COL. BLISS TO THE JURY.

OPENING FOR THE GOVERNMENT IN THE STAR ROUTE TRIAL.

The Alleged Combination to Defraud the United States—Citing Special Cases of Exceeding The Increase Under Brady.

WASHINGTON, June 2.—Col. Bliss began the opening address for the prosecution in the Star route trials in the Criminal Court this morning. He said it was his duty to explain to the jury the cases why the Government asked a conviction of the defendants. Through their action more than $900,000 had been fraudulently taken from the Federal Treasury without an adequate return. The case was peculiarly conspicuous from the prominence of some of the parties indicted, notably an ex-Assistant Postmaster-General and an ex-United States Senator. The whole proceedings were characterized by so many and variegated phases of fraud that perhaps it would be a tedious and difficult task to explain them thoroughly and comprehensively. The Government expected to prove that Brady, together with other parties, had entered into a combination for the purpose of securing, and had secured, a large part of this money.

Celerity, certainty, and security, Mr. Bliss said, had given the name to the Star route service. These were the requirements in this service, and they were designated in the department by three stars, one for each word; hence the name Star service.

Many things might cause sudden changes in the wants of a section; a new railroad, a discovery of mineral wealth, and other factors in the development of a new country. Then the service might require to be reduced; as, for instance, when mines are abandoned, and the camps broken up. The statutes allowed a certain elasticity in the service in such cases. The Government claim that Mr. Brady habitually resorted to these statutes to increase and expedite service where it was not required, going to the extreme amount of increase allowed by the statute, and allowing an extraordinary compensation for it. It was, indeed, an extraordinary case which required the increase of the compensation and service to three times that called for in the original contract; in fact, it is doubtful if it ever occurs.

Mr. Bliss quoted several cases where one of the defendants appears upon the department records as an affiant for the purpose of securing increase of service upon the routes of another defendant.

Continuing, Mr. Bliss asked why the department did not go to the Postmasters and people along the routes for information; why they did not go to the sub-contractor—the man who personally knew the country—who did the arduous work, and knew how many carriers and animals were needed. The affidavit which had been uniformly used before Brady's administration called for all of this information and more too, but he had entirely disregarded the precedent. The year before Brady assumed office there were seven expeditions. From the day he came in, July 23, 1877, until the end of that year, 9 were granted and 45 extraordinary expeditions on 250 other routes, and increased the expenditure for this purpose $382,490.40 or more than 100 per cent. The number of men and horses said to be required on some of these routes would be shown to be, on the face of the papers, far in excess of the requisite, and so far from the truth as if they had said ten men and horses could perform a daily service from here to the Mississippi River. Again, the allowances would be shown to be far in excess of the sums required, even accepting the false figures on the face of the papers as true. With the evidence before him in a case where $20,000 had been granted for expedition, the papers showed that Brady knew that the sub-contractor received $10,000 of this sum for doing all the work, and the contractor pocketed the remaining $10,000. In another instance the service to be $19,000, he had repeatedly granted $20,000 for its performance.

In a route from Silverton to Parrot City, where the original contract was let for $1,488 and was run up by Brady to $16,512.28, the yearly increase was more significant. One route after another was instanced by Mr. Bliss in which the original contract had been let for a few hundred dollars and afterward run up far into the thousands by Brady's orders.

Another strong case was the route from Rawling's to White River, originally let for $1,700, the sub-contractor getting $2,500, but there many days the Government was paying for this service at the rate of $20,281.25 per annum.

It was Turner's duty, as corresponding clerk, to receive the papers and petitions, place them in a jacket or envelope, and place upon the side a correct abstract of their contents. But Turner did not do this. He did not make a true brief. Everything endorsed upon the jacket was favorable, so that when it passed under the inspection of the Postmaster-General he would accept what Turner had stated as the basis for his action in ordering increased service. This was a small duty, but a very essential one. At Fort McDermott there were a number of soldiers, and they had written an indignant letter to the department saying they had not received letters for thirty-seven days, and asking the department to send their mail to some point to which they could send a messenger and get it.

Turner ingeniously enclosed this letter with others in a jacket, and endorsed thereon a statement to the effect that the military and citizens along the route demanded more service, and it was accordingly allowed and even expedited. A route had been established from two points on opposite sides of a mountain, which was impossible for three-quarters of the year; for Los Vegas Springs was 75 miles, so it became necessary to go around the mountain, and in so doing it passed over part of the other routes, one a daily the other a weekly route. The service on the latter was not performed by the contractor, but the compensation was paid for that part of the route which remained showed that the service was not performed. The other papers, which would have formed conclusive evidence, had mysteriously disappeared from the files.

Mr. Wilson interrupted to ask what the amount was that was paid for non-performance of work, to which Mr. Bliss replied that he did not at present remember the exact amount. "But," he added, "you need be under no apprehension on that score. The Government has managed to get square on this steal since the beginning of this investigation."

