THE NEW YORK HERALD.

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Important from Honduras and Yucatan.

DESIGNS OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT—BLOCKADE OF TRUXILLO AND OMOA, ETC.

[From the New Orleans Picayune, Dec. 18.]

By the arrival, on Saturday last, of the schooner Bratos, from Belize, we have received the following letter from our attentive correspondent in that place. As it contains intelligence of the utmost importance, we hasten to lay it before our readers:—

BELIZE, Honduras, Nov. 27, 1849.

For a long time I have not been able to get a sight of your valuable paper; but I am pleased to learn from a friend residing in your city, that the fault is not with you; that you had regularly sent me files by every vessel, as well as by the British mail packet. I perceive, by those copies which have reached me, that some of my communications, which have been transmitted by every departure for your port, have not been received by you. Your weekly, of October 22, contains an article from the New York Sun, the import of which, with other information, I sent you in August last. There is something wrong somewhere, evidently. The *New York Herald* asserts that there are many causes of complaint existing in the disappearance of correspondence with that quarter. I think the evil could be remedied, if the papers of the United States were to vigorously undertake its correction.

Last August, I informed you of the proceedings at the Island of Ruatan. I also stated that it seemed to be the policy of England to lay claim to that island. There is now no doubt that my surmises were correct, for the authorities of Belize have informed the inhabitants of Ruatan that it is the determination of Great Britain to take possession of the island, claiming that it was by its authority that the former Governor of this settlement, Colonel McDonald, took possession of it several years since.

It is true that Col. McDonald went down there, and while he remained kept the English flag flying. It is also true that ever since that period many Englishmen have visited, and some have settled, there; but does that make it theirs, or give England a title to it? I think not. But England has further desires and designs upon the owners of that island, (the State of Honduras, C. A.) News has arrived here that the whole coast, from this to the river San Juan, has already been declared under blockade by an English sloop of war, now cruising in the bay this side of the Cape Gracias à Deos, and by a steamer from that cape to San Juan. Now, gentlemen, presuming the report of the blockade is correct, can you guess what it is for? If not, I fancy I can enlighten you. I give it as my opinion that the rich mahogany lands, and the equally rich dye woods, are desired by the British cutters of this settlement. For several years these woods have been growing scarce here, and with the utmost economy, and the use of free negro labor, the business has not paid the cutters. They have for some time been cutting wood in the Spanish country, paying to the State of Honduras ten dollars a tree for what they cut. This course has satisfied the Honduras government, as all vessels have come to an entry in the ports of Omoa or Truxillo before going on the coast to load, thereby paying a considerable amount of money into the treasury of that State.

Recently, however, some of these vessels have attempted to evade the payment of the usual dues exacted by the laws of Honduras, by proceeding directly to the coast to load and clear without entering in either of the ports designated. This has, of course, caused the seizure and detention of such vessels and their cargoes by the authorities. For this seizure and detention one house claims damages to the amount of $100,000, the payment of which sum, it is rumored, has been demanded as the only condition on which the blockade can or will be raised. So much for the present difficulty between England and Honduras.

In Guatemala, and the other Central American States, tranquillity reigns. In Yucatan the Indians daily sustain defeats. Some time since I explained to you the cause of Pat's murder; and also gave you an account of the destitution of the Indians. I have to inform you now that they are anxious to give up the contest, if they can do so with safety. I hear that the authorities of this place have offered their mediation. Col. Francourt, her Majesty's superintendent, has gone up to Ascension Bay to confer with the Indians.

The Governor arrived from his Indian mission last night, not having been able to effect anything satisfactory. His object was to divide the State with the Spaniards and Indians, and then take the Indians under the protection of England, and establish laws, appoint officers, and, in one word, to go through a second edition of the Mosquito affair. This policy, which enlightened England is pursuing to gain territory on this continent, may be fair, may be right, may be worthy of a great and magnanimous nation, and it may succeed, may turn out to the advantage of England and the Indians. But will our Uncle Sam allow it? Will he quietly look on while John Bull is thus gouging our sister States? If he does, I have greatly mistaken the metal of the old man now in the White House. We shall see what we shall see.

Our provision market is perfectly glutted. Provisions are selling at less than paying prices. Our prospects for Christmas are very gloomy.

The blockade of Truxillo and Omoa is confirmed by the arrival of the schooner True Blue, of Truxillo.

It is reported that the Gulf of Dulce and Yazaball river are also under blockade. This is the only route from here to the city of Guatemala, and has no connection whatever with the State of Honduras. The report is probably incorrect, for how could even England undertake to blockade these ports for wrongs committed by another nation?

NICARAGUA.

[From the Picayune of same date.

