WILL NOT DO VAUX'S WORK

SUPT. PARSONS REFUSES THE PARK BOARD'S ASSIGNMENT.

He Will Report on What Has Been Done, but Will Not Make Plans for the Driveway Commissioners of Accounts Tell the Mayor that the Board is Negligent.

Park Commissioners Clausen and Tappen thought they had disposed of the troublesome Harlem River Driveway yesterday when at a meeting of the Board they assigned Superintendent Parsons to the supervision of that work. They were disappointed, for Mr. Parsons has declined to accept the assignment as a part of his duty as Superintendent of Public Parks.

When the matter of a landscape architect was brought up President Clausen offered this resolution:

Resolved, That the duties of landscape gardener in connection with the Harlem River Driveway are hereby assigned to Mr. Samuel Parsons, Superintendent of Parks, until the further action of this Board, and that Mr. Parsons examine the work in question and report thereon.

"Mr. Parsons is excellently qualified on subjects of this character," put in Commissioner Tappen. "I can see no objection to his selection. I've read his contributions on this subject in the magazines, and only regret that he has not been instructed in this matter before. I favor the resolution."

Commissioner Bell—Mr. President, I think Mr. Parsons has all the work on his hands at the present time that he can well attend to. I do not think Mr. Parsons can be termed a skilled landscape architect, and I say this with all deference to that gentleman.

President Clausen—I think Mr. Parsons can answer for himself.

Commissioner Bell—That is what I want. I want to give him the opportunity to answer for himself. Mr. Parsons is not, as I understand it, employed in this department as a park maker. I do not question Mr. Parsons's ability to maintain a park and do it well after it is made, but I do feel that he ought not to be asked to make the park.

Commissioner Tappen—The resolution only calls on him to examine and report to this Board.

President Clausen—Mr. Bell, why do you not think Mr. Parsons a landscape gardener?

Commissioner Bell—I never heard he was.

President Clausen—Have you conversed with Mr. Parsons on the subject?

Commissioner Bell—Never.

President Clausen—On what do you base your belief?

Commissioner Bell—Mr. Parsons does not describe himself as a landscape architect. He does not claim to be a landscape architect.

President Clausen (to Mr. Parsons)—What business were you in before you became Superintendent of Parks?

Mr. Parsons—I was in partnership with Mr. Calvert Vaux as a landscape architect.

President Clausen—Do you consider yourself a landscape architect, and would you do the work of such an official if you were called on to do it?

Mr. Parsons—I would. I would like to make an explanation right here, though. I think that in my capacity as Superintendent I could better make such a report as that asked for. I should prefer to be referred to as Superintendent and not as a landscape gardener.

The resolution was amended so as to read as follows:

Resolved, That the Superintendent of Parks be requested to report on the landscape features of the Harlem River Driveway that are necessary to be considered in carrying out the plans.

Before the question was put on the resolution President Clausen said:

In order to enlighten Mr. Bell a little more on this matter I would like to have a report read. It was made in 1892 and was referred to Commissioner Dana. I cannot find the official record on file, but I have a copy of it here which I would like to have read by the Secretary. It will probably give Mr. Bell some more information about Mr. Parsons's ability as a landscape gardener."

The report was read. It was one made by Commissioners of Accounts Daly and Wahle of their investigation of the Park Department, and contained a copy of testimony of Landscape Architect Vaux, in which Mr. Vaux said that he was assisted very materially in his work by Superintendent Parsons. In his testimony Mr. Vaux had frankly testified that he did not work like a laboring man ten hours a day at his task as landscape architect.

"I only wanted to show Mr. Bell," said President Clausen, "that we had some evidence here of Mr. Parsons's qualification as a landscape architect. It was not so much my object in introducing this report to show the incompetency of Mr. Vaux."

Messrs. Clausen and Tappen voted for the resolution. In explaining his vote in opposition Commissioner Bell said:

"While there is a landscape architect in the Department of Parks I cannot vote in favor of the resolution. If there were no landscape architect already employed by the city I might feel differently, but so long as there is such an official paid by the city I think it is his duty to attend to matters such as are sought to be provided for by this resolution. If our landscape architect is incompetent, as I understand, this Board has the power to remove him, but so long as he is in the department I shall vote against any resolution calling on others to do his work."

Mr. Bell referred to the testimonial as to Landscape Architect Vaux's ability made by Frederick Law Olmsted, whom Mr. Bell spoke of as head of his profession.

"Yes, in his own estimation," said President Clausen.

The resolution having been adopted, President Clausen said:

"This ends the matter. We now have an architect for the speedway."

Mr. Clausen was mistaken about the matter being ended, for Mr. Parsons notified him shortly after the passage of the resolution that he did not feel that he should be called upon to act as landscape architect of the Driveway, and intended declining to act in that capacity. Later he sent a letter to the Commissioners formally declining to do the work. This letter was received at the department offices too late to be made public. Mr. Parsons said that it was to the effect that he did not wish to be placed in such a position that his duties would clash with those of the regular landscape architect. He said that he might report as superintendent on the work that had been done, but as to the new work he would have to report that the landscape architect of the department should be consulted, so that the difficulty would be as far from solution as ever.