Mr. Wilson—I presume it was a trifling sum?

Mr. Bliss—No matter if Mr. Brady stole ten cents, he is worthy of punishment.

One case after another was described by Mr. Bliss to the jury, and he remarked that if there was any kind of swindling in these matters which had not been adopted by the defendants and contractors, for it was only for want of inventive skill, not the lack of will.

At one time there seems to have been a temporary disagreement between Brady and the contractors, and at once fell away the liberal provisions of the orders of expedition and increase. But a truce was patched up, and again the machine ran smoothly.

Taking up the methods pursued of securing petitions, Mr. Bliss said persons living thirty miles from a route were frequently solicited to sign the petitions. After they were prepared and signed alterations were made in them, and interlineations in an entirely different hand. For example, in one case, asking for an expedition which increased the cost of the service $800 to $2,200, Senator Saunders of Nebraska signed this petition, but it was evident that the words "and increased to thirteen hours" had been inserted afterward, and they could show by whom.

In thirty months some 400 routes, operated by thirteen favored contractors, were increased from $702,855.38 per annum. On other routes originally let for $41,135, Brady's fostering care has caused to be expended in three years and three-quarters, after all these and deductions, the sum of $890,824.01. It might be said that this money had all been expended for the benefit of the service, but he would show that it had not. In the one month of July, 1878, Brady increased the cost of the Star service west of the Mississippi more than $1,700,000. The appropriation ran out, and Brady secured a deficiency appropriation in the usual way. This time from a Democratic House of Congress. "Perhaps," said Mr. Bliss, "we will lift the curtain just a little, and show how the appropriation was obtained."

The address was not finished, and the hearing was adjourned until Monday.

Carrying Directors' Notes as Cash.

The examination before a master in the suit of the receiver of the First National Bank of Newark vs. Jabez Cook, John Montague, and other directors of the bank was continued yesterday in Newark. Expert Lewis testified that on two notes of Cashier Hedden for $200 each, one of which was endorsed by President Cook to the bank, raised money, notwithstanding that the former had stated on the face of the notes that they were secured by available cash assets. The notes were renewed with the available cash assets were always $207,184.60. Notes for $100 each, other than those made by directors, were allowed as assets for a year, also notes made to Hedden and Cook, when a time came when Hedden was a member. In carrying on some many false entries were made. There were as high as 150 checks issued in one day to overdraw accounts. Had the examiners examined the ledger with the vouchers entry book they would have discovered the bankrupt condition of the bank. Some of the checks were locked around the ledger. The examination will be resumed next Wednesday.

Killing his Opponent in a Land Suit.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., June 2.—A tragedy is reported from Yell County. Lazarus Brooks and James K. Mosher, farmers, quarrelled over a land suit. Mosher, claiming that Brooks would win the suit, became frenzied with passion, and finding him in the woods herding cattle in company with a 15-year-old boy, after a few words shot him dead with a shotgun. As the boy started to run Mosher sent a second shot after him, killing him, but not checking his flight. The murderer then reloaded his gun and placing it against the forehead of his victim's sister, sent the charge through his head. He then walked off, and is still at large.

Shirts to order, scarfs, ties, undershirts, drawers; popular prices. E. & W. collars and cuffs. Unlaundried shirts, $1. Sil. J. W. Johnson, 209 Grand st., 579 6th av.—Adv.

THE PLUNDERED LIVE COMPANIES.

Major Haggerty's Report on Receiver Pierson's Management of his Trust.

ALBANY, June 3.—Major Haggerty of the Chapin special committee did not get an opportunity to submit his report in the Assembly today on the management of the affairs of the North America Life and the four companies intimately connected with it, viz., the Guardian, Widows' and Orphans', Reserve Mutual, and New York State Mutual—consequently it lies over until next year.

