OUR SANITARY REGULATIONS.

Interesting Correspondence Between Our Mayor and Citizens—What the Public Demand—What the Mayor Suggests, &c., &c.

NEW YORK, Jan. 11, 1864.

TO THE HONORABLE THE BOARD OF ALDERMAN:—

GENTLEMEN—In reply to certain organizations of citizens of the Twenty-first and Eighteenth wards, the Superintendent of Sanitary Inspection, Thomas N. Carr, Esq., has made a report, which I herewith transmit.

I would beg leave to call your attention to some of the more important points in the report, as containing facts which neither you nor I am at liberty to overlook.

The report states that $113,000 are annually paid for salaries, and $20,000 for contingencies, which latter is purely an election fraud; and further, that $60,000 taken from this $133,000 would be all sufficient to give full efficiency to the labors of this department.

The report also states that the city still continues to pay for work (that need not have cost it one cent) the sum of forty to fifty thousand dollars annually. In addition to this there are clerks in this department who receive from $600 to $2,000 a year who have never performed an hour's work.

I trust that proper investigation into such a state of things will be promptly made, to the end that this system of leeching the public and the taxpayers may be summarily abolished.

The present annual cost of the Sanitary Department, as stated, is $683,000; the report says other estimates on a liberal scale would be for sanitary purposes, salaries and contingencies included; street cleaning, $60,000, allowing for increase of pay to men since the completion of my estimate, $250,000—total, $310,000. Difference in favor of the city, $373,000, or $63,000 more than sufficient to carry on all the legitimate operations of this department.

A resolution passed by the Common Council a few days before the present City Inspector came into office conferred upon that incumbent the double power to receive and disburse public moneys. Such powers were never before granted to any department of the city government. These power, as it is believed, practically ignore the existence of the Comptroller's Department. I do not hesitate to say that these are most extraordinary powers, such as no honest man ought to desire to exercise. I respectfully recommend the repeal of said resolution.

There are many valuable recommendations and suggestions contained in the report, which in my judgment are eminently practical, and therefore worthy of your earnest consideration. I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

C. GODFREY GUNTHER.

The following is the correspondence referred to:—

NEW YORK, Dec. 22, 1863.

THOMAS N. CARR, Esq., Superintendent Sanitary Inspection:—

SIR—Believing, in common with a large number of our fellow citizens, that abuses exist in the organization of several of our city departments, and that particularly in the department of the City Inspector these abuses require investigation, with a view to the adoption of prompt measures of reform we take the liberty of requesting from you, as Superintendent of Sanitary Inspection, answers to the following questions:—

First—Is the present sanitary system of the city conducted with a sole view to the public health and security; and if not, in what particulars is it deficient, either in the form of its organization or other causes, in securing that object? Are its expenses greater than are necessary? and if so, how are they incurred and how may they be reduced?

Second—As to the particular branch of street cleaning, what, if any, are the defects in its present management, either as a necessary part of the existing system or as an abuse of that system? Can it be efficiently conducted at a less rate of expense than at present, and how can such reduction, if any, be effected?

JOHN H. SHERWOOD,
President Twenty-first ward Citizens' Association.
E. L. BOLLES,
Chairman Eighteenth ward Citizens' Association.

CITY INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT,
BUREAU OF SANITARY INSPECTION
AND STREET CLEANING, Dec. 29, 1863.

GENTLEMEN—To answer fairly the several questions contained in your letter is to place me in an adverse position to the interests of my superior, the City Inspector; and it also involves the safety of other interests, which, being personal, I shall pass over without further notice.

To your first question I would answer that we have no Sanitary Department in the city at all commensurate with what the name implies. Beyond even this pretence the city is as barren of all means to guard against disease, pestilence or contagion as if such emergency had never been provided for. I make this admission with regret; but it is due to candor that the facts should not be concealed. Unsuccessful as have been previous City Inspectors in charge of this department, owing to the interference and hostility of certain members of the Board of Aldermen, it is now far worse under the administration of the present incumbent. The causes of this state of things are numerous. A few I will enumerate. In the first place, it is with every desire to avoid personalities that I intimate that the present incumbent lays no claim to the possession of those literary qualifications which are, to a great degree, necessary to the intelligent discharge of his duties as a custodian of the public health. This being the case, how is it possible that duties calling for the use of a peculiar intellectual experience can be faithfully performed by this officer? With these admitted disqualifications it is impossible that he can intelligently direct those under him, and from a consequent unwillingness to take advice from those who, from experience, are competent to advise, nothing is done, and the health of the city is left to take care of itself. This is a sad state of things; but the description is by no means an exaggerated one. Under other circumstances the propriety of these remarks might be questioned; but here their introduction is unavoidable; for it must be understood that the success of our sanitary system depends more upon the intellectual qualification and capacity of the City Inspector to clearly understand and direct affairs than to any other rule. I speak from personal knowledge when I say that for the last six months not a solitary sanitary measure has received attention beyond the cleaning of the streets. For all practical purposes it had been as well if no Sanitary Department were in existence; and yet the city pays for this neglected duty $113,000 annually for salaries and $20,000 for contingencies, which latter is purely an election fund. $60,000 taken from this $133,000, properly applied, would be all-sufficient to give full efficiency to the labors of this department. And yet, with this immense fund at command and yearly expended, the startling fact presents itself that at least two thousand lives are annually sacrificed in this city owing to the absence of all system in our sanitary regulations. Besides, there is a greater amount of sickness in this city from year to year, population considered, than in any other city in the Christian world. The fact cannot be concealed, however it may be varnished over; and it is the knowledge of these facts that gives a certainty to the expression that this state of things, bad as it is, will yet be worse, if the health of the city remains to be tampered with by an irresponsible, indifferent and selfish body of politicians. Qualifications or fitness for office, so far as my experience extends, are the very last considerations with these men. The Board of Aldermen still claim the right to appoint and remove, and this right is cheerfully acceded by the City Inspector. Political and personal consideration are the only guarantees to success, and the usefulness of the parties thus selected to discharge the responsible duties entrusted to them can be readily conceived.

The present City Inspector is impressed with the one idea that if the streets are kept clean there is nothing more to do, and, under the present management, nothing more can be expected. On an examination of the annual sanitary reports of England or France the mind is astonished by the vastness of research, investigation and scientific elaboration which these reports contain; and yet, strange to say, street cleaning, instead of being the all-absorbing feature of these documents, is not even mentioned. But with this department of late it is the only consideration, inasmuch as it involves the expenditure of hundreds of thousands of dollars annually. Take from it the work of street cleaning and all control over the cleaning of the streets, confining it simply to sanitary affairs, and it would be the least sought after by our politicians of any of the departments of the city. And to this complexion it must come at last, if the health and lives of the community are worthy of consideration.

I do not hesitate for a moment to characterize the present expenditures of the public money for street cleaning purposes as the most stupendous fraud ever perpetrated upon an overburthened community. I do not charge the committal of this fraud upon any one person, for it is participated in by a combination of men known as "the ring," who are interested not only in keeping up the present expenditures and costs, but in adding to them, to make them, if possible, double what they now are. Commencing with the Hackley fraud, by which certain officials realized for their services and influence a sum of not less than fifty thousand dollars, and continue the inquiry down to the present moment, and we have the fact before us that the city has been robbed of nearly half a million of dollars. If the resolution now pending in the Board of Aldermen should pass to pay the Hackley contract for the work done by City Inspector Delavan after said contract was declared null and void, the consequence will be that Hackley will sue and recover damages and full pay down to the time of such decision as the Court may make, and again possess himself of the contract. This would involve a further loss to the city of all the money spent upon the streets for the last six months, amounting to at least a quarter of a million more. Whether the originator of that resolution contemplated such a result I am not prepared to say; but I must be allowed my own opinion upon the subject, however unwelcome that opinion may be. To avoid the threatened prosecution and exposure attending the passage of the Hackley contract by the Common Council by the parties more immediately interested no sacrifice of the public money, in their estimation, would be too great. When the means by which Hackley obtained his contract come to light, and the expedients resorted to to cover up that fraud—now at work—at the expense of the city are exposed, the public will then be enabled to judge of a condition of things which their worst apprehensions have heretofore failed to realize.

The City Inspector, in his communication to the Common Council of recent date, shows that he is expending from five hundred and fifty to six hundred thousand dollars a year in cleaning the streets. Two weeks longer work upon the streets, when City Inspector Delavan was removed, would have been all-sufficient to have thoroughly freed it of the large accummulation of filth left by contractor Hackley. After the accomplishment of that result the work would have been done at about one-half of what he was then expending; and it was the knowledge of this fact that caused his removal.

I give here the amount which if would have cost the city for cleaning the streets under Col. Delavan had he been permitted to retain his place. The data were procured by me from the several Street Inspectors attached to this bureau. The total number of street sweepers and cartmen required was three hundred and twenty-two. Up to the 1st of the present month, under the administration of the present incumbent, we have had from six hundred and fifty to eight hundred, and other expenditures in proportion. The total cost to the city from my estimate amounted to $215,000 for the year. Under the present system it is at least $550,000. Within the last four months a wealthy contractor presented to me in person a written and signed agreement by which he offered to freight from the city its ashes and dirt for a term of years, free of expense, and to give security for the faithful performance of the work in sums of from fifty to one hundred thousand dollars. I referred him to the City Inspector; but, not meeting with success, he subsequently called upon the Comptroller and Mayor, urging the acceptance of his proposal. There was no just reason why the proposal should not have been accepted on the spot by the City Inspector. You will perhaps ask, why, then, was it refused? At present I am not prepared to answer the question. One thing, however, is certain: that the city still continues to pay for work that need not have cost it one cent the sum of from forty to fifty thousand dollars annually. In addition to this there are clerks in this department who receive from $600 to $2,000 a year who have never performed an hour's work.

Let us now see the difference between the actual cost of the department as at present managed and what it can be done for under a different system. Present cost of the Sanitary Department for salaries and contingencies, $133,000; street cleaning, $550,000. Total, $683,000. Other estimates on a liberal scale would be for sanitary purposes, salaries and contingencies included, $60,000; street cleaning, allowing for increase of pay to men, since the completion of my estimate, $250,000. Total, $310,000. Difference in favor of the city, $373,000, or $63,000 more than sufficient to carry on all the legitimate operations of this department. If the plans suggested by the City Inspector to be submitted to the Legislature should be adopted, this department will have the uncontrolled disbursement of nearly a million of dollars annually.

But, aside from this waste of the public money, a still greater injury is inflicted upon the community through its influence upon our elections. The City Inspector's and the Street Commissioner's departments have at command, by means of patronage, a controlling influence, as they allege, over the votes of at least ten thousand persons. They claim as their own the leading politicians of every ward of the city; and it is only necessary that these departments should combine and make known their choice for office to have their favorites nominated. The honest men of the party have no choice in the matter. They must either vote for the men thus presented or be made to suffer the usual penalty of political malcontents. The heads of these departments having secured for themselves, by a special act of legislation last winter, possession of their offices for four years, there is no power outside of the Legislature to displace them before the expiration of that time, except for malfeasance of office. The amount of injury which they are thus enabled to inflict upon the community, pecuniary and political, during these four years may be estimated by the enormity of their acts committed since their assumption of power.

A few items showing the manner in which the public money was expended in this department for political purposes during the late election may not prove uninteresting. The particulars I received from the pay roll clerk on the 11th of last month. At that time there were employed twenty-two distributers of ordinances, twenty-five notice distributers, forty special inspectors and forty additional foremen of street cleaning, numbering in all one hundred and twenty-seven, at two dollars per day, or ninety-two thousand seven hundred and ten dollars per annum, for which the city does not receive in return the amount of one man's work for a single week in the whole year. This was less than half of the actual number of men similarly employed, but without definite position in the department, and paid from the city Treasury. Whether these men are still under pay or not I am unable to answer, as every avenue to further information has been closed to me, when by law and ordinance the reverse should have been the case. In my bureau (sanitary) there are forty four health and assistant health wardens, at a cost to the city of forty-eight thousand one hundred and eighty dollars per annum. Ten active, intelligent men, with the city properly districted, would be all-sufficient for the work, and a saving to the city of thirty-eight thousand dollars. I find by the pay rolls now before me that the cost for cleaning the streets for the first two weeks of November amounts to within a fraction of twenty-six thousand dollars, or six hundred and seventy-six thousand dollars a-year. I should only weaken the importance of this statement by adding to it any statements of my own. I mention these cases as instances of what may be practised under the present unchecked mode of transacting business. There is enough of what is known to have been practised to warrant the conclusion that the unlimited license thus allowed to this office has had its utmost necessary results in the disbursements of funds for purposes never intended, and to an extent so carefully concealed that in many instances it would be difficult to ascertain either the amount or the objects to which they have been appropriated. Could an examination into the affairs of this department be made, the waste of the public money for personal and political purposes would be found to exceed in enormity anything of the kind ever before known in the history of this or any other civilized city of the world. Under the present system the City Inspector is invested with the double duties of preparing the semi-monthly pay rolls of his department, and at the same time permits him to act in the capacity of paymaster. He has thus unbounded discretion in making out his own pay rolls, and equally unlimited means at his command to make such payments, leaving no single check upon his disbursements and holding him liable to no account for any abuse of his trust. A resolution permitting the City Inspector to act in the double capacity of receiver and disburser of public moneys was passed in the Common Council a few days before the present incumbent went into office; and thus powers were conferred upon that department not only never granted to any other department of the city government, but practically ignoring the existence of the Comptroller's Department, except as a mere instrument or convenience to pay over to the City Inspector, on his order, any sums he might demand to be paid. Why, if the rule in the City Inspector's Department is correct, the same would not be equally correct in other city departments, it would be difficult to distinguish. The practice once admitted, every check upon these departments in the unlimited control over the public moneys would be done away with, and the Comptroller's office would be a mere clerkship, as in this instance it has practically become, so far as the City Inspector's Department is concerned. Let us look at such results as may occur under an unscrupulous administration of the office. The City Inspector makes out his semi-monthly pay rolls, amounting to say $25,000 for one thousand laboring men and employes, transmits the same to the Comptroller and demands his draft for that amount. The Comptroller may have reason to question the correctness of this pay roll, and may insist, as he has done, in paying the men himself. But the City Inspector, as has been the case under the present incumbent, exhibits the newly adopted resolution, and compliance with its provisions on the part of the Comptroller is insisted upon as unavoidable. The pay roll, being in its form all that the law requires, is the all-sufficient authority to receive the gross sum which it indicates.

And now a word as to what may be done with almost entire impunity under the operation of the resolution. Let it be presumed—and the presumption is not a bold one—that out of the one thousand men returned on the pay rolls to the Comptroller only five hundred are honestly entitled to pay. There is no present check or hindrance to the appropriation of the balance to any uses to which the City Inspector may think fit to put it. Even reducing the proportion to a less amount, the conclusion is not less inevitable that the power of appropriating the public funds without check or limitation is the result of such a resolution as the one referred to. Even should the Comptroller send for vouchers—as has been the case—they are at hand, on their face showing no distinction between payments truly or falsely made.

The plea that this mode of payment is a convenience to the City Inspector's Department in facilitating its business is simply an absurdity, for the plain reason that it is the assumption of additional duties, with additional agents to perform them. The former mode relieved the City Inspector's Department from such supererogatory duties, while, at the same time, it stood as a check—so intended and expressed by the charter—against any attempts at fraudulent connivances on the part of the City Inspector.

The repeal of the resolution giving this additional unrestricted power to the City Inspector is imperatively called for; for, whether abuses may or may not have been practised under it, it opens the door for such abuses, and it is at variance with that system of salutary checks which is the safeguard of all well regulated governments. This department being now without pecuniary means to carry on the work of street cleaning, the City Inspector has petitioned the Common Council to issue city bonds, which will again place him in the possession of funds to be used by him at his own discretion. If the idea of granting him this hitherto unknown power is seriously entertained, either by the present or the incoming Common Council, the least that can be asked from that body is that the amount so authorized to be issued shall be limited to the absolute wants of the department.

Among the early measures of the Legislature should be the passage of an act to take from this department the whole machinery of street cleaning, and transfer it to the Police Department, where it properly belongs. The Commissioners should be empowered to advertise for proposals to clean the city, the same to be divided into districts of not less than five nor more than seven, and no contractor be allowed to contract for more than one district, the whole to be under the supervision of the Police Commissioners. The police acting as street inspectors would relieve the city of $22,000, its present cost for inspectors, and the work would be more efficiently done than ever before, to say nothing of the immense saving to the city. The proposals should be made to include the manure of the streets, which might be estimated for by the contractor, and become his property in part payment for the discharge of his duties. The manure of this city, if properly cared for and disposed of, would bring to the city Treasury at least $50,000 per annum; and yet for years past in the aggregate it has been sold for less than $9,000. In London the expense of cleaning the streets and ash bins is balanced by the sale of ashes and dirt. In Edinburg the daily cleaning of the city, its courts and closes, costs but $10,000. In Aberdeen the work is done daily at a profit to the city of about $3,000. In Hull the refuse from the houses is readily disposed of at a profit to small farmers.

These necessary details being attended to, the department should be converted into a purely sanitary one, and be removed as far as possible from the influence of politicians. The wonder is not that the mortality of the city is so great, but that it is not greater, considering the little attention which it is permitted to receive by those entrusted with its keeping. Until the sanitary affairs of this city are placed beyond the reach and influence of politicians, Aldermen and speculators no reforms are to be expected.

For some weeks past the condition of this department has been discreditable to the city, inefficient in carrying into effect the objects for which it was created, and active only in the practice of abuses. Without system or organization, with no directing head, the streets in a filthy condition, ashes and garbage encumbering the sidewalks and gutters, even the small clerical force engaged almost without employment, employes and laborers in want of back pay on account of the profuse expenditures of public money, there has been an application of industry and energy to one object alone, and that object to secure, through the agency of the Common Council, the means of fastening this condition of things permanently upon the city by the authorization of the issue of street cleaning bonds. Only a few months since sufficient means were at its command to carry out every honest object of its organization. So rapid a down hill process in so short a space of time is a marvel even in these fast days. The naked fact that resources so ample should have been thus quickly dissipated should stand up as an insuperable barrier against farther extension of opportunity to repeat similar scenes at the expense of our citizens. An allowance of the issue of new credits under the name of street cleaning bonds or any other similar device may help to conceal its delinquencies; but, unless its irresponsible course is at once checked, the Legislature shortly to assemble will lay the axe to the root of the evil by an entire abolishment of the system under which such abuses may be perpetuated.

It is true that the city ordinance gives to this bureau the supervision and control over the work of street cleaning, and makes it the imperative duty of the Superintendent to "supervise, audit and certify all accounts for cleaning the streets." But, in justice to myself, I would state that I am in no way responsible for the abuses that have been practised under this ordinance, as none of the duties therein mentioned have been entrusted to my charge by the present City Inspector since his induction into office.

I hope, gentlemen, I have said sufficient to impress you with the necessity for the adoption of some plan that will correct existing abuses and give to the city a sanitary system at once efficient in its administration and economical in its expenditures. Your obedient servant,

THOMAS N. CARR,
Superintendent of Sanitary Inspection and Street Cleaning.

E. L. BOLLES, Esq., Chairman Eighteenth Ward Citizens' Association; JOHN H. SHERWOOD, Esq., President Twenty-first Ward Citizens' Association.

THE PRIZE RING.

Prize Fight for Six Hundred Dollars Between Dick Hollywood, of New York, and John Keaton, of Cincinnati.

Yesterday a prize fight for three hundred dollars a side between the two abovenamed pugilists came off in the vicinity of Sheepshead Bay, L. I. Hollywood is not a novice in the roped arena, having two years previously fought Mike Dorsay, of this city, for a purse, on which occasion, after a game, well contested battle, lasting over one hour, he was defeated. Keaton hails from Cincinnati, but for some time past has resided in Brooklyn, where his fine science in sparring, quiet, unassuming good conduct and reported gameness, gained him a number of friends, belonging to the pugilistic fraternity, who were desirous of seeing his boxing qualities fairly tested in the ring. For this purpose Dick Hollywood, being nearly about his weight and height, and whose mistic qualities had already been tested, was selected, and a challenge issued to match the Western youth against him for $300 a side in greenbacks. Hollywood promptly responded, expressing his willingness to accommodate the Brooklyn fancy, and the match was at once made to fight, for the abovenamed sum, on the 11th instant (yesterday), and in consideration of Hollywood being an inch and a half taller, Keaton was allowed the counter-balancing advantage of one pound in weight—he having to fight at one hundred and eight pounds and Hollywood at one hundred and seven pounds.

The preliminaries being thus satisfactorily arranged, both youths went into active training, Keaton taking up his quarters at the Excelsior Shades at Fort Hamilton, with Jem Dunn and Mike Nunan as his attendant mentors, and Hollywood at McCoomb's Dam. Here, by strict systematic dietetic regimen and constant exercise, they got rid of their superfluous cellular tissue; so that when they went to scale at Izzy Lazarus', in Centre street, the day previous, Hollywood was one and Keaton two pounds and a half below the stipulated weight. By mutual agreement the place of fighting was fixed about a mile from Fort Hamilton, L. I., amid some cedar woods, and as early as ten o'clock the preceding night, carriages and sleighs, containing numbers of the patrons of the "manly art of self defence," crossed the ferries, *en route* for the appointed spot, and evidently determined to secure a front seat, if early attendance could do it. The hotels in Fort Hamilton quickly found all their sleeping accommodations engaged for the night, while the barrooms were crowded all night by those who were less fortunate in this respect. When day broke all were astir, and the ropes and stakes were transported to the designated spot and the ring formed, and, although the principals had not made their appearance, numbers wended their way thither. Here disappointment awaited them; for Captain Brown and a detachment of the Forty eighth precinct police were on the ground in citizens' dress, with the avowed intention of preventing the contemplated breach of the peace. A change of locality was consequently imperative, and after some hours delay and weary miles of travelling through snow the ring was at last pitched about a mile from the Sheepshead Bay shore, behind a plantation of cedar trees. Here nearly two hours' delay ensued before a referee could be chosen, and it was only after repeated application that a gentleman, Mr. Ed. James, of the *Clipper*, could be prevailed upon to officiate. At last the two men, both belonging to the feather weight division, appeared, with their seconds; Phil. Clare and Bill Dowd esquiring Keaton, and Barney Aaron and Jem Elliott the New Yorker.