The gift of a buffalo cow from the Montreal zoo was accepted.

Capt. Collins asked for an appropriation of $1,100 for the car fare of Park policemen who will be prohibited by the new Constitution from riding free after Jan. 1. The matter was referred to President Clausen.

Commissioners of Accounts Wahle and Owen, who are now examining the Park Department accounts, have made a special report to Mayor Gilroy. The Commissioners say that the collection of rents for houses in Pelham Park is not properly made, and that on Oct. 1 there was due $3,969. Some of the tenants owe rent for more than eighteen months. The Commissioners suggest that the Mayor direct the Park Board to institute proceedings to collect the rent or to recover possession of the property; to explain why certain subordinates of the department are permitted to occupy houses rent free, and to adopt "a practicable and businesslike system as to the collection of rents, and also that they adopt a uniform system of regulating the payment and collection of fees."

STATE CARE OF THE INSANE.

Mayor Gilroy Would Approve a Change—The City's Asylum Property.

Mayor Gilroy said yesterday that he had not yet received the report of the State Commission in Lunacy relative to the care of the city's insane wards, and was therefore not prepared to discuss it.

"I will say, though," he added, "what I have believed for a long time, that I think it would be a good thing if the insane patients now cared for by the city should be cared for by the state authorities. If I were to be Mayor for another year I would do everything in my power to bring about this result.

"I think the State ought to take our property devoted to the care of the insane, as well as the patients, and pay the city a fair price therefor. It is not so long ago that the city paid the State $1,000,000 for a part of Ward's Island, to be devoted to the care of the insane. I understand that a conservative estimate of our property devoted to these purposes places its value at $12,000,000. But, even if the State should not take this property, I believe that it should care for our patients."

Mails Delayed by the Storm.

Some of the through mail trains were considerably delayed yesterday on account of the snow storm. The Chicago mail, including mail from Buffalo and northern New York, due over the New York Central Railroad at 6:40 A. M., did not arrive until 2:15 in the afternoon. The Washington, Pittsburgh, Boston, and Providence mails were all about two hours late. The through mail from the South, due over the Pennsylvania Railroad at 7:57 A. M., was three hours late.

Purchase of Forest Lands in the Catskills.

KINGSTON, Dec. 28. A large tract of forest land in the famous Stony Clove of the Catskill Mountains, near Phoenicia, has been purchased by D. S. Youmans of 331 South Second street, Brooklyn, representing a party of men who propose to establish a college park similar to Pelham and Onteora parks. This is, which he says is the latest County savings institution of the city, is one of the most picturesque spots in the mountains.

NEWFOUNDLAND'S CRISIS.

An Increasing Sentiment in Favor of the English Government's Offer.

ST. JOHN'S, N. F., Dec. 28.—The Legislature was engaged all day to-day in discussing proposals for guaranteeing the notes of the suspended banks. The Government adhered to its proposition to guarantee Union Bank paper to the amount of eighty cents on the dollar and Commercial Bank paper to the amount of twenty cents on the dollar. The opposition introduced an amendment to guarantee all notes at their face value, to raise a loan to meet obligations thus created, and to retire $50,000 yearly by a sinking fund or by the allocation of that amount directly from the treasury. It is said, on reliable authority, that the Government will arrange to have its proposal defeated in the upper House to allow incoming banks to steady local ones, upon which point an agreement has been arrived at.

An expert in banking is coming from Montreal. The English banks interested sent a representative by the Ulunda yesterday. The Ulunda also brought $80,000 in specie, which, however, is for private firms and but little improves the congestion of circulation. It is a veritable gold famine, which will take months to relieve and the number destitute is increasing daily.

The unexpended balance of the Fire Relief Committee is being devoted to the relief of the destitute, but will be utterly inadequate. There is an overwhelming sentiment in favor of the English Government offer of a loan sufficient to cover the losses, conditional on the surrendering of the charter of self-government. The reports from clergymen in outports of the condition of the inhabitants reveal dreadful wretchedness, and urge immediate steps to prevent not alone misery but death from starvation.

HALIFAX, Dec. 28.—Director Pitts of the Commercial Bank of St. John's, N. F., is in this city. He will be arrested, like all the other directors, on his return home. Mr. Pitts was seen at his hotel here and informed of the arrest of his colleagues. He said:

"The directors have presented to the shareholders an annual statement of the affairs of the bank as required by the charter. As far as my knowledge goes, and likewise that of the other directors, the annual statements have been correct in every particular and can be fully and completely explained."

Mr. Pitts will leave here to-day for Sydney, where he will embark on a steamer and probably arrive in Newfoundland on Monday.

FATHER ROSSBACH REBUKED.

