THE NEW YORK HERALD.

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AFFAIRS IN ALBANY.

NEW YORK LEGISLATURE.

Senate.

ALBANY, Feb. 16, 1856.

Mr. SPENCER presented a petition from the New York House of Refuge for an appropriation.

REPORTS.

By Mr. BROOKS—Favorably, relative to the formation of a Cemetery Association in Niagara county.

The annual report of the New York Bank of Savings was presented.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

By Mr. PETTY—For the better regulation of insurance business.

By Mr. C. P. SMITH—To incorporate the Brooklyn Collegiate Institute; also to create Lefferts' park, in Brooklyn.

By Mr. BROOKS—To incorporate the Trans-Atlantic Telegraph Company.

BILLS PASSED.

Mr. SPENCER introduced a bill calling on savings banks to make reports forthwith. Adopted.

For the appointment of Commissioners of Record for Kings county.

To amend the act for the registration of births, marriages and deaths in New York.

For the more effectual prevention of fires in New York.

To authorise bankers to act as agents in certain cases.

Relative to sheriff's certificates on sales of real estate.

Appropriating $14,000 for rebuilding the shops recently burnt at Sing Sing prison.

Assembly.

ALBANY, Feb. 16, 1856.

PETITIONS PRESENTED.

For aid for the New York Eye Infirmary, and the same for the Consumption Hospital.

By Mr. MABEN, from the citizens of Oneida, to make the Lord's Prayer the only legal prayer to be used by clergymen, on account of its brevity.

By Mr. SPINOLA, for the incorporation of the Pacific Dock Company, and for new docks in Brooklyn.

REPORTS.

Favorably on the bill to change the name of the Susquehannah Insurance Company.

Favorably to appropriate money on loan for the foundation of a State Agricultural Society.

Favorably on the bill relative to foreclosure of mortgages by advertisement.

Favorably to exempt the library site and buildings of the New York Historical Society from sale by execution.

BILLS PASSED.

Authorising the County Clerks to transcribe the records when counties are divided.

To amend the act relative to the time for sending in reports of academies.

The Work of the Senate.

THE CHANCERY FUNDS—REPORT OF LAST YEAR'S COMMITTEE.

The special committee of last year's Senate, consisting of Messrs Lanning, Yost and Robertson, who were appointed to inquire into the situation of the funds under the control of the late Court of Chancery, at the time the same was abolished, and all things appertaining thereto, presented their report on Friday last:—

The committee believe that the result of this investigation will put at rest the idea that has prevailed, that there is a large amount, known as the Chancery fund, unavailable and uncalled for by any one, and lying idle and unproductive, except for the benefit of the officers having charge of the fund. Most of the fund is active and productive, belonging to individuals who are in receipt of the accruing interest or the various principals as they become entitled thereto. A large proportion in most counties has been paid out to the persons entitled to the same, since the transfer of the funds and securities under the act of April 12, 1848. It is the situation of the fund since its transfer to the various county treasuries that the committee have endeavored to ascertain. The whole amount distributed by the Clerk of the Court of Appeals among the various offices was $1,886,057 27. Most of the County Treasurers answered all inquiries promptly; and where personal examination was made, the books and accounts were clearly and accurately kept. The committee, through their examination, have come to the conclusion, however, that a more efficient periodical accounting for the funds paid into the various County Treasuries by order of the present Supreme Court, and a more responsible supervision of the same, are desirable.

The committee have made a personal examination of the securities, stocks and monies retained by the Clerk of the Court of Appeals. The stocks so retained amount to $38,006, and the securities and monies to $117,071 12. Of these sums a portion has been paid, leaving under the control of the clerk, on the 1st June, 1855, $122,951 94. Of this $49,859 13 was set apart, according to the act of April 9, 1849, as a library fund for the Court of Appeals. A further sum of $73,213 91 is invested in stocks and securities, and the balance is in cash or deposit in the various banks. The committee examined the securities in the clerk's hands and find that the interests accruing on the same are promptly paid. Among these securities are some notes that draw only five per cent interest. Of the deposits, some are drawing five and some four per cent, and some no interest at all. As most of the monies in the hands of the clerk have been uncalled for many years, and will most probably remain so for many years longer, the committee deem that the investment should be on bonds and mortgages at legal interest, rather than on personal securities at a diminished rate of interest. The committee found one bond among the securities taken by the former clerk, for not a large amount, conditioned for the payment of the same as the various items of which the whole amount was composed should be called for by the parties entitled to the same. This amount was composed of various small items, the call for which at any time is not very probable. The result of such security would be that such portion of such amount as should not be called for would virtually belong to the obligor only. There is no justice in such a loan, and there is no good reason why all the funds should not be loaned on like terms. The committee are not aware of any immediate legal supervision of the management by the Clerk of the Court of Appeals of the funds under his control. This should not be so. A regular periodical accounting of those matters should be had. They suggest the propriety of a law vesting the supervision of said funds in the Court of Appeals, authorizing them by order to require said clerk to make an annual report to said Court, of the said funds and securities in which invested, and the payments made from the same, and the suits and matters to which they belong, with the amount belonging to each suit. That the Court appoint a referee to examine into said clerk's report, and that the Court do make such order as to the investing of said funds as they deem fit, and of all funds under the control of said clerk.