Our last intelligence from Jamaica, brings us news of some importance. It appears that the English government has decided on making Greytown, in the Mosquito territory, a naval station, and it is announced that the vessels of war Alarm and Trincomalee were forthwith to be despatched thither. Thus it seems that the English are determined not to be caught off their guard, but intend to anticipate any movement which might be made against their supremacy in that portion of the continent. The people of Nicaragua, and in fact of other contiguous States, have evinced a disposition to court our friendship and our protection, and to abandon them in such an extremity would be exceedingly ungracious. It will be recollected that in the late negotiations between Nicaragua and Mr. Squier, the American Charge, it came out that Don Jose M. de Castro, the Governor of Costa Rica, had placed himself under the protection of the English government, and was, through his Minister in London, and individually in Costa Rica, aiding the English in their claims on the San Juan river. In consequence of this, and also the growing unpopularity of Castro, a portion of the inhabitants had manifested a desire to obtain the protection of the United States, and an outbreak was daily expected. This shows the feeling of the people in that region, and we hope that our government will not disappoint their expectations.

City Intelligence.

THE WEATHER—PLEASANT TRANSITION.—Yesterday the weather was delightfully fine. The transition from the severity of the day before, was very remarkable. The thermometer on Wednesday, at 7 o'clock in the morning, was down to 9; yesterday at the same time it was at 28, and at 12 o'clock it was as high as 36.

A NINETEENTH WARD.—We are to have a nineteenth ward. The Common Council, last evening, decided upon dividing the Twelfth ward at Seventy-ninth street, making one half the nineteenth ward.

A FUNERAL BILL.—It appears that the whole bill for the funerals of Gen. Worth, Col. Duncan, and Major Gates, only amounts to $2,223.

POLICE CLERK APPOINTMENT.—It seems all appointments are decided in caucus by the Common Council. Yesterday, at 11 o'clock, we knew that Robert H. Johnson had been appointed in caucus the night before, to fill the place of George Ribiet, who only resigned last evening, his situation as clerk of the Essex Market Police Court, salary $1,000; accordingly, last evening he was unanimously appointed in the Council. He is a policeman.

THE DEPUTY CLERKSHIP OF THE ASSEMBLY.—We understand that Mr. Marcus D. Boruck, of this city, is a candidate for that office, upon the whig ticket.

POLITICAL SUFFER.—Last evening one section of the Seventeenth Ward gave a game supper to Messrs. Girard Stuyvesant, W. S. Duke, and Marvin Brewer, at the hotel corner of First avenue and Second street; no person to participate in the compliment but residents of the ward, except specially invited. The Hon. Henry Clay had the honor of an invitation, as well as some other great men. We need hardly tell our readers that "Harry of the West" did not come. The three gentlemen to whom the compliment was paid were instrumental in having the whig committee ticket for the ward elected; and John Ridley, who wants to get the Sixth avenue railway, not much relishing this ticket, got up an indignation meeting last evening, in order that he and his friends of the other whig section might give expression to their feelings. The meeting was held at the Henry Clay House, corner of Avenue A and First street, and the supper party came in for their share of denunciation.

A SLUNG SHOT.—About eight o'clock, on Wednesday evening, in Laurens street, police officer Wilson, of the Fifteenth ward, was struck on the side of the head, with a slung shot, by one of two negroes, whom he had arrested in attempting to commit a burglary. The sable burglars made their escape, and the white man was sent home in a carriage.

THE DUTCH HOUSE IN FORTY-THIRD STREET BURNED.—The famous "Dutch House," in Forty-third street, near Second avenue, the resort of our German population on Sundays, holidays, and all gala days, was burned to the ground, at six o'clock, yesterday morning.

VIGILANT KEEPERS.—The room, in the City Hall, formerly occupied by the Superior Court, was found open on Wednesday night, by policeman Duncan, between eleven and twelve o'clock; three candles, which were left burning, having been consumed to the sockets of the candlesticks.

INSANITY.—An insane man, name unknown, was brought to the Fifteenth ward station house, last evening, by officer McDonald.

CAUTION TO FAMILIES.—A woman engaged two days since as a servant by the month. The next day she was so drunk and so insolent, as to be intolerable. On being discharged, she demanded a month's wages. On inquiry, it was found that this woman had practised this plan three times in one month, in different families in the Eighteenth ward. The remedy is a special agreement in writing by the week.

A SAILOR IN HIS ELEMENT.—Adam Smith, a seaman, fell into the dock, on Wednesday evening, at the foot of Montgomery street, and was rescued from drowning by officer Burras.

FRACTURED ARM.—Henry Murray, ten years of age, living at 37 Hamilton street, was yesterday descending a ladder, which led from the attic to the roof of said house, from which he was looking at the progress of a fire in the neighborhood, when he fell from the third story into the cellar, fracturing his left arm. His left eye is also dangerously injured.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—A man named Smith, a sailor, belonging to a West Indiaman, about to start from the dock on her outward voyage, yesterday, about noon, fell from the mast-head, a height of about fifty feet, and was so deadfully injured as to render his immediate removal to the City Hospital necessary. On examination his head was found to be badly fractured; and the internal injuries were of such a nature as to cause him to throw up a large quantity of blood. When seen by the reporter, he was in a precarious condition.

