MORE ABOUT THE FRENCH FRAUDS.

Another Interview with the Prisoners—Interesting Statements—Great Excitement in France, &c., &c.

One of our reporters made another visit to the French prisoners arrested on suspicion of being implicated in the extensive fraud committed in France, of which we have already given a detailed account. Parot and his companions protest against their illegal incarceration, but tender their thanks to Captain Leonard and assistants for their kind attention. In a conversation which Parot had with Grelet, he repeated that he was merely an employé of the company, and indignantly refuted the charge that he is a public officer; he was simply in the employ of a railroad company, which is a private institution. He admits that he has speculated at the Exchange, but not with the shares belonging to either the railroad company or the public, but with the shares owned by Mr. Rothschild, an explanation of which he has given to Mr. Tissandrie, the inspector of the railroad, who has been sent for him from France. Neither Mr. Tissandier nor the administrators knew how the fraud had been committed. The company was not accountable in the least for Mr. Rothschild's shares, as they were voluntarily deposited by him. In fact, the majority of the administrators did not know that such deposits were made. He had no receipts for those shares that he deposited, and no proof could be adduced to show that such a deposit was made; so that the employés whose business it was to cut the coupons off those shares could, with perfect impunity, assure Mr Rothschild that there were but twenty or twenty-four thousand, if he was not able to prove the contrary to be the fact. Mr. Grelet said that the charge that they had taken any money with them was entirely false. When he left his native land his hopes were crushed, and he was led to the verge of despair; and the resources which enabled him to make his flight were tendered him by his intimate friends. If, he argued, he had those large amounts in his possession which he is charged with having, undoubtedly they would be found here; nor can it be said with justice that the money found upon him was stolen. Mr. Grelet also said that the amount of shares charged upon him is not so great as has been stated. Other frauds have been committed by several parties which are now imputed to him.

The prisoners are in good spirits, and express their confidence in the justice of American laws, which punish only the guilty.

The following is a copy of an affidavit made by Mr. Tissandier:—

AFFIDAVIT OF MR. TISSANDIER.

Police Court, First District, State of New York, City and County of New York, ss.—Emanuel Tissandier, of Paris, in France, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is inspector of the Northern Railway companyof France, that he is acquainted with Charles Carpentier, formerly principal cashier of said company, with Louis Grelet, formerly under cashier of said company, with ——Grelet, junior brother of the said Louis, and with Auguste Parot, all of Paris, in France; that all of said persons are now in the State of New York as deponent believes; that in the month of August last said Carpentier and Louis Grelet embezzled and feloniously carried away from the counting house of said company a large quantity of the shares of stock of said company, with the coupons attached thereto belonging to said company or deposited with them, and brought the said shares or the proceeds to the city of New York. That said Parrott and Grelet, Jr., were accomplices of the said Carpentier and Louis Grelet, and were associated with them in embezzling and feloniously carrying away as aforesaid, the said shares. That said shares with the coupons attached, were worth the sum of $1,000,000 and over. That said Carpentier, Louis Grelet, Greiet junior, and Parot secretly departed from France carrying with them (and bringing to the State of New York said shares or the proceeds thereof.

E. TISSANDIER.

Sworn to before me, this 29th of September, 1856.

B. OSBORN, Police Justice.

City and County of New York, ss.—Emanuel Tissandier, of the city of Paris, in France, but now being in the city of New York, being duly sworn, doth depose and say that he is an Inspector of the Northern Railroad Company of France; that he is acquainted with Charles Carpentier, recently the principal cashier of said company, and with Louis Grelet, recently under cashier thereof; that he is also acquainted with —Guerin, formerly a watchman, in said company; that as such officers they had access to the place where the property of the said company was deposited and usually kept; that the property of the said company consisted, amongst other things, of shares of the said company; that said Carpentier, Grelet and Guerin were in the habit of secretly abstracting from the cellar of said company, where they were usually kept, shares of the said company, amounting to a very large amount; that they had at various times during the month of August, 1856, and previously, abstracted upwards of 5,747 shares; that such shares were worth from 800 to 1,100 francs each; that the said Carpentier sailed from France, on board the steamer Fulton, on the 27th day of August last, and that the said Grelet left France on about the 3d day of September instant; that they have both since come to the city of New York where they now are; that since their arrival in New York 20,000 francs have been discovered in the possession of said Grelet; that about the time of the sail Grelet and Carpentier leaving France it was discovered by the said company that a large amount of their property had been stolen, that it was discovered that a great many shares of said company were missing that it has since been discovered that they had been stolen from said company by said Carpentier and Grelet, and some of them sold and disposed of through the assistance of one Parot who has also come to New York, and is now here, and has brought with him a portion of said shares or the proceeds thereof.

E. TISSANDIER.

Sworn before me, this 27th day of Sept., 1856.—B. OSBORN, Police Justice.

We give the following additional particulars from our foreign files:—

[Paris Correspondence of the Independence Belge.]

It is rumored that the Northern Railway Company has asked for the assistance of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, in order to obtain the extradition of the audacious scamps who have stolen 5 647 shares from the company. The Minister has given little hope of assistance, for American diplomats are not willing to renew the extradition treaty which has already expired, yet a small number of refugees have been surrendered by the United States under similar circumstances. It cannot be said that the government at Washington protects the thieves, and yet it may be safely asserted that it will not aid in their discovery. Meanwhile the company has proceeded in the matter. Yesterday I sailed for New York from Havre, with several police agents, who have already accomplished similar missions in England, where bankrupts and swindlers find nearly the same protection in the governmental and municipal habits of that country as they do in the United States. This is the way in which the thieves have disappeared, after having betrayed the confidence of the administrators. Two years ago, M. Robert, the cashier of the Northern Railway Company, died. Two of his young employés—one of the name of Carpentier, aged twenty five, and the other Grelet, a little younger, were appointed in his place. Carpentier was head cashier and Grelet was sub cashier, and they conjointly managed to gain the implicit confidence of the company. They believed that two honest individuals were found who would control each other, but on the contrary they proved to be future accomplices. About fifteen or twenty days ago, the cashier asked for leave of absence for eight days, on the pretext that he was going to be married, and requested the company to keep the fact secret. A few days afterwards the sub-cashier feigned not to be able to do the business alone, and insinuated that the cashier had not gone to discharge such a pleasing duty as that of marriage. He managed so well, that they engaged him to go after the other to the country house, in regard to which Carpentier had given confidential directions to the administrators. Grelet joined Carpentier in Havre, where the latter was waiting for him with the amount belonging to the treasury. He was with a young lady by the name of Georgette, his mistress, together with a livery stable keeper, who had a commission to sell part of the stolen shares. From there they went to Liverpool, in order to go on board the Fulton.

The company, I told you already, does not neglect anything to make the fugitives disgorge. Its private agent is instructed to make arrangements with the most skilful lawyers in New York, for the purpose of securing the arrest and imprisonment of the thieves. Once imprisoned, the thieves would be claimed by our Minister of Foreign Affairs. But is it probable they will find any trace of them in a country where successful roguery is honorable? Where the Californian who has plenty of money finds twenty magistrates ready to adopt him, and a hundred others to defend him? Our police officers who left with the agent will then be free to confirm the reputation of smartness which has been given to them. It is, besides, probable, as the company say in a memorandum sent to the newspapers, that the cash accounts did not present any deficiency. It is evident that Carpentier and Grelet have, from the beginning, commenced the tricks which have ended by a disappearance of 5,747 shares. It seems, also, that these gentlemen have gambled at the Bourse, which it was easy for them to do, because they had at their disposal numerous titles which they could always offer as a guarantee for the fulfilment of their orders. It is believed that they have not always been fortunate in their speculations. Some unforeseen losses will probably have forced them to put a stop to a fraudulent management, which, if this misfortune had not occurred, would have given them an easy and immense fortune.

[From the Independent, of Sept. 13.]

The weekly report of the railroad receipts is rather favorable. We are astonished when contemplating the embezzlement which still occupies the public attention, that the shares stolen had not been put under a triple lock. The chief of the share office had one, and two more were in the hands of other administrators, and those three keys were of different shapes. The simultaneous presence of these three persons was, therefore, required to open the safe; yet it is reported that the accused parties had false keys made. The shares were tied in packages and concealed in the safe of the company. Notwithstanding this the shares have been withdrawn and replaced, when needed, by packages of similar dimensions. According to a supposition that I give you, which should be somewhat consoling, the perpetrators of the theft will not be great gamers; and the fear of being discovered, rather than the desire to secure what they have taken, induced them to leave. But, I repeat, it is merely a supposition, which seems to be denied by the care that the speculators have taken to join the guilty. The company have given full power to the head of the legal department to prosecute the affair.

[From the Independence, Sept. 14.]

We give some more details of the theft committed on the Northern Railroad Company, which continues to interest the public. It is stated that the persons whom the company have commissioned to pursue the culprits have enlisted the services of two celebrated English detectives, Messrs. Forrester and O'Brien. The latter is the skilful agent who discovered two clerks of the Bank of Scotland, who had stolen twenty seven thousand pounds sterling. Those two young men were very respectably connected, and after inquiries which lasted for eighteen months, O'Brien joined them in America, amongst the savages in the vicinity of Utah. Nearly the whole amount of the twenty seven thousand pounds was recovered, and the bank gave a reward of two thousand pounds to O'Brien. He has not, however, made any definite agreement with the agents of the company. Mr. Forrester, on the contrary, will be entitled to a commission of 2½ per cent upon the moneys which will be recovered, and which will not include his expenses. He has left with several agents and an employé of the Northern Railroad Company. It is probable that the cashiers will be found. O'Brien is a perfect gentleman. His dress is irreproachable, and he speaks several languages. He is a tall man, very powerful, and a sharp shooter—a quality essential for success in his profession.

[From the Precurser, Sept. 11.]

It is remarked at the Bourse that the company of the Northern Railroad buys large quantities of its shares, and it is supposed that they do so in order to replace those taken by Carpentier and Grelet. The investigation is going on with great activity. Several of the stock brokers, administrators and clerks of the company have been examined, and a strict inquiry is made by the administration into the behavior of all the accountants. It is stated that the shareholders refuse to submit to the loss resulting from the embezzlement. What ever may be the facts in the case, many rumors must be expected to have free circulation for some time, for the public curiosity is greatly excited. It is said, for example, that the company has freighted a steamer for the United States, in order to get there before the ship in which Carpentier and Grelet embarked. It is also said that Grelet has been arrested in Belgium, and that his extradition has been demanded.

[Parisian Correspondence of Le Nord, Sept 12.]

The *Nord* brought to Paris to-day (Sept 11) the first precise and methodical details about a theft, unparalleled in the annals of crime. Yesterday the Parisian journals published a memorandum coming from the Northern Railway Company, stating that 5,647 shares had been stolen. This is the first detailed statement given to the public by the French press of this audacious enteprize, which it has taken four years for the parties to perpetrate. In order that the police should have every chance to find the guilty, the reserve of the Parisian journals deprived the fugitives of all the details which could destroy the chain of evidence against them. In all that I transmit to you about this affair, I refrain from speaking of what would be of some use to the guilty and their accomplices. The whole of the facts known constitute already a drama very shrewdly arranged, which the theatres of the Boulevard will honor from the *Gazette des Tribunes.*

Carpentier, the principal cashier, had obtained leave of absence of four days to go to Lisieux for the avowed object of courting his betrothed, a relative of Mr. P., one of our most celebrated financiers. His visit had been announced to his future father-in-law. Not seeing his son-in-law arrive at the appointed day, he sent a telegraphic despatch to the father of Carpentier, asking for an explanation of the delay, and complaining of the conduct of his son towards him and his daughter. The father of Carpentier answered by telegraph that his son had left Paris. He received a second despatch from Lisieux, and not understanding anything of what was going on, he decided to go at once to that city. The unfortunate father not finding his son there, came back at once to Paris, and it was he who gave the first intimation of the fraud.

On the first of September Mr. Dallon, one of the administrators, asked for the principal cashier, but he was not to be found. Grelet said that Carpentier manifested his intention of visiting the baths of Dieppe, and that it was probable he had left for that place. Mr. Dallon requested Grelet to leave for Dieppe, if Carpentier did not return that day, and bring him back. Grelet left, and the same day he was followed by Carpentier, Grelet and brother, and three lady friends, among whom was an *attache* of a theatre. Without losing time, the party took passage for Liverpool. The day before his pretended departure for Lisieux Carpentier had assembled his friends together, and gave them a supper, pretending that he was going to be married, and saying that he wanted to finish his batchelor's life gaily. The supper was given at Vachette, on the corner of the street of the Faubourg Montmartre, of the Boulevard Poissonniere. I cannot say that Carpentier was witty on this occasion, but the supper cost eight hundred francs. The guests separated well satisfied with the liberal entertainment provided by their host. Strict orders were given to the employers of the Northern Company not to speak about the affair. A man by the name of Poppy, who has been the sub-cashier of the financial department, and paying teller of the company, was arrested when he was embarking at Havre. Mr. Parot, who is said to be implicated in the affair, has also disappeared. On the day of Grelet's departure the safe contained 814,000 francs in specie and bank bills. This sum remained untouched. The cash account was all right, and in accordance with the books. It will take at least three months to learn the exact amount of the embezzlement. Two days ago a shareholder of forty shares came to the office, and the books showed that there was only ten in the cash account. Some people have taken shares in the Northern Railroad, and have never seen them; that is to say, they had full confidence in the administration, for, on receiving their dividends they entrusted the company with the care of making appropriations.

P. S.—The cashiers of the railroad have, it is said, sold two millions of shares of the company in London. The company will institute a suit against the board of brokers, *agents de change*, in order to obtain the restitution of the shares that have been deposited as security by the two cashiers. The company displays great activity, and is ready to make any sacrifice for the arrest of the guilty parties.

City Intelligence.

THE JEWISH NEW YEAR commenced at sunset yesterday, it being the first day of the month Tisri, which commences the Hebrew year. The first ten days of Tisri are called the "Penitential," which ends with the Day of Atonement, on the 10th. All labor and business will be suspended among the Jews to day and to morrow, and the 10th of Tisri will be a day of fast and lamentation. The religious services in the synagogues to-day will be singularly impressive.

THE HARBOR COMMISSIONERS.—The Topographical Engineers, at present engaged under direction of the Harbor Commissioners, in making soundings and surveys in Harlem river and about Hell Gate, have nearly terminated their work. They have made some 50,000 soundings, with minute and thorough record of the shifting of the different channels and shoals, together with noting the low water mark of all the different rocks and impediments obstructing navigation here. They complete this portion of the work this week, which, with the recent termination of the soundings and surveys about the lower bay, concludes the surveys more immediately connected with the waters about New York City. To day General Totten, Prof. Bache and Prof. Davis meet with the Harlem Commissioners as an advisory board upon the subject of establishing an exterior water line about Brooklyn, from the Navy Yard to Gowanus Bay. They will continue in session the whole week. During the session they will hear statements from property owners in Brooklyn upon the application for a new street along the East river shore. Deciding upon this, and agreeing upon the external line in question, will probably occupy nearly two months. After this the Commissioners will immediately prepare their report to be laid before the Legislature at the opening of his next session.

TARGET EXCURSIONS.—The following named companies have passed the HERALD office during the past week:—

Mount Prospect Guard, composed of the members of Engine Company No. 16, of Brooklyn. They paraded to Flushing, under command of Capt. John Acker, where fifty muskets were reviewed.

The Union Guard, Capt. Pendergast, with one hundred muskets and a fine band.

The Dugan Guard, Capt. Corand, with thirty eight muskets, went to River House, and shot for twenty four prizes.

The Walker Guard, Capt. Nesbit, paraded seventy-five muskets, and spent the day at Weehawken.

The Glen Guard, Capt. Condon, with seventy-five muskets, paraded to Weehawken.

The Young Mechanic Volunteers, Capt. Quigg.

If companies would leave name, number of muskets and destination at the HERALD office, they would secure a notice. It is impossible to keep track of them unless they do so.

ANOTHER SUDDEN DEATH.—Henry Hone fell dead suddenly in a public house No. 9 Charlton street last night about 9 o'clock. He had called for some refreshment at the bar, when he staggered and fell, and in five minutes expired. Mr. Hone was a nephew of the late Philip Hone, and was formerly a member of Assembly from this city. An inquest will be held on his body to-day.

ACCIDENT AT A CHURCH.—The Memorial church was densely crowded on Sunday evening. Previous to the services commencing two large doors in the central entrance fell in and injured several persons, though not severely. There was a tumult, of course, but the minister assured the audience that the building was perfectly secure.

FIRE IN AVENUE C.—About one o'clock on Monday afternoon some shavings in the cellar of building No. 6 avenue C caught fire. The flame ignited other parts of the room, and before the fire was extinguished damage to the amount of $50 was done. The cellar was occupied by P. Morich as a smoke room.

PREMATURE EXPLOSION.—On Saturday there were two casualties by the sudden explosion of charges of powder on the Erie tunnel, at Bergen hill, causing the loss of life of one or two workmen, and severely injuring three others, one of whom was the foreman, who will lose his eyesight.

Williamsburg City News.

ROBBERY.—The house of Mrs. Morris, No. 14 South Fourth street, was robbed on Sunday evening, by a colored servant girl, named Julia. She had been taken into the family on Saturday night, having been found in the street in a state of almost utter destitution. She showed her gratitude by decamping with about $300, consisting of plate, &c. The spoons, forks, pitchers, &c., were marked M. A. M., A. D. W., B. S. A., M. R. B. and otherwise, in a manner to be easily detected if offered for sale. Besides the plate, two valuable silk dresses were taken. Julia is about sixteen years of age, of medium heighth, and was dressed in a calico skirt and sack, with a green cape and hood. She can hardly escape detection.

AMERICAN PRIMARY ELECTIONS.—The American primary elections were held last evening, when delegates were chosen, to meet in convention on Wednesday, at B. S. Nelson's hotel, Flatbush, for the purpose of nominating county officers. The City Convention will be held at Central Hall, Fulton avenue, on Thursday, at 3 P. M. The Second Congressional district Convention is to be held on Friday, at the same hour and place. The police Conventions are to be held on Friday, in the various districts, viz.:—1st, 2d, 3d and 4th, (the First Assembly district.) Convention to be held at Flatbush, on Saturday, at 3 P. M.; 2d do., at Rathbun's hotel, on the same day, and at the same hour; and the 3d do., at Granada Hall, Myrtle avenue, on the same day, and at the same hour.

AMERICAN CONVENTION.—The American Convention for the Fifth Congressional district meet this evening, at Columbian Hall, Grand street.

REPUBLICAN MEETING.—The Central Republican Association had their regular meeting last evening, at the Odeon. Addresses were delivered by E. W. Stoughton, Esq., of New York, and Daniel P. Tyler, of Connecticut. Considerable enthusiasm was manifested, and all passed off agreeably.

THE OLD CONNECTICUT CHARTER.—The old original charter, which was deposited in the trunk of the Charter Oak, has been inclosed in a frame of wood of the tree which preserved it one hundred and sixty nine years ago.

Municipal Affairs.

THE IRVING INVESTIGATION.

The Committee of Repairs and Supplies of the Board of Aldermen met in Mr. Valentine's office, City Hall, at 3 P. M on Friday last—Alderman Wm. Tucker in the chair. This was the second sitting of the committee upon the communication of the Comptroller referred to them by the Board of Aldermen, and relating to the illegal manner in which James Irving, the Superintendent of Repairs and Supplies, gets the public work done.