The schedules show the following results in all the counties of the State:—Total amount invested in bonds and mortgages, $1,572,808 09. Amount invested in stocks, $39,635. Amount of cash vesting in County Treasurer, $273,614 18. Amount paid by Chamberlain and County Treasurer before actual delivery of securities, $101,726 80. Amount of bonds and mortgages now in Treasurer's hands, $748,444 66. Amount of cash now in hands of County Treasurer, $111,245 90.

Of these amounts, there are in the county of New York the following:—Bonds and mortgages, $655,682 79; stocks, $39,635; cash vesting in County Treasurer, $101,913 21; paid before actual delivery of securities, $49,208 26; bonds and mortgages in Treasurer's hands, $346,038 10; cash in hands of County Treasurer, $54,474 94.

Appended to the report is a schedule showing, by counties, all titles of suits or matters, with the amount of mortgage or other security, and remarks:—From this schedule it appears that in the following cases the interest has been unclaimed for a long period:—

In New York county—Berrien vs. Berrien, $187 70; Beets vs. Messerole, $684 41; Brinkerhoff vs. Thorne, $551 05; Buchanan vs. McNamara, $382 74 Cohn vs. Rogers, $303 90; Contant vs. Kingsland $255 97. Matter of Contribution, Ship Insurance Company, $340 68. Matter of Catherine Cook, mortgage, $775—other securities, $107; James Craney and others, vs. Margaret Craney, $1,654 49; A. Crommellin vs. J. C. Roosevelt, &c., mortgage, $1,869 56—other securities, $490 94; Englehart vs. Elsasser, $836 19; Sarah S. G. Fash vs. Mary A. Fash, $497 10. Matter of Ann M. Fosdick, &c., $1,559 13; Frederick vs. Frederick, $760 26. Matter of Hubbell, $4,993 24; Halsey vs. Van Amringe, $198 10; Ivers vs. Rice, $243 66; Jones vs. Warner, $1,576 56; Jefferson Insurance Company vs. Carter, $1,279 25; Lefort vs. Windle, $1,011 82; Le Breton vs. Miles, $2,454 22; Marvin vs. Mason, $83 23; Clement C. Moore vs. John Pendlebury, $395 74. John Pryer vs. James Pryer, &c., mortgage, $5,997 95; other securities, $1,060 43. Matter of Ridder, $268 20. A. Schuyler, &c., vs. J. Crowninshield, &c., mortgage $1,430 79; other securities, $645 48. Sarh Stake vs. Gilbert Robertson, mortgage $800; other securities, $396 80. Stewart vs. Stewart, $77 54. Matter of James Thompson, $1,294 72. Townsend vs. Nilmerding, $424 78. Trust Company vs. Bedwell, $786 65. Matter of Union Insurance Company, $2,467 87. Williams vs. Post, $453 84. White vs. Western, $1,114 24.

In Kings county there is no account on the Treasurer's books of the following mortgages:—Matter of Mary E. Cortelexon, $999 01. John Emmons, &c. vs. S. Williamson, $2,166 01. Matter of Peter F. King, $18,500.

The Work of the Assembly.

COMPENSATION TO NEW YORK CITY MEXICAN VOLUNTEERS.

Mr. Reilley's bill for the relief of the 1st Regiment of New York Mexican Volunteers appoints Ward B. Burnett, William Peel and Edward Reynolds, of New York, Commissioners, to examine and decide on claims for the benefit of the act.

Sec. 2. Entitles every person, who was a member of that regiment, and actively engaged, from the landing at Vera Cruz to the capture of the city of Mexico, upon proof thereof, to receive a certificate from the Commissioners, which, on presentation to the Comptroller, shall entitle such person to receive all moneys due him from the State, in accordance with the act for the relief of the survivors of the 1st Regiment of New York Mexican Volunteers, passed July 10, 1851; and the Comptroller shall immediately give his warrant on the Treasurer for the whole sum due; such certificate not to be assignable or liable to seizure for debt, provided that no certificate shall be issued to a deserter, or a person discharged at his own request.

Sec. 3 Requires the commissioners to be duly sworn and to keep record of all certificates issued, and appropriates $25,000 out of the yearly revenue to carry out the provisions of the act.

STATEN ISLAND FERRY—IS IT GENUINE?

Mr. DIXON, of N. Y., has received a petition, purporting to be signed by Cornelius Vanderbilt, which he has withheld for the present, on suspicion that it is not a genuine document. The petition asks that the signer may have leave to widen and extend a small pier on the North river, just south of pier No. 1, New York, and used as a dock for the boats plying between New York and Staten Island and other points, and that an act may be passed removing limitations put on said pier, so far as the lands for the extension of said pier are concerned or affected thereby.