SUDDEN DEATH OF A POLICEMAN.—Wm. Hunt, for some time past a policeman of the 6th ward, died suddenly yesterday in the station house, by disease of the lungs. The deceased, it seems, has been laboring under poor health, and unfit for duty since the 26th of August last; and yesterday, about noon, while endeavoring to get on his cot in the station house, he sunk down and expired. The deceased was 38 years of age, and a native of Ireland. The funeral will take place from his late residence, No. 28 Pell street, at 12 o'clock this day. The coroner held an inquest on the body; but for some unaccountable reason, the papers were closeted beyond the reach of the reporters. The deceased was a single man.

THE DROWNED HORSES.—The harness on the pair of horses drowned on Christmas night, off one of the Fulton Ferry boats, was claimed and taken away from the Seventh ward station house, by Mr. Hart Powell, of 37 Henry street, Brooklyn—the horses having been washed in, at the foot of Jefferson street, with the harness and the tongue of the carriage attached.

TARGET EXCURSION.—The Broderick Guards, Capt. Philips, numbering thirty-two muskets, preceded by Wallace's brass band, passed our office yesterday evening, on their return from target practice. Their gentlemanly appearance and soldierlike bearing attracted universal attention; they are truly a fine body of men. They were accompanied by a large number of respectable citizens. The target bore ample testimony to the accuracy of their aim.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27, 1849.

MR. EDITOR—Your notice in this morning's *Herald*, of the proceedings of the Common Council, says that the Committee on Fire Department reported in favor of disbanding Engine Company No. 42, which is a mistake, and by correcting the same you will oblige the company. Very respectfully,

WARREN BLIVEN,
Foreman Engine Company 42.

Common Council.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN—THURSDAY, Dec. 27.—Petition of Charles Cook and others, for the enlargement of the Battery, was referred to the special committee. Petition of the trustees of St. Joseph's Church, for two gas lights in front of said church. Remonstrance of N. G. Bradford and others, against the enlargement of the Battery—referred to the special committee. Remonstrance against the extension of the Battery from residents of the Eleventh ward—referred to the special committee. Remonstrance of owners and occupants of property in Varick street, against railroad tracks being laid in said street—referred to special committee. The petition of R. C. Webster and others, in favor of the enlargement of the Battery—referred to the special committee. Petition of John Patten, C. & A. Moses, Abel Smith, and others, for the same object—referred to the same committee. The remonstrance of the citizens of the Tenth ward and others, against the enlargement of the Battery—referred to the special committee.

Report of Committee on Sewers, in favor of building a receiving basin and culvert at the southwest corner of Grand and Mulberry streets, with resolution and ordinance therefor—adopted.

Report of the Finance Committee, in favor of paying Richard Totten for loss of boat, which sunk when engaged in taking away the ashes and rubbish of the city from the foot of Rosevelt street, by contract with the Corporation, was lost, from an insufficient number voting for it, though a majority was in its favor.

Alderman WOOD opposed it strenuously, on the ground that the contractor has made abundant profit off the Corporation, and that he ought to balance the one with the other.

Report of the Committee on Police, adverse to the petition of Charles Gardner, a policeman on the 6th District, for relief; also, adverse to paying medical bill of Dr. R. S. Carpenter, on the ground that the petitioner was unable to represent in a satisfactory manner the amount of his medical and other bills, not having received or paid them; also, that he had recovered from the assault, and was now discharging his duty. Adopted unanimously.

Report of the Finance Committee, concurring with the Board of Assistants in granting a donation of $250 to the Eye and Ear Dispensary, in Mercer street, was adopted.

Report of the Committee on Streets, in favor of regulating and grading Thirty-fifth, Thirty-sixth, Thirty-seventh, and Thirth-eighth streets, between Fifth and Sixth avenues, and, also, to set the curb and gutter stones thereon, was adopted.

Report of the Committee on Streets, in favor of regulating, grading, paving, and flagging Forty-third street, from the Eighth avenue to Hudson river. Adopted.

Alderman WOOD—Have you not got a communication, Mr. President?

PRESIDENT—Yes; I have a letter of resignation from George W. Riblet, who having been elected to the office of County Clerk, resigns the situation of Clerk of the 3d District (Essex Market) Police Court.

Alderman WOOD then moved a resolution accepting the resignation, and moving that Robert H. Johnston be appointed in his stead. The resolution was adopted.

Report of the Committee on the Fire Department, in favor of procuring a new alarm bell, to be placed on Centre Market. Adopted.

A communication was read from the Counsel of the Corporation, stating the decision of Judge Jones, of the Supreme Court, adverse to the injunction against laying down rails in Hudson street.

Alderman WEBB said this was merely the *ex parte* opinion of one judge. It was not law, but merely an opinion; for there were three judges, and they all differed.

