TALKING ABOUT REFORM.

PENDLETON PLEADS IN THE SENATE FOR A BETTER CIVIL SERVICE.

Showing the Extravagance and Recklessness of the Republicans—Mr. Sherman Thinks his Party Best Fitted to Do the Reforming.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—In the Senate, Mr. Beck (Dem., Ky.) offered a bill making it unlawful for any officer or employee of the Government to contribute funds or to pay assessments for political purposes; heads of departments and superior officers shall not themselves collect, or permit others to collect, political assessments in their departments; persons violating the law shall be forever disqualified from holding positions of profit or trust in the Government service, and shall be imprisoned for a term not exceeding six months.

The Committee on Territories was instructed to report what legislation is needed to protect public property in the Yellowstone National Park, and to preserve the game there; also, whether the Secretary of the Treasury has a right to make contracts with private parties giving them exclusive privileges in the Park.

The bill for promoting the efficiency of navy chaplains by making their pay equal to that of army chaplains was taken up.

Mr. Plumb (Rep., Kan.) wanted to know if it would suit to equalize the pay by reducing that of army chaplains to the navy standard.

Mr. Vance (Dem., N. C.)—It would not suit me so well as it would probably suit the Senator from Kansas. I have not the same desire for economy of this character. Besides, I do not want to see the praying force of this country reduced. [Laughter.] I think it ought to be increased.

The bill was laid aside to take up Mr. Pendleton's Civil Service Reform bill.

The amendments reported from the Committee on Civil Service Reform were agreed to.

Mr. Pendleton (Dem., O.) said that the fact came out last session that in the Treasury Department there are 3,400 employees, of whom fewer than 1,500 are authorized or provided for by law, the others being carried upon the rolls and paid out of "nuances" of appropriations and various "funds" that have grown up in the department. He had been astonished to hear his colleague, Mr. Sherman, admit this amazing fact, and defend the system as necessary for the administration of the Treasury Department. Out of this surplus force had come the immense body of public officials who have for years past gone forth from the Treasury into the different States for the purpose of managing and securing Presidential elections at the public expense.

Mr. Pendleton read an extract from the testimony taken by the Committee on Civil Service Reform last winter, showing that in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing 900 persons were employed, 500 of whom were entirely useless, and were discharged without affecting the efficiency of the Bureau.

Mr. Allison (Rep., Iowa) said with regard to the appropriations made last session, that they were recommended by the members of the committee of both parties, with substantial unanimity, and it was not fair for Mr. Pendleton to attempt to make party capital by charging the Republicans with the responsibility.

Mr. Sherman (Rep., Ohio) feared his colleague would find that this, like all other reforms, must be made, if made at all, by the Republican party. As to the pending bill, he agreed that the civil service ought to be reformed. The present plan of appointment to office was wrong. The term of the minor officers ought to be fixed by law. Interference with appointments by Senators and members was not only demoralizing, but it was humiliating to them. But a civil service reform bill which did not deal with the power of removal was the play of *Hamlet* with *Hamlet* left out. That was the point where the greatest abuses crept in.

Mr. Hoar (Rep., Mass.) said that while the bill did not deal directly with the power to remove, it took away the temptation to remove improperly or unjustly.

Amendments were offered as follows:

By Mr Slater (Dem., Oregon)—Prohibiting the solicitation of contributions by Government officers or employees.

By Mr Hawley (Rep., Conn.)—As an additional section, the bill introduced by him on Saturday last to prevent contributions for political purposes.

By Mr Morgan (Rep., La.)—Providing that the examination of candidates for office shall be practical and shall relate only to matters which will fairly test the relative capacity of the applicants to discharge the duties of the service.

By Mr. Allison—A substitute for the first section, providing for the appointment by the President of three persons, not all of the same political party, who shall constitute the United States Civil Service Commission, to hold office respectively for two, four, and six years, their successors holding office for six years, the salary to be $1,500.

By Mr. Hoar—Providing that the examinations, so nearly as may be, shall be upon such subjects as are embraced in a good common school education.

By Mr. Hale (Rep., Me.)—A substitute for section 3, providing that the Commission shall, in Washington, and at one or more other places in each State and Territory where examinations are to take place, designate a suitable number of persons, not less than three, in the service of the United States, to be members of the Board of Examiners; examinations to occur at least once a year in any State or Territory where there are applicants.

In the House, Mr. Randall (Dem., Pa.) offered a resolution requesting the President to provide a statement showing the aggregate amount which has been expended in the improvement of rivers and harbors from the beginning of the Government to the present time, the amount annually expended, the aggregate and annual expenditure on each river and harbor, what benefit to commerce has resulted, the navigable capacity of each river and harbor before and after improvement, &c. Referred.

