blackford's market yesterday. It was a fat, healthy-looking roe fish, weighing three pounds, and twenty inches long. It was caught on Monday at Verplanck's Point, on the Hudson, by J. Petersen. "As far as I know," said Mr. Blackford, "this is the earliest catch of the kind on record. Shad have never before been caught in the North River earlier than St. Patrick's Day."

"Enjoy Your Life"

Is good philosophy, but to do so you must have health. If bilious and constipated, or blood is out of order, use Dr. Pierce's "Pleasant Purgative Pellets," which are mild, yet certain in their operation. Of all druggists.—*Adv.*

Keep's patent partly-made shirts; men's, 6 for $6; boys', 6 for $4.50; only plain seams to finish. 637 and 1,348 Broadway, 50 Nassau st.—*Adv.*

RE-ENFORCEMENT AGAINST FIRE.

A Reserve of Engines, Trucks, and Men to be Distributed at Important Stations.

The Fire Commissioners took an important step yesterday toward improving the efficiency of the department. President Gorman reported to the Board that when the paid Fire Department was organized in 1865 there were, south of Fifty-ninth street, 43 volunteer engine companies, 51 hose companies, and 14 hook and ladder companies, with 3,889 men. These were disbanded in November, 1865, and 34 steam fire engines and 12 hook and ladder companies, with 562 men, took their places. The organization south of Fifty-ninth street is now the same as to the number of companies and men, except for the addition of four men with the water tower. Yet there has been a vast increase in the number of buildings, in their value, in population, and in the duties required of the uniformed force. There were in 1865 about 60,000 houses in New York city, few of which were more than 55 feet high. At present there are about 90,000, ranging from 60 to 146 feet high. In 1865 the assessed value of real and personal property was $668,498,355, in 1881 it was $1,185,296,098, not including merchandise in bond, which amounts to many millions. In 1865 the population was 726,386; in 1880 it was 1,206,299. In 1866 there were 796 fires; in 1881 there were 1,785. The small force of firemen is crippled by the necessity of sending men to every performance at a place of amusement, and on messages for the Bureaus of Combustibles and Buildings. The men are on duty seven days in the week, with three hours daily for meals, and three days in the month for recreation. The average number of officers and men on duty at any one fire to extinguish fire at all times is nine to each company.

There have been every year at least two or more large fires south of Thirty-fourth street, requiring twenty to twenty-five companies to control them, and a few or more fires of such magnitude should occur at the same time it would be very difficult to control them. The time has come when it would be unwise to trust further to fortune for the city's protection in the case of such a calamity.

President Gorman then offered the following resolutions, which were adopted:

That where company quarters south of Thirty-fourth street are sufficiently large for the purpose, and as soon as practicable, such company be reorganized and made to consist of 3 officers and 15 men; that is, 1 foreman, 2 assistant foremen, 1 engineer of steamer, 4 drivers, and 8 firemen or privates, and be equipped with 2 steam fire engines, 2 hundred feet of hose, 2 hose carriages, hose, and other appliances; and that it shall be the duty of the company, on receiving an alarm, to proceed thereto with foreman, first assistant foreman, 2 drivers (one for engine and one for tender), engineer, and assistant engineer, and the proper number of firemen or privates. It shall be the duty of that portion of the company left in quarters to put the second or spare apparatus in service immediately, hitching the horses thereto, and remaining on watch until the company shall return, and always being in immediate readiness to answer any alarm that the company may be due at or called to during the absence of the first company. Hook and ladder companies south of Thirty-fourth street, when practicable, shall be reorganized with 3 officers and 15 men; that is, 1 foreman, 2 assistant foremen, 2 drivers, 2 tillermen, and 11 firemen or privates, and 2 fully equipped hook and ladder trucks, to be under the same rule as prescribed for engines as far as practicable; and be it further

Resolved, That the Board of Estimate and Apportionment be requested to set over to the account of the uniformed force pay-roll sufficient money to pay the additional men employed, and any such further sum as may be necessary to procure additional apparatus and supplies necessary; and be it further

Resolved, That Engine Companies Nos. 20 and 13 (they being central companies) be immediately thus reorganized and put in service, so far as the same can be done within the present amount of appropriation and of spare apparatus on hand.

AMUSEMENTS.

Benefit Performance at the Thalia.

The third act of "La Mascotte" and a comedy, "Die Kleine Mama" ("The Little Mamma"), translated from the French of Millhac and Halévy, were played last night at the Thalia to an audience that filled the house. The performance was for the benefit of the German-American Seminary. This audience seemed to inspire the singers and actors to do their best, so that both the operatic selection and the comedy, which was given for the first time in this city, were played with excellent effect.