The communication also stated that the same court had decided in favor of the Corporation, in the case of William W. Dyckman against the Corporation. This suit had been pending for many years, under an action of ejectment, to recover about five acres of land in Westchester county, occupied for the Croton aqueduct. The said court had also decided in favor of the city the suits which had been pending since 1842 (four in number), in relation to the filling up of Pike slip, and building the bulkhead thereof. This decision settles most important questions in relation to the powers of the Corporation, and its ability to compel owners of property benefitted to reimburse the city for moneys expended in bulkheads and filling up slips. The assessment for filling up Governeur slip, and building the bulkhead thereof, has been resisted by the persons assessed, on the same grounds as those assumed by the persons assessed in reference to Pike slip. This decision disposes of those assessments also, and the city treasury will be reimbursed the amounts now due on both of these assessments, which cannot be less than $25,000.

The communication was ordered to be inserted on the minutes, and filed.

The following resolution, proposed by Alderman CLARK, led to a long debate, in which those who opposed it maintained that there was great danger of the bursting of the pipe from tapping it, and the city being deprived of a supply of water:—

"Resolved, That Charles Lent have permission to tap the Croton water-pipe, in front of his premises on Third avenue, for stable purposes."

The resolution was ultimately adopted—ten voting for, and five against it.

The following resolution was next adopted:—

"Resolved, That the Clerk of the Common Council be requested to prepare the annual manual of the Common Council for the year 1850, and that, when prepared, he cause the same to be published, under his direction and supervision."

Memorial of Mrs. Col Thompson, widow of the late gallant officer of that name, a native of this city, who lost his life in the Florida war in 1836, asking that his name may be placed on the monument proposed to be erected in Greenwood cemetery. Referred to the special committee.

Stephen Martindale was appointed a Commissioner of Deeds in place of A. L. McDonald, resigned.

Report in favor of paving Third avenue, from Twenty-eighth street to Forty-fourth street. Adopted.

The bill of John Mann, amounting to $2,360, for expenses incurred by order of the special committee of management, of the funerals of General Worth, Col. Duncan, and Major Gates.

Report of the Committee on Streets, in favor of paving the Third avenue, from Twenty-eighth street to Forty-fourth street. Adopted.

Report of the Committee on Roads, in favor of opening the Fourth avenue according to law, with a resolution to that effect, from Thirty-eighth to Fifty-eighth street. Adopted.

The room lately occupied by the Law Institute, was ordered to be appropriated to the clerk of the board of Assistant Aldermen and the committees of that body, and that $150 be appropriated for the repairs of the room.

The report of a special committee upon the question of dividing the 12th ward into two, making a 19th ward, was amended and adopted, the dividing line to run through 79th street, immediately south of the upper Croton Aqueduct. Alderman Webb denied the authority of the council to limit the jurisdiction of the alderman and assistant alderman to one half the ward.

The sidewalk around Tomphins Square was ordered to be flagged.

A memorial for a new pier at the foot of 23d street, was appropriately referred.

The report of the Board of Assistant Aldermen non-concurring in the resolution of the Board of Aldermen, to appeal to a higher court against the judgment in favor of Mr. Leveridge, against the corporation, for the sum of $8,223 and interest, for service as counsul to that body, was read, and led to considerable discussion. The Report of the Committee of the Board of Assistants, remarked that it was Mr. Cutting, the counsel who defended the case, that advised its being brought to a higher court.

Mr. ALLEN said the case had already cost $13,000, and it would only cost about $500 more to have it decided by the highest tribunal.

Ultimately, the Board decided upon adhering to its former action, and sending the papers back again to the Board of Assistants.

The question of the railroad in Sixth avenue was brought up: but as it was then half-past 10 o'clock, it was objected to have it proceeded with, especially as several members had gone away—and Alderman James Kelly, as the leader of the opposition, consented to have it postponed, though he had a majority present. He wanted nothing but fair play.

The Board then adjourned to Wednesday next.

Supreme Court.

Before Judges Jones, Edmonds, Hurlbut and Edwards.