The Star Route Trial.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—After a long argument this morning, Judge Wylie still adhered to his ruling of yesterday, that the defendants could not interrogate persons called as jurors without first challenging them for cause. The defence, accordingly, challenged the first juror, who said it would require evidence to remove his present opinion of the guilt or innocence of the defendants. He was excused. Martin O'Donohue had read something in the newspapers on the Star route matter, and had formed and had expressed an opinion. He had two grocery stores to attend to, and they were of more interest to him than Star routes. He was challenged peremptorily. Reese Evans, who was challenged for cause, had formed no opinion, and would not care what the President, Congress, or any one else directed in the matter. He was finally accepted. During the day twenty-one persons were examined, and the panel was filled so far as the defence was concerned, but the prosecution had reserved its right of challenge.

The true bloom on beauty's face, the rose tint of a healthy skin can be enjoyed in December as any other month by using Dr. C. W. Benson's Skin Cure. It does away with all eruptions and irritations of either the face or scalp. New York office, 115 Fulton st.—Adv.

JEWELRY A DRUG IN THE HOLIDAYS.

Dealers Overstocked, Jobbers Glutted, Factories Stopped, and Workmen Idle.

It is a subject of general remark among manufacturers of and dealers in jewelry, especially of good jewelry, that the present is an exceptionally dull December for their trades. A leading manufacturer said yesterday:

"We begin work for the holiday trade about the first of August, and it continues brisk up to the middle of December, in ordinary years. Then there is a lull, with almost nothing to do, up to the middle of January, by which time the jobbers have cleared out their stock and set us going anew on fresh orders that may carry us along lively until June, for the spring and summer trade. Then another lull comes until the first of August. But last spring people bought very little jewelry—much less than usual—and the retailers have found themselves overstocked with old stuff. Hence, the demand on the jobbers has been light, their safes are glutted with goods, and the thing all works back to us. The spring work this year generally closed in the latter part of May, and it cannot be said to have had any revival even yet. The result is that in nearly every shop in town, instead of there being a demand for jewellers, the men busy day and night and orders accumulating, as is usual at this season, the men have either been discharged—all but a few, who are kept on to work up the scant and scattering orders that come in—or else they are working on half or three-quarters time. Two large manufacturers have failed and so has one jobbing house. And you may safely bet a diamond against a peanut that there will be a good many more failures between now and the end of January among the manufacturers. This condition of affairs obtains not only here, but in other cities all over the country in fact. In Providence, where more jewelry, both good and bad, is made than in any other American city, many shops have entirely stopped, and their workmen come trooping back here looking for employment which, they certainly cannot find in New York this season. The same thing has happened over in Newark.

Competition in the manufacture of jewelry has reduced the profits of the manufacturer to so low a point that he cannot possibly get along unless he has pretty nearly steady employment and a great deal of it. Cheapening production by the employment of ingenious machinery and constant invention of novelties are all that force any individual manufacturer's business into anything like activity now. One man down on Fulton street, who takes the lead in the making of rings, has done so by virtue of getting out some 300 different designs in rapid succession, some of them so popular that they sold like hot cakes. He kept going all last summer when no other shop was doing anything. Of a novel and pretty mechanical sort of motto ring, for instance, he made some 350 dozens, as I learn from the jobbers. But one swallow doesn't make a summer. While he, with his never-failing ring, was and was extraordinary mechanical advantages in making them cheaply, is doing fairly, a score of others are not making their rent. The manufacturer's profits on jewelry are only from 5 to 15 per cent. now, and probably do not average more than 12 per cent. The jobber's, too, have fallen on off greatly from what they once were, but they still are from 20 to 33⅓ per cent. The retailer's profit depends altogether upon where he is located. On a big, good thoroughfare, in a handsome, large store, he will make from 50 to 100 per cent., while in a small shop on a side street he is lucky if he makes 33 per cent. Generally speaking, the same sort of goods that the people on the thoroughfare pay the larger profit upon. And that estimate does not take in the exceptional big houses, of great reputation, like one I could name up town, where the ordinary profit is five to dollar per cent. People who go there only have confidence in big prices, and would rather pay them than not.

The holiday retail trade cannot be said to have begun yet, so that it is a good three weeks behind the usual time. Perhaps it may pluck up courage out the jobbers stocks, and set us humming again. People say there is a great deal of money in the country in consequence of the good harvests this year, and that other trades are doing well. If so, the tail end of the boom may sweep around our way. But I'm not very hopeful. It is pretty late in the season now, and it looks to me more like dull times than anything else. I have observed that our business, being the supply of a luxury and not a necessity, is always the first to feel the pressure of hard times and the last to recover from them when prosperity begins to dawn."

YOUNG SEAMAN'S TEMPER.

It Leads him to Draw a Revolver Upon the President of the Chicago University.