The scene of the comedy is laid—the first act in Brittany, the second and third acts in Paris and its vicinity. The principal parts are *Brigitta* and *Valentin*, a young musical genius. Over his and his sister's household *Brigitta*, though still young herself, presides with a spirit so firm, and yet so kindly, that she is called the "little mamma." *Valentin* goes to Paris with his sister and "little mamma," and soon gets into fame and wealth, and, at the same time, through his utter simplicity, into varied complications with the fair sex. The objects of these *affaires du cœur*, from which he is rescued only by the circumspection of the "little mamma," range all the way from Mlle. Zaza *Pistolet* to the *Baroness Pacolas*. Finally, when the "little mamma" entreats him earnestly to marry, he discovers that he is in love with her, and has been in love with her all the time, and the "little mamma," making a similar discovery, becomes happy.

The part of *Brigitta* was played by Fräulein Schratt. She invested it with a quiet dignity, and ever and anon with those simple household graces that drew the hearer quite within the charm of her domestic circle. Herr Bassermann as *Valentin* was sufficiently absurd and erratic in his gesture and conversation for a musical genius. Some of the others in the cast made notable successes, especially Fräulein Kaden and Herr Link in the subsidiary characters of *La Moette* and *Baron de Pacolas*.

The Irish National Land League.

BOSTON, Feb. 28.—A general convention of the Irish National Land League has been called, to meet at Washington on April 12. Each branch of the League numbering 50 or more members shall be entitled to one or more delegates, and each branch having 300 or more members to an additional delegate for every 200 members above that number. The main question for consideration will be, "How the Land League can meet and cooperate with other societies in aiding Ireland's cause." The Convention will also have before it "the election of a new Executive, and the ratification of the policy of the Irish people, as expressed by their Land League Convention at Dublin—the emancipation of Ireland from landlord robbery and foreign oppression."

The Rev. Lawrence Walsh, Treasurer of the Land League, reports that the sums received from Jan. 13 to Oct. 10, 1881, when the third quarterly reports were issued, were $101,556.70; the remittances received from Oct. 10, 1881, to Jan. 10, 1882, inclusive, $52,500; total, $154,056.70. The sums reported as sent direct from the date of the Buffalo Convention to Oct. 10, 1881, were $94,885.74, as reported from the Monroe County League through Dr. Ledwith, City of Rochester, $4,300; the grand total being $201,238.82.

Small-pox and Immigration.

CHICAGO, Feb. 28.—Health Commissioner Dewolf returned from New York yesterday, where he has been for the past two or three days to see what could be done to enforce more efficient protection against small-pox by vaccinating immigrants. The West and Northwest are particularly interested in this matter, as most of the immigrants on their arrival very long a day or two in New York, and then move immediately to this part of the country, so that the germs of the disease which may have been contracted on shipboard begin to manifest themselves about the time the immigrant reaches Chicago. The number of immigrants coming to this country from Europe is continually increasing, and Dr. Dewolf expects that the number during the months of May will be at least 100,000. He is satisfied that the port authorities of New York exercise proper supervision in developed cases of the disease, but does not feel that they are doing their entire duty with the great number of unvaccinated people who come to this country and pass through their hands. He thinks steamship companies should require a certificate of recent vaccination from each emigrant, and proposes to ask the National Board of Health to induce Congress to legislate to that effect.

Indicted for Alleged Conspiracy.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—The Grand Jury today indicted Samuel G. Cobell, John N. Minnix, and Chas. H. Dickson for conspiracy to defraud the Government of the United States by means of fraudulent bids for 3,100 post routes located in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi, and corruptly combining to obtain contracts for the same by means of bogus sureties, Cobell being the principal and Minnix and Dickson the bondsmen. The jury also indicted Minnix and Dickson for perjury in falsely swearing that each owned 275 acres of unimproved coal land in Morgan County, Kentucky, valued at $100,000.

Philadelphia Reformers at Work.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 28.—At a meeting of the Committee of One Hundred this afternoon a committee of seven was appointed to superintend the legislative campaign next fall. A resolution was adopted urging councils to pass a bill instructing the City Solicitor to prosecute the proceedings in equity against the Gas Trust. It was agreed to send a letter to the Auditor General requesting him to explain the discrepancies in the bank tax collections, the market differences between the sums returned each year requiring explanation.

A Church Draws the Line at Beecher.

CLEVELAND, Feb. 28.—A literary society in Oberlin has engaged Henry Ward Beecher to deliver a lecture before it, but finds that the First Congregational Church, which is generally used for such purposes, can not be secured. The church people are not fully satisfied that Beecher is the solid Congregationalist and orthodox minister they used to believe him, and will take no risks.

Gold Mines in New York.

ALBANY, Feb. 28.—During the past ten days claims to forty-three gold mines discovered in this State were filed with the Secretary of State.

Early Opening of the Canals.

ALBANY, Feb. 28.—Superintendent Dutcher thinks canal navigation can be resumed between the 10th of April and the first of May.

A woman's beauty is never lost
So long as her sweet smile remains—
So long as gleam her teeth like frost,
And her soft lip the rosy stains;
And Sozodont, with magic power,
Bestows on her this priceless dower.—*Adv.*

Write to Mrs. Lydia E. Pinkham, 233 Western av., Lynn, Mass., for names of ladies that have been restored to perfect health by the use of her Vegetable Compound. It is a positive cure for the most stubborn cases of female weakness.—*Adv.*

BERNARD FITZPATRICK SENTENCED.

Mr. McKeon Takes Part in the Effort to Establish the Man's Reputation.

Ex-Policeman Bernard F. Fitzpatrick, who was arraigned for sentence in the General Sessions on Monday under a conviction of manslaughter in the fourth degree, in killing Policeman Thomas J. Norton in Delancey street in December last, but was remanded that his counsel might have an opportunity to produce evidence of previous good character, was taken again, to the General Sessions yesterday. District Attorney McKeon was at the prosecutor's table within the bar. When several witnesses had told Judge Gildersleeve, in an undertone, what they said they knew as to Fitzpatrick's character, Mr. McKeon demanded the right of cross-examination. Fitzpatrick's counsel objected, but Mr. McKeon insisted upon his right to cross-examine, and Judge Gildersleeve conceded it.

Andrew Martin, a wholesale grocer, had testified that he had known Fitzpatrick for years. He had heard that Fitzpatrick had been in several "scrapes." Rising, Mr. McKeon said, deliberately:

"Now, Mr. Martin, you and I have known each other nearly all our lives. Do you want to be understood as saying that Fitzpatrick's reputation has been that of an orderly citizen? Don't you know, on the contrary, that he has been a rowdy, a ruffian, a hard drinker, who has made a practice of using knives and pistols?"

Mr. Martin hesitated, and the spectators were intent upon his reply. "Well, yes," he answered, after a moment.

"That will do," said Mr. McKeon. "Now, sir," he said to Fitzpatrick's counsel, "bring in any other witnesses that you may have. I want to see the respectable citizens who will come forward and testify that Bernard F. Fitzpatrick's character has been good."

George Graham, liquor dealer, testified that he had heard that Fitzpatrick had been "in trouble," but he did not believe all he heard.

Dr. Owen J. Ward, for fifteen years the family physician of the Fitzpatrick family, was the next witness.

"What has been the general reputation of Bernard F. Fitzpatrick?" asked Fitzpatrick's counsel.

"Inclined to be bad," the physician replied.

Judge Gildersleeve said that he did not care to hear any more testimony. The jury, in finding him guilty of manslaughter, though he was charged with murder in the first degree, had shown all proper clemency, and he would, therefore, impose the full penalty—imprisonment in State prison for four years.

HE WAS AN EX-CONVICT.

John Barry's Plea and Sentence—Trying to Dash Out his Brains.

Seven men set on Michael Traynor in Washington street one night last December, and robbed him. The police arrested John Barry, an ex-convict. Barry was convicted, and, in the General Sessions yesterday, was arraigned for sentence. His counsel said there had been a mistake about his identity, and moved for a new trial. Judge Gildersleeve denied the motion. Then Barry burst into tears, and, raising his hands toward the bench, cried:

"Judge, before God I am an innocent man!"

"You have been in prison before," Judge Gildersleeve said. "You had been at liberty little more than a month when this robbery was committed. I am satisfied of your guilt."

"I have been in prison, Judge," the prisoner pleaded, "but I had gone to work and was trying to earn an honest living when I was arrested, just because I was an ex-convict and lived near the place where the robbery was committed."

"I will impose the lightest penalty," said Judge Gildersleeve. "I sentence you to State prison for five years."

The court attendants led Barry toward the prisoners' box. He broke away, dashed head foremost against the solid oak box, and fell upon the floor. Regaining his feet, he again dashed his head against the box. Then he was recaptured and led to prison.

MR. ARNOUX'S ANSWER.