DEC. 27.—The Court delivered their decisions in the following cases:—

Hudson River Railroad.—Judge Jones delivered a most voluminous opinion in this case, which was an application for an injunction to restrain the Hudson River Railroad Company from proceeding with their operations, and to compel them to remove so much of the line as they had already laid down. The learned Judge commenced by stating the provisions of the act, reading several of the sections in detail, and then proceeded to mention, *in extenso*, the grounds of the complaint made by the plaintiffs, and the answers thereto put in by the defendants in the cause. The first complaint is that the defendants occupied ground which belonged to the plaintiffs, either in fee or for a term of years; the answer to the objection is that no land had been taken for the purpose, but that which was occupied by and belonged to the municipal authority of the city; that the plaintiffs have shown no title, in themselves, to any part of the land or soil. It is averred that the two plaintiffs, residing in Canal street, have no pretensions of claim; with respect to one of the other three plaintiffs, in Hudson street, it is stated that those under whom she derived had a lease prior to the grant to the Corporation, but the co-assignees are not parties to the complaint, and she, by the terms of her acceptance, has extinguished her right. The city authorities would be equally unauthorised to close the streets, except on the authority of the law, and any obstruction would be a nuisance, punishable at the instance of those who might be specially grieved or damaged thereby. The Corporation of the city have, by the ancient charter, never abrogated, and still in force, the management and regulation of the public streets, and always have, and now are, exercising these powers; they prescribe the sidewalks, and direct the mode and manner of sewerage, &c. for various purposes, and for public and private use, and receive compensation for the use of the vaults under the sidewalks; it would seem that the legal title to the land and soil should reside in them. The Court did not stop to examine the antagonistical allegations or claims; or whether the powers of an old or a new charter apply to the constitution of the case; or whether it requires all the members of both branches of the Corporation, in order to make it effectual. These formalities apply to acts of Legislature, and they require, whatever form the bye-law may assume, who has a right to complain, and require the defendants to remove the rails. The plaintiffs cannot complain that the defendants are trespassers on the land; nor require that compensation should be made to them. The rights of the Corporation are the only rights which may be said to be usurped; but the Corporation imputes no wrong, and takes no step against the railroad being laid down. They tacitly give their assent to the operation. The plaintiffs complain that their lots are injured, and claim compensation, and that the railroad company ought to be restrained until such compensation is made. The right of the defendants to lay down the line will not protect them from the damages of the parties aggrieved. The plaintiffs insist that they are not to wait until the loss or damage is actually incurred, but that they are entitled to a protective remedy; and they, therefore, apply for an injunction. The injury of which the plaintiffs complain, is the impaired value of their property, by the alleged impediment of crossing the streets, and the desertion of their shops by reason of the danger and difficulty of access to them, and the danger to themselves and their families by the passing of the cars. Upon conflicting affidavits, the court are asked to form a conclusion whether the railroad in its occupancy is liable to the objections urged against it, or is subjected unjustly to these charges. The utility of railroads and their accommodation to the public at large admit of no doubt; but these considerations cannot authorize or justify any encroachments of individual rights; but the plaintiffs can claim no further use of the streets than all other citizens. The example of the Harlem Company shows that the use of railroads in the city, if properly guarded and regulated, is compatible with the simultaneous traffic of all other vehicles. If some inconveniences arise, they are not of such a magnitude as to induce the court to compel the defendants to remove the track already laid down, or restrain them from further proceedings. A much stronger case must be presented to their view, and more imminent danger be proved, to justify their interference. The court, therefore, felt constrained to deny the injunction.

Judge Edwards said that he and Judge Edmonds agreed with the Chief Justice, and had written their opinions, which could be seen with the clerk.

Anne Cornell adv. William Short.—Motion to set aside report of referee denied with costs.

Richard Cox and Others, appellants, vs. Harvey Winston and others.—Decree of Surregate reversed, and feigned issue awarded.

John H. Moore vs. Geo. L. Meacham.—Judgment of Superior Court affirmed, with costs.

Abraham Hatfield vs. J. M. Bloodgood.—Decree at Special Sessions reversed, with costs.

State of Ohio vs. Ferris Pell.—Judgment for plaintiff, on pleadings and proofs

Joseph Hesketh vs. Samuel Stevens.—Judgment for defendant in a case made, with costs.

The People, ex. rel., Sheays vs. Anson Willis.—Judgment for defendant on *quo warranto*.

John J. Palmer vs. Samuel R. Smith and Wife.—Decree at Special Term affirmed, with costs.

John H. Eble vs. Nathan Bingham.—Judgment for defendant on bill of exceptions, with costs.

The Mayor &c., of New York vs. Stephen Whitney.—Judgment for plaintiffs on a case made, with costs.

John Vandeventer vs. Henry Houston, &c.—Motion to set aside report of referees denied, with costs.

David Eastgate vs. H. K. Govern, &c.—Judgment of Common Pleas affirmed, with costs.

Wm. N. Dyckman vs. Mayor, &c., of New York.—Judgment for defendant on bill of exceptions; new trial refused, with costs.

Garret W. Bykman vs. Chas. H. F. Moring.—Judgment of Superior Court affirmed, with costs.

Lathrop S. Eddy, &c vs. John Horspool, &c.—Decree of Assistant Vice Chancellor affirmed, with costs.

Superior Court.

Before Chief Justice Oakley.

DEC. 27.—*Jas. B. Danforth vs. J. J. V. Westervelt.*—Verdict for defendant.

Jas. N. Cobb vs. Langdon H. Haven and Others.—No evidence for the defence being offered, the jury, under the directions of the Court, found a verdict for the plaintiff for $3,554 66 damages and costs.

In the absence of Judge Vanderpool, the Chief Justice received the following verdict:—

Malicious Prosecution.—In the case of Lucius E. Bulkeley vs. Eugene Keteltas, C. B. Smith and J. B. Brush, the jury rendered a sealed verdict for the plaintiff, for $3,750 damages.

SPECIAL TERM.

Before Judge Sandford.