CHICAGO, Dec. 12.—The Chicago University was the scene of a sensational affair yesterday, the principal actors being the Rev. Dr. Galusha Anderson, the venerable President, and a young man named Allen B. Seaman, a member of the senior class. The latter having had a difficulty with another student whom he struck in the face, the President called him into his private office, and took him to task for what appeared to be ungentlemanly conduct. Dr. Anderson thus describes the occurrence:

"When we were seated I asked him whether he had struck the student referred to, a young man named Thomas Bayard Collins. "Yes, I did," he replied. "It was the only thing I knew how to do under the circumstances. What would you have done if you had been called a liar?" I replied that I should have passed it by; that if a character was not strong enough to stand an attack, fighting would not improve it. He replied, "I told to that; I made up my mind to fight." He then began to make a statement, but I soon had to stop him, as he was very disrespectful, and even insulting. I said to him: "Stop right there, and there's the door; you can go now. I won't do it," he said. I then laid my hand on his shoulder and quietly told him to go, whereupon he flew into a violent rage, and, turning to me, said: "Don't you put your hands on me." I then laid my hand on his shoulder again in the same manner and besought him to go. In an instant he snatched out a revolver, and holding it to my head, said: "I'll blow your brains out." I grabbed the pistol, put him over the back of a chair, and wrenched it from him. I then turned the muzzle toward him, and ordered him again to go. He went, but stopped in the door, demand the return of his pistol. The demand was rather ludicrous, and when I refused to surrender it he said he would take the proper steps to get it. I think he ought to be prosecuted. I guess he could be sent to the penitentiary, but as yet I do not know what I shall do."

Prof. Louis Stuart and James Dowd, the latter a great friend of Seaman, were present. The President continued: "Seaman was talented, but decidedly vicious. He had been here four years, and though I have had trouble with him quite often I hoped to carry him through. He would have graduated next year."

Seaman is only 20 years old, but is six feet one inch in height, and has been looked upon as the college bully. This affair is the culmination of troubles that have long been brewing. The Chicago University is represented in the Illinois State Oratorical Association. At a recent election held to select delegates from the Chicago University to attend the annual meeting there was a hot contest, and the disappointed candidates determined to claim a seat in the meeting, which was held in Jacksonville last Saturday. Seaman and George Walshe were the defeated candidates who attended the meeting, and claimed the seats to which S. R. King and A. A. Griffiths, jr., had been elected. Having no credentials, their demands were refused by a vote of 14 to 1. While returning to Chicago Seaman swore vengeance upon his rivals. He is alleged to have threatened the life of one or both of them, and upon arriving at the University in the evening it is said that he organized a party of his sympathizers to assault the successful delegates and their friends.

Death of a Veteran Stock Broker.

Harvey R. Wilcox, one of the oldest members of the Stock Exchange died on Monday. Mr. Wilcox came to this city in 1832 from Madison, N. Y. where he was born in 1809. He was first connected with Hall, Black & Co., and then became manager of A. T. Stewart's wholesale department. He went into Wall street, and in 1846 became a member of the Stock Exchange, and was for some time interested in business with Rich and Schell. In 1850 the firm of Slaughter & Wilcox was started, and made an immense amount of money in speculation, most of which was swamped in unsuccessful railroad building in the Adirondacks. From 1860 to 1878 Mr. Wilcox was actively and prosperously engaged in business. In the latter year he retired in favor of the present firm of Wilcox & Baird. His firm was a familiar one on the street almost up to the day of his death. There are probably less than half a dozen brokers living who were in the Board when he joined.

Looking for an Eccentric Heir.

W. M. Andrews, a notary public, at 136 Chambers street, has in charge the estate of John Gavin of Aberdeen, Scotland. All the heirs have been found, except John Gavin, a nephew, 30 years of age, who is somewhere in this country. He is eccentric, frequently absenting himself for long periods from his friends, and then as suddenly reappearing. His brother, living in this city, three years ago received an anonymous letter from Poughkeepsie, saying that John had committed suicide. He went to Poughkeepsie and found the letter was a hoax. Mr. Andrews says that the estate is considerable, and that a division will take place shortly.

More Mischief from Electric Light Wires.

Fire boxes at Nassau and Beekman streets, Hudson and Laight streets, Greenwich and Reade streets, Greenwich and Fulton streets, and two others in Nassau and Liberty streets, were burned out on Monday and rendered useless by an electric current from the wires of the United States Electric Company, which cross the Fire Department's wires at the places named.

A Gift for Your Friend.

A welcome reminder of you every week in the year. The *Home Journal*, a newspaper of literature, art, and society. 22 a year. Morris Phillips & Co., 3 Park place, New York.—Adv.

BAIL FOR GOOD BEHAVIOR.

MUST THE WORKHOUSES BE EMPTIED UNDER THE NEW CODES?

Reargument Before Judge Lawrence of the Points Involved—The Opinions of the Police Justices—An Astonished Test Case.