THE RAILROAD COMMISSION ACT—THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD PETITIONS FOR ITS REPEAL.

The State Engineer sent in a petition praying for the repeal of the act authorizing the establishment of a Board of Railroad Commissioners, giving reasons of which the following is an abstract:—

That without the duties imposed upon him by this act, the duties of the State Engineer are sufficiently arduous, and require his undivided time and attention, particularly during the enlargement of the Erie and Oswego canals, and the completion of the Black River and Genessee Valley canals. That the duties imposed upon the Engineer by this unnecessary act interfere materially with his other and really important duties. That the State Engineer, being in a minority in the board, has really no power in its action, but is made apparently responsible for decisions which he cannot approve and for which he should not be held answerable. That the board is entirely useless as to any good to the people of the State, since the commissioner elected by the railroads will be quite likely to act with reference to the interests of his constituents; while the commissioner appointed by the Governor is quite likely to be some political favorite, who is quite unlikely to be fitted by his knowledge and experience to discharge faithfully the duties of his office. And yet this board is entirely under control of these two members, while the office of State Engineer is made to give weight and character to their proceedings without being able to exercise any influence or control over them. That neither the interests of the people of this State, of the travelling public, nor of the railroad companies themselves require or are promoted by the provisions of the act. The people have a right, of course, to know that all railroad corporations are properly and honorably conducted, and this is amply provided for in the General Railroad law of 1850. The State Engineer, as President of the board, declares that the board cannot give any better or more reliable information to the public than that obtained under the said law, although it entails an expenditure of from $10,000 to $15,000 a year, besides the incidental expenses to which it necessarily puts the railroad companies. The petitioner prays, therefore, that the law may be repealed, or that the State Engineer may be released from all connection with the board.

DISORDERLY PERSONS.

Mr. Trimmer's bill, relating to the punishment of disorderly persons, authorizes Police Justices and Justices of the Peace to issue warrants and commit disorderly persons on the oath of an informer, and gives Police Justices increased and exclusive jurisdiction over misdemeanors, petty larceny, assaults and similar offences.

The Proposed Sale of our State Arsenal—Legislative Speculation in the Case.

NEW YORK, Feb. 15, 1856.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

We noticed an article in your paper of this morning relative to the sale of the State arsenal in this city, (located between the Fifth and Sixth avenues, Sixty-second and Sixty-fourth streets,) and the proposition by Mr. Crocker, of Washington county, to remove the State arsenal from the metropolis to a small place in the interior of the State, called Rome.

Perhaps we may be able to enlighten your readers somewhat in regard to this affair.

Some eighteen months since we were solicited to join a party of two or three, and purchase the buildings, grounds, &c., formerly owned by the United States government, and occupied as an arsenal at Rome, New York, it having been abandoned as an arsenal, and could be purchased for less than one-fourth of its real value. Indeed, we were informed that it must have cost $100,000 at least, and by a little management could be purchased at about $18,000, and would be a splendid speculation, as it would soon be required for some purpose, whereby we could more than double the amount invested.

It would now seem that the favorable opportunity spoken of has just made its appearance—originating with a member from a remote county of course. Now, does not this look like a preconcerted plan to dispose of this property to advantage? We strongly suspect such is the case, and feel it our duty to make known to the public the foregoing facts.

It is not strange that much surprise should be manifested when members from the rural districts should attempt to legislate for the city of New York, and endeavor to remedy evils never dreamed of at home. Time has been when our representatives legislated for the people, instead of themselves! But it would seem we are in the midst of a different era.

We believe the project for a bridge at Albany was generally brought forward by members residing in the interior or western part of the State, to convey to the minds of the people that it did not originate with the Albanians. But such subterfuges are generally more clearly seen through, than these sagacious members imagine. They will find there is nothing like pursuing an honorable straight forward course. We wish they would try it; and our word for it, they will find it result greatly to their advantage eventually.

D. B. B.

A Soldier's Plan for Cleaning the Streets.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

Knowing you to be a protector of the public interest, I have taken the liberty through your columns of making a suggestion to the municipal authorities regarding the present condition of our streets, of what they might be made by direct application through a proper channel. There are thousands of able bodied persons receiving support through our Commissioners of Emigration, and I have computed that support at not less than thirty-seven cents per person a day, which we tax payers have to pay, and which we are receiving no benefit therefrom. Now, if the proper authorities would put put every able bodied male pauper that are now receiving such benefit on our public streets, with shovel in hand, and together with a proper overseer to each gang of men, and pay them in money what it actually costs us to support them in idleness, in my opinion there would not remain a single street within the jurisdiction of this great metropolis that would not be perfectly accessible. At least, I think Broadway should be cleaned, in order that the military may have ground sufficient and passable to enable them to pay those respects to the memory of Washington, the approach of which natal day they will greet with an American welcome on the 22d.

PRIVATE OF SEVENTH REGIMENT, N. G.

A WINDFALL FOR THE ORPHANS.—Mr. Thomas H. Beveridge, his wife and her mother, Mrs. Margaret Beekley, living with them, were all swept off by the yellow fever, last August, within the space of a few days, leaving two fine little boys, one seven and the other ten years old, sons of Mr. and Mrs. B., who were taken into the Howard Asylum. The family were very poor, and their effects amounted to a mere trifle. Some articles of old furniture, appraised at thirty dollars, belonging to Mrs. Beekley, were ordered by the Court to be sold for the benefit of the children, and were accordingly sent to Merwin & Herrington, auctioneers, to be sold. Among the articles was an old mahogany bureau, with a desk drawer at the top, and for want of the key the desk was forced open previous to putting it up for sale, upon the suggestion that it might contain something of value; and such was the fact, for on opening it the pleasant discovery was made of one hundred and fifty dollars in gold, neatly tied up in a little bag. Of course the money goes to the poor little orphan boys.—*Norfolk Herald.*

Irish Emigrant Aid Convention at Buffalo.

SECOND DAY.

BUFFALO, Feb. 13, 1856.

In compliance with the resolution passed yesterday by the convention, the delegates attended high mass this morning in the Cathedral. Very Rev. Mr. Bede, Vicar General, officiated as high priest. After the ceremony the delegates proceeded in a body to Dudley Hall, where the convention was called to order by the President, Very Rev. Mr. McDonnell. The following report of the Committee on Temporary Organization was received and adopted:—

President.—Very Rev. Dean Kirwan of London, C. W.

Vice Presidents.—Judge Corkery of Dubuque, and Dr. Hassett of Detroit.

Treasurer.—Mr. Lemmon of Boston.

Secretaries.—M. McMahon of Albany, N. Y., and P. Murtagh of St. Thomas, C. W.

Chaplain.—Very Rev. Dr. Bede of Buffalo.

The Committee on Credentials reported the following newly arrived delegates, which, added to those reported yesterday, make about eighty in attendance.

CANADA.

D. O'Donnell of Norfolk, C. W.
Rev. Mr. Ryan and Roger Carter of Brantford, C. W.
Rev. Mr. Grattan of St. Catherines, C. W.
Very Rev. Dean Kirwan and Rev. Mr. Beall of London, C. W.
Rev. P. J. Conaly, of Stratford-on Avon.

UNITED STATES.

Rev. James Early, Rev. Francis O'Farrell and Very Rev. Mr. Bede of Buffalo, N. Y.
Dr. Reynolds of New York.
Rev. James McGlew of Sottaville, N. Y.
James McGarry and T. Cavanagh.

The President, on motion, appointed a committee of five to nominate business and other committees. The following report was adopted:—

Committee to inquire into the location and value of the best lands in the United States, consisting of the following gentlemen:—

Judge O'Beirne of Detroit, Michigan; Capt. Barron of Cleveland, Ohio; Rev. Mr. Vehey of Fort Dodge, Ohio; Very Rev. Dr. Dunn of Chicago, Ill.; Rev. Dr. Lyons of Missouri.

The committee to inquire into the location and value of the best lands in Canada is composed of the following:—

Very Rev. Dr. McDonnell of Kingston, C. W.; Rev. Mr. Harkin of Kingston, C. W.; Michael Hayes of Toronto, C. W.; John B. Williams of Chatham, C. W.; James Burke of Ottawa City, C. W.

The following composed a committee appointed to report upon a plan of future action in regard to the objects for which the convention was organized:—

Very Rev. Mr. McDonough of Perth, C. W.; B. Devlin of Montreal, C. E.; Dr. Reynolds of New York; Captain McBride of Pennsylvania; Rev. J. P. Cahill of Albany, N. Y.; Charles O'Brien of Charlestown, Mass.; C. J. Nrapey of Hamilton, C. W.

After the appointment of the following Committee on Finances, the convention adjourned till to-morrow:—

F. J. O'Neill of Toronto, C. W.; T. D. McGee of New York; T. Ohea Cantillon of Massachusetts; George Cahill of Quincy, Mass.; Rev. Mr. Nelligan of Quebec, C. E.; P. McMahon of New York; James Patterson of Kingston, C. W.

FOURTH AND LAST DAY.

BUFFALO, Feb. 15, 1856.

The Convention assembled at the usual hour this morning, and proceeded, after the approval of the minutes, to the consideration of the various reports of the committees appointed on the 13th.

The reconsideration of the report of the Committee on Organization was moved by Mr. GRAY, of Hamilton, C. W., and that the number of delegates from Canada who composed the Supreme Directory should be limited to five. The subject was referred to the Committee on Organization.

On motion of Mr. MCGEE, it was resolved that the States not represented at this convention should be requested to send their detailed reports to the Supreme Directory in each country.

The report of the Committee on Organization, as adopted, recommends the establishment of paid agencies at Boston, New York, Pittsburg, Buffalo, Chicago and St. Louis, and such places in Canada as the delegates from that quarter of North America may deem fit to select, for the purpose of giving such information to the Irish emigrant which he may require. Also, the appointment of an executive agent at or near each of the points mentioned, to whom shall be given the duty of superintending the paid agencies and regulating their affairs.

The following are the names of the delegates reported by the Committee of Organization as the members of the Supreme Directory:—

FOR CANADA.

Rev. Mr. Kelligan, of Quebec; B. Devlin, of Montreal; J. H. Burke, Ottawa City; T. J. O'Neil, Toronto; Rev. Dean Kerivan, London, C. W.

FOR THE UNITED STATES.

J. Manning, of New York; Rev. Mr. Kelly, of Jersey City; Rev. Mr. Hart, of New Haven, Conn.; Mr. McMahon, Albany; P. Donahoe, Boston.

The following reports of the Committees on Land for Canada and the United States were adopted:—

REPORT ON THE UNITED STATES.

The Committee on Lands of the United States, to the President and members of the Convention of Irish Catholics, to establish colonies of their emigrant countrymen, on the most eligible lands in the United States.

Your Committee on Lands most respectfully report:—That lands of the first quality are to be found, at the present time, owned by the government of the United States, varying in price from 25 cents to $1 25 per acre. Your committee have not had any information on the subject of lands situated in the New England States. So far as they could learn, there are no public lands on sale in the State of New York or the States of Ohio and Pennsylvania, but are informed there are large tracts in all these States where lands can be bought from $2 to $10 per acre, eligibly situated as to fertility of soil and in the midst of good settlements. In the State of Michigan are immense tracts of land of the finest quality, well timbered and watered with innumerable lakes, rivers and brook streams, with a beautiful climate, and adjacent to the great Lake Michigan, by which a market for produce is opened to the Eastern and Southern States. Of these lands there are about five millions of acres now on sale.

Your committee further report that in the State of Wisconsin there are vast tracts of land of the finest quality, both of prairie and timbered lands, yet in the hands of government, and on sale at the uniform prices of government land. The soil is rich and fertile, and the climate excellent.

Your committee further report that there are in the State of Illinois immense tracts of land yet on sale by the government, at their usual prices, [and also by railroad companies. These lands are more eligibly situated, and are of the richest quality of prairie and timber lands, and well watered. That in the State of Missouri there are large districts of lands yet in the hands of the government. These lands are of the most fertile kind, and eligibly situated to forward produce to market. Improved lands, situated from two to five miles from churches and schoolhouses, can be had at from $5 to $10 per acre, with dwellings. There is a vast range of coal bed extending from St. Louis to the boundary of the State of Iowa. The State of Iowa has immense tracts of land which, though not in market, are open for pre-emption settlement. Of Minnesota and Nebraska, we beg leave to report that in those districts millions of acres are open for settlement, the soil and climate of which are equal to that of Iowa. All of which, &c.,

HUGH O'BEIRNE, Chairman.

REPORT ON CANADA.

The Committee on Lands in Canada reported:—That the valley of the Ottawa and the country south of that river comprise an area of over 50,000 square miles, and offers a suitable field for colonization. South of the river Ottawa there is a country containing about 12 000 square miles, about 8,000 of which are of the best quality; and in the counties of Ottawa and Pontiac there is about 7,000 acres more, which is sold at about 3s. an acre. In the districts named we find 10,000,000 acres. In Canada East there is similar land in St. Maurice, resembling in character the above lands, at a price of from 4s. to $4 per acre, and inhabited by a Catholic population.

The committee recommend as the most available the territory of the Ottowa valley, on account of the vastness of its lumber trade.

The following address, as reported by the committee, was also adopted:—

ADDRESS OF THE CATHOLIC CONVENTION TO PROMOTE COLONIZATION IN NORTH AMERICA TO THE FRIENDS OF CATHOLIC SETTLEMENTS.

FELLOW COUNTRYMEN AND CO-RELIGIONISTS—Deeply afflicted by the sad condition of so many of our race and creed, whom poverty and social persecution have driven from their homes in the old world to seek a home in the new, but, who too often, from causes, it is needless here to recapitulate, have never known the realization of their hopes, and who still remain on the shores of this great continent houseless, hapless, mis-appreciated men, we, Irishmen and Catholics, have met together in the legitimate exercise of our undoubted rights, as citizens and freemen, to see whether, with the advice of our reverend clergy and invoking the blessing of God upon our labors, means might not be devised and a machinery set in action to ameliorate immediately and permanently the condition, moral and material, of the Catholic immigrant in America. We are agreed that the social condition of many of the Irish landed in America in our time is somewhat beneath that of emigrants from other countries of equal opportunity, and much below that of natives of no greater industry and intelligence. We are agreed that although there may be and continue to be great prejudice against this people, that we still can, by the prudent direction of our emancipated energies, materially advance our American position even in the present generation. We are agreed that to accomplish this most needful change, it is necessary to concentrate all your hearts and wills on the special duties which awaited us when we landed on these shores. In this project all orders of society, rich and poor, whether native or foreign born, are alike interested. We see growing up in our midst a state of things not unsimilar to that which in the old world menaces order, morals and Christian civilization. It is a fact admitted by the writers on the political economy of Europe that the social fabric is menaced by the existence of a large and steadily increasing class, to whom the acquisition of land is absolutely impossible, and who have no hopes of permanently improving the condition of themselves or their posterity. Such a class in such a country as this ought to be for ever [illegible] unknown. We have the land; there exist the means by which that land may be made accessible to the [illegible] of our population; to apply these means to that end is the great object of our convention. Assuming that in this our object we succeed, we shall have conferred a benefit on the State, on religion and upon the individual; on the State by delivering it from those fears which must always arise from a pauper population; on religion by removing from the demoralizing influences of swollen cities large masses of men, and bringing and retaining them within the salutary influences of the church and schools; on the individual by providing for him a home and restoring to him the long forgotten ties of family and neighborhood.