Dec 27.—*Samuel E. Hartwell vs. John L. Kingsley.*—Motion to dissolve injunction denied—plaintiff's costs of opposing, $8, to be costs in the cause, and inserted in the judgment therein, if he recover a judgment.

S. S. Engle vs. F. Bonneau.—Decided, that proceedings supplementary to the execution to reach defendant's things in action, &c., may be commenced on the return of the execution unsatisfied, without its having been in the Sheriff's hands sixty days, or any fixed period.

Stone and Van Valkenburgh vs. Ambrose Mercer and Others.—Ordered that the defendants transfer to the plaintiffs their legacy, to be applied upon the judgment.

Renaud vs. Harris.—Ordered, that defendant's attorney pay the sum heretofore ordered, and the costs of motion in five days, or that an attachment issue.

Brooklyn City Intelligence.

EARLY CLOSING.—The dry-goods and other merchants in Brooklyn have mostly all come into the arrangement of closing their stores at 8 o'clock in the evening, so that the clerks may have more leisure for exercise, improvement, &c. This arrangement is a good one, and should be adopted by all storekeepers.

COMMON COUNCIL.—A special meeting of the Board will be held to-night, at five o'clock. There was no meeting on Christmas Eve, for want of a quorum.

SURROGATE.—Owing to the recent election of A. B. Hodges, Esq., as Sheriff, the office of Surrogate, which Mr. H. has resigned, is vacant. An appointment is expected daily.

POLICE COURT.—CHARGE OF BIGAMY.—A man named Patrick McKinney was brought before Justice Truman Smith, yesterday, upon a charge of bigamy. About two years since he was married by Rev. E. N. Johnson, and in July last he was again married, to one Ann Mathews, by Rev. Dr. Curry, the said Ann being the complainant. He was committed to answer.

SUPREME COURT.—Before Judge Morse.—The case of Schuyler and others vs. Joseph C. Ashley, for recovery of a house, alleged to be held by defendant under a forged mortgage of $5,000, (mentioned in yesterday's paper,) was continued yesterday. The case for the plaintiff had not closed, and it is probable the suit will occupy the remainder of the term.

Marine Affairs.

A NEW STEAMER TO FLY BETWEEN OREGON AND SAN FRANCISCO.—Messrs. F. & D. Fowler, of this city, and Stephen Coffin and H. H. Hunt, of Oregon, have now in course of construction a steamer of 700 tons burthen, to ply between Oregon and San Francisco. The vessel is in the yard of Westervelt & McKay, and is of beautiful model, and from the care manifested in the construction, will be one of the most substantial vessels ever built in this city. She is 190 feet long, with 28 feet width of beam, and 12½ feet depth of hold. When fully laden, she will draw but 9 feet of water, and is capable of accommodating, with comfort, two hundred passengers. The machinery, of the first character, with double engines, is being constructed by Messrs. Stillman, Allen & Co., whose skill is well known.

THE GALE OF SATURDAY, AT NORFOLK (VA.) AND VICINITY—FATAL RESULT.—For a short time during Saturday morning, the wind blew a heavy gale, in gusts of extraordinary violence, from S. E., justifying an apprehension of disastrous consequences. As yet, we have heard of no marine disasters; but we are grieved to learn that the two windmills of Wm. C. Moore, on the seaside of Princess Anne county, were both blown down during the gale—himself, and Alfred Moore, (his son) being in one at the time, and a young man of the name of Pallet in the other—by which casualty Mr. M. was crushed to death, and the two young men dangerously injured. Mr P., by some unaccountable means, had his throat badly cut. Mr. M., senior, was about 76 years of age, and a most estimable man. We hear little worth relating of the effects of the gale in the city. It paid its respects to the lofty spire of the steeple of the new Baptist church, the scaffolding around which it twirled in the air like autumn leaves. Fortunately, the boards found their way to the ground without doing any serious mischief. One of them, we learn, lit on one of the front porches of Mrs. Breshwood's boarding-house, broke through the roof, and knocked off a ball from the iron railing below.—*Norfolk Herald*, 25th.

Police Intelligence.

THE DRURY CASE—CONTINUATION OF THE INVESTIGATION—SIXTH DAY.

Before Justice Lothrop.

At half past 10 o'clock yesterday morning, the investigation now pending before the magistrate, against Samuel Drury and son, on the "torpedo" charge, was further continued. Mr. Jenkins, the previous witness, was called again to the stand.

Cross-examination by Mr. Clark—I think that I made the last erasures, in pencil and ink, in my notes; it was the day after the interview; I have kept the papers since that time in my pocket, and in my trunk; they were in my pocket until Monday morning last, when I was first examined; on looking over my papers on Monday, I threw them into the trunk; that was the only reason why I put them in the trunk; I cannot say at what time I exhibited my notes to Mr. Wilkes, A. M. C. Smith and Crassou; I never parted with them out of my possession; Crassou was with me when I wrote the first part of my notes, and I think he was present when I wrote the whole; I gave Mr. Wilkes, editor of the *Police Gazette*, a copy of those notes; I think it was the day after the interview; I think I showed the notes to Mr. Smith on the same day; I have read part of my notes over to One-eyed Thompson; the part I read to Thompson was where Drury tells "Bristol Bill" that he need not be afraid—that he had Boyd and Mills all right, that they could not hold him two minutes, and that he could take him by a road that he could get to his house without going through the village, and that he would have a boy there to show him, and conduct him by the Ridge road. This was, I think, read to Thompson shortly after that "rat council" was published in the *Police Gazette*. It was read to Thompson in a private back room, at the Ivy Green public house, in Elm street, in the day time. I have seen Thompson since that occasion, more than once; I cannot tell how many times. I have seen Thompson at the Tombs, at the Ivy Green, and in the streets. Other persons have been present at such interviews. Those interviews were public. I cannot give the names of all. Mr. Andrew Nesbit, proprietor of the Ivy Green, was one. I did not read the notes to One-eyed Thompson, on the request of any one. Thompson called me in the Ivy Green, and was speaking to me about the interview between himself and Drury, and the report in the *Police Gazette*; and I stated to him I had notes of my own, and I thought. I was capable of understanding what I heard myself, without being instructed by the *Police Gazette*, or any one else. I then stated that the *Police Gazette* report was incorrect, or was not correct, for there were some things that I had noted were not there. Thompson asked me what it was? I then showed him my notes, referring to Bristol Bill not daring to go to the village of Astoria. Thompson replied, "Yes, that was right." I told him I knew it was right. That ended the private interview. We then came out into the bar-room. Thompson then asked me if Mr. Clark said anything about him, or if he (Clark) intended to call him (Thompson) as a witness? (Here the witness stated some insulting allusions made by Thompson against Mr. Clark, the counsel in this case for the defence.) These remarks were written down; but, on the motion of Mr. Graham, the prosecuting counsel, the magistrate struck the insulting portion from the record. After some further testimony, the substance of which has already been given, Mr. Clark proceeded to examine the witness on the Brooklyn proceedings.

The witness continued—After Drury and himself separated, they came to an open lot in Columbia street; they went to the next street, about a block; Drury and Thompson then separated; I last saw Thompson on that day on the corner of the street; when I arrested Drury, he said, "let go of me—I am a gentleman;" I said, "I cannot—you are my prisoner." Drury said, "let go my arm—what do you want?" I then saw drop from his hand a little roll; I had held of one hand, and Crassou had hold of the other; I stooped down and picked up a roll of bills; there were four bills; I examined the bills after I gave Drury into the custody of Mr. Smith; Drury replied, when I picked up the bills, "I don't know what they are—I dropped them because the pennies hurt my hands;" Drury did not say where he got them, not that I heard; while Drury was in my custody, I think I heard all he said; about three minutes after the arrest, Mr. Smith took him into custody; it was on the corner of Willow and Pineapple streets that the bills fell from Drury's hand; I kept the bills in my hand after picking them up, until I gave Mr. Drury into the charge of Mr Smith; Smith then told me to follow Wilkes, who was across the street at the time; I crossed the street, and then unfolded the bills and looked at them; I went to speak to Wilkes, but he made a motion not to; on looking at the roll, I found it to contain four $10 bills on the Eagle Bank, Bristol; I arrested young Drury; One-eyed Thompson went up with me in the coach to Drury's house, accompanied with Mr. Smith and Mr. Wilkes; young Drury was arrested on the same day that his father was; I think the 16th day of November; when I arrested young Drury, Thompson stood on a bank, I should say about the eighth of a mile off; I should judge it was about two o'clock in the day; the elder Drury was arrested between 9 and 10 o'clock; I don't know why Thompson was stationed there on the bank; I don't know he was stationed there to advise young Drury to run away; the bills I picked up I gave to Mr. Wilkes in this room; I marked them; I don't know if the magistrate marked them; I did not show the bills to Drury when I picked them up, because I don't do business that way; I was not disappointed nor surprised when I picked up the bills; I did not see One-eyed Thompson give the bills to Drury; I never saw him give him anything.

The court here adjourned until half past 12 o'clock, this day.

A Feud among the Sporting Gentlemen.—The Police Court, for the last two days, has been crowded with a large portion of the sporting *ten* of the city, in consequence of a hearing going on before Justice Mountfort, respecting a charge having been preferred by Charles Duane, better known as "Dutch Charley," against the following sporting gentlemen, charging them with keeping a gaming house at No. 564 Broadway. Among the crowded spectators, was seen the towering head of Thomas Hyer, the champion prize fighter, accompanied with several of his "pet" associates. The following is the testimony taken before the magistrate:—

City and County of New York, ss:—Charles Duane being duly sworn and cross-examined, says:—That the persons now present are the same—Patrick L. Herne, Henry Colton, Reuben Parsons, and Oscar Hoyt—referred to in the affidavit by me sworn to on the 19th day of December, instant.

Question.—Are the statements made in said affidavit true?

Mr. John Graham, counsel for defendants, object to the question, on the ground that the witness must give all his evidence verbally, in the presence and hearing of the parties.

Justice Mountfort overruled the objection, as the course pursued by him was in conformity with the statute.

Answer.—Yes, sir.

Cross-examined by Mr. John Graham.—I am twenty-three years old; I was born in the county of Tipperary, Ireland, I am informed; I cannot say in what place; I have been in this country since I was ten years old, I believe; I have not lived all that time in the city of New York; I have lived in the city of New York about nine years; I came here in 1841; I learned the trade of wagon making in the city of New York, with Joseph H. Goodwin, No. 114 Elizabeth street, and with Isaac Ford, No. 115 Elizabeth street; it is about four years since I worked at that trade; I was worth no other property when I left off, than what money I had; I had over twenty-five dollars, but I do not recollect the exact amount; it did not exceed fifty dollars.

Question.—What has been your business since that time?

Answer.—I have been advised by my counsel, and believe, that the answer to that question would tend to criminate me.

Q.—Have you not lived in a great measure by gambling?

A.—I answer the same as to the last question.

Q.—Have you done a single day's work of honest labor, within the last four years?

A.—Yes, sir; several.

Q.—How many?

A.—I cannot say; so I decline answering, because I don't know.

Q.—As many as six?

A.—Yes, sir, more.

Q.—As many as twelve?

A.—Yes, sir, more.

Q.—How many more will you swear to?

A.—I don't wish to swear to any more.

Q.—Do you mean that you cannot swear to any more?

A.—No, sir.

Q.—Why will you not swear to any more?

A.—Because I might find some trouble in finding the persons I worked for.

Q.—Can you swear that you have worked at honest labor, thirty days, for the four years last past?

A.—I don't wish to swear to any more than I have. I have given my reason.

Q.—At what business have you worked within the last four years, on the twelve days you have named?

A.—At different kinds of business; I have worked for Mr. William Florence when he was not well, tending bar and going to market in his oyster business.

Q.—Can you name any body else?

A.—I have done a good deal of business for Mr. Florence, I believe, for work and for the favors I have done him beside; I have also received five, six, or seven hundred dollars, during the last two years, from Mr. Platt, and at any time can get a thousand from him if I want it.

Q.—Does Mr. Platt carry on gambling as a part of his business?

A.—No, sir.

Q.—Have you never received from him money, on account of money won in his house?

A.—No, sir.

Q.—Within what time did you receive from Mr. Florence the fifty or sixty dollars mentioned?

A.—Within the four years last past.

Q.—Do you not make it a practice to carry loaded dice?

A.—No, sir.

Q.—Have you never won money or wine, or both, by throwing loaded dice?

[Justice Mountfort advised the witness, that the answer to this question might tend to criminate him.]

A.—I decline to answer that question.

Q.—Have you ever taken any property that did not belong to you, without the consent of the owner?

A.—No, sir.

Q.—Was you not discharged from prison on the afternoon you made this complaint, on giving bonds in $3,000?

A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Were not Mr. Patrick Herne, Oscar Hoyt and Matthew Hoyt, the parties who made the complaint against you, upon which you was required to give these bonds?

A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Was you not, previously to making this complaint, forbidden by Mr. Herne, and Mr. Tiernan, the servant man, to enter the house, No. 564 Broadway?

A.—I was, before giving bonds.

Q.—Have you not, since you made this complaint, posted handbills about the street, calling that house a gambling hell?

A.—I decline answering that question.

Q.—Do you know who printed the bill?

A.—I saw it on the bill.

Q.—By Justice Mountfort—Do you know, of your own knowledge, who printed those bills? (Justice Mountfort advised the witness that he had a right to refuse to answer this question, if it may tend to criminate him.)

A.—I decline answering the question, on the ground that it may tend to criminate me.

Q.—Did you not have a conversation with Mr. Herne before he made any complaint against you at all, in which you stated to him that you were forced to annoy him against your will, because there were a set of men behind you, who insisted on your doing so, and would swear that he had given you money if you did not?

A.—No, sir; I am not that kind of a man.

Q.—Did you not, in a conversation with Mr. Herne, before he complained against you, say that you were a villain for annoying him, and that you would not do it were you not forced by your friends?

A.—No, sir.

Q.—Did you not, in any conversation with him, before that time, tell him that you had been asked to have bills printed and posted, calling the house No. 564 Broadway a gambling hell; and did you not exhibit to him a written draft intended for these bills?

(Justice Mountfort advised the witness that he was at liberty to decline to answer this question, if it might tend to criminate him.

A.—I decline answering that question, as it might tend to criminate me.

Q.—Have you not, since you made this complaint, gone around to any party or parties, and urged them to bring suits against the defendants for money alleged to have been lost at the house in question?

A.—No, sir.

Q.—Have you been with any person who has attempted to induce parties to commence such suits?

A.—No, sir; not to my knowledge.

Q.—Have you not heard any person try to persuade other parties