A woman sat wondering and probably hungry for five hours in Supreme Court Chambers, before Judge Lawrence, yesterday. Her name is Mary McMahon, and she is "the test case" selected to secure a fuller argument and a more elaborate decision from Judge Lawrence upon the meaning of those provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure that relate to the powers of police magistrates over disorderly persons.

This test case was arranged because of the wholesale discharges from the City Prison and workhouse, which began upon a former decision of Judge Lawrence, that under the Code of Criminal Procedure the magistrates have no right after imposing a fine for disorderly conduct to require from the culprit bail for good behavior, and impose imprisonment in default of bail. At first the Police Justices began to discharge prisoners by wholesale under Judge Lawrence's decision. Then some of the Justices got the idea that the Supreme Court might possibly be in error, and concluded to wait for further light before emptying the workhouse.

Justices Kilbreth and White were present yesterday, and the former made an extended argument in support of the view of the Police Justices. Nobody took any notice of Mary McMahon, the subject of the test case, as she sat apparently dazed throughout the whole proceedings. Her counsel said that on Dec. 7 she had been found guilty of such disorderly conduct as, in the opinion of the magistrate, tended to a breach of the peace, and, being duly convicted, was ordered to stand committed to the City Prison for one month, or until she should find surety for her good behavior. In asking for the discharge of the prisoner, counsel called attention to a review of the various statutes affecting the offence of disorderly conduct which was made by Justice Daly in October, 1865, where Justice Daly draws a distinction between disorderly persons and disorderly conduct, and points out the difference between a prisoner charged with some specific act of disorder against some person and another prisoner charged with general disorderly conduct. He called attention to the fact that as the law existed when Judge Daly wrote there was no question of the power of the magistrate to impose a fine, and, in addition, to require security for future good behavior. He declared that this power had not been taken away by any subsequent statute. There were saving clauses in the Penal Code which expressly exempted from repeal the clauses of the old law relied upon as the source of power for the Judges to impose fines and exact security. But this particular prisoner should not be imprisoned until she could find security, because she had been convicted for general disorderly conduct, and not for any specific act of disorder, and was clearly within the cases intended to be covered by section 99 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Mr. Van Orden, on behalf of the view submitted by the Police Justices, argued that the power to enforce security from persons convicted of disorderly conduct had not been taken away by any statute. He quoted the provisions of the Revised Statutes, with reference to the taking of recognizances to show that unless the recognizances were taken, even under section 99 there could be no plausible interpretation of the new code. The proposed interpretation of the code taking away the power of the magistrate to act under section 99 in conflict with other parts of the code. The provision of the Revised Statutes was still in force.

If that is still the law, what is the use of the code?" asked Judge Lawrence. The general idea was that we had a code prepared which was going to do away with the numerous penal statutes. Have you found one single thing about disorderly conduct in this code?

"No, sir," said Mr. Van Orden.

"I have not," added Judge Lawrence.

Assistant District Attorney Vincent said that the power of requiring security in the case of disorderly persons is properly exercised by the Police Justices, in view of section 725 of the Penal Code, which continues in force: "All acts defining and providing for the punishment of offences, and (not) not defined and made punishable by this code."

Mr. James D. McClelland directed attention to a decision of Judge Barrett, made last January, and based on section 962 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which, he claimed, supported the view of the Penal Code already taken by Judge Lawrence, against the practices of the Police Justices.

Justice Kilbreth, who had been selected by the Police Justices to present their views, said:

It is certainly original intention of the codifiers that the two sections should be in force, if the first section failed, so far as the law was concerned, but it was carried out so far as to insure the provision in each of these codes that the two are practically one and the same. And there is no conflict between the two, each other. The punishment prescribed by law in the case at bar was the exaction of a bond for the prisoner's good behavior. Even if it be held that there is a doubt as to the power of the police magistrate to impose that penalty, irrespective of the statutes, it is certainly not a violation of the construction of section 99 of the Code of Procedure. But section 725 of the Penal code expressly saves the authority which had existed and had been conferred upon the police magistrates by the Revised Statutes, not in accord with section 99 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which provides that bonds for good behavior shall be required of persons convicted in cases at bar, but in certain cases of disorderly persons. The general statement of section 99 is that no bond shall be required, except as provided for in that section. But section 725 declares that provisions of the statute in existence when the code was passed shall continue. There is not one word in the Code of Criminal Procedure, nor in the Penal Code, that directly or indirectly or by implication refers to "disorderly conduct." The only way to punish it is by the operation of section 99 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and it is not until the failure of the new code to make a distinction between disorderly conduct and disorderly persons.

Judge Lawrence said: "It does seem that when we sat up to have a Code of Criminal Procedure for the whole State, that persons who are guilty of disorderly conduct should not have been entirely omitted."