The report says that, prior to the period when as an unhappy whole they were confided to the care of a receiver, one company had been periodically swallowing another; assets had been transferred, and with them the rights of the policy holders. When the North America was placed in the hands of a receiver, H. B. Pierson, it had within it the partially digested remains of the other four institutions. With the actions of the managers who brought about the bankruptcy of these corporations, the committee had not to deal. The men appointed as receivers, seem to have been selected on account of their special ignorance of the principles of life insurance, and their utter incapability of managing in a practical manner the trust confided to their care. Mr. Pierson was so ignorant of the qualifications of the office that he was compelled once to employ a practical man at a large salary to do the work that he, as receiver, was appointed to perform. The committee believe receivers should be men in some degree fitted by training and experience for the position, rather than be appointed with a view of rewarding friends or placing the funds in the hands of "distinguished citizens." They say that they cannot too strongly condemn the methods employed by Receiver Pierson in his investment of the funds of the North America Life. He seems to have regarded the money as a personal fund, and, without instructions from the Court appointing him, he placed upward of $400,000 at one time with a Wall street firm, and had absolutely no security in his possession. When questioned in regard to these transactions the receiver displayed an amount of ignorance that was startling. He was unable to state the name of one person to whom the money was loaned, or the amount of interest paid, and the account books contain no record of the loans. The gross violations of trust duty exhibited by the testimony shows the laxity of the courts, and the need of greater watchfulness on the part of the appointing power. Up to the present time Receiver Pierson has drawn $33,100 from the North America, trusting that the Supreme Court will award him more than that amount. Receiver Pierson, as well as nearly all the others, has drawn "on account" in defiance of the law, which provides that not one dollar shall be paid out for such purposes without the sanction of the Court. The legal expenses incurred with the North America Life aggregate $33,724.74, and in the other four companies $24,065.16, and there is yet due nearly $10,000. That receivers should be permitted to begin legal proceedings at their own discretion, no matter how bright may be the prospects of success, the committee believe to be bad policy. One suit instituted by the receiver of the North America against Drexel, Morgan & Co. has been in progress more than three years. The sum in dispute is $50,000. The referee's fees thus far amount to $10,000 and the fees of various counsel swell the amount to nearly $20,000. Receiver Pierson seems to have exercised his discretion as to whom he would sue, and has made compromises as an officer of the Supreme Court of a degrading character. Many of the individuals directly responsible for the bankruptcy of these companies, and who secured to themselves hundreds of thousands of dollars belonging to the policy holders, have been permitted to escape the attention of the receiver and his counsel. Henry J. Parber, who, more than any other man, is responsible for the ruin of the policy holders, and is to-day unmolested, continues to pollute his fetid career in a Western life company. Mr. N. D. Morgan, a former officer of the North America, has likewise been permitted to retain money illegitimately received from the funds belonging to the policy holders. The expenses attending the management of the five companies under Receiver Pierson, during the five years of his occupancy, are estimated at $170,000, which includes large personal expenses. His necessary traveling cost the policy holders nearly $5,500, and his incidental expenses foot up $4,000. This receiver has managed affairs to his own advantage without much regard to the Court or the policy holders. No dividend has been paid to the general policy holders of these companies during the five years. There is no good reason to believe that the affairs of these corporations will be wound up early in the day. Unless some change is made in the present method of winding up insolvent institutions there is no sign to indicate that creditors will be fairly treated, or that receivers will not continue their extortions "by order of the Court."

TO REMAIN AS ARBITER.

Mr. Fink Declines the Presidency of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad.

The following letter from Commissioner Albert Fink was received at the offices of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company yesterday:

NEW YORK, June 1, 1882.

C. P. Huntington, Esq., President Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company, 22 Wall street:

MY DEAR SIR: I have not been able before this to give a final answer to the proposition of yourself and the directors of your road to accept the Presidency of your company, which I understand you desire to retain in case of my acceptance. The delay has not been from any fault of mine, and I regret it the more as I am now compelled to decline the position proposed to me.

It is thought by the management of the railroads with which I am now connected that the severance of my connection with them would so seriously embarrass its progress, and I do not feel that I ought to take any steps that would have that effect. I would have gladly accepted a position which would bring me into relations with a road with which I have been connected from its infancy, and upon which I have spent the best years of my life. The reflection, however, that you and others have shown such confidence in my judgment as to expect me to render lessons the regret which I feel at having to disappoint you by declining the position. The practical management of your road is in the hands of able officers, and I have no doubt that they will reach the best possible results in the future as they have in the past. Truly yours, ALBERT FINK.

It is well known that Mr. Fink was exceedingly desirous of accepting the position offered him, both on account of his former relations with the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, with which he was connected, first as a surveyor of its lines, and finally as its general manager, and because of the less arduous duties of the post he has just declined. The Commissionership which he has held during the past five years carries with it great and constantly increasing labors. The fact that the trunk line Presidents, at their conference with him on Wednesday last, were practically imperative in their demand that he should remain with them in the position he now occupies, may be construed as a virtual confession on their part that he is the only person upon whom they can rely to keep the several interests in harmony. The facts that he has succeeded in bringing the many roads represented in the joint Executive Committee into more amicable relations than ever before existed between them, and that there is still much to be accomplished before the recent pooling agreements are perfected, are understood to have been the principal reasons for Mr. Fink's decision.

MUSIC IN COLUMBIA COLLEGE.

Seniors Under the Admiring Eyes of their Lady Friends Celebrating Class Day.

The class of '82 held its class day exercises yesterday in Prof. Drisler's Greek recitation room in the Anthon Building in the Columbia College grounds, Madison avenue and forty-ninth street. On the walls were numerous and excellent trophies, war in bearing relics. The recitation room was well filled with camp chairs and many of these were occupied by young lady friends of the seniors. There was music by an orchestra in an adjoining recitation room, and then Chairman W. J. Shaw delivered an address. Alexander Harvey read the class poem, and Prof. Drisler read a letter from Prof. Chase to cheer and console the seniors in exchanging "sheepskins." N. Murray Butler delivered the oration. William K. Otis read the poem, and was applauded when he made an opposition to the project of admitting young women to the college. L. Girard Romaine distributed from his school satchel souvenirs that looked like sheepskins, as they were labeled.

The class valedictory, which was presented to the college football association by Mr. Lawrence, President of the class, and Prof. Sheldon, President of the football association, responded. A class song was sung to an air from "Patience," and the seniors visited the rooms of Profs. Drisler, Short, Peck, Van Amringe, Barnard, Smith and Alexander. An informal lunch followed, at which the presence of a little baby, the daughter of a member of the class, John C. Spencer, Jr., who was married early in his college course. When he picked up the little baby to take her from the room he was greeted with tremendous cheering. In the evening the class enjoyed a dinner at Delmonico's parlors.

The Oratorio Society's Next Season.

At a recent meeting of the Oratorio Society of New York the following Board of Directors for the ensuing season was elected: Dr. Leopold Damrosch, Dr. E. H. Janes, the Rev. William H. Cooke, Stephen N. Leslie, Jr., Henry Gaylord, Dorman B. Eaton, Jr., the Rev. Dr. H. C. Potter, Herman Schaffer, John D. Prince, Morris Reese, Paul F. Schoen, Henry Schuman, William B. Tolhurst, J. Wilson and A. D. Wood. The four public rehearsals for the coming season will be given in the Academy of Music instead of in Steinway Hall. Measures have been taken to give more comfortable seating accommodation in the orchestra in the Academy for a new stage. The first evening performance will be given on the 14th of November.

A New York Riot Caused by High Prices.

Reminiscences of a City Hall Park mass meeting; the police wading knee deep in flour; results of a corner in potatoes. See to-morrow's *Sunday Mercury.*—*Adv.*

Revolution suggests the idea that from woman comes the power to bruise the serpent's head. The words take a new meaning to-day, since this is precisely what Mrs. Lydia E. Pinkham's Remedies do for the physically diseased patient. Her Vegetable Compound reaches the ultimate sources of the evil. Its action is gentle and noiseless, but it is more powerful than the club of Hercules.—*Bazar.*—*Adv.*

Many persons keep Carter's Little Liver Pills on hand to prevent bilious attacks, sick headache, &c., and find them just what they need.—*Adv.*

THE SENATE IN A QUANDARY.

President Davis's Absence Raises a Question that it Could Not Settle.

WASHINGTON, June 2.—Immediately after the reading of the journal the House resumed the consideration of the Alabama contested election case of Lowe against Wheeler. The case went over until to-morrow, when the previous question will be ordered.

The General Deficiency Appropriation bill was reported, and referred to the Committee of the Whole. It appropriates nearly $9,000,000.

When the Senate assembled the acting Secretary, Mr. Francis E. Shober, read a note from President pro tempore Davis, saying that he would be absent from the opening of the session this morning, and, under the provisions of rule 4, he named Senator Ingalls to perform the duties of the Chair until the adjournment to-day. Mr. Vest made the point that the President pro tempore had not the power to delegate a Senator to take a place which, under the circumstances, could only be filled by an election by the Senate. Mr. Hoar suggested that Mr. Ingalls be declared the presiding officer for the day. A long and animated discussion followed as to whether the designation of Mr. Ingalls should be made by affirming the right of the President pro tempore to select, or by the direct action of the Senate. Rule 4 was read. It provides:

> In the absence of the Vice-President, the Senate shall choose a President pro tempore, who, in the presiding officer shall have the right to name a Senator to perform the duties of the Chair, but such substitution shall not extend beyond an adjournment.

Mr. Morgan urged the gravity of the question in its constitutional aspect and the dangers attending its solution. No Vice-President of the United States now existed, and the Senate had repeatedly and uniformly held that the President of the Senate is elected only for the time he is in attendance, and that the body has power to supplant him at any time. He held that the absence of the President of the Senate this morning created a vacancy in that office as completely as if its incumbent had been removed by a vote of the Senate. If the President of the United States should die during the day, the Senator now chosen President of the Senate being clothed with all the legal and constitutional responsibilities of this office, would succeed to the Presidency of the United States, even though he had been chosen to preside only for the day.

Mr. Lapham suggested that the Senate could reconsider its action if necessary in that contingency.

Mr. Morgan replied that if the incumbent of the chair became President of the United States in the contingency he had suggested, he would have passed from the jurisdiction of the chamber, and his constitutional right to hold the Presidency would not be affected. If the power now exercised by the President of the Senate was admitted, and that officer, as well as the President of the United States, should die during the day, we would have as President of the United States a man who had not been chosen by the Senate to preside over it, but simply one who had been appointed. In reply to an inquiry by Mr. Hale, Mr. Morgan asserted the constitutional duty of the Senate to choose its presiding officer in the absence of the Chair, notwithstanding rule.

Messrs. McMillan, Hoar, and Logan followed in a debate which at times was attended by considerable warmth, the Senator from the chair rapping at the door and speaking at the same moment. Motions to adjourn in order to avoid the difficulty were repeatedly made. Mr. Garland quoted from Cushing in denial of the right of a President pro tempore who is absent to designate a Senator to act in his place.

Mr. Sherman, after speaking of the apparent indisposition of the Senate to commit itself by positive action upon the important question which had been precipitated upon it, moved an adjournment, which was agreed to unanimously.

THE WEEKLY INVESTIGATION.

Witnesses Refusing to tell the Names of Two Men Who Approached Them.

WASHINGTON, June 2.—The examination of Mr. Atherton was resumed this morning before the Windom Whiskey Investigating Committee. He was asked if he had given any further thought to the questions which he declined yesterday to answer, and replied that he had, and must still decline to answer. He had some feeling on the subject and did not care to drag an innocent man before the Committee simply to give him an opportunity to prove his innocence. But two parties approached him and and they were both lawyers. One offered his services as an attorney, and the other asked if they were getting to employ any one. Neither of them mentioned the names of any Senators or members of Congress, or claimed that he could influence them.

Mr. Morgan of St. Louis was next examined. He is a member of a commission house in that city, and President of a company in Louisville which owns and operates two distilleries. He had also been approached by two attorneys, who sought to be retained to present the claims of the distillers to Congress. He declined, however, to give the names of these attorneys offered to secure the influence of any Senator or member, and no proposition was made by either of them that would not be considered perfectly legitimate. The witness had never heard that any person whatever was employed by the whole distilling interest, except Col. Wharton and Col. Moulton as their attorneys.

Col. Wharton of Louisville testified that he was employed by the Kentucky distillers as their paid attorney; his compensation was fixed at $5,000 out of which he paid all of his expenses, which, in addition to his own services, which they had distributed, and $35 for printing a brief, he knew of no other expenditures by the association. He had been approached by two attorneys, but had declined to engage their services; did not feel that any necessity existed, and was not authorized to engage them. He declined to give the names of the attorneys who had approached him. He would dislike to have it known that he sought to be employed and was refused, and therefore desired to respect the feelings of the gentlemen, although perhaps they had not been over nice in their estimate of the value of their services.

SYMPATHY FOR MR. BIGLIN.

Mr. Starr Replies to a New Charge Against the Commissioners of Emigration.

A letter to THE SUN says that although the people, through the Board of Emigration, paid $8,000 rental for Castle Garden last year and $4,085 for the gas and coal, Mr. Barney Biglin, who has the baggage express business, and Nugent & Murray, who hold the restaurant privilege, get their light and fuel free. A SUN reporter yesterday asked Commissioner Starr of the Board of Emigration whether this is true.

"Oh," said he, "the facts are that the restaurant people do not cook anything here, and the only heat they get is the heat from the big stoves that are kept here on purpose to warm the place. They light their place with oil lamps, which they themselves provide.

"And how about Biglin?"

"Why, he has a little little stove to heat his small office. It amounts to nothing at all. He gets the benefit of the gas that is in the baggage room, but it would be there anyhow, and we cannot help his getting it. There's a good deal of misapprehension about Mr. Biglin's business. He does about 90 per cent of the baggage that comes here. The rest goes West and South, and he never touches it. He is paid only for baggage for this city and the suburbs. He only gets 10 cents for delivering a trunk if an emigrant's friends or relatives come after it, and he may have to hunt it up and pull it out from under a huge pile of other baggage. Of course he gets 40 cents or so for taking it to any city address below Forty-second Street. I think it is, but his is not such a profitable business. Do you know that if a piece of baggage is broken, or gets lost, or anything is missed from it he is sued by the owners? He has to be responsible for all that sort of thing.

"And," said the Commissioner, his sympathy finding new food as he thought over the subject, "there is actually a suit against him now. You see he has got five or six trucks, and the other night 12 of them were stolen. Build a little bit of a thing whose parents ought to be ashamed to have let it be running about—this little child was crossing the street and it got run over and hurt, and they are actually suing Biglin for $10,000."

Miss Merritt's Disentitled Nephews.

Sarah Merritt, a spinster, cousin to the late John A. Merritt of Portchester, died on March 31, leaving property valued at about $100,000. Her will, executed on Jan. 13, 1877, gives to her nephews, Joseph M. Lyon, John Lyon, Joseph Merritt, and Daniel E. Merritt, each $1,000; to her niece, Rebecca E. Lyon, $5,000; to her niece, Emma E. Merritt, $2,000, and to her cousin, Catherine Baxter Kerr, "it gives all the rest of her property to Joseph M. Lyon, John Lyon, and Rebecca E. Lyon, in equal shares. Joseph M. Lyon and John Lyon were appointed executors. Counsel for Joseph Merritt, one of the nephews, argued before Surrogate Rollins yesterday in opposition to the probate of the will on the ground of incapacity of the testatrix, and of undue influences exercised upon her. The matter was postponed for two weeks.

Ingenious Swindling.

Charles Gurteen of 226 East Thirtieth street and William H. Simmons of Brooklyn were arraigned for forgery yesterday in the Harlem Police Court. It was alleged that their method was to obtain the names of residents of the upper part of the city by pretending that they were canvassing for a city directory, and then to ask what business men in town they would be likely to advertise. In this way, it was claimed, the names of shopkeepers with whom these residents trade were obtained. Such names were then forged on notes and presented to them, and these were sold to tradesmen with a note purporting to be written by the persons whose names were on the notes, asking that they be cashed. Several tradesmen were thus defrauded. Gurteen was held for trial and Simmons was discharged.

Young men or middle-aged ones suffering from nervous debility and kindred weaknesses should send three stamps for Part VII. of World's Dispensary Prime Series of books. Address World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N. Y.—*Adv.*

IN BONDAGE IN NEW YORK.

TWO WEALTHY ITALIANS BRING OVER A COMPANY OF PEASANTS.

Having Fed, Clothed Them, and Paid their Passage, they Exact a Tithe of their Wages for the Next 3 Years—What is Being Done.

A party of 170 slaves who landed at Castle Garden last Monday are giving the Italian residents of this city a great deal of concern. These slaves are all grown men except two, who are children. What little they may be able to do to assist those who would rescue them they are not disposed to attempt, apparently because they fear their owners and distrust the kindly strangers who offer them the means of escape.

About three weeks ago there came into the office of the Italian Emigrants' Aid Society, 2 Morris street, an Italian of genteel attire and address, who informed Signor P. Cerruti, who is in charge, that his name was Carlo Baccari Palladino, of the commune of Confrento, province of Catanzaro, upper Calabria, where he said his family has large estates. Their land, he said, was overworked, and the family having decided to seed it down with grass and raise cattle upon it during the next three years, there would be nothing for the peasants who had been living there. In order that the family might not lose their services or allegiance, it was decided that the best thing to do would be to bring them to America and provide for them during that period. Having read statements about the impoverished condition of the Italian immigrants who come to this country, he had given to each of the 170 peasants in his care a matter of 100 francs with which to dress themselves, and he hoped the society, upon the arrival of the peasants, would find work for them.

Signor Cerruti has long been distinguished for his active hostility to the padroni. He says that 80 per cent. of the Italians who come here are of the peasantry, and that 80 per cent. of these peasants are brought here by padroni. As editor of the *Unione*, and as the executive of the aid society, he has been able to liberate a great many of these peasants, although he says the law has not permitted him to have the padroni punished. Despite all this, he did not at first suspect that Signor Baccari's case was one in point. He asked Baccari how he expected to be repaid, and Baccari said he had not thought of that; nothing was yet fixed; Signor Cerruti could determine that. Signor Cerruti suggested a charge of 6 per cent. per annum on the amount loaned to each man. Signor Baccari thought this too little. Signor Cerruti said, in the course of their conversation, that any amount over 300 francs per man would be too much for Signor Baccari to claim, and the amazement and displeasure that Baccari betrayed, together with his evident desire to profit greatly from his venture, aroused the suspicion of Signor Cerruti. He asked his visitor to make a deposit of $100 as a guarantee, either with the aid society, Cella Brothers, Italian merchants, or with the Italian Consul. This Signor Baccari promised to do, but it is thought that he discovered his error in agreeing to hire office, and he did not return. Signor Cerruti met him on Broadway, however, within a few days, and Baccari said he had not kept his promise because he had not the money. Signor Cerruti then told him that he had inquired about him and had learned that he had had learned of the high repute and affluent circumstances of the Baccaris at home, and added that the guarantee would not be needed. But Signor Baccari did not return.