Dr. O'Reilly Denounces His Sermon at Sir John Thompson's Requiem Service.

MONTREAL, Quebec, Dec. 28.—A great sensation has been created in the Dominion by the utterances of Father Rossbach, who preached the sermon at the requiem service for the repose of the soul of the late Sir John Thompson, at St. Patrick's Church, Quebec. The service was attended by Protestants and Catholics alike, but, notwithstanding this, Father Rossbach, after referring to the late Premier's conversion to the Roman Catholic Church, abruptly declared that, if Sir John could now speak, he would say that the only true religion was found in the bosom of the Holy Mother Church, and that all others were shams and frauds.

Among the clergy present, with the Archbishop of Quebec, when this declaration was made, was the Right Rev. Dr. O'Reilly of New York, who was on one of his periodical visits to Quebec, where he was educated and ordained, and where he was attached for a number of years to the spiritual ministration of the Irish Roman Catholics of Quebec and its neighborhood. This old association no doubt induced the Cardinal to select Dr. O'Reilly to reply to Father Rossbach, which he did in the most effective manner in a sermon at Silbury Church. After referring to the obnoxious remarks of Father Rossbach, he said:

"What a pity that a few days ago, in dear old St. Patrick's Church, a priestly voice, which should have been raised only to praise and bless the departed, should have uttered words of insult to the living, and, instead of thrilling hearers and men of different belief than ours with the recital of the statesman's and greatest citizen's meritorious deeds and Christian virtues, we should have all been shocked by an uncalled-for, untimely, unauthorized, and unjustifiable denunciation of beliefs differing from ours. From this place I most solemnly declare that the words thus utterly out of place have only deeply wounded the Roman Catholic community throughout Canada, but that they are repudiated by all classes of Canadian Roman Catholics and by the Roman Catholic clergy of every degree."

Of the incident *L'Electeur* says: "It is our duty to declare that the preacher who so brutally insulted his Protestant hearers at the requiem service for Sir John Thompson by telling them that the Protestant religion was a fraud is a foreigner to this country."

DESPOILED THE LADIES' HATS.

Some Person Stole Out All the Flowers While They Were Dancing.

SOMERVILLE, N. J., Dec. 28.—Last Saturday evening the Bound Brook orchestra gave a ball in Cook's Hall, opposite the depot at that place. There was a large attendance. In the course of the evening it was noticed that several questionable characters had in some way got into the ballroom, but they soon disappeared.

About 11 o'clock one of the young women went into the cloak room, and in a moment rushed out again with white face and tearful eyes. She told her companions that they had all been robbed. All of the women made a rush for the cloak room, where they found that every woman's hat had been stripped of its feathers, ribbons, and lace. They at once told their husbands and escorts, and the festivities came to a stop.

The men who had noticed the disreputable women thought they were the guilty persons, and they left the hall in pursuit of them. They went to the hotel and the railroad depot, where they learned that two young women answering the description of two of the missing ones had left town on the 11:15 train, going toward Plainfield.

The chase ended here and the men went back to the hall, but they could not prevail on the women to go on with the dancing, so had did they feel over the loss of their hat trimmings. The ball came to an abrupt termination. There is no evidence to prove that the young women suspected stole the feathers and flowers, but people who attended the ball say that no one else could have been guilty, and that probably the thing was done out of revenge for the way in which they were treated. An attempt has been made to keep the affair quiet, and it was only to-day that the story came out.

AMUSEMENTS.

The Performance of "Faust" at the Metropolitan Opera House.

A very smooth and excellent performance of "Faust" was given last evening at the Metropolitan, with a cast which has long been familiar to operagoers. Mme. Eames as *Marguerite*, Jean De Reszke as the hero, Edouard De Reszke as *Mephistopheles*, Ancona as *Valentine*, Scalchi as *Siebel*, but with Mme. Van Cauteren instead of Bauermeister as *Marta*. "Faust" is so frequently performed and so ripely familiar to every one who takes part in it that it runs with perfect smoothness and ease. The chorus takes up its cues with a promptness born of long practice, and stations itself about the stage with a spontaneous grace that is both illusive and assuring. It is to be wondered at, under the circumstances, that the slight misunderstanding among first violins in the prelude to the "garden scene" could have occurred. Eames dresses the part a little differently this year in the first act, wearing a cap and keeping her own brown hair. She was by no means intense or thrilling last night. On the contrary, she walked through the rôle with an equanimity which even the mockings of a *Mephistopheles* as forcible as Jean de Reszke can make him were powerless to disturb. Her classic statuesqueness is admirable if beneath it shone the fire of passion and the throb of misery. Last night her acting was too tame and indifferent to do justice either to her best powers or to the demands of the dramatic weight of the opera. The solo parts except Scalchi's were sung in French, the choruses in Italian. Scalchi also kept to her native language. Signor Mancinelli endeavored to setting quick *tempi* to put brightness and life into the performance, but on the whole the rendering was not a spirited one.

Dinner to Gen. Howard Carroll.

The New York Riding Club gave a dinner last evening at their club house, Fifty-ninth street and Eighth avenue, to their ex-President, Gen. Howard Carroll, recently appointed on the staff of Gov. Morton. Forty members of the club participated, among them Alfred de Cordova, Charles W. Drake, Antonio Knauth, Henry F. Kilburn, Charles C. Clausen, Otto Schaller, Daniel E. Seybel, Theodore H. Seaman, surrogate of Westchester county, Henry W. Schmidt, Walter J. Peck, William H. Merritt, Joseph A. Fisher, Adolphe Pulvermah, Henry Claus, Julius Simon, H. H. Davies, E. S. Hatch, W. H. McCord, Henry W. Strauss, Charles T. Wells, D. G. Yuengling, Jr. After the dinner, which was interspersed with music, recitations, and songs, a gold and silver full-dress sword was presented to Gen. Carroll by his associates in the club. Speeches were made by the President, Walter J. Peck; Judge Rastus S. Ransom, Park Commissioner George C. Clausen, Gen. Carroll, and others.

LIVES LOST, PROBABLY.

THE STORM ADDS TO THE SUFFERING IN NEBRASKA.

Terrible Destitution in the Southwestern Counties—Many People Exposed to the Bitter Cold—Appeals for Provisions—Lives Lost in the Storm Hereabouts.

OMAHA, Neb., Dec. 28. The storm which swept over this State on Wednesday night continued throughout yesterday, and increased in severity last night. The temperature fell 34° in twenty-four hours. Snow is reported from Alliance, Seward, Greeley Centre in the Black Hills, and in Montana. All trains were delayed yesterday. The temperature was 12° below zero at Hastings yesterday morning, and 15° below at Chadron. The snow was light, which was fortunate for the stock, for in the drought districts thousands of animals have been turned out by their owners to pick up their subsistence from the grass and weeds of the prairie, and a heavy snow would entirely destroy their only feed.

Telegraphic advices indicate that loss of life must have followed the blizzard. It may be several days, however, before the anticipated calamities will be known, for some of the worst drought-stricken counties are without railroad and telegraph stations. The special correspondent of a local paper, writing from the drought district, says:

"There is no doubt that this blizzard has caused great loss of life. These people are entirely without fuel. In some of these counties there is not a tree or a twig. Nothing is burned but cow chips. The people have no animals to carry them to places of safety, and in a day or so we shall hear of wretched deaths from this cold."

Robert B. Peattie, a staff correspondent of the *World-Herald*, has just returned from a two week's tour into southwestern Nebraska in order to investigate the reports of the destitution in that part of the State. The results of his search through the counties of Buffalo, Dawson, Lincoln, Keith, Perkins, Hitchcock, Chase, Hayes, Dundy, and Frontier may be thus summarized:

In these counties, particularly in Keith, Perkins, Chase, Hayes, and Dundy, the destitution is extreme. Almost two-thirds of the people are dependent upon charity for existence. There is little or no fuel in the counties. In many places cow chips are all the people have to burn. The remarkably mild weather which has prevailed is all that has prevented loss of life by exposure.

There is no money in the county treasuries to help the destitute, because in fifteen counties almost no taxes have been collected since June. The shiftless have left the country, and only the farm owners remain. There is almost no water. No crops were raised at all last year except in the occasional irrigated districts, and ditch irrigation is not possible in some of these counties because there streams are so few and so small. Most of the destitute live in sod houses. Heartrending cases of destitution and suffering are heard of in every township.

The present cold wave will certainly cause death to a large number of settlers if it continues and no aid comes. Fuel, provisions, and clothing are needed, and the railroads will generally ship them free if sent to the County Commissioners at the county seats of the stricken counties.

O'NEILL, Neb., Dec. 28.—For some time stories of extreme destitution have come from Boyd county and various parts of Holt county, but they had seemed so improbable that the people here hardly credited them. Inquiry shows, however, that the stories were not much exaggerated. The situation in Boyd county is bad, and if the people there are not helped soon they will starve or freeze to death. J. M. Smith, who lives on what is called the Three-mile Strip, on the State line, was in O'Neill to-day, and he tells many harrowing stories of the condition of the people in his part of Boyd county. He says that what is true of the people there is also true in almost all parts of the county. Mr. Smith came with a commission from the people of his section to collect supplies. He gathered considerable flour and provisions to-day, and forwarded them.

BODIES DRIFT ASHORE.

Two Victims of Wednesday's Storm—A Barge with a Crew of Five Missing.

The towing steamship Santuit, with the coal barges Ringleader and Seth Low in tow, bound from Boston to Norfolk, encountered the snow-laden northeaster on Wednesday night off Fire Island. The hawsers between the steamship and the barges parted, and they lost sight of one another. The Ringleader made her way to Sandy Hook under sail, and the Santuit put into Delaware Breakwater. She carried away her steering gear and lost her ventilators. The Seth Low's sails were blown to shreds before the Ringleader's skipper, Capt. Keene, lost sight of her. Nothing has been heard from the Low since Capt. Keene saw her vanish in the snow storm. The Santuit has been ordered to proceed to sea and search for the Low.

All the boats are owned by L. H. Burnham of Boston. There are five men aboard the Low. She was unloaded and high out of the water. She may be heard from down the Jersey coast.

On Wednesday night the sloop E. H. Willis, with a load of gravel from Port Eaton to Jersey City, was lost off Matinicock Point, East Island. She went down with all her sails set. The bodies of the Captain and one sailor were found on the beach yesterday morning. From papers found on the Captain it was ascertained that his name was Richard Cuff. He was a married man, and leaves a widow and family. He lived at Leeds Harbor, near Thimble Island. The bodies were found on the beach by Tuttle Dayton, the watchman for the Oyster Bay Company.

The crew of the Willis consisted of two men, in addition to Capt Cuff. The latter formerly commanded the schooner Emily Baxter, which was wrecked in the same place a month ago. At that time Cuff was accused of collecting the freight money due and disappearing. The Willis was of sixty tons burden.

The old Gardiner's Island lighthouse, which has been abandoned for a year or more, has been completely wrecked by the storm. The last vestige of it toppled into the water yesterday afternoon. Considerable land has been washed away also by the heavy sea of the past two days.

Sound pilots are loud in their complaints of the removal by the Government of the Sands Point light, attributing to the absence of the light the mishaps that befel craft in that vicinity on Wednesday night. A petition is now being circulated among Sound navigators setting forth the necessity of reestablishing the light, on the ground that pilots are accustomed to it, and that it is impossible to accurately judge the distance between the Point and Execution Light. This petition, signed by about 200 pilots, together with affidavits made by the owner and pilot of the steamer Tuckahoe, which was wrecked on Sands Point beach on Wednesday, will be forwarded to the Lighthouse Bureau. The affidavits lay the entire blame for the loss of the Tuckahoe on the removal of the light.

Inquiry was being made at Glen Cove yesterday for the sloop Louisa H. of City Island, with Percy Pell, Harry Murphy, and Fred Train on board. She was seen heading up the Sound on Wednesday during the storm, and has not been heard from since.

The Canadian schooner Viola, Capt. Forsythe, which sailed from St. John, N. B., for this port on Dec. 14, is ashore at Glen Cove. There is a large hole in her side. She will be floated by the Chapman Wrecking Company after her cargo has been taken off. She is consigned to J. W. Parker & Co. of 66 New street.

Frozen to Death.

Andrew Beld, a coat presser, 22 years old, who had a furnished room at 197 Johnson avenue, Williamsburgh, was found frozen to death in an unoccupied shed of Blaisdell's kindling wood yard, at Morgan avenue and Meserole street, yesterday morning. John Spiegel of 208 Stagg street was at Beld's room on Thursday night, and when he left him Beld complained of pains in his stomach. He probably went out soon after Spiegel left and crawled into the shed for shelter. When Policeman Fagan of the Stagg street station found the body it was in a sitting position in a corner and some of Beld's clothes were unbuttoned. The body was removed to the Morgue.

The Hudson Frozen Over from Newburgh Up

KINGSTON, Dec. 28. The weather here is intensely cold, the thermometer registering 10° below zero this morning. In the Catskills the mercury sunk to 17° below zero. The steamer William F. Romer, which broke her way through the ice to Rondout last night, is now locked fast at her dock. She will be unable to get back to New York. The Hudson is frozen solid from Newburgh up, and above this city people are crossing on the ice.

Put Him Out and He Froze to Death.

NEW PHILADELPHIA, O., Dec. 28. Last night a supposed tramp entered Canal Dover rolling mill almost frozen. He was ejected by the night watchman. In the morning there was found a white-haired man, apparently 60 years old, lying dead on the ash heap. "T. F. D." was marked on his shirt.

Freezing Weather in Florida

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Dec. 28. The thermometer went down to 27° last night, and to-night the weather is as severe as last evening. A frost warning is blowing, and this may save the fruit. Ice half an inch thick formed here last night.

Fourteen Below Zero at Vassar.

POUGHKEEPSIE, Dec. 28. This morning at Vassar College the thermometer registered 14° below zero.

JAMES H. ROBERTSON DEAD.

The Body of the Senator's Brother Found in the Street at Peekskill.

PEEKSKILL, Dec. 28.—James H. Robertson, a brother of Senator George W. Robertson of the Lexow committee, was found dead at 5 o'clock this morning in front of the Gospel Mission on Hudson avenue. The body was frozen stiff, and it was evident that Mr. Robertson had been dead for several hours before the body was discovered by a man on his way to work. Mr. Robertson's feet lay toward the curb, and his head rested against the Mission building. The avenue is very hilly, and last night the sidewalk was covered with snow and ice.