Justice Kilbreth—There is no provision either for intoxication, which comprises three-fourths of the cases that come before us. I feel satisfied that your Honor, when you come to investigate the subject thoroughly, will find occasion to change your views on the subject.

Judge Lawrence reserved his decision.

HENRY MILLER'S DEATH.

Money that Had Just Been Drawn From his Bank Not Found Upon the Body.

Henry Miller, the cigar-box maker, who died in Bellevue Hospital on Sunday from injuries received from unknown persons, was buried in Greenwood Cemetery yesterday. Four of his five children stood beside the coffin while the funeral service was read at his residence, 326 Delancey street. His brother and sister-in-law, and a few friends completed the company.

Miller's relatives believe that he was assaulted and robbed on Wednesday night last in Houston street near Avenue C. He was found there unconscious next morning. He drew $40 from the Bowery Savings Bank on Wednesday. His bank books have not been found, and he had but a few pennies in his pockets when he was found in the street. On Wednesday night at 11 o'clock he was seen manipulated and well in a saloon directly opposite his residence. In the same street in which he worked Charles Miller, his brother, says that a man named Vetting, who used to board with Henry three years ago, was with him then. Henry Kunzp, who keeps a saloon at 324 Delancey street, says that Vetting brought the news to the house on Thursday that Miller was lying unconscious in the street. Capt Cherry says that he investigated the report that Miller was robbed by a policeman, but found nothing whatever to justify it.

AMUSEMENTS.

Mr. Sam Franko's Grand Concert.

The entertainment offered last night under the above title at Steinway's was one of a class very commonly given throughout every winter season in New York, of which to know one is to know all. They are rather to be viewed as an advertising medium than as aesthetic events in full sense, or certainly as the grand concerts they complacently claim to be on the programme. They aim rather at the entertainment of a large circle of personal friends—with a thrifty side glance at visionary orchestral directors and potential pupils—than at the discriminating and exacting public at large.

Mr. Sam Franko is well known as a worthy and valuable member of sundry orchestral organizations in our city. His rather commonplace and feeble execution last night of violin compositions by Spohr, Mendelssohn, Wieniawski, and others, in no wise debars his claims to the respectable position he now occupies, while it hardly seems to make it worth his while to appear as a concert virtuoso in a city still filled with the memories of Vieuxtemps and Sarasate, of Remenyi, and Wieniawski, and Wilhelmj.

Miss Adele Margulies executed to the general satisfaction a Chopin Ballade for the pianoforte. Mr. Haridegen played with delicacy rather than breadth or force some not very significant work by Godard and Popper for the violoncello. Mr. Holst-Hansen sang vocal selections in a refined and impassioned style, and Mr. Ferdinand Dulcken accompanied both vocalists and instrumentalists with great refinement and discretion.

MUSCLE READING.

Mr. Greer's Explanation of an Incident in the Chickering Hall Seance.

Mr. Stuart Cumberland said at a mind reading exhibition in Chickering Hall on Sunday evening that he thought Mr. Henry Greer, who was assisting in an experiment, had attempted to mislead him. Mr. Greer, who lives at 122 East Twenty-sixth street, said yesterday:

Mr. Cumberland spread out some numbers and asked me to fix my mind on one of them. I fixed my mind on the figure 6. Mr. Cumberland took my hand in his own, and passed it over the figures. My hand dropped at the figure 4. I had strength of mind to resist Mr. Cumberland's mind, that was all. He is not a mind reader, but a muscle reader, for which he takes the hand of a man whose will is weaker than his own, or who wishes him to succeed in his experiments, he readily the trembling of the muscles in his subject's hand that he is supposed to read mind. The subject cannot cause the hand trembles, or gives of itself toward the object which is in the mind of the subject. In letting my hand fall on the figure 4 when I was thinking intently of the figure 6, I think I was justified, although Mr. Cumberland could not blame me because I did it. He could not find out what I was thinking about. All so-called mind reading is in reality muscle reading. It requires a strong will, and is successful only with comparatively weak minded people.

A Keeper, a Boy Burglar, and a Woman.

Warden Finn on Monday night instructed Keeper Glanberg to call at the Fifty-seventh street prison and bring down a boy burglar. One of Warden Finn's standing instructions to his keepers is never to bring more than one prisoner down at a time. When Glanberg presented himself at the prison he learned that Mary Noble, an aged woman, had been committed for trial for robbery. Glanberg thought that he could take the boy burglar and the aged woman down together. He handcuffed the boy to the woman's arm and assisted the aged woman in. When he turned around, the boy was running up Madison avenue. Glanberg gave chase, shouting and pointing to the boy. Two citizens caught the boy, half a dozen policemen joined the chase, and threw out the street railroad, and headed off the Madison avenue car in the Bowery. He hailed the conductor, who stopped the car.

"Where is the old woman?" Glanberg asked.

"She got off at Fifty-fifth street," said the conductor.

Glanberg was suspended by Commissioner Hess for violating one of the strictest rules of the department.

The New Foot Ball Rules.

At the private meeting of the Intercollegiate Foot Ball Association, recently held at the Fifth Avenue Hotel in this city, the rules were materially altered. A very satisfactory scheme to prevent the "block game" was presented and adopted. Under the revised rules the scoring is based on the safety touch down. Two of these equal a touch down, a goal from the field counts five, and a goal from a touch down six. In case of a tie on other points, if one side makes two safeties more than the other it will count a goal. Two safeties disqualify instead of three, and tackling in "fair" invariably brings a warning. In punting out from a touch down the kicker is allowed six feet on the line. Mr. Pease endeavored to bring Princeton's claim of a drawn game with Harvard into the convention, but the motion to introduce it was lost. The championship was unanimously awarded to Yale.

Adverse to Rapid Transit in Brooklyn.

The General Term in Brooklyn yesterday denied the application of the East River Bridge and Coney Island Steam Transit Company for a confirmation of the report of the Supreme Court Commissioners, granting to it privileges in lieu of the consent of property owners.

Inasmuch as the Compensation act of last winter was viewed as unconstitutional, the application was made when the application was denied, the company asked for a reconsideration of the case and the confirmation of the report. Judges Harwood and Dykman agreed in the denial. Justice Gilbert dissented. This is the end of rapid transit in Brooklyn for the present.

Gen. Silas Kenyon's Suicide.

Gen. Silas Kenyon, a well-known Democratic speaker in New Jersey and other States, threw himself before a Pennsylvania Railroad train, close to the station in Elizabeth, at 8½ o'clock last evening. He was killed almost instantly. A letter was found in his pocket addressed to Andrew Allright of Newark thanking him for favors, and adding that the writer did not care any longer to be a burden upon him.

He obtained his title from his connection with the Rhode Island militia. He had no family, and was 75 years of age.

Robbery of a Dead House.

ST. ANNE'S LOCKS, Que., Dec. 12.—The dead house of the parish church at the upper end of the village was entered last night by robbers. The door was forced open with crowbars and broken in pieces. The coffin of an old man, put in only yesterday, and those of an old woman and a young girl were broken open and the bodies stripped of their clothing, dragged across the road, and laid behind a fence.

Ladies, It's Just Lovely.

Six holiday presents for 25c. A patent laugh on Rats from nothing but a mouse trap; a patent trick-box; a comic chromo, Household Troubles; Hazel Boy, a set large size scrap book cards finely colored, 5c.; a sheet Rough on Rats music, with song and chorus, 5c.; the "Sea Side Song," a fortune-teller in verse, filled with comic illustrations and jokes, 5c. All post paid on receipt of 25c. E. S. Wells, Jersey City, N. J.—Adv.

SWEENEYS' BANK BURSTED.

MANY SMALL DEPOSITS FED TO THE WALL STREET TIGER.

Tradesmen About Ann and Nassau Streets Astounded—The Younger Sweeney's Speculations—About 50 Cents in the Dollar Left.

For twenty years past a familiar landmark to all down-town New Yorkers has been the tempting display, on every week day, of piles of gold, silver, bonds, and bank notes in the window of the Sweeneys' banking house, on the northeast corner of Ann and Nassau streets. Sweeneys' was opened for business rather earlier in the day than most other banking houses were, and, instead of closing at 3 P. M., customarily received deposits and paid out money until nearly 5 o'clock, a great convenience often to tradesmen in the neighborhood. Sweeneys' also paid moderate interest on special deposits.

At 10 o'clock yesterday morning J. A. & W. H. Sweeney's was open as usual, doing business. At half past 10 the window was empty of riches, and the doors were locked, and upon them appeared the notification, along with the startling word "Closed," in big letters:

We have made an assignment for the benefit of our creditors without preference. Further information may be obtained from Mr. Arthur Murphy, attorney, room 52, in the Morse building, 140 Nassau street.

In five minutes there was such a crowd about the doors as blocked up the street. Few among those present appeared to be attracted by idle curiosity, for nearly all were anxious faces, numbers made use of strong language, and every one wanted to read the notice for himself. Soon, however, the throng melted away.

With considerable difficulty a Sun reporter succeeded in getting inside the office, and there found the assignee, Mr. Edwin H. Brown, and his attorney, Mr. Arthur Murphy, Jr., at work discovering the assets of the bankrupted firm. Mr. Brown said:

The failure was caused by personal stock speculations on the part of Mr. William H. Sweeney, one of the partners. There is abundant evidence in the books of his stock transactions, but nothing whatever to show that Mr. J. A. Sweeney ever did anything of the kind, and he denies not only that he ever indulged in stock speculations, but that he even knew that his brother was engaged in them. Mr. W. H. Sweeney's losses on stock, so far as we have been able to ascertain, amount to about $30,000. The liabilities of the firm amount to about $60,000, and the assets to $30,000, as nearly as we can now approximate. The prospects are that fifty cents on the dollar will be paid, and possibly a little more. I have not decided that all the debts of W. H. Sweeney are properly copartnership debts. In fact, I propose to contest earnestly the assumption that they are. If it is made, If we succeed in establishing that they are not, I shall be enabled to save still more for the creditors of the firm. But, at all events, I think that we may safely count upon fifty cents on the dollar. The assets are cash, stocks, and bonds.