After the usual preliminaries of toilets and handshaking the youthful pugilists met in the centre of the ring. Keaton, although shorter, was much the more powerfully built of the two, his broad shoulders, unusually long, sinewy arms and brown skin contrasting in a marked degree with the more slender and elegant form and clear transparent skin of his opponent, whose finely developed muscles of the arms and shoulders, conjoined with his temperament of the nervous type betokened strength and endurance of no ordinary degree. Keaton's position was remarkably fine and artistic, and he showed that he was a highly accomplished sparrer by his movements and efforts to draw his antagonist and ascertain his weak points. He led off, but was cleverly countered by Hollywood, who, in the exchanges, planted his right heavily on the face, gaining first blood, and terminating the first round by a clean knock down blow. Keaton somewhat equalized his advantage in the next round by gaining the first fall. For many successive rounds it was almost impossible to say which had the best of it, both countering with severity and effect. Keaton was apparently the superior in strength in the struggle for the fall, although he evidently was expending his powers in attaining this object. In leading off Keaton, after delivering his blow, had a practice of ducking his head, and by the advice of Barney Aaron, his second, who quickly observed how he laid himself open, Hollywood bided his time, and then used his right with stinging severity in the upper cut. The effect was soon visible in the swollen, bleeding mouth and nose of his opponent, under whose left eye a large livid blue swelling had made its appearance. Hollywood had also a large "mouse" under his sinister optic, but beyond this was scarcely marked, except a few flushes on the chest. For a long time it was doubtful which would gain the day, both coming up to the call of time in the most dauntless manner, fighting with a science, judgment, coolness and unflinching spirit that has never been surpassed, if indeed equalled, in any contest in the American prize ring. It excited the admiration alike of friendly partisans and of those whose interests, pecuniary and personal, were identified with the opposite sides. Victory hung long doubtful in the balance; but at last the less matured constitution and stamina of the Brooklyn youth began to give way. His blows lacked their usual force, although his fine science and undaunted pluck was as conspicuous as ever. In his seconds, also, he was not so fortunate as Hollywood, for while the latter was sent up sponged clean as a pin after every round, the former's face was discolored with blood, and his comforts by no means increased by sprinklings of cold water dashed on his back as he walked to the scratch. His seconds saw that any means must be used to secure a verdict in their favor, and kept making useless and uncalled for appeals to the referee, whose duty, however, was to "fight on." Hollywood, although much stronger than his opponent, was getting wild in his deliveries, although, following his seconds' advice, he resolutely forced the fighting, generally ending the round by hitting or forcing his man down. The Brooklynites now saw that their man could only win by some unusual occurrence or accidental blow, and their hopes of success fell to zero. At last, in the forty-sixth round, Keaton led off, but missing his mark and being weak, fell forward on the ropes, carrying Hollywood with him. The seconds of both men crowded round them; the ring was broken by excited partisans of both men, and the most determined exertions of Kehoe, the "King of Clubists," and his assistant ring keepers, were set at defiance. Keaton's seconds appealed to the referee for a decision in his favor, alleging that Hollywood had bit his (Keaton's) shoulder while on the ropes. Such a mark was visible; but Hollywood's seconds maintained that Keaton's own seconds or friends had done it purposely to try to save their failing man from certain defeat.

The referee was surrounded by excited and angry men, clamoring for his decision in favor of Keaton; but he was not to be overawed, and refused to pronounce his decision then and there. In the meantime Keaton had been taken from the ring, and Hollywood was left alone. The referee announced he would give his decision to-day, and the crowd separated, the battle being thus left in abeyance. A gamer fight or better contested one was never witnessed, and both men are entitled to great credit for their fair, manly conduct in the ring. In returning a large force of police were met *en route* for the fight; but, being too late, contented themselves with making several arrests, among them Hollywood himself, and causing a general skedaddle over the surrounding country of the fear stricken spectators of this model mill.

Skating in the Park.

The skating furore was somewhat moderated yesterday, although the ice was in splendid condition—"barring the cracks." Every plan that could possibly be thought of to remove this annual nuisance has already been tried by the Park authorities; but, as yet, without any successful result. The elements alone can cure the evil, the lakes being too large to be flooded. A day's thaw, succeeded by a sharp frost at night, is the only remedy that has as yet been found to be effective in closing those annoying openings in the surface.

About twenty-five thousand persons visited the ice yesterday before dusk, and about the same number as usual were to be seen skating after the ponds were lit up. Several new lamps have been ordered by the Park authorities, and will be ready by the time they are next required. After about Thursday next there will be but little need of lamps for a week or two, as Cynthia will give all the necessary light free of charge.

The ice will be in good condition to-day, providing the weather should remain the same as yesterday; but, if even the atmosphere should become warmer, there need be no fear of the skating ceasing suddenly.

FIFTH AVENUE POND.

The ice on this pond, having been recently flooded by a peculiar process, was yesterday very smooth and good. The attendance yesterday was large, especially during the time the band was playing and after the ice was illuminated. Under the present management there can be little doubt but that the speculation will prove remunerative.

MASQUERADE CARNIVAL ON ICE.

A masquerade carnival came off yesterday on the Washington skating pond, Brooklyn. Two bands of music were in attendance, and the affair passed off very pleasantly.

Accident on the Harlem Railroad.

TWELVE OR FOURTEEN PERSONS INJURED—NO ONE KILLED, ETC.

ALBANY, Jan. 11, 1864.

The way train on the Harlem Railroad, bound for New York, this morning ran off the track near Katonah, below Croton Falls, injuring some twelve or fourteen persons. The entire train was precipitated down an embankment, making a complete wreck. No person was killed; but it is thought that Mr. Merritt, a drover, cannot survive his injuries. The escape of the passengers is miraculous.

The accident was caused by the breaking of a rail.

INTERESTING FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

General Butler's Arrival—The Escape from Richmond of the Engineer and Firemen of the Star of the West—The Wilmington Blockade—Destruction of the Blockade Runner Bendigo in Lockwood's Folly Inlet—List of Vessels Captured and Destroyed Off Wilmington, &c.

FORTRESS MONROE, Jan. 9, 1864.

Major General Butler returned to Fortress Monroe last evening.

The engineer and two firemen captured from the steamer Star of the West arrived here this morning, via Yorktown, having made their escape from prison at Richmond. An ordinary suit of blue clothes, worn by the engineer, cost him a thousand dollars in rebel money at Richmond.

Three of the Russian frigates will sail for the West Indies to-morrow morning.

FORTRESS MONROE, Jan. 10, 1864.

The following vessels passed the guardship Young Rover last evening for a harbor:—

Steamer City of Richmond, Kelly, New York, for Port Royal; steamer Plata, Dennis, New York, for New Orleans; steamer Eliza, Thomas, New York, for Nassau.

The Eliza lost one man overboard, and one man sick and put in in distress.

Dates from the Wilmington blockading squadron of January 9 state that on the 3d inst. Admiral Lee, of the United States gunboat Fah-Kee, entered Lockwood's Folly Inlet, about ten miles to the south of Wilmington, hoisted out his boats and examined the blockade runner Bendigo, a vessel run ashore by her captain about a week before to prevent her being captured by our blockaders.

While making these examinations the enemy's sharp shooters appeared and opened fire upon the boats' crews, which was returned by the Fah-Kee's guns, when a rebel battery opened fire and our boats returned to the ship. The Fah-Kee continued her fire until the Bendigo was well riddled.

The Fah Kee's battery was light, and in consequence of her draught of water and the shoals inside, her fire was at long range.

Night coming on, the Admiral returned to his fleet and the following morning despatched three vessels to the inlet and made the work of destruction complete.

The weather off Wilmington for two weeks past has been extremely stormy. Dense fogs have prevailed, and the knowledge that blockade runners would take advantage of them has increased the labors of our cruisers.

The following vessels—nineteen in all—have been captured off Wilmington since the 19th of July last:—

Kate, chased ashore and recovered.
Hebe, chased ashore and destroyed.
Duoro, chased ashore and destroyed.
Venus, chased ashore and destroyed.
Phantom, chased ashore and destroyed.
Arabia, went to pieces on the bar.
Elizabeth, beached and destroyed by crew.
Ceres, beached and partly destroyed by crew.
Beauregard, beached, and partly destroyed by crew.
Antonica, beached and partly destroