AFFAIRS AT THE STATE CAPITAL.

BUSINESS IN THE LEGISLATURE.

THE WORK TO BE ACCOMPLISHED.

The Standing Committees of the two Houses.

&c., &c., &c.

Our Albany Correspondence.

ALBANY, Jan. 7, 1854.

Attempt to be Made to Toll Railroad Freight—Investigation Anticipated in Relation to Conduct of Late State Officers—Committee to Examine Financial Matters—Clerk of the Senate—Reason of his Election, and why the Silver Grays abuse him, &c., &c.

The exciting subject of imposing canal tolls on rail roads is about being brought before the present Legislature. The great falling off of the revenues of the canals during the last three years, is mainly attributable to allowing the railroads to transport freight of all kinds free of paying the State tribute. The tolls were taken off the roads in 1851, when the party then, as now in power, desired the influence of the railroad directors and stockholders to secure the election of senators, in order that the nine million bill might be passed. Though the bill to reimpose tolls will be introduced by a woolly whig of the House, of considerable influence, and though it may be supported by the few silver grays, and all the democrats of every section, still the influence against it which the Central and Erie roads can bring into the lobby, will prevent the passage of any such bill. The present Comptroller, Auditor, and, we think, Secretary of State, were all in the Legislature, and voted to discontinue railroad tolls; they are not yet prepared to wheel about and allow them to be so soon restored. When the interest of the constituents of members residing in the southern tier of counties, along the Erie road, and those in the centre of the State, enjoying the conveniences of the central route between the Hudson and the lakes, with those also in the northern region of the State, accommodated with the Ogdensburg road, are taken into consideration, it will be found a resistance so strong will be made that the members from other portions of the State will present a feeble force in favor of imposing these tolls.

The new State officers, together with a few active whigs of the Legislature, are pursuing investigations with a view to scrutinize the conduct of their predecessors. They are scrutinizing matters with a keen eye, and should anything of importance be discovered which will justify an examination, a resolution will be adopted in the House instituting a committee of inquiry, with power to send for persons and papers. But before this is done, Chatfield will be in Texas, Wright in Havana, Newell in a snug berth in Washington, and Randall in Montreal, searching for materials to be inserted in his life of Jefferson.

The committee appointed by the last Legislature to examine the accounts and transactions of the financial departments of the State have been engaged two or three months; still, their labors are incomplete. There is a favorable prospect that they will, by diligent application to an examination, be able to present to this Legislature the result of their labors previous to the adjournment in April. A law should be adopted limiting the time consumed by these annual committees, and they should be compelled to make their report at the commencement of the session of the Legislature.

The choice made by the majority of the whig Senators for their Clerk, created quite an excitement at first, and is not yet allayed. The silver grays and barnburners are those who feel mightily offended. The New York *Express*, whose editor is in the Senate, and the Albany *Register*, are particularly irritated at the result, and both shower all manner of abuse upon the majority of the Senate for making the selection. Mr. Hastings, it may truly be said, is a progressive young man. Our first knowledge of him was as a city reporter for one of the Albany daily papers. He established the first penny paper in this city, and the first one in the State, out of the city of New York, the circulation of which soon outnumbered either of the others in the city. By perseverance he has made his paper somewhat lucrative. He was appointed by Gen. Taylor, one of the Custom House officers here, and when Mr. Fillmore assumed the Presidential robes, Hastings was removed from office, as were two thirds of the whigs in the State who had been appointed by the old General. This naturally induced him to speak through the columns of his paper, in frequent tones of disrespect of the silver grays, and called down upon his head their bitterest execrations. Upon being restored to power in this State, the friends of Hastings brought him forward as a candidate for office, with a determination to elect him, as a rebuke to Mr. Fillmore for removing him, without apparent cause, from the customs, and of showing the weakness and impotency of the silver grays in and out of the Legislature. This, in my opinion, had the controlling effect of placing him in the responsible position which he occupies. With a little experience, there is no doubt but Mr. Hastings will become a capable and efficient Clerk, and facilitate the business of the Senate equal to any of his predecessors, or either of his late competitors, had one been chosen in his stead. W.

ALBANY, Jan. 9, 1854.

Both Branches of the Legislature now Full—The Committees—A Quaker Member wishes to Tax the Dominies—The Missing Documentary History—Heavy Contingent Expenses of the Last Assembly—Squandering the Public Lands Belonging to the School Fund—Economy—Memorial of the New York Merchants—The Albany Whig Common Council, &c.

A quorum of the members of both houses, after having visited their families since the adjournment on Friday noon, appeared in their seats this morning. Senator Barnard, (whig) of the Dutchess and Columbia district, and Senator Halsey, (national democrat) from Suffolk, Queens and Rockland district, appeared this morning, took the oath of office, administered by the President of the Senate, and took their seats, Nos. 1 and 8. The committees of neither house are yet announced, as was expected this morning, though it is understood the Speaker of the House has completed his labors so far as to be able to announce those for the Assembly at the opening of the session in the morning. Those in the Senate may also be voted upon at the same time, though as yet the caucus has not completed its labors; it is expected, however, it will be done this morning.