Mr. Robertson was last seen alive at about 11 o'clock last night, when he started from Coroner Apgar's café, opposite the railroad station, to go to his home. He appeared to be in his usual health and good spirits. It is supposed by some that he slipped on the ice in front of the Gospel Mission, and, falling, became unconscious and was frozen to death.

Senator Robertson was at once notified of his brother's death. The body was removed to the Robertson home, where Coroner Apgar held an inquest. After hearing the testimony of Senator Robertson, of the man who found the body, and of two physicians who made an examination of it, the jury rendered a verdict of death from apoplexy.

Mr. Robertson leaves a wife and three children. His sister is the wife of Bishop Cyrus D. Foss of the Methodist Church, and one of his brothers is a Bishop in the Episcopal Church. He was born in New York in September, 1839, and came to Peekskill with his parents in 1850. He has since lived here. He received his education at the Peekskill Military Academy. For a number of years he was a member of the firm of Saxe, Robertson & Co., organ manufacturers, of New York. He became involved in financial difficulties there, and his mother, who was possessed of property, found it necessary to make considerable sacrifice in order to extricate him.

A score of years ago he purchased a handsome residence at the corner of Hudson avenue and Smith street. For many years he was a vestryman in St. Peter's Episcopal Church. He was a fine speaker, and was at one time a frequent contributor to the newspapers and magazines. In politics he was a Republican until the Tilden campaign in 1876, in which year he was elected a village trustee and served two years. In 1881 he was elected President of the village, defeating Col. J. C. Wright, principal of the Peekskill Military Academy. He was always in attendance as a delegate at Democratic conventions, town, county, and State. This year he was an unsuccessful candidate for the Postmastership of Peekskill.

GRAND JURY ON STREET CLEANING.

Mr. Andrews's Department and the Police Included in a Presentment.

The Grand Jury made this presentment yesterday to Judge Martine in the General Sessions:

"The Grand Jury respectfully call the attention of the Court to the condition of the sidewalks and streets of the city during the recent snow storm. In the residence districts many of the sidewalks were almost impassable, and throughout the city the condition of the streets was such as to indicate, without any doubt whatever, that the authorities upon whom is charged the duty of cleaning the streets have been derelict in their duty.

"The Department of Street Cleaning has an immense appropriation for this purpose, and the utter failure to keep the streets in a decent condition shows that the management of the department cannot be conducted with foresight or efficiency. In addition to the resources of the Department of Street Cleaning, a city ordinance directs each householder to clean the sidewalk before his residence. To enforce this ordinance is the duty of the Police Department. It is manifest that no effort has been made by that department in this direction.

"We beg, therefore, to present to the Court the Department of Street Cleaning and the Police Department for neglect and inefficiency in performing the duties imposed upon them by law. As a result of this neglect the condition of the streets in this city during the past two days is a disgrace to the municipal Government."

Judge Martine said he would have copies of the presentment sent to the heads of the two departments complained of.

Commissioner Andrews said yesterday:

"I am doing the best I can. I cannot lawfully employ people who are not citizens, and I find that citizens don't want to work on the streets. It has come to be a fact that American citizens won't do this class of work any more. The year's appropriation for clearing the streets of snow was $40,000. I have spent $60,000 already, and have all the present snow to move. You can see how I am handicapped, both by the need of money and men."

Mr. Andrews's advertisement for 1,000 men to shovel snow did not cause a stampede among workingmen out of employment. Up to noon about 200 men had called at the department offices. They were promptly engaged and set to work.

TO CROSS STATEN ISLAND.

Circular Route of the Proposed Interior Railroad Company.

The company incorporated at Albany on Wednesday known as the Staten Island Interior Railroad Company completed its organization yesterday by electing the following officers: President, Herman Bergholtz, Ithaca, N. Y.; Vice-President, Cornelius Tompson, New Brighton, S. I.; Treasurer, Daniel Thomson, Ithaca, N. Y.; Secretary, Grant Crabtree, New York city. The directors are: Horace Hand, Scranton; Franklin C. Cornell and De F. Van Vliet, Ithaca, N. J. Creighton and Frederick Sencifer, Staten Island. The capital stock is said to be $300,000, 10 per cent. of which was deposited in bank yesterday.

The route is circular, from St. George, at the ferry landing, through the villages of Tompkinsville and Stapleton, and, after dropping a spur to South Beach, it crosses the island to West Brighton, whence it returns to St. George. The distance is twelve miles. It is said the route extends through an area of over twenty square miles of the most attractive portion of Staten Island, hitherto inaccessible, and that ten cents paid for the ferry house at the Battery will cover the fare on the road.

It is understood that Erastus Wiman worked out the plan of the road, considering it as the best adapted for the development of Staten Island.

Changes in Railroad Officials.