Samuel Long being duly sworn, testified:—I am a butcher; am engaged in the glazing business at present; my place of business is in Rivington street, between Ludlow and Walker streets.

Q. Here is a piece of work specified in this bill: did you do it? A. I did.

Q. By whose direction did you do it? A. I did it by order of the Superintendent.

Q. Did you examine the work before you did it? A. I did, and computed the cost when orders came for me to do it.

Q. Have you ever been requested to examine work before you did it, to see what it would cost? A. Yes, sir, frequently; after I have done the work objections have been made in some cases by the Commissioner to the price charged, I would then change it.

Q. Did you make any estimate of what it would cost to do the work on Clinton market before you did it? A. I did not.

Q. Some of the windows were old and some of them new: do you know in what proportion they were old or new? A. I do not.

Q. Did you charge the same per pane for putting glass into new sashes sent to your shop that you do for going to a place and putting glass into old sashes? A. I did.

Q. This is the highest price that is charged for doing such work in this city? A. It is, but it is the regular price that is charged in the city.

Q. What kind of glass do you use? A. American and French.

Q. How do you know this is the regular price? A. Well, I got my information from my predecessor, Mr. Purdy. I charge the same prices he did.

Q. What induced you to go into this business, instead of continuing at your old one? A. I thought it was a better businesss.

Q. Would you have gone into the glazing business, if the inducement of doing the Corporation work had not been held out to you by the persons who had the disposal of it? A. I do not think they ever offered it to me.

Q. You take it for your rule to charge whatever the former glazer charged, be it high or low: you have no regular price of your own? A. I charge according to the glass.

Q. Where he put in English glass and charged one price you charge the same? A. Yes sir.

Q. Have you done work for any one and charged him the same you have the Corporation. A. I have.

Q. Whom? A. I can't remember.

Chairman—We find bills sent in for work, which, when they are looked into, seventy five per cent is deducted, and the parties are willing to get twenty five per cent of their bills. This is frequently done.

Witness—I have never known it to be done.

Chairman—Here is a case, in a sewer from an engine house to the street: the charge was $6 a foot, the price for such work is $1 25 a foot; the party was asked how it was, he said "Well, I made a bargain with the Commissioner for it." "Have you got a paper to that effect?" said we; he replied that he had not, and we reported in favor of giving him only $1 50 a foot, for that was the highest price ever paid for such work. Here you see seventy-five per cent was taken off, and they were willing to get the rest. Now, this way of charging has been going on for a long time; and I, as chairman of this committee, am determined to examine into it. We will make a report of the result to the Common Council, and they can do what they like about it

Witness—Will you examine into the other departments?

Chairman—I will if they put me on a committee to do it. There is corruption in every one of the departments, and it should be investigated.

Witness—I don't know.

Chairman—Yes, you do know as well as I do.

W. P. McCormic, being sworn, testified—I am a caulker; I receive my work from the Commissioner and Superintendent; they have sent me to estimate the cost of jobs.

Q. Did you make an estimate of Fulton market? A. No, sir; the work was done by day's work; I would do one piece of work, and then orders would come from Mr. Selah, Irving, or Flagg, for me to do another: I estimated and told them what the work would cost, but don't recollect how much it was.

Q. Did they ever ask you to estimate what your work on this engine house would cost? A. I do not remember; they told me sometimes my bill was too high; I altered it in two or three cases; can't remember one particular case; I did the work by the lump.

Q. Were those floors done by contract? A. No; they were done by the lump; I have been in the caulking business all my life; have done jobs for different men

Q. Where, except for the Commissioner? A. I can't remember their names.

Q. You have made an affidavit that the price you have charged for this work is right and just, the same as you charged other persons: now can you state a case where you have done work and got paid for it at this rate? A. I believe I did work for one man up town at the same rate; cannot remember where.

Mr. Francis Marren sworn.—I was a storekeeper before I went to be a messenger to Mr. Selah; I now clean public rooms, buildings, &c.; I hire women to do the cleaning and charge so much for their time, the soap, and $2 a day for my own time; Mr. Selah employs me; I pay the women $1 a day.

Q. Here is a bill of $50 for cleaning Hose Company No. 6. Is it your bill, and correct?

Witness—After looking at the bill for some time, and comparing it with the account he had kept in his books, declared that he knew nothing about the bill; that he had never done the work, &c.

Mr. Irving, who had been notified to attend the sitting of the Committee, but was not present, was then sent for by the Committee, but was not to be found at his office. Other persons who had been notified to attend were not present. The Committee declared that they would subpoena Mr. Irving to attend their next meeting, and adjourned till Monday next, at 3 P. M.

The Committee of Repairs and Supplies of the Board of Aldermen, met in Mr. Valentine's office, City Hall, yesterday, at 3 P. M., Alderman Tucker in the chair. Soon after the Committee assembled, Mr. SEXTAS, clerk to Mr. Selah, came before them and desired that they would adjourn, for Messrs. Selah and Irving had been taken suddenly sick, and were unable to attend the sitting of the Committee, for which they had been subpoenaed. The Committee at length decided to adjourn to Wednesday, at 3 P. M., and that that should positively be their last meeting. JOHN MORTON then got up and wanted to know who was going to pay him for his time. He had been subpoenaed, and lost the whole day in attending to the summons. The CHAIRMAN answered him, and remarked that he would take his testimony then, so he need not come again. Mr. Morton delivered himself of some bitter remarks, saying he thought the committee had adjourned, and he was not going to be sworn. This is the man whom Donovan testified was employed to examine roofs after they had been put on, and report concerning the work. Morton declared that he never had had anything to do with such work—that he was not a tinker, &c. The Committee then adjourned.

PIERS FOR THE MARKET BOATS, ETC.

The Committee on Wharves, Piers and Slips of the Board of Councilmen met in the Library, City Hall, at 3 P. M., on Monday, Councilman Henry S. Smith in the chair. Various matters were brought up before them. The first was a proposal or proposition to build an exterior bulkhead along the East river, from Grand to Thirty-eighth street, for the purpose of improving the channel, improving commerce, &c., &c. The second was to set aside piers 40 and 41, East river, exclusively for the of market boats under one hundred tons. The third was to set aside the slip between piers 31 and 32, foot of James street, exclusively for the use of market boats. The Committee adjourned without coming to any decision upon these projects.

REMOVAL OF THE GOUVERNEUR STREET FERRY.

The Committee on Ferries of the Board of Councilmen met at the City Hall yesterday, at 3 o'clock P. M., Councilman J. L. Noyes in the chair. The subject before them was in relation to the removal of the terminus of the Brooklyn Bridge street ferry from Gouverneur street to Jackson street. Some time since the committee reported in favor of this removal; subsequently the Union Ferry Company of Brooklyn expressed a desire to be further heard in that matter; hence the meeting yesterday. Mr. C. P. Smith, acting manager of that company, appeared, and declared that if the proposed removal was made, they (the company) would not take the lease if the city would give them $20,000 a year; that they now run at a loss of $20,000 a year, and are much incommoded by having only one slip at the foot of Gouverneur street, whereas they require two; that they could make more trips with one boat and two slips, than with two boats and one slip; that they are running the Roosevelt street ferry at a loss of $30,000 a year, and that they will not take the lease of the Gouverneur street ferry, which is to be sold on the 17th of October, unless the Common Council gives them two slips at the foot of Gouverneur street, and also cancels the lease of the Roosevelt street ferry, because they cannot afford to run two ferries and lose on both of them. After hearing this testimony the committee adjourned.

The Destructive Fire in Perry, Wyoming County.

HALF THE BUSINESS PORTION OF THE VILLAGE IN RUINS.

[Correspondence of the Albany Evening Journal.]

CASTILE STATION, Sept. 26, 1856.

Half the business portion of Perry village is in ruins. We have had two fires this week, both probably the work of incendiaries. The following places of business are in ruins:—Smith's Bank of Perry, everything saved; R. H. Smith's dry goods and grocery store; village Post Office; Williams & Steadman's grocery store; R. C. Mordoff's hat and cap store; F. J. Brayton's dry goods store; J. B. Sherman's boot and shoe store; Wyoming *Times* office; Odd Fellows' Hall—the same room used as Masonic Hall; F. & J. Bullard's harness shop; W. C. Wheeler's carriage shop; Mr. Thayer's residence, and Mr. Whitlake's, are in ruins.

By the fire Sunday morning the followind places were burned:—S. & B. B. Higgin's drug store, A. Cole's boot and shoe store, M. N. Crecker's daguerrean saloon, S. M. Sherman's jeweller's shop, G. L. Watson's jeweller's shop, and D. Mitchell's residence. The above comprises about one half the business portion of the village. It is a sad loss to this community. Very little of the property was insured. Many persons lose all they have. Both of these fires are, no doubt, the work of incendiaries. The Methodist Episcopal Church was on fire, and narrowly escaped entire destruction. D. A. Rage's bookstore and Walker's Hotel narrowly escaped destruction.

I believe not a person has been seriously injured, though the work was all done by hand, there not being a fire engine in the village. In company with others, I had no insurance on the material in the Times office. Truly, &c., T. S. GILLETT.

The Mobile Vigilance Committee.

STRICKLAND'S STATEMENT TO THE PUBLIC.

To my friends in Mobile and to the public generally, I owe a plain statement of the facts which were the cause of my being placed in the unfortunate position I occupy at this time.

A simple history of the circumstances, in the order in which they occurred, seems to me the best mode of detailing these facts so that they will be more distinctly understood.

The first intimation I had of the two copies of "Fred. Douglass' Bondage and Freedom" being sold in our store, came to me as follows:—

The manner in which these books came into our possession, is detailed below in Mr. Babcock's affidavit.

A gentleman (Mr. Harris, I believe), called and inquired for the book, when I was present in the store; my partner waited on him, and after the inquirer had gone out, came near my desk, and remarked to me, "What do you suppose can have created a demand for Fred Douglas' book?" On my replying, "I could not imagine," he said he thought "it must have something to do with the Baptists;" that two copies were sold, and that man wanted another."

The two copies disposed of, and they the only copies of the work ever in our possession, were sold by my partner to Dr. Cragin, a gentleman well known to us, and one whom we viewed as a personal friend; he paid for one and took it away with him, and requested us to charge and mail the other copy to Colonel Jones.

Here the matter rested until the afternoon of the 12th August, at which time a friend called and stated that a book had been shown him which had been sold in my store, which he feared would lead to trouble, as it had been placed in the hands of the Rev. Mr. Hawthorne to be used against us; that, as a friend, he thought it but right to come and place me in possession of these facts.

The next morning (Aug 13) a friend and a very prominent citizen, called and said there was a great excitement on Royal street, in consequence of some book we had sold. I recented to him the remarks of my friend who had called the evening previous. He said it was the same book, and though I did not seem to attach the proper importance to it, he assured me as a friend it was a serious matter, and I had better, and at once treat it as such.

He advised me to see the gentleman who had the matter in hand as soon as possible, and gave me the names of Dr. Woodcock, Dr. Levert, Judge Lesesne and Judge Dargan.

Judge Lesesne and myself had not been on speaking terms for many years: hence to have seen him would have been very disagreeable.

I immediately had a conversation with Dr. Woodcock, Dr. Levert and Judge Dargan.

During the conversation with Dr. Levert, he informed me a meeting was that night to be held at the Battle House to examine into the matter.

I expressed an earnest desire to be present at the meeting, and told him we courted every possible investigation.

Before two o'clock of the same day, Dr. Woodcock sent me a note of which the following is a copy:—

MR. STRICKLAND—DEAR SIR:—A meeting of citizens will be held this evening to take into consideration your conduct in the sale of incendiary publications.

The undersigned have assumed the responsibility of considering your case, and desire to give a fair opportunity for defending yourself against the charge of being engaged in disturbing the peace, and endangering the lives of the community.

The meeting will take place this evening at 8 o'clock, in the gent's parlor of the Battle House.

For the Committee. JOHN H. WOODCOCK.

I was introduced to the meeting at about half-past 8 o'clock. There were in the room about thirty gentlemen. Mr. Boyles was Chairman, and Mr. Daughdrill Secretary.

I will, as near as my memory enables me, give here every word which transpired during my examinat on.

Mr. Boyles produced the copy of Fred. Douglass' book which had been purchased by Dr. Cragin.

1. He asked me if I knew the book or had sold it?

I replied it was sold by my partner to Dr. C agin (and detailed the circumstances), and that he had ordered a copy charged and mailed to Col. Jones.

2. Do you know the character of the book?

I know its character in the sense that I know its author, and know he is probably capable of writing but one kind of a book. I am not aware that I ever read a line in it or opened it.

3. Would you have sold that book?

Under the same circumstances I certainly should. Had any gentleman now in this room, or any other man in the community well known to me, inquired for that book, and it had been in my possession, I should most assuredly have sold it to him, presuming the use to which he would apply it was a good one.

4. How did that book, or books, come into your possession!

I do not now know; the fact can easily be determined to-morrow by reference our orders or in invoices: those two books have been in our possession over two, if not three years, as I can prove by these inventories which I have brought with me.

At this stage of the inquiry, Judge Lesesne seemed particularly desirous that I should repeat and again repeat this statement about the books having been in our possession so long.

Why he did so, was soon very evident.

The committee have reference to this statement of mine, when they say I lied before them.

I would ask a careful and candid perusal of what I am now about to state regarding this lie with which I am charged.

About four o'clock of the afternoon of this same day a friend called and said young Mr. Woodcock had shown him a book which had been bought at my store, which was a very, very improper book for us to keep.

Its name he did not recollect: by his description I could not recognize it. I called my partner to my assistance. My friend again described the book, which my partner recognized as a copy of the Autographs of Freedom, which he said was in our store, when he purchased an interest in my business: that when we took stock, he remarked either to myself, or one of the clerks, that it was a very queer book to be there.

I immediately, in presence of this friend, referred to our inventory for July 1st, 1854, and found one copy of the Autographs of Freedom, which cost sixty cents.

I also referred to the inventory for 1856, and found the same book still on hand; and also (in this inventory only) I found two copies of "Douglas' My Bondage and my Freedom:" both inventories were examined while our friend was present.

My motive in taking the inventories with me to the meeting, was to prove to the Committee how many of them and how long we had these books.

My lie to the committee consists in stating we had the Douglass books or had two years, and that our inventory would prove it.

I appealed confidently to the inventory and it did not prove it.

What did it prove? Precisely the reverse, namely: that it was the one copy of Autographs of Freedom, which had been on hand since between 1853 and 1854, and that the Douglass books were in the 1856 inventory only.