Mr. Mathias Hutchinson, apparently a Quaker whig, from the county of Cayuga, does not feel disposed to allow a certain amount of property, owned and enjoyed by "ministers of the Gospel," to remain untaxable; accordingly he gave notice this morning, that he intended to introduce a bill very soon, repealing all laws which exempt this species of property from taxation, which it is likely he will fail in accomplishing, if the sedate and demure visages of the members are any indication of their ideas upon the question.

The members finding no copies remaining of the immense quantities of the four volumes of the documentary history, which have been printed, adopted a resolution making inquiry of the Secretary of State of their whereabouts, to whom presented, by what authority, &c. The present Secretary of State found none in the office, and it is very doubtful whether Mr. Randall, the late barnburning Secretary, will furnish any information. Still there remains an important question whether he had a right to squander such a large amount of public property upon the eve of retiring from office.

The House adopted a resolution two or three days since, asking information from the Comptroller of the amount expended by the last House of Assembly for stationery, &c. His answer was received this morning, in which he states they expended the sum of $608 75 for pocket knives, and $2,805 61 for newspapers and various other matters, amounting in the aggregate to $7,536 88. This only includes a small portion of the incidentals of the House; how much the Senate expended in the same way has not been reported. The use of the Assembly chamber is to be granted to every strolling lecturer who may make application. It was granted to-day to an Indian.

Senator Danforth wants the State to furnish him with a copy of the Debates of the Constitutional Convention of 1846, and offered a resolution that each Senator be supplied with a copy. The members of several legislatures having been supplied with those books from the treasury, the present members think they are equally entitled to the same favors. Senator Williams opposed, and the resolution was thrown over.

Senator Dickinson is apprehensive that the public lands lying in the northern part of the State, the income of which is appropriated to the common school fund, are being squandered. He instanced certain transactions of the late barnburner board of commission of public lands, where they had allotted large amounts to two clerks—one Mr. De Pay, private clerk to the Governor, and the other, Mr. Glen, clerk in the Treasurer's office—at twenty-five cents an acre, which lands, the Senator was assured, were worth at least five dollars the acre. The Senator wanted an official answer to his resolution, though of the democratic party he could not discover that the adamantines had any hand in this pilfering from the school fund.

As usual, many Senators are imbued with a wonderful degree of economy upon their first appearance. Senator Brooks seems to desire to take the lead in this species of legislation. To-day a resolution came up for printing six thousand extra copies of the Governor's message, for the use of the Assembly. The honorable Senator opposed, and hung quite an economical speech upon it. Mr. Danforth, who, a half an hour previous, wanted the State to present him a copy of the debates of the constitutional convention, all of a sudden wheeled about and opposed the printing of the message. There was not much consistency in that movement. The majority, however, agreed to give the House the six thousand extra copies asked for. In the course of the debates, Mr. Dickinson remarked that he desired to distribute correct copies of the message to the people, because the copy published in the *Atlas* was greatly mutilated, a great portion having been suppressed. Neither of the two barnburner Senators made any reply.

A memorial was received from a meeting of New York city merchants, asking for a commission to establish a water line on the East river, so as to prevent any further encroachments on the harbor. This is a copy —

To The Honorable, the Legislature of the State of New York:—The memorial of a public meeting held at the Merchants' Exchange in the city of New York, on the 10th day of December 1853, respectfully represents to your honorable body, that the filling in of the harbor of New York, and the extending of long piers into the East river, and the narrowing of the river, have increased the rapidity of the current in many places, and rendered navigation difficult and troublesome, and if continued will very seriously and injuriously affect this important harbor; and one of the evils apprehended, is, the formation of shoals in the river, wholly stopping the passage of large vessels at some places where the current may be sluggish. This meeting therefore, in consideration of the premises, ask that a law may be immediately passed by the Legislature, restraining all and every encroachment by filling in or otherwise upon the waters of this harbor, and that a permanent water line may be fixed and established by a commission to be created by your honorable body for that important duty. And your petioners also ask, that such commission may be appointed during the present session of the Legislature, to the end that what remains of the harbor, may be preserved for the benefit of the increasing commerce of the port, and your memorialists will, &c.

Signed by George Griswold, President, seventy-five Vice Presidents and a dozen Secretaries, all of the highest commercial men in the city.

As the new whig City Common Council commence their labors in a day or two, there is the greater stir among the faithful for a portion of the crumbs which are to be dispensed. The distribution, as at present indicated, will be anything but satisfactory. Those who are supposed to be rejected are already thundering their threats, while those who are supposed to be on the slate are as mute as lambs. Several caucuses have been held, quite secret and in private, and nothing has leaked out but what must have been divulged by some of the members of the board. Who the lucky ones are will be publicly known to-morrow, as the new Council meet on Wednesday. The masses of the democrats are perfectly willing to yield the city into the hands of the whigs, for the reason that a majority of the board, though elected as democrats, have performed many acts disreputable to the party, and, in many instances, contributed essentially to the whig strength of the city. None regret their defeat at the late election. W.

TELEGRAPHIC.

THE COMMITTEES OF BOTH HOUSES—THE SELECTION GIVES GENERAL SATISFACTION—REPORT OF THE STATE PRISON INSPECTORS—MOUNT VERNON IN THE SENATE—ANTI-SLAVERY INTRODUCED—RESOLUTIONS TABLED, AS THE EXCITEMENT WAS RISING—PROPERTY IN NEW YORK SUBJECT TO escheat—MILITARY FUNERAL—MILITARY STATE ASSOCIATION, ETC.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE OF THE NEW YORK HERALD.

ALBANY, Jan. 10, 1854.

It was a prudent measure of the lobby that the announcement of the committees of both houses of the Legislature should be made at the same moment. A whole week has been consumed in arranging them. The whigs of the Senate had daily come up, which finally resulted in an argument last night. Mr. Speaker Pruyn, of the House, was ready to report his committee on Friday last, but was induced to await the action of the whig Senators, in order that as much harmonious action as possible might be produced. As they stand they seem to give very good satisfaction thus far, the silver grays of both houses being placed in more prominent positions than they anticipated. In the Senate Mr. Field, Chairman of the Canal Committee; Mr. Williams, on Finance; Mr. Dickinson, on Railroads; Mr. W. Clark, on the Judiciary; and Mr. Brooks, on Commerce, are probably the best selections which could be made, though there is some disappointment that Mr. Bishop was not placed at the head of the Judiciary. It is doubted whether there is as much ability in the present Senate out of which to construct such a committee as the last, composed of Messrs. Babcock, Taber and Vanderbilt. In the House Mr. Sessions, of Chautauque, is Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, the most important; Mr. Jermain, on Commerce; Mr. Littlejohn, on Canals; Mr. Peters, on Railroads; Mr. Benedict, on Banks; and Mr. Burnet, on the Judiciary, are excellent selections as chairmen of those respective committees. And now that these arrangements are perfected, there is a probability that the business of legitimate legislation will commence.

The report of the Inspector of the State prisons was received this morning, and will be put in type with despatch. It is quite voluminous, and the great portion of the report proper is from Mr. Angel, the retired inspector. Its contents contain nothing new, with the exception of the action of the Inspector in having succeeded in hiring out the prisoners in the Clinton prison, at twenty-five cents per day, and the leasing of the iron works of the State to a company of individuals, who are proceeding to manufacture iron, which it has been impossible for the State to do, though many years of experience have been enjoyed, and vast sums expended in the experiment. This shows that no public body can compete with private enterprise.

The only matter of the least interest in either house, to-day, was a debate which sprung up on the motion of Senator Brooks to consider the resolution of the House asking Congress to purchase Mount Vernon. It was adopted in the House on the second day of the session, after a written speech from Mr. Savage, a silver gray, without a dissenting voice. That speech was specially sent to the New York *Express*, and published, the original having been sent to the *Register*, of this city. Mr. Brooks addressed the Senate in a short speech in favor, and when he sat down, Senator Dickinson rose, and said he felt as high regard for the memory of Washington as any other man; still he was not prepared to encourage Congress to pay three hundred thousand dollars for a tract of land not worth more than thirty dollars an acre, which he believed was asked for by a combination of speculators. This aroused the patriotic ire of Messrs. Crosby, Putnam and Brooks, and each in his turn felt quite indignant that any opposition to the purchase of Mount Vernon should be found in the Senate. The subject gave those gentlemen a fine opportunity to display their feelings of patriotism, and Messrs. Putnam and Brooks, silver grays, availed themselves of the opportunity. It was a theme upon which they could elaborate to almost any extent. Still Senator Dickinson was not disheartened, but continued his opposition to the resolution in his usual clear and argumentative style. He made a motion to lay it on the table for a day or two, but he was supported by only five Senators. Mr. Monroe then offered an amendment, providing that in case the general government should make the purchase, there should be no slaves employed upon the premises in the cultivation of the soil, nor in any other capacity. This drew Mr. Brooks to his feet in an instant. Here was the Wilmot proviso revamped—here was the compromise of 1850 re-opened, and the whole slavery question unexpectedly brought before the Senate. After a few words from Mr. B., tending to show that government had no right to slave property and could not hold any, which he was convinced the mover of the amendment was well aware of, a motion was made to lay both the resolution and the amendment on the table, which was carried by a vote of 19 to 11. Thirteen Senators who had previously voted against laying on the table, now, since the anti-slavery clause was introduced, voted in favor of a further consideration. There is no doubt that when the question again comes up Messrs. Dickinson, Monroe, W. Clark, and other anti slavery Senators will be heard on the subject. Senator Monroe is proved the pioneer in the present Legislature, on anti slavery, as he is of anti-rum.

A Mr. Isaac Brower, of South Brooklyn, is here in favor of amending the laws relating to escheats, so that persons giving information to the State may be more liberally rewarded than at present. A bill to this effect was noticed this morning by Mr. Morris, a member from Kings, (national democrat,) which provides that the State shall grant twenty-five per cent to all persons who shall give information by which the State becomes possessed of property through escheat. Mr. Brower declares in his petition that he knows of a very large quantity of real estate, lying in the most improved part of the west side of the city of New York, which is in a condition that title must revert to the State, in case the proper steps are taken. The mover appears perfectly sure of success, and only wants twenty-five per cent of the value of property thus reclaimed, and a law enacted to that effect, when he will proceed forthwith to inform the Attorney General of the whereabouts of this immense amount of property. Holders of real estate on the west side of New York cannot be too prompt in examining their title deeds for the last fifty years.

The funeral of Col. John Osborn was attended to-day by the largest military display ever seen in this city on any like occasion. Though the day was piercing cold, the men under arms underwent the fatigue without the least desire at faltering, and accompanied the remains of their late respected brother soldier to his last resting place with a readiness highly creditable to them.

The State Military Association met this morning, and after appointing a committee to invite the Legislature to hear an address from Gen. Duryea, adjourned until evening. Very few in attendance; none from New York.

NEW YORK LEGISLATURE.

Senate.

ALBANY, Jan. 10, 1854.

THE STANDING COMMITTEES.

Mr. DICKINSON moved the election of the following standing committees of the Senate—the Senator first named in all cases to be chairman of the committee:—

Claims—Messrs. Hopkins, Hotchkiss, Williams.
Finance—Messrs. Williams, Halsey, Putnam.
Judiciary—Messrs Wm. Clark, Lansing, Hopkins.
Canals—Messrs. Field, Barr, Crosby.
Railroads—Messrs. Dickinson, Monroe, Z. Clark.
Charitable and Religious Societies—Messrs. Monroe, Walker, Spencer.
Literature—Messrs. Robertson, Yost, Bishop.
Militia—Messrs. Hotchins, Walker, Robertson.
Roads and Bridges—Messrs. Walker, Watkins, Bradford.
Grievances—Messrs. Lansing, Whitney, Blakely.
Banks—Messrs. Sherril, Spencer, M. H. Clark.
Insurance Companies—Messrs. Putnam, Danforth, Dorrance.
Privileges and Elections—Messrs. Crosby, Wm. Clark, Z. Clark.
Internal Affairs of Towns and Counties—Messrs. Bishop, Hotchkiss, Richards.
State Prisons—Messrs. Richards, Halsey, Bishop.
Poor Laws—Messrs. Barr, Hopkins, Crosby.
Engrossed Bills—Messrs. Blakely, Z. Clark, Butts.
Indian Affairs—Messrs. Yost, Monroe, Field.
Commerce and Navigation—Messrs. Brooks, Hotchkiss, Pratt.
Agriculture—Messrs. Butts, M. H. Clark, Sherrill.
Manufactures—Messrs. Dorrance, Sherrill, Whitney.
Retrenchment—Messrs. Danforth, Bradford, Brooks.
Public Buildings—Messrs. Pratt, Barnard, Barr.
Division of Towns and Counties—Messrs. Barnard, Hotchkiss, Dorrance.
Cities and Villages—Messrs. M. H. Clark, Yost, Spencer.
Public Expenditures—Messrs. Halsey, Barnard, Wm. Clark.
Expiring Laws—Messrs. Watkins, Lansing, Butts.
Medical Societies—Messrs. Bradford, Watkins, Blakely.
Public Printing—Messrs. Dickinson, Danforth, Brooks.
Manufacture of Salt—Messrs. Hotchkiss, Richards, Robertson.
Joint Library—Messrs. Whitney, Putnam, Pratt.

The resolution was adopted, and the committees as above elected.

THE PURCHASE OF MOUNT VERNON—MORTALITY ON EMIGRANT VESSELS.

A concurrent resolution was received from the Assembly relative to the purchase of Mount Vernon. Lies over.

Also a resolution instructing our representatives in Congress to take prompt action with regard to the mortality on emigrant vessels. Lies over.

MAINE LAW.

Mr. M. H. CLARK reported a strong Maine Law bill. Referred.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Mr. BROOKS introduced bills to punish assaults with deadly weapons; to prevent traffic in lottery policies; and to facilitate trials for larceny, burglary and robbery.

A bill was introduced to prohibit the running of railway trains on the Sabbath.

NEW YORK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The bill giving the New York Chamber of Commerce the power to designate the time for holding meetings, was read a third time and laid over.

APPROPRIATIONS FOR CERTAIN EXPENSES OF THE STATE.

Mr. M. H. CLARK introduced a bill providing for certain expenses of government.

BRIBERY AT ELECTIONS.

Mr. HUTCHINS called up the concurrent resolutions providing for an amendment to the constitution relative to bribery at elections. Referred to the Judiciary Committee.

THE PROPOSED PURCHASE OF MOUNT VERNON.

Mr. BROOKS stated that the sum was $100 000 below that named by the Senator from the Twentieth—that it consisted of 4,000 acres of land, and if the sum of $200 000 would secure it from desecration, and make it the common property of the people of the Union, it was not too large a sum.

Mr. CROSBY also acquiesced in the passage of the resolution, and he had hoped that not one dissenting voice would have been raised in opposition to it. He held that if the matter was not now attended to, and the property was in the hands of speculators, every succeeding year would render it still more difficult to secure it for national purposes.

Mr. PUTNAM also advocated the passage of the resolution. He wanted Mount Vernon to be a sacred spot for all time to come.

Mr. DICKINSON claimed as much reverence for the name and fame of Washington as any member of the Senate, but in the purchase of this property we were dealing with other people's money. He did not feel himself at liberty to vote for the expenditure of five times as much as property was worth, merely because Washington's name was connected with it. Mr. Dickinson moved that the resolution be laid on the table for the present. Lost—ayes 6, noes 22, as follows:—

AYES—Messrs. Blakely, M. H. Clark, Dickinson, Hitchcock, Richards, Robertson.

NOES—Messrs. Barnard, Barr, Bradford, Brooks, Butts, Z. Clark, Crosby, Danforth, Dorrance, Field, Halsey, Hutchins, Lansing, Monroe, Pratt, Putnam, Sherrill, Spencer, Walker, Whitney, Yost.

Mr. MUNROE moved to amend the resolution, by providing the estate "shall never be desecrated by the employment of slaves in the culture or improvement of its lands."

Mr. BROOKS remarked that this was literally carrying the war into Africa, and was divesting the subject of the high and lofty aspirations which were so closely associated with it. He alluded to this motion as an attempt to belittle political greatness—to show the immeasurable distance there was between great political greatness and little political greatness. In a matter of this kind he would make no count of dollars and cents, providing it was within anything like reasonable bounds.

The question was then announced to be on the amendment.

Mr. MUNROE moved to lay the motion on the table. Agreed to. Ayes 19, noes 11, as follows:—

AYES—Messrs. Bishop, Blakely, Bradford, Butts, M. H. Clark, W. Clark, Crosby, Danforth, Dickinson, Dorrance, Field, Hitchcock, Lansing, Monroe, Richards, Robertson, Sherrill, Walker, Yost—19.

NOES—Messrs. Barnard, Barr, Brooks, Z. Clark, Halsey, Hutchins, Pratt, Putnam, Spencer, Watkins, Whitney—11.

Mr. BROOKS called up the resolution amendatory of the third Senate rule, in relation to a printed calendar of the several orders. Referred to the Committee on Rules. Adjourned.

Assembly.

ALBANY, Jan. 10, 1854.

The SPEAKER announced the following

STANDING COMMITTEES

Ways and Means—Messrs. Sessions, Ward, D. P. Wood, Odell, Collins.
Commerce, &c.—Messrs. Germain, Conkling, Backus, Smalley, Hinkley.
Canals—Messrs. Littlejohn, Weed, Payne, Clinton, R Dunlap.
Railroads—Messrs. Peters, Edwards, Cummings, Searing, Randall.
Banks—Messrs. Benedict, Fiero, Aitken, A A Dunlop, Morris.
Insurance Companies—Messrs. Conkling, Case, Bailey, Sterling, Burgess.
Two-thirds and Three-fifths Bills—Messrs. Boardman, Barrow, Gleason, Richards, Aitken.
Colleges, Academies and Common Schools—Messrs. D P. Wood, Moseley, Hutchinson, Thorn, J. S. Wood, S. F. Miller.
Grievances—Messrs. Gleason, Martin, Stevens, White, Dawson.
Privileges and Elections—Messrs. Baker, G. Miller, R. J. Baldwin, B. Hall, Morris.
Petitions of Aliens—Messrs. Boyd, Whipple, Littlefield, Richards, Cushman.
Erection and Division of Towns and Counties—Messrs. Cook, Hatch, McMurray, Howland, Hollenbeck.
Claims—Messrs. S. Baldwin, Barrow, Mitchell, Backus, L. Miller.
Internal Affairs of Towns and Counties—Messrs. Lozier, Neilson Monfort, Williams, Wilson.
Medical Societies and Colleges—Messrs. Hull, Chesebro, Beers, Preston, Gorham.
State Charitable Institutions—Messrs Dewey, Boardman, Willis, Joy, Dawson.
Incorporation of Cities and Villages—Messrs. Savage, Burger, Jenkins, Miller, Munroe.
Manufacture of Salt—Messrs. D. P. Wood, Underwood, Harpur, Ferguson, Whitman.
Trade and Manufactures—Messrs. Cumming, Sill, Richardson, Wart, Nobles.
State Prisons—Messrs. Hoyle, Townsend, R. J. Baldwin, C. C. Leigh, J. Lee.
Engrossed Bills—Messrs. Littlefield, Palmer, Angle, W. H. Wood, S. F. Miller.
Militia and Public Defence—Messrs. Harris, Angle, May, Suffern, Seeley.
Roads and Bridges—Messrs. Weed, Burnett, Graham, Barton, Seeley.
Public Lands—Messrs. Sharp, Crocheron, Bennett, Bostwick, Howell.
Indian Affairs—Messrs. Rose, Adams, Kirkland, Thompson, Joy.
Charitable and Religious Societies—Messrs. Backus, Kinney, McGraw, Brust, Wilder.
Agriculture—Messrs. Mathias, Hutchinson, Gott, Cost, Seeley, Lent.
Public Printing—Messrs. Palmer, Freeman, Robertson, Hollenbeck, Mather.
Expenditures in Executive Department—Messrs. Scott, Wisne, Wade, Searing, Howell.
Expenditures of House—Messrs. Ware, Holdredge, Stevens, Hall, Whitman.
Judiciary—Messrs Burnett, Benedict, Mallory, G. Miller, Baker, Gibbs, Clark.
Joint Library Committee—Messrs. Ward, Sharpe, May, Cushman, Munro.

NOTICES OF BILLS.

Mr. MORRIS gave notice of a bill to amend the escheat laws.

Mr. HARRIS—To amend and consolidate the militia laws.

Mr. WARE—To investigate the origin of fires in New York city, and to extend the powers of the police.

Mr. ANGELL—To amend the laws in relation to insolvent debtors; also, relative to divorce.

Mr. HULL—To promote medical inquiry, and to protect burial grounds.

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Mr. CLINTON introduced a bill to amend the charter of the New York Chamber of Commerce, by changing its day of meeting.

RELIEF FOR THE LAIGHT STREET BAPTIST CHURCH.]

The bill for the relief of the Laight Street Baptist Church, New York, was put upon its final passage, and after an explanation of its objects by Mr. Conkling, was passed.

No other business of special interest was transacted prior to adjournment.

Theatres and Exhibitions.

BOWERY THEATRE.—Mr. J. R. Scott plays Jacob Odet, in the "Shoemaker of Toulouse," this evening; and an equestrian drama is also announced. The Boon children and Miss G. Dawes appear.

BROADWAY THEATRE.—The "Cataract of the Ganges," and the new comedy by Mark Lemon, are announced for this evening. The "Cataract" bids fair to have a longer run than any piece yet produced at this theatre.

BURTON'S THEATRE.—The successful comedy, in two acts, "Masks and Faces," is to be done again this evening. Also, another piece by the same author, "To Parents and Guardians," together with the last novelty, "A Pretty Piece of Business." Several new pieces are to be produced very soon, and Mr. Burton seems determined to keep up the campaign with vigor.

NATIONAL THEATRE.—The new set of scenery and other improvements at this house are tastefully executed. This afternoon and evening the drama founded upon "Uncle Tom's Cabin," is to be performed.

WALLACK'S THEATRE.—Thomas Morton's last new piece, (lately produced at the Haymarket,) "A Pretty Piece of Business," is to be played again this evening; with the sterling comedy of "Speed the Plough." Mrs. Hoey, (late Mrs. Russell,) is announced as soon to appear at this theatre.

BARNUM'S MUSEUM.—There seems to be no diminution in the attendance at this house. This afternoon and evening appropriate dramatic entertainments are announced, and the various wonders may be seen without extra charge.

BROADWAY MANAGERIE.—The largest royal Bengal tiger ever brought to America may be seen at this establishment, as well as the largest elephant ever exhibited in any country. All the animals shown here are in excellent condition.

BLITZ continues his capital *soirees* at the Stuyvesant Institute. Lovers of the "black art" should go often.

ACADEMY HALL.—Perham's "Seven Mile Mirror" is still on exhibition, and every person interested in American scenery should visit it at least once.

CHRISTY'S MINSTRELS.—The new song, "Ellen Bayne," promises to be very popular, as all of Mr. Foster's ballads have been heretofore. Mr. E. P. Christy sings it again this evening, and the remainder of the programme is well selected. The "old place"—No. 472 Broadway.

WOOD'S MINSTREL HALL.—This establishment is nightly filled with appreciative audiences. The new burlesque, "Virginia Cupids," is highly attractive. Plenty of new songs and the burlesque are announced for to-night.

CHINESE HALL.—Buckley's fine company are doing a nicely arranged burlesque on Mons. Jullien's orchestra. It is worth hearing, and is not the only good thing in the programme for to-night's entertainment.

JULLIEN'S CONCERTS IN BOSTON.—A correspondent lately stated that the reserved seats at Jullien's concerts in Boston were held at only fifty cents each, while, in fact, the price charged is fifty cents advance on the price of tickets, which is one dollar.