CHICAGO, Dec. 28. W. H. Kniskern was to-day appointed general passenger agent of the Chicago and Northwestern road to succeed W. A. Thrall, who resigned to retire from the railway service. Mr. Kniskern's appointment takes effect Jan. 1. He is a native of New York State. W. A. Bissell has been appointed assistant freight traffic manager of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fé, the appointment to take effect Jan. 1. Mr. Bissell will resign the position of general freight and passenger agent of the Atlantic and Pacific with headquarters at San Francisco. J. W. Channer has been appointed general freight and passenger agent of the Lake Erie and Detroit River road and the London and Port Stanley road with offices at Chicago.

Virginia Deferred Certificates.

In order to include all issues of Virginia deferred certificates in the settlement now being negotiated by the Commission of which the Hon. J. B. Moon is Chairman, it has been arranged that the Farmers' Loan and Trust Company of New York shall receive deposits of certificates issued under acts subsequent to that of 1871, issuing therefor its negotiable receipts. The Farmers' Loan and Trust Company already holds over $10,000,000 of the certificates issued under the act of 1871.

Anthracite Coal Production.

The anthracite coal sales agents at their meeting yesterday decided that the trade requirements for January would necessitate a production of 2,250,000 tons, or about 45 per cent. of the output of June, 1894. The question of percentages was discussed at the meeting of Presidents of the coal-carrying roads in Philadelphia, on Thursday, and was referred to a sub-committee.

A Boy's Ambition to Be a Desperado.

CHICAGO, Dec. 28. Irving McLean, 15 years old, and a native of Wisconsin, confessed before United States Commissioner Kemp this morning that he had twice robbed the Post Office at Fulton, Wis., within the present month. He was caught while coming from a train at the Union station to-day, being recognized by the Fulton Postmaster. In his pockets were a revolver and a dime novel. He told the Court that his only ambition was to be a leader of a band of desperadoes.

Killed Himself and His Wife.

VASSAR, Mich., Dec. 28. George Palmer and wife were found lying dead on the floor this morning with their throats cut. Their son went to the barn to do the work about 6 o'clock, and when he returned he found his parents dead. The couple had not lived happily, and it is believed that Palmer killed his wife and then cut his own throat.

He Wants to Oust Mayor Lewis.

MOUNT VERNON, Dec. 28. Papers in quo warranto proceedings, brought by Edwin W. Fiske, were served to-day on Mayor Edson Lewis, requiring him to show cause before the Attorney-General next Thursday why a suit should not be brought to oust him from the Mayor's office. About five weeks ago Mayor Lewis was seated by an order of the Supreme Court. He and Mr. Fiske were rival candidates last spring, and Fiske claims to have been elected by two votes.

NEWS OF THE OLD WORLD.

A NEW PLAN OF GOVERNMENT FOR THE ARMENIANS.

The Turkish Government Said to Have Virtually Adopted It—Emperor William Angry Because His Offer to Increase Hohenlohe's Salary Was Made Public.

VIENNA, Dec. 28.—A despatch from Constantinople says that at the last meeting of the Turkish Cabinet the Ministers virtually adopted a new plan of government for the districts of Erzeroum, Van, Bitlis, and Moosh. The plan is that the four districts be joined in a single province over which a Mussulman Governor, appointed by the Sultan, shall rule five years. The Mussulman would be succeeded in the Governorship by Christians who are not Armenians.

The gendarmery would be recruited from the districts in which it would serve, and would be commanded by a General named by the Sultan. The local revenues would be retained by the province, excepting one annual contribution to the Porte. The Judges would be elective, and local ministries of education and public works probably would be formed.

BERLIN, Dec. 28.—The *Cologne Gazette* says that Germany and Austria will probably follow the lead of Italy in ordering her Ambassador at Constantinople to coöperate with the representative of the other powers in taking action in regard to the horrors in Armenia.

MRS. ASTOR'S BODY.

Placed on Board the Aurania at Liverpool—Mr. Astor Coming with It.

LONDON, Dec. 28.—At 6:10 o'clock this morning the coffin containing the body of Mrs. William Waldorf Astor was carried from the drawing room of the Astor residence, Cliveden, to a funeral car which stood in front of the main entrance. The coffin was carried by eight bearers. All of the servants of the Astor establishment were gathered on one side of the entrance hall, and Mr. Astor, who was visibly affected, stood on the other side. The body had been previously sealed in a leaden shell in the presence of members of the United States Embassy. This shell had been placed in a casket of polished mahogany, with massive silver handles, a cross, and a plate inscribed:

MARY PAUL ASTOR,
Born July 4, 1852.
Died Dec. 22, 1894.

Although a great number of wreaths had been received at Cliveden not a single one of them accompanied the coffin. As the solitary funeral car, with one lamp lighted, slowly traversed the dark avenue Mr. Astor stood in the doorway alone and watched it silently until the light of the lamp faded from his view. The car reached Taplow at 7 o'clock, and the coffin was placed in the guards' van of the train which awaited it. The train arrived at Paddington station at 8:03, and the body was transferred to Euston station where, in the presence of a member of the United States Embassy, it was placed on board the special train for Liverpool. The coffin was put on board the steamer Aurania at Liverpool this evening.