To attain this desirable result, desirable alike to the Christian and statesman, and to secure the requisite unity of action, we have devised a plan, the details of which are respectfully submitted to you in the approved report of our Committee on Finance. A vast mass of most valuable information laid before our committees on lands in the United States and Canada is intrusted to the discretion of the Directories of several countries who are charged to watch over the general plan and direct all for the best.

They exert you, the class specially interested by the strong claims of kindred, blood and creed, for your own sakes, from pity to your unprovided offspring, for the credit of the Catholic character, for the vindication of the Irish name, for the removal of our reproach in the high places, to act with us as we will act with you, in good faith with one another, and with all the world, until at last every second man amongst you who crossed the Atlantic in search of independence can say with truth that he has found it.

Secondly, we address ourselves to those of our brethren more favored by fortune who have already secured for themselves those social advantages which it is our object to extend to all. We ask of them their active co-operation, whether as priests or as simple citizens; we ask the benefit of their experience and the moral effect of their example. No man so humble but what he may do much to expedite this movement; none so rich in this world's goods or so exalted in station but who will be affected, either for good or evil, by the results which must therefrom flow.

Lastly, we ardently desire, in this great enterprise, that invaluable episcopal sanction which never was withheld from any lawful effort to promote the well being of the friendless and the poor. In the early days of Europe that same sanction gave to England her civilization, to France her government, to Germany her unity, and to all the continent its first ages of progress. We are now in our 'early days" in America, and both our hearts and intellect instruct us to look to the same order for the highest sanction of good works and the warmest approval of arduous duties, undertaken in a spirit of Christian charity. Conscious of no motives than the best—proposing no other ends than such as our fealty to our respective governments authorise—proposing to employ only such means as are lawful, peaceable and just—we presume to invoke the blessing of God on this work, for whose greater honor and glory it is now deliberately undertaken.

E. McMAHON, Chairman.

After the adoption of the foregoing the Convention adjourned *sine die*, subject to the call of the Supreme Directory.

THE MATSELL INVESTIGATION.

Pursuant to adjournment the investigation was resumed yesterday afternoon. Of course there was a very numerous attendance of lookers on, as indeed their has been throughout all the previous stages of this very peculiar affair.

The members of the commission present, were the Recorder and the City Judge. The Mayor was not in attendance, important business, it was understood, demanding his presence elsewhere.

Mr. Brady intimated that he had closed for the defence.

Mr. Noyes then called Nathaniel Jarvis, Jr., to the stand. He deposed that he is the Deputy Clerk in the Court of Common Pleas; never examined for record of intention to become a citizen of the United States by George Matsell; a paper was found in overhauling the papers of the office, between May, 1854 and May, 1855.

Mr. Clark handed that paper to him.

[The paper was then handed to the Court and was marked exhibit H, and is dated March 2, 1819.]

Mr. Noyes read the document. It is the report of old Mr. Matsell to the Court of Common Pleas, enumerating the number of his family, their nativity, &c., and which has already appeared in the HERALD.]

Witness—No entry of that document was ever entered on the minutes; I looked to see if there was, from mere curosity; no one asked me to do so; it is customary in that Court to make an entry of such declarations made on oath; sometimes a report of this kind is entered long after the date of the declaration; I returned the document to the files; I do not know that the Chief of Police ever had that paper in his possession.

Benjamin Jarvis, sworn—I have seen the paper produced; I was shown it when it was taken from a bundle of old minutes of the Court, consisting mostly of reports and declarations of intention to become citizens, and the general minutes of the term; I am the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas; I do not know in whose writing the endorsement upon it is; Mr. Connelly, the County Clerk, took it away, but first asked me if I would let him show it to the Chief; I consented, but in the course of an hour I went to Mr. Connelly's office, and said it had better be returned; he acquiesced, and then I went to the Chief and showed it to him; the Chief retained it some seven or eight days; he said he wanted to show it to his counsel; I sent for it two or three times, and finally met Mr. Brady—his counsel—and told him it had better be returned to the files of the office, and is was so returned.

Judge McCarthy sworn.—I am one of the Justices of the Marine Court of the City of New York. I examined some of the naturalization books in my Court; the last time I did it; was about three months ago; I examined them to see if I could find any papers about Matsell. I had been requested to do so as to him, that day, by Mr. Bowyer, the police officer; he asked me to look if there were any records as to the naturalization of old Mr. Matsell, about the year 1827, perhaps a few years before or after that year; afterwards he told me that the request came from the Chief; the Chief never spoke to me about it before I made the search; I commenced at the year 1820, looking through the index of affidavits, and found the affidavits of Susan Matsell, the witness, and George Matsell, of the oath of allegiance; those were in volume three; when I found them I said to Mr. Shantz, the clerk, "here is something about the Matsells," and he replied, "that I could find more in another book;" I told him to get it, but on examining that book it was found that a leaf had been abstracted; I told Mr. Bowyer and the Chief of the discovery I had made; I told Bowyer first; he had been waiting in the Hall while I was making the search; I showed him the book containing the original affidavits, and also brought it over and showed it to the Chief; he looked at it and uttered some exclamation, either of surprise or delight, I don't recollect which—that was the book, No. 3; the other book I never took from the office; I have frequently looked over those books for amusement, and sometimes at the request of parties.

Q. Have you ever had any quarrel with Mr. Branch? A. No, sir; on the contrary, our relations are friendly as far as I am concerned; I did not make the search through hostility to Mr. Branch.

Mr. Noyes—My examination will be through as soon as those books come.

Alderman Briggs was the next witness.

Q. Are you chairman of the committee which has been spoken of? A. I am; I was here last Saturday; saw the books No. 3 and 5; the first time that I knew of those books containing records as to the Matsells and the mutilation, was last Saturday.

The books referred to by Judge McCarthy were then produced. Judge McCarthy resumed his testimony. I went over the book and found that, [the affidavits already spoken of,] including the reference to the record in the other book; and when Mr. Shandley searched in the other book, he found that the page had been abstracted—was cut out.

Mr. Noyes then said he would call Aldermen Hoffmire and Tucker, with a view to prove the same fact testified to by Alderman Briggs.

Mr. Brady, to save time, admitted the fact.

Ed. J. Shandley recalled—

Q. Are there any original minutes of the Court in regard to naturalizations at that period, except these books? A. No.

Q. Is there any declaration of intentions, or report of G. Matsell on file in your Court? A. I don't know; I have not examined for that purpose.

Mr. Noyes then proposed to put in evidence a report from the Chief of Police, made in compliance with a resolution of the Board of Aldermen, dated February 5, 1855, and presented on March 19, 1855. It set forth the nativity of the members of the force, and returns himself as a native of the United States. [Marked Exhibit I.]

Mr. Noyes observed that his case was closed, all but that he would desire to have Mr. Shandley make the search to which he had adverted.

It was then arranged by the counsel on either side that the commission to take the deposition of the Collector at Perth Amboy should proceed to the latter named place next Wednesday, their visit there last week having been unattended with any results, in consequence of the absence of the Collector.

The investigation was then adjourned until next Saturday, at 2½ o'clock P. M.

THE NEXT NEW YORK STATE FAIR.—At the executive meeting, it was determined to hold the next Fair of the State Agricultural Society, on Sept. 30, Oct. 1, 2, and 3, at Watertown, provided the citizens furnish the security required by the Executive Committee, before the 1st of April next.

Fashionable Intelligence.

GRAND BALL OF THE METROPOLITAN ASSOCIATION.

Never, perhaps, was St. Valentine's evening looked for with such anxiety and pleasure as upon the occasion of the grand ball of the Metropolitan Association, at Shakspere Hall, on Thursday last. The event was one which will be long impressed upon the minds and hearts of the gay and fashionable as the ball of the season—the *grande partie de plaisir* of 1856. The evening chosen for the occasion was a most fitting one—that of St. Valentine's Day—when all the youth and beauty of the metropolis are alike enchained in Cupid's fondest smiles; when the fashionable gent,

In all the flush of modern taste,
Oft turning, if the day be fair,
To view his shadow's graceful air,

imagines himself a fitting bridegroom for a queen, and

Struts in all the joys of show
That tailors give or beaux can know.

A day when lovely women,

——Through the airy region stream so bright
That birds would sing and think it was not night—

think only of the ways and means of fascinating "some particular star" in love's firmament, without even affording the fortunate but perplexed swain the slightest clue to the object of all his happiness.

It was with feelings of more than ordinary gratification, therefore, that, in pursuance of the following invitation, we attended the ball of the Metropolitan Association:—

First
GRAND BALL AND SUPPER
of the
METROPOLITAN ASSOCIATION,
SHAKSPERE HALL,
THURSDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 14, 1856.

As early as nine o'clock long trains of carriages might be seen wending their way to the Hall above mentioned. As the guests alighted from the vehicles they were cordially received at the door by the members of the Reception Committee, consisting of Mr. Henry Sewell, Randolph Perrinchief and Daniel Lane, who really deserved a great deal of praise for their untiring exertions to make the condition of the assemblage as pleasant as possible.