GEN. RUFUS WEICH, is in New Orleans, and in as good health as usual. His partner, Mr. Delevan, received a despatch from him to that effect yesterday.

THE METROPOLITAN THEATRE.—The work upon the interior of this beautiful temple of art is rapidly approaching a completion. The three tiers of boxes are up, the parquette floor laid, and the stage arrangements nearly completed. The theatre will probably open before the 1st of January, and will be an ornament and credit to our city. Since writing the above, we have learned that this establishment will be opened on Friday evening, Dec. 23, with a grand ball, and that the dramatic performances will be commenced on the following evening.

Mrs. Sinclair is the lessee of the new theatre, and Mr. G. W. Lewis, stage manager.—*Alta California, Dec, 12.*

The *Alta California* of the 10th December says:—

We learn that G. V. Brooke and Mr. James Anderson may both be expected here in a few weeks. Mr. Neafie, a tragedian, is also expected before long. Madame Anna Thillon, the charming vocalist who produced the English opera with such success at Niblo's last season, is also probably on her way hither. It is not impossible that Madame Sontag may pay us a visit before the winter is over. The opening of the new Metropolitan Theatre will afford facilities for the representations to be given by these artists such as they could have had in California at no previous period. This establishment will be fitted up, arranged and supplied in all respects as well as any of the first class theatres in the Atlantic States, and it is fortunate that the opening of this theatre and the arrival of these artists will be almost simultaneous.

While we congratulate ourselves upon the pleasure we shall receive by the performances of these celebrated stars, and while we regard their disposition to visit us as a proof of their good sense, we are sorry to say that the stock companies of our theatres are not remarkably well calculated to furnish them the support which they will require to give the proper effect to their personations. It has been a great difficulty in the way of the permanent growth and success of theatricals in California that we have never had well selected stock companies. Actors whose *roles* in the Atlantic States have been confined to announcing the fact that "the carriage waited at the door," or that "Lord B. was in the ante room," on their arrival here have set themselves up for stars of brilliancy, and have scorned to assume their previous positions. The consequence has been that the stock companies of our theatres are now, with few exceptions, made up of amateurs, some of whom with time and study may become tolerable actors, and some of whom had better devote their attention to agriculture, or go in search of their "piles" among the gorges of the Sierra Nevada, than continue in the practice of a profession for which, in every respect, they are entirely unfitted. We have some good actors, some excellent actors amongst us. Most of these, however, wish to star it, or at least have their names in the bills in large and attractive capital letters. Our stock companies need pruning and replenishing, and we hope that some of the really good professional stock actors of the Atlantic theatres, who are now playing there for a mere pittance, may be engaged to come here and join our theatrical companies.

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS.

OFFICIAL.

Stated Session.

BOARD OF COUNCILMEN, Jan. 9, 1854.

The following communication was received from the Mayor on the 6th inst., laid on the table, ordered to be inserted at length on the minutes, and published in one or more of the newspapers. C. T. McCLENACHAN, Clerk.

MAYOR'S OFFICE, NEW YORK, Jan. 5, 1854.

TO THE HON. BOARD OF COUNCILMEN.

GENTLEMEN—I return without my approval, a resolution increasing Engine Companies 17, 25, 28, 44, and 48, ten additional men each. There is no evidence before me that such increases demanded by the wants of the department, or asked for by the companies named; and, as I do not see any reason for increasing the force of the above companies, which has heretofore been deemed sufficient, I return the papers for your consideration. JACOB A. WESTERVELT.

TUESDAY, Jan 10, 1854.

Present—Edwin J. Brown, Esq., president, in the chair, and fifty-seven members.

The report of the special committee as to rules and orders for the board, was taken up and adopted, with amendments.

On motion that the President be requested to appoint, this evening, the Committee on Finance, with a view to refer to it the communication of the Comptroller, as to estimates for 1854 the President announced as such committee, Messrs. Vermilye, Pinkney, Schencks, Holder, and Kennedy. Mr. Holder having requested to be excused from serving on said committee, Mr. W. H. Smith was appointed in his stead.

On motion, the communication of the Comptroller was taken from the table, and referred to said committee.

The PRESIDENT also announced the following gentlemen as the Committee on Assessments:—Messrs. Belden, Tuttle, Varian, Jeremiah and Curry.

COMMUNICATION.

From the Bureau of Assessments, with the following assessment lists, asking that they be confirmed, and a collector appointed therefor, viz:—For regulating, paving and flagging Thirtieth street from Eighth to Tenth avenue; for regulating and paving Forty-fourth street, from Fifth avenue to Broadway, and for flagging a space four feet wide through the sidewalks of the same; for regulating and grading Forty-sixth street, from Broadway to Eighth avenue; for regulating and setting curb and gutter stones and flagging four feet wide through the sidewalks of Eighth avenue, from Fifty-third to Fifty-ninth street; for flagging a space four feet wide through the east sidewalk of Second avenue from Twenty-eighth to Thirty-first street, and from Thirty-fourth to Thirty-sixth street; for regulating and paving Liberty street, between Broadway and Greenwich street; for building sewers in Elizabeth street; from Bleecker to the crown between Bleecker and Houston street; in Mercer street, from the sewer at Spring street to near Prince street; in Washington street, from Charlton to Spring street; in Eighth street, between Avenue C and D; for building a receiving basin and culvert northwest corner of Avenue B and Fourteenth street; for building a receiving basin at southeast corner of Twenty-first street and Third avenue. To Committee on Assessments.

The Board then adjourned to Thursday afternoon, at 6 o'clock. From the minutes.

C. T. McCLENACHAN, Clerk.

Brooklyn City Intelligence.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AND MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.

Shortly after two o'clock yesterday morning, a fire was discovered breaking out of a large brick building on the corner of Commerce and Imlay streets, near the Atlantic Dock, occupied by Messrs. Hatfield and McFarran as a casting foundry. Officer Cain of the Third district, the policeman on that beat, quickly gave the alarm and exerted himself in saving some of the contents; but the flames spread with such rapidity that the whole building was enveloped before the firemen could work upon it with any effect. The interior was completely gutted, and the walls giving way, fell upon an adjoining frame tenement, smashing it completely. The contents, comprising various and valuable castings, with the machinery, were mostly destroyed. The upper story was occupied by J. Seymour, as a manufactory of sewing machines: loss $3,000; insured for $800. The building was owned by Mr. Billings; his loss amounts to about $10,000, upon which there is a partial insurance in several of the New York and Brooklyn offices. The occupants sustained a loss amounting to about $6,000, insured in the following offices: Nassau Co., Brooklyn, $8,000; Atlantic Co., do, $1,000; Brooklyn Co., $1 000; St. Marks, New York, $1,000.

The most melancholy feature connected with this fire is the fact that a fireman of Engine Co. No. 15 was severely injured by the falling of the walls that his recovery is deemed beyond hope. His name is Patrick Callaghan, and it is said he had been engaged to be married last evening. He was conveyed to the store of Dr. Ambrose Brown, in Hamilton avenue, where several professional gentlemen afforded him every aid their skill could suggest, but without seeming effect. The members of Engine Co. No 7 had a narrow escape from the falling walls, but no one was injured.

On proceeding to the fire, Mr. Robert Barr, foreman of Engine Co. No. 8, was run over and badly, though not dangerously, hurt.

The morning previous a fire was discovered in the cellar of the Second Ward Hotel, occupied by ex-Alderman James M Neeley, on the corner of Pearl and York streets. A large quantity of liquor was stored in the place, which was mostly destroyed, but the flames were prevented from spreading by flooding the floors. The loss amounts to about $3,000—insured for $2,000 in the Brooklyn Insurance Company.

MARITIME INTELLIGENCE.

☞ *All packages and letters intended for the* NEW YORK HERALD *should be sealed.*

ALMANAC FOR NEW YORK—THIS DAY.

SUN RISES	7 24	MOON SETS	5 19
SUN SETS	4 53	HIGH WATER	6 56

Port of New York, January 10, 1854.

CLEARED.

Steamship Africa (Br), Harrison, Liverpool, E Cunard.
Ship Southampton, Tinker, London, Griswold, Morgan & Wiley.
Ship Beethoven (Brem), Erichs, Havana, Hennings, Muller & Gosling.
Ship Archer, Thomas, San Francisco, Sutton & Co.
Bark Rastede (Olden) Lauw, Bremen, Hennings, Muller & Gosling.
Bark John Wesley, Curtis, Havre.
Bark Milly & Rachael, Burk, Montevideo, Burnett & Co.
Bark M E Trout, Collamore, New Orleans, E D Hurlbut & Co.
Brig Alvaro, Mahlman, Aspinwall, Francis Spies.
Brig Mary Eleanor, Masson, St Domingo City.
Brig Hilton, Ewen, Port au Prince.
Brig Africa (Br), Lockhart, Barbadoes, &c, Peniston & Jones.
Brig Chebucto (Br), Wallace, Halifax, H G Denovan.
Brig Adele, Lewis, Philadelphia, James Hand.
Schr Julien, Bradbury, Humacao, J T White & Co.
Schr Helen Heben (Br), Eldridge, St John, N.B. Kelly & Smithers.
Steamer Delaware, Clark, Philadelphia, C B Sandford.

ARRIVED.

Steamship Yankee Blade, Randall, Aspinwall, Dec 31, via Kingston, Ja Jan 3, with passengers, to E Mills.
Steamship Augusta, Lyon, Savannah, Jan 7, with mdse and passengers, to Saml L Mitchill. Jan 9, 2:30 AM, 30 miles SW of Cape Hatteras exchanged signals with steamship Florida, hence for Savannah.
Steamship James Adger, Dickinson, Charleston, 55 hours, with mdse and passengers, to Spofford, T