"There will be no preferred creditors. The wife of Mr. J. A. Sweeney has an account of nearly $1,800 with the firm, and a sister of the Sweeney brothers has an account of nearly $800. I do not know the number of individual depositors. I understand, however, that the amounts on deposit are all small, with the exception of Mr. E. Abrams's of 50 Ann street."

Mr. Brown said that the junior partner's stock operations had been carried on, he thought, principally through Henry Clews & Co. He did not know whether Mr. Sweeney had been caught short of Omaha or not.

Mr. E. Abrams, metal dealer at 50 Ann street, said: "My bank book shows $6,000 standing to my credit, and then there was a special deposit of not less than $2,000, and it may have been $4,000, which my wife attended to, and on which 4 per cent. was paid. I have been banking with the Sweeneys between nine and ten years. I have heard rumors that they were speculating in stocks, and went to them about it; but they gave me their word that they were not. I never was more astonished in my life than I was when I sent a check over there this morning and the boy came back saying the bank was closed."

Mr. E. J. Sutherton, the plumber at the corner under the bank, said: "I've been in the habit of carrying along about $1,000 in the Sweeneys' hands because it was so handy. I only had $200 in when they went up. It might have been so much worse that I feel as if I'd hard luck enough to be thankful for, at least of all the mechanics and little tradesman and shopkeepers on this block—both sides of the street—are among the losers."

Thomas Connor, plumber, next door to Heatherton, said: "I lose between $700 and $800. I've been depositing with the Sweeneys four or five years. I knew they had a stock indicator in their office, for I could hear it clattering away over my head all the time, but I didn't suppose they were using depositors' money in the stock market."

J. Bloomfield, who has a small machine shop at 47 Ann street, said that his loss was between $300 and $400.

This banking house was started in 1862 by John H. Tisdale and Daniel M. Sweeney, under the firm name of Tisdale & Sweeney. Mr. Tisdale soon retired, and Mr. Sweeney took his brother, John A. Sweeney, into partnership. In 1872 thieves, in an endeavor to rob Mr. D. M. Sweeney of money that he was carrying over to his house in Brooklyn, struck him on the head with a sand club, inflicting injuries from which he died in a few years. Then Mr. J. A. Sweeney took into partnership his younger brother, William H. Sweeney.

The senior partner in the bank sends this letter to THE SUN:

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—SIR: To refute the many false statements published concerning the failure of the banking house of J. A. & W. H. Sweeney, of which I was a member, will you kindly publish the following facts?

On Friday night, the 1st inst., I had every reason to believe my firm perfectly solvent and ample, after allowing for cents on the dollar to every creditor. On that evening I was first informed by my partner that he had been engaged in speculations in Pacific Mail for years or more and had lost a large amount of the firm's money.

I the next morning set to work examining into the state of affairs and notified my partners on Monday, the 11th inst., did I know our true condition. After a few hours' consideration, I determined to make an assignment without preference for the benefit of our creditors.

I have been prostrated since, and feel sure that I have been unable to make a statement of our condition, but, as far as I can at present determine, the liabilities are about $60,000 and the assets about $30,000.

As the assets are nearly all available, I think the creditors will be able to get their money in a very short time. A schedule will be filed in a day or two, at furthest.

JOHN A. SWEENEY.

A Farmers' Club on a Great Scale.

CHICAGO, Dec. 12.—In the meeting of the American Agricultural Association to-day a letter from T. Corwin Anderson, the short-horn breeder of Kentucky, was read to the Secretary, urging the convention to bring the attention of Congress to the necessity of legislation against the lung plague in cattle. Letters of regret from Gen. U. S. Grant and the Hon. S. J. Tilden were read. Resolutions were adopted by W. H. Brown, S. A., on the preservation of moisture for a seasonable rainfall, which, he claims, could only be done by the action of the States and general government in planting trees on the borders of bodies of water and the margins of water courses, by George Grant of Scotland, Superintendent of Agriculture to the Duke of Sutherland, on the subject of the reclamation of waste land in Scotland and Spain, and describing the immense steam ploughs in use on the Duke of Sutherland's highland property, and by S. Nugent Townsend of the London *Field*, on the numerous agricultural strides of this country. All the papers were discussed.

Ending a Pool Match Abruptly.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 12.—A match series of forty-one games of pyramid pool was begun last night between Henry Leist of St. Louis and Fred R. Lucas of Philadelphia for $250 a side. Leist had won twelve games and Lucas seven, when Wayman Mercer, the referee, declared the contest a fraud, and all bets off. The match terminated abruptly.

An Experiment in Canadian Prisons.

OTTAWA, Dec. 12.—The Government have decided, by way of experiment, to abolish the use of dining rooms in the penitentiary, as the Inspector after careful observation of 15 years, thinks that the conclusion that breaches of discipline are hatched there. The meals will be served in the cells.

A Man Whom 50 Men have Sworn to Lynch.

OMAHA, Dec. 12.—Matt Simmerman, the murderer of Sheriff Woods and two others, reached Kearney last night with the two officers who captured him in Kansas. Fifty men have sworn to lynch him on Thursday when he goes to Minden for trial.

Indicted for Not Using Safety Appliances.

PROVIDENCE, Dec. 12.—The Grand Jury of the Common Pleas Court today returned two indictments against the New York and New England Railroad Company for using passenger cars without power brakes.

Contents of The Weekly Sun.

THE WEEKLY SUN, published this morning, contains:

What is going on in Washington—Congress Hard at Work—Lively Debates in the Senate and House—Robeson on the Defensive—Political Assessments—Gossip from the Capital—The Library of Congress—Rosy Views of Republican Reform—Production of Profits—Another Chapter of the History of the Press Gang Conspiracy—How the Poland Gag Law Passed Both Houses Under False Pretenses—News from the Old World—Arabi's sentence—Affairs in Ireland—Terrible Snow Storms in England—The Hostility in Germany to Yankee Pork—Another New Railroad—An Attempt to Divert Business from New York—The Transatlantic Steamship Subsidy Result of the Observations in Many Places—Heavy Freight Business in the West—Lorne and the Princess Louise—The Threatening Letters which the Receiver Will Law in Alabama—Massacre by the Indians in Mexico—Singular Discovery of Buried Treasure—Commissioner Arnstrong's Report on the Railroads—Alaska and the Czar—A Town in the Black Country of South Carolina—Meteoric Production in the South—Rice for the Navy—Victor Hugo's Prohibited Play—Crazy Politics—New Books—A History of Vaqui Poisonous Serpents—Wilmington's Wife—Mayor Moore's Discovery—Queen Victoria and her Popularities—The Territory of Idaho—Story—A Cat's Paw—Latest Telegraphic News—Shipping—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.

"Rough on Corns."

Ask for Wells's "Rough on Corns." 15c. Quick, complete, permanent cure. Corns, warts, bunions.—Adv.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

New York Stock Exchange—Sales Dec. 12.

UNITED STATES, STATE, AND CITY BONDS (IN $1,000s).

5 U. S. 4½s, c	112½
10 U. S. 4½s, r	112¾
10 U. S. 4½s, r	120
10 Ark. 7s, P. B. iss	22½

RAILROAD AND OTHER BONDS (IN $1,000s).

13 Ches. & O. sc. B	87½@88	7 Nor. Pac. 1st	104⅞
10 Ches. & O. int. def.	58½@58⅝	32 N. O. & Pac. 1st	86½@¾
5 C. B. & Q. 7s	126⅞	2 N. J. Cent. inc	84
8 Ch. & N. W. s. f. 5s	109¼	34 N. Y., L. E. & W. 2d 8s	90½@90¾
5 Ch. & N. W. gold	125	2 do 1st	102½
25 Can. So. 1st	107½@108	45 N. Y. Ch. & St. L. 1st	94½@¾
8 C., C. & I. C. inc	51@¾	5 Ohio & Miss. s. f.	118
2 Col. Coal 1st	83¼	6 Ro. & Pitts. inc	42½
8 Del. L. & W. 7s, '07	127	3 Rome, W. & O. ex. 5s	72¼
1 Den. & R. G. con	90	8 Rome, W. & O. inc	42½@43
1 Erie, L. & B. S. 1st	95	46 Rich. & Danv. deb	63½@¾
10 Erie con 1st	129	4 Rich. & A. v. 1st	81
5 E. Tenn. V. & G. 5s	74¾	151 St. P. & Om. cons	104⅞@107
10 E. Tenn. V. & G. inc	40	20 So. Pac. of Cal. inc	102¼@103
11 Gulf C. & S. Fe 1st	110¼	1 St. P. & S. C. 1st	111
2 Ind. B. & W. 1st	87¼	5 St. P. M. & M. 1st	110½@111
5 Int. & G. N. 1st	103	3 St. P. M. & M. 2d	109
3 Int. & G. N. sec	82	5 St. L. & S. F. 2d, C. A.	95
10 Kans. & Tex. con	101¼	4 St. L. & S. F. 2d, P.	93¼