About three hundred invitations having been extended, the saloon, at 10 o'clock, was crowded with a gay throng, all eager for the dance. Some difficulty being encountered in keeping the gas burning, a slight delay was occasioned, but the committee triumphed over all difficulties, and succeeded in restoring the chandeliers to their usual brilliancy. The musicians then sent forth their softest strains, and all prepared for the promenade. The sight was a beautiful one. The dresses of the ladies were got up without regard to cost or trouble, and set off with jewelry of the most chaste description, making the wearers look most lovely indeed. The gentlemen, dressed with equal good taste, seemed to live upon the words that escaped from the lips of the happy creatures who were leaning upon their arms, and had no thought except for the present. All was gayety and happiness; and when the band struck up a polka, schottisch or varsovianna, the forms of the merry dancers seemed to glide through the air like so many sprites gifted with the powers of locomotion from the far off fairy regions. The floor managers—Mr. Johnson and Mr. London—had everything arranged in perfect order, and nothing seemed wanting on their part to make the occasion as enchanting as possible.

While the gay and thoughtless are joining hands in the mazes of the dance, let us turn our attention to the belles and beaux who were busy conversing, in knots here and there about the saloon, upon the latest fashions, love and politics.

In one corner of the room sat the lovely and accomplished Miss D——n, of Union square, who attracted the attention of all beholders, and won the hearts of many of the brave men around her.

Mrs. G——s, of the Metropolitan Hotel, had many admirers. Her conversation was charming, and it needed an introduction alone to become her worshipper.

The youthful and coquettish Miss W——ton, of Philadelphia, dressed in the most expensive manner, exceeded in brilliancy the diamonds which were clustered around her lovely neck. A ring of admirers listened eagerly to every word which fell from the lips of one of Eve's most charming daughters.

Then there was the admirable Mrs. S——cer, of Prince street, who occupied a very prominent position in the *beau monde* several years ago, and still, retaining many of her personal as well as mental attractions, formed a very agreeable acquaintance for gentlemen not over fond of the Terpsichorean art.

Miss M——d promenaded the room with all the grace and elegance of a countess, and would, if it were not for her betrothal to the talented Mr. W——ster, have had a host of ardent suitors. How unfortunate it is to be engaged when seeking for pleasure in a ball room!

The belle of the evening, however, was the charming Miss T——n, of Broadway, before whom all bowed in homage. Lucky was the gentleman who succeeded in inviting Miss T——n to dance. Many were they who craved the favor, but few were rewarded. If this lady is not the cause of a serious duel before the end of the next week we are much mistaken, for the favored few she permitted to attend her were the envy of all the beaux in the room. Miss T——n was dressed in the most costly style.

At one o'clock the company proceeded to the supper room, where all the dainties and luxuries of the season were served up in the most *recherché* manner. The wine flowed free as water, and even the ladies showed their utter contempt for the Maine law by joining the gentlemen in sparkling champagne. The banquet table was neatly ornamented with figures in allegory of the Goddess of Liberty, the Temple of the Muses, and of the Capitol at Washington, which, when illuminated, had a very pleasing effect, and were much admired by the guests. The supper was excellent, and nothing could be found wanting on

The tables that groaned with the weight of the feast.

All honor and praise is due the Supper Committee, for their discrimination and extraordinary exertions in getting things up in such magnificent style.

The appetites of all being sufficiently appeased, the company withdrew to the ballroom, for the purpose of spending the remainder of the night in the glorious dance. The excellent and varied selection of dances on the occasion was the theme of general remark. In order that those who were unlucky enough not to be presented with an invitation for this grand affair may have a good idea of the delicious treat that was in store for their more fortunate neighbors, we append the order of dancing, as follows:—

PROGRAMME.

1. Promenade.....Metropolitan.
2. Quadrille.....First set les Diamonds de la Caronne.
3. Quadrille.....La Double Echelle.
4. Polka and Schottisch.....Amelia and la Rose Verte.
5. Quadrille.....Le Domino Noir.
6. Quadrille.....Lucrezia Borgia.
7. Polka, Redowa & Varsovianna. Mariane & Dodworth.
8. Quadrille.....First set Lindi de Chamounix.
9. Quadrille.....Robert Devereaux.
10. Redowa and Polka Mazourka.....Les Roses & Flora.
11. Quadrille.....Second set les Diamonds de la Caronne.
12. Polka and Schottisch.....Metropolitan and Henrietta.

SUPPER.

13. Waltz & Polka..Anderken & Souv'r de la Hippop'me.
14. Quadrille.....Les Martyrs.
15. Polka & Polka Redowa...Militaire and le Seduisante.
16. Quadrille.....Le Brasseure de Preston.
17. Quadrille.....Second set les Diamonds de la Jannetta.
18. Schottisch and Varsovianna.....Ang