If this constitutes an intentional lie, then I did lie before the committee; but I think any candid person who will reflect one moment, will at once see that I intended to state nothing but the truth, or otherwise I certainly should not have appealed to a written list of books to prove my statement.

The position I so unexpectedly occupied—that of a culprit—was enough to excuse and, to any candid mind, explain my simple mistake.

Mr. Boyles next produced the book, which had been purchased by Mr. Woodcock.

My recollection of the questions regarding this book are:—

5. Did you sell this book?

I detailed in reply to this question all I knew about the books, precisely as I have above, about our friend calling and stating that Mr. Woodcock had shown him the book, &c., &c.

6. Who was that friend?

I cannot tell you.

7. Do you know the character of that book?

I know its character only by my friend's description; to the best of my knowledge I never saw the book before.

8. Who sold the book?

As my partner says he did not sell it, and as we are working light handed, (two of our usual force being absent,) it must have been sold by our man Philip.

9. Is he authorized by you to sell such books?

He is authorized to sell anything in our store of which he knows the value.

10. Would you have sold that book, Mr. Strickland?

I would have scorned to have done any such thing.

I was informed by the chairman that he had no further questions to ask—I might retire.

Before retiring, I requested the privilege of making a few remarks, which privilege was immediately granted.

I alluded to my having been a resident in Mobile some seventeen years—my early savings for years were invested in slaves. I then turned my attention to small investments in real estate, which was then at a very low ebb in Mobile. All I was worth was in this shape, when my employer, James M. Sumwalt, died. I then went into business on my own account, and necessarily needed all my little capital in my business, and hence sold my slave property and real estate as soon as possible, and placed the proceeds in my business.

My whole capital has ever since been in that business, for it had increased and extended beyond my most sanguine expectations.

I alluded to the peculiar difficulties in conducting the book business—that as a rule, we had simply the title of a book to guide us as to its character, unquestionably we had, no doubt, sold many novels and other ephemeral books, which may have contained abolition sentiments. Whenever it came to our knowledge that any book on hand was not fitted to circulate at the South, such books were at once wrapped up for return.

We often had books consigned to us which we never should have ordered; that in the hurry of business, such books could easily get sold ignocently.

I alluded to Uncle Tom's Cabin, we had utterly refused to sell it. We had two copies (I believe) sent to us, which were literally read to pieces, by being passed from friend to friend, whose curiosity had been excited, and I believe there were men then in the room who had read one of them.

Had it occurred to me, I should have told them we ordered fifty copies of the cheap edition, several months after it was published, which were presented by myself, gratuitously, to our friends from the interior, who were exceedingly anxious to get a copy, and who, I presumed were such as would appreciate the compliment.

The committee have deeply censured me for not stating this fact to them, as they found the order for the fifty copies when they examined our papers.

I should certainly have stated it had it occurred to my mind whilst I was speaking.

I would here beg leave to state that my friend Mr. Bardall, says here, in New York, that he sold the Uncle Tom's Cabin freely.

The Rev. Mr. Milliburn told me in presence of the Harpers, that he requested Mr. T. J. Carver to order a large number of copies, and that when they arrived he sent members of his congregation and others to purchase them.

They were sold as openly as any other book in nearly all our Southern cities.

When I retired from the Committee room I was kindly accompanied by Dr. Woodcock. I at once requested my partner, who was waiting for me, to go in, and himself be examined. The Doctor remarked it was not necessary, but he could go if he liked. I urged him to go as I wished the matter thoroughly sifted, and at once.

He also was examined by the Committee:

On Saturday morning, Mayor Withers sent Captain Mavry down to say that he would like us to come up to the Mayor's office on Friday morning to be examined before him.

I was very glad the matter had taken this shape, feeling we had nothing to fear from any judicial investigation.

I called on Mayor Withers at once, and thanked him for the course he had seen fit to pursue; stated to him that as the rumor had been traced to the Rev. Mr. Hawthorne, I hoped he would have him present also.

Captain Maury, who was present, replied, he would see to it, and have him there.

I suggested to the Mayor that he appoint a committee to examine our stock, invoices, correspondence inventories, &c., &c., that we would give every facility in our power.

He hesitated a moment, then said, "Well, come up on Saturday morning." I said, "Is it best, sir?" He replied, "Yes, Saturday morning."

After I left that evening on the Junior, to cross the bay to my family, a committee called and got our invoices, correspondence, &c., and sent for more on Friday morning. I do not know if they were appointed by the original committee or by the Mayor.

I now believe, had Mayor Withers examined us on Friday morning, as he originally intended, the result of that examination would have been favorable to us. To his delay I attribute the terrible disastrous results which have followed.

The Examining Committee, I have every reason to believe, selected the course which seemed to them best; but it is certainly very evident now, that they made a great mistake in their report, when, instead of giving the facts, and informing the public what had been done, and what we had sold, and to whom, and under what circumstances, when, I say, in place of these facts, they said—

The character of the evidence, and of the books brought before the committee, is such that it was thought not only injudicious but unsafe and dangerous to make them public