Signor Cerruti informed Superintendent Jackson of Castle Garden of his suspicions, and both awaited the arrival of the 170 Italians. They came on Monday in the steamship Desirade, a vessel of no regular line, which lies at a Brooklyn pier, and is already about to depart for Europe again. Signor Cerruti saw unpaid freight charges against the steamer on Tuesday, and asked them whether they were Baccari's men. They replied that they were. They were complaining of their treatment aboard ship and of the character and quantity of food they received. At Signor Cerruti's request they made the following affidavit:

> *State of New York, City of New York, ss.:* Antonio Antonio, being duly sworn, say that they arrived at the port of New York on the 31st day of May, 1882, on a steamship from Marseilles, that Petro and Carlo Baccari Palladino, natives of Catanzaro, Commune of Confrento, Italy, paid their passage from Naples to New York; came with them in the same steamer; that the said Petro has been himself and his brother Carlo paid the passage for the balance of the men, natives of Italian Turkey in Asia, under the condition that they should pay to the said brothers Baccari the sum of twenty (20) cents a day whenever they had employment for three years; depositing in the meantime the amount of money paid, provided with good clothing from said firm, in order to appear well while reaching the American shores; that deponents have accompanied the contract, which was signed by a notary in Confrento; that the majority of said 170 Italians are single, while the rest are married with families; that deponents have been at hard labor for two months and their comrades have no money, but were told by Mr. Baccari that he would provide them with employment within a week or two; that the ship not being in regular service for transportation, Signor Baccari procured extra travel at Gibraltar.

These men said that none of them brought any of their female relatives, and that only two children accompanied their fathers. The clothing that Baccari purchased for them was bought in Italy before they started, and included shoes. Each outfit cost between $3 and $6. The fare was about $20 per head. In all, the Baccari brothers expended about $5,000. Signor Carlo came ahead of the others, and Signor Petro accompanied the immigrants. Both are now in this city.

The peasants are so stupid," said Signor Cerruti yesterday, "that they will not listen to the offers of freedom that their friends have made to them. They say they are perfectly satisfied. They knew the Baccari brothers in the old country, and, having had so much done for them, they say it would be treasonous—that is the word they use—to break their word. Their masters have retained their individual contracts, their passports, and their passage checks, and we cannot get them to force their claim for release illegally. The aid society has an employment bureau in connection with it, and we offered seventy of them immediate work at $1.50 a day, but not one accepted. They all said they must remain with the Baccaris, and do what they tell them. Their case has provoked much indignation, and they have been visited by the Castle Garden authorities, Count Della Sala, an Italian gentleman of this city, and by us, and all have told them they do not need to go with these padroni. The Italian Vice-Consul, Count Thaon de Revel, also visited them on Monday.

"What did the Baccaris expect to do?" "Their plan," replied Signor Cerruti, "is to obtain laborers' work for them, probably on railroads, at about $1.50 or more per day, and pay them less, say $1, or even a smaller sum, deducting 20 cents each, and making a good profit on the clothing, food, and implements they provide them with. It would be a very profitable venture. Suppose they work 275 days a year; each man then would pay the masters $55, or $165 in three years, which is, for all, $28,050, to say nothing of the other profits and exactions."

"What are you going to do to prevent this?"

"All that we can do is to free the men. We are going to meet the Commissioners of Emigration to-morrow, and see what can be done. The law punishes padroni who bring little children here, but does not provide for such cases as the enslaving of adults. Still I think we may be able to do something. It will not do for me to talk about that now. The simplest way would have been to obtain employment for them, and to scatter them beyond the reach of their owners."

The reporter found the Italians lounging on their bundles and baggage in a room on the wharf outside the Castle at the Battery. They were huddled together and talking in low voices. They turned their backs on those who spoke to them as though they distrusted all strangers, and were wholly occupied with the trouble already upon them. There was nothing peculiar in their appearance, except that they were nearly all able-bodied men, and all wore clothes which, though very cheap, were in good condition. A few were old and weak, and were such as Mr. Cerruti said soon become ragpickers and organ grinders, but need so little to keep themselves that they are able to keep their contracts with the padroni. Not one could speak any English. Mr. Chiardi of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children was talking to some of them. He had come with warrants for the arrest of the Baccaris and with the intention of securing the two children, but he said that all four had disappeared.

Lacrosse Players from Louisville.

The Louisville lacrosse team will play the New York team for the championship of the United States next Tuesday afternoon at 4 o'clock, on the Staten Island cricket grounds. After the match, both teams will be entertained at dinner in the Pavilion Hotel, New Brighton, by Erastus Wyman, President of the Lacrosse Association of the United States.

Sale of Blooded Cattle.

HARRISTOWN, Ill., June 2.—The blooded cattle sale of Pickerell, Thomas & Smith yesterday brought in an aggregate of $16,835 for sixty nine animals—an average of $244. Number of the Rose of Sharon breeds sold for $600, and Constance IX. for $1,000.

Joseph Park's New Yacht.

The new sloop yacht Whitby, built by J. M. Bayles & Son, at Port Jefferson, L. I., will be launched next Tuesday. She is owned by Joseph Park of New York city, and will belong to the New York Yacht Club. She is 60 feet over all.

Weak Eyes, Sore Eyes, and Inflamed Eyelids. Styes &c., rapidly cured by using Dr. Becker's celebrated Eye Balsam, sold by all druggists. Depot 6 Bleecker.—*Adv.*

"Rough on Rats." Clears out rats, mice, roaches, flies, ants, bedbugs, skunks, chipmunks, gophers. Dc. Druggists.—*Adv.*

Base Ball Polo Grounds To-day.

Metropolitans vs. Troys. Game called 4 P. M.—*Adv.*

Why suffer the torments of Hades when German Corn Remover will instantly relieve you? 25c.—*Adv.*

Such a history of cures as the St. Jacobs Oil has been making!—*Adv.*

ALL ANXIOUS TO FIGHT.

Four Heavy-Weight Pugilists who are Simply Aching to Get at Sullivan.

Ever since the battle between John L. Sullivan and Paddy Ryan the sporting fraternity have been in a ferment to find a man to fight the champion. Joe Collins, better known as Tug Wilson, the heavy-weight champion of England, writes to Mr. Richard K. Fox that he will take a farewell benefit in London on May 23, and then sail for America in June to make a match with Sullivan for $2,500 a side and the championship of the world. This match will doubtless attract nearly as much attention as the Heenan and Sayers fight.

James Elliott, the heavy-weight ex-champion, puts in a claim for the championship also, and feels chagrined because Sullivan makes a match with Wilson and leaves him in the cold. He says he wants to fight Sullivan.

John L. Sullivan writes:

> I am making at present a tour through the Eastern states with Billy Madden, I will reach New York next week, and then I shall try to arrange a match with James Elliott or Richard K. Fox's English importation, Tug Wilson, to fight either or both of them, but only under the following conditions: They must fight on inside of six weeks from day of signing agreement, and not go travelling through the country giving preliminary exhibitions. If they will agree to this, I will fight them for from $1,000 to $10,000 a side, in a public prize ring, or in private, each man to take five, ten, or fifteen men as friends to see fair play—first come first served.

Jem Mace, the ex-champion heavy weight, writes to a friend in this city that he started from Melbourne, Australia, for New York, but stopped on his way to take part in a cricket match, and was severely hurt by a blow from a bat. He has recovered, however, and is now on his way here. Although in his 52d year, he is willing to make a match with the heavy-weight champion.

The reporter has seen a letter which Paddy Ryan sent to a friend, in which he says that he is doing well and taking good care of himself. He adds: "I will fetch Sullivan up with a round turn some of these days, as I mean to fight him again for any amount of money, and there will be no more funny work about it."

Base Ball Yesterday.

The Cleveland team played their first game of the season with the Metropolitans yesterday, on the Polo Grounds. It was a rather disappointing exhibition, in which good and bad plays were mixed up somewhat provokingly. At its close the betting crowd found fault with the umpire, who, though impartial in his decisions, committed errors of judgment with regard to both sides. The score:

METROPOLITAN.	r.	b.	s.b.	p.o.	a.	e.	CLEVELAND.	r.	b.	s.b.	p.o.	a.	e.
Brady, r.f.	0	0	4	0	0	0	Dunlap, 2d b.	1	1	3	2	2	0
Crane, c.f.	0	2	1	1	0	0	Gilmartin, c.	0	1	1	5	0	1
Nelson, s. s.	0	0	0	1	0	0	Phillips, 1st b.	0	1	1	0	1	1
Hankinson, 3 b	0	1	0	0	0	1	Exter, l.f.	0	0	3	0	1	0
Maxwell, c.	1	2	2	4	1	0	Robinson, r.f.	1	0	1	0	0	0
O'Neill, p.	0	0	0	0	5	0	Sweeney, 3d b.	1	1	0	1	2	0
Reilly, 1st b.	0	0	8	0	2	0	Richmond, c.	0	0	2	0	0	0
Larkin, 2d b.	0	1	3	0	1	0	McCormick, p.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kennedy, l. f.	1	0	1	0	0	0	Briody, c.	0	0	1	4	1	0
Total	3	8	24	7	7	7	Total	5	4	26	14	5	

RUNS SCORED.

Metropolitans	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1 — 3
Clevelands	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4 — 5

First base by errors—Metropolitan, 4; Cleveland, 4.

At Brunswick, Me.: Bowdoin College, 12; Tufts, 7.

At Baltimore: Quaker City, 6; Baltimore, 7.

At Philadelphia: Philadelphia, 0; Chicago, 11. Athletic, 1; Cincinnati, 7.

Providence vs. Detroit, at Providence, 8 to 7.

Boston vs. Buffalo, at Boston, 6 to 5.

In the match at Trenton on Decoration Day, between the Philadelphia and Trenton Cricket Clubs, the latter won the score stood at 21 to 1 at the end of the sixth innings. As the manager of the college team had failed to keep the promise made to the gate receipts, he called his men off the field and gave the game, when the crowd hoo