The Defence Set Up Against the Quo Warranto Proceedings of Mr. O'Gorman.

In the quo warranto suit brought by Richard O'Gorman to test the title of William H. Arnoux to the office of Judge of the Superior Court, the defendant's answer to the amended complaint was filed yesterday. The affirmative defence set up is that within ten days after Judge Gilbert M. Speir entered upon the duties of his office in January, 1874, he sent to the Secretary of State a certificate that his age was 61 years, and that his official term would expire on the last day of December, 1882; that the Secretary of State, upon the filing of this certificate, made a record that Judge Speir's official term would expire on the last day of December, 1882; that no proceedings to impeach, set aside, or amend the certificate or record, or either of them, were taken while Judge Speir continued in possession of the office, or at any time since, and that the certificate and record were and are unimpeached and entitled to full faith and credit; that Judge Speir, while in possession of the office on the 23d of last August, addressed a communication to the Secretary of State, tendering his resignation, to take effect on the last day of December, 1881; that his proceedings were thereafter taken by the plaintiff or any other person to have the office declared vacant, or to have him ousted therefrom, and that by reason of the resignation and vacancy thus created, and duly transmitted, on the 26 of January, 1882, while the vacancy existed, Gov. Cornell appointed the defendant as Judge of the Superior Court, in place of Gilbert M. Speir, resigned.

Chagrin Drives a Policeman to Suicide.

At the meeting of the Police Committee of the Newark Common Council on Monday evening, the Chairman, Alderman Sandford, charged that Patrolman Andrew Lambeus had insulted him. The Alderman explained that on Sunday evening he accompanied Chief Meldrum to the meeting of the Salvation Army, to see if the policemen there prevented the obstruction of the passage to the building. Officer Lambeus found him standing in the passage, and ordered him to go into the hall or pass on. Officer Lambeus found out that he was the Chairman of the Police Committee. Lambeus repeated his order several times. Chief Meldrum defended the officer before the committee, but Lambeus was fined five days' pay. Yesterday Lambeus committed suicide by shooting himself through the heart. He left a wife, at his home, 295 Eighteenth avenue, of the direction of the committee, and said Alderman Sandford would be responsible for his death. It followed during the day that he threw himself headlong out of his sleeping room in the second story. He sustained a concussion of the brain, and he is likely to die.

Aged Mrs. Burns's Story of her Life.

For the last five years Mrs. Burns, who claimed to be a descendant of a noble family of England, was an inmate of the Home for Friendless Women and Children in Concord street, Brooklyn. She died recently of senility, over 90 years of age. She said her brother, who is yet living, was an earl and a member of the House of Commons, but she would never divulge her family name. Her husband, she said, was a first cousin to Robert Burns, the poet, and she herself was born likely, at a very youthful age, and against the will of her parents. For this disobedience she was disowned. He was a student at the time of the marriage. After graduating he became a tutor in the family of the Earl of Aberdeen, where he continued for many years and until his death. She came to this country about seventeen years ago, accompanied by a son and a daughter. The daughter, who is the widow of a lawyer of this city, named Lyons, frequently visited the old lady. She was present at the funeral yesterday.

Coin at a Premium.

Many amateur numismatists and dealers in coins were represented at an auction sale yesterday in Bangs & Co.'s rooms in Broadway. A half dollar of 1796 brought $23.50, and one of 1797 $46.50. A dime of 1798 was purchased for $1.40, and a half dime of 1800 for $1.35. Eight three-cent pieces, from 1851 to 1858, brought four cents each, and a three-cent piece of 1859 brought 45 cents. A complete set of cents, from 1793 to 1857, was sold for $27, and an almost complete set of half cents covering the same period brought $5.15. A nickel cent of 1866 sold for $2.50, a copper of an English half crown (William and Mary) sold for $1.04, and of an Indian zodiacal rupee for 91 cents.

Mount Vernon's Lacking Police Force.

The Law and Order Association of Mount Vernon debated on Monday evening whether they should establish a police force at their own expense or ask the Legislature to authorize the Trustees to establish a force of eight men, and add ½ of 1 per cent to the tax rate to pay for it. They agreed to the latter plan. Then, at the request of Supervisor Hoss, they appointed a committee to examine his accounts of the town funds.

Drawn and Undrawn Poultry.

The Aldermen's Law Committee reported yesterday against Alderman Roosevelt's ordinance to compel dealers to sell drawn poultry only. The report says that the evidence furnished them shows that undrawn poultry after it is packed for shipping will spoil in a day or two. Accompanying the report was a petition against the ordinance signed by the chief cooks of several hotels in this city. The Aldermen will act on the report at their next meeting.

Contents of The Weekly Sun.

THE WEEKLY SUN, published this morning, contains:

The Garfield Memorials—Mr. Blaine's Oration—A Brilliant Accomplishment—Impressive Lessons Upon the Assassination—Fitz John Porter's Case—A Decision in his Favor; Logan Succeeds at Last—The Bill Placing Grant on the Retired List—Refugee Jews from Russia; Minister Morton's Unique Contract—Held on Conviction of Intervention in Peruvian Affairs—What Mr. Evarts Knows about It—An Investigation Ordered—Bradlaugh takes the Oath in the House of Commons—the Subsequent Expulsion; Cushing's Nomination to the Supreme Court Vacancy—Senator Hoar's Explanation—Will Mr. Cushing Abandon Politics; Lamoda's Prosecution Policy; Gen. Cornell's Ambition—Difficulties Arising out of the New Alliance Between Tammany and the Republican Party; New York's Extra Congressman—To Which Part of the State Shall he be Assigned; Mr. Blaine and the Lamedreau Claim; Reformers Wanted in Washington; Sufferings from the Western Floods—Relief Granted by Congress—The Rivers Still Rising; The Earth and the Comet—No Reason for Alarm; Mr. Gladstone's Victory; Longfellow's Birthday; Notes from the Farmers' Club; Trapping for the Cuckoo; Only a Short Story; Worth Reading Story; The Man with the Red Hair; Cream of the Telegraph; Latest Telegraphic News; Sunbeams; Notes on Science and Industry; Ladies' Department; Many Columns of Editorial Articles, and Agricultural Matter; Financial Intelligence, and Markets.

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

A SURE CURE.—A bottle of Dr. Fuller's Pocket Injection, with syringe combined. All druggists, $1.—*Adv.*

For children's diseases there is no remedy more applicable than Dr. Holman's pad.—*Adv.*

Send name and address to Cragin & Co., Philadelphia, Pa., for cook book free.—*Adv.*

THE LARGEST CAVE ON EARTH.

The Newly-Found Kentucky Cave—Its Catacombs, Mummies, and Masonic Emblems.

From the Grayson Advocate.

The great cave lately discovered here has been visited by a multitude of people from various points of the United States. We think that Leitchfield is destined to become the great "Mecca" of the world—for the Masonic fraternity, and scientists generally.

For the last two weeks no one has been admitted to the cave except upon presenting a written permit from Mr. Rogers, and those who have been fortunate enough to obtain admission have been principally scientists from abroad, who journeyed here to see the great wonder for themselves. It was necessary to take this step, as the cave was rapidly being despoiled of its contents. Indeed, several of the mummies and some of the smaller Masonic emblems were carried off before Mr. Rogers—or, in fact, any of our citizens—realized the importance of the discovery, and of preserving the contents of the cave intact. The subterranean river has been so swollen from the excessive rains of the last month that no explorations have been made in the avenues beyond it. Excavations have been made, however, in the chambers or catacombs where the mummies and Masonic emblems were found, and in the vicinity of the pyramid, and several tablets with queer hieroglyphics have been dug up, also some bronze and copper vases, and pieces of pottery. A mound was opened and found to contain six well-preserved mummies, reposing in regular order with feet radiating from the centre.

In the discovery of this cave the key is undoubtedly found that will unlock the mystery of the pre-historic race of America, and also prove their identity with the ancient Egyptian race, who undoubtedly crossed over and peopled this continent, built temples, and flourished in a high degree of civilization until wiped out of existence by the ruthless hand of the savage. The caves of Kentucky undoubtedly afforded them shelter and protection, and were used as a sort of catacomb for the storage of all that was near and dear to them, including their illustrious dead. Such at least seems to have been the case in this instance, whether this theory will apply to the other caves of Kentucky or not.

Many beautiful formations have been discovered during the last week. The stalactites and stalagmites glisten like many million diamonds. The pillars and columns of alabaster are beautiful beyond description, and its wonders will have to be seen to be fully appreciated.

Rents in Chicago.

From the Chicago Times.

The committee appointed at a meeting of the Central Anti-Monopoly Club to recommend a plan of action to prevent the advance of rents to go into effect on the 1st day of May next, makes the following suggestions:

1. Rents are already excessive.
2. The increase of rents is calculated to drive people from the city and to prevent others from coming into it.
3. A higher rent will crowd the people into closer quarters, engendering disease and promoting vice and crime.
4. An advance of rents