Mr. Astor left Taplow for Paddington station at 9:15 o'clock and took a train for Liverpool from Euston station about noon. He will accompany the body of his wife to New York.

EMPEROR WILLIAM ANGRY

Because His Offer to Prince Hohenlohe Was Made Public.

LONDON, Dec. 28.—The *Daily News*'s correspondent in Berlin says that the Emperor was surprised and indignant when he learned that his offer to increase Prince Hohenlohe's salary had become known. The news was conveyed to numerous politicians and newspapers through notes written in an obviously feigned hand. The envelopes bore a nobleman's crest partly effaced. It is said that the Emperor has ordered that the sender be sought by any and all means. Many think that the letters were sent by the author of the Kotze scandals.

The Hungarian Crisis.

BUDAPEST, Dec. 28.—Emperor Francis Joseph has accepted the resignation of the Wekerle Ministry, thanking the Ministers for their services and their devotion to the interests of the country. The Emperor will go to Munich for several days, and the new Cabinet will not be formed before his return. Probably the announcement will be made on Jan. 1.

The Emperor consulted to-day with Count Apponyi, Nationalist, as to a fusion of Liberals and Nationalists. As Apponyi insisted that Magyar must be the language of the Honved army the fusion plan was abandoned. The next Ministry will be uniformly Liberal.

Furious Gale in Ireland.

LONDON, Dec. 28.—A furious westerly gale is blowing in the Irish Sea. Late in the afternoon a steamship, supposed to be a trader plying between Cork and Liverpool, was seen flying signals of distress off Holyhead. Two lifeboats and a tug went out to help her.

In the south of Ireland the gale has been exceptionally violent, and many accidents have been reported. Railway trains on exposed sections of track were often hardly able to make progress against the storm. In Cumberland, Westmoreland, and around London it has blown hard since 3 o'clock this afternoon.

The New Encyclical.

ROME, Dec. 28.—The Pope has completed the text of his encyclical in regard to the position of of the Church in the United States, but is still engaged in revising the manuscript.

The Pope intimated to the officers of the United States cruiser Detroit on Wednesday that the encyclical probably would not be issued for several weeks. The encyclical will be published simultaneously in Washington and Rome.

Cruiser Detroit Sails from Naples for China.

ROME, Dec. 28. The officers of the United States cruiser Detroit returned to Naples last evening. Prior to their departure they were received by Admiral Morin, Italian Minister of Marine, who expressed regret that the brevity of their visit prevented them from visiting the naval depots of Italy. The Detroit sailed from Naples for China to-day.

Indian Tariff Changes.

CALCUTTA, Dec. 28.—The Legislative Council, by a vote of eleven to nine, has passed bills amending the act of 1894 by adding cotton yarns and fabrics to the list of imported articles dutiable at five per cent., and levying a five per cent. excise duty upon cotton goods manufactured in India.

French Gunboats for Madagascar.

PARIS, Dec. 28.—The French Government is constructing, with all possible rapidity, twelve gunboats and forty-six barges, which will be sent in sections to Madagascar for the use of the French expedition.

South American Ports Cholera Infected.

BUENOS AYRES, Dec. 28.—The Government has published by decree that the ports Santa Fé, Rosario, and Colastine are infected with cholera.

Marshal Canrobert Ill.

PARIS, Dec. 28.—Marshal Canrobert is seriously ill with inflammatory gout. He is very weak.

Notes of Foreign Happenings.

Capt. Cowles, naval attaché at London, will be detached from the United States Embassy on Jan. 17.

The Czar's special envoy, Prince Lobanoff, will be received by the Pope on Sunday, and afterward will be entertained at dinner by Cardinal Rampolla, Papal Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

The Appeal Court in Genoa has confirmed the sentence of Capt. Romani, a French officer who, a month ago, was condemned for spying to fourteen months' imprisonment and a fine of 1,200 francs. Romani's brother shouted twice from a front seat, "Hurrah for France!" He was not rebuked.

Mrs. Palfrey's Unpaid Bill.

The examination in supplementary proceedings in the case of Haas Brothers, ladies' tailors, against Mrs. Mamie R. Palfrey, who owes them $285 for dresses, was continued before Referee Stein yesterday. The defendant was not present, her attorney saying that she was ill, and producing a doctor's certificate. Mr. Samuel Haas testified that when Mrs. Palfrey's note was protested, and he told Mrs. Palfrey she could have no more goods, she said that she was a responsible person, that she owned real estate in Louisville, owned coal and whiskey stock, and had invested $10,000 in her husband's business. On these statements the witness gave her further credit.

Mr. Haas said that on all occasions Mrs. Palfrey wore very handsome jewelry, especially diamond rings. This was in contradiction of Mrs. Palfrey's testimony. The hearing will be continued on Monday.

When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria.
When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria.
When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria.
When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latest U. S. Gov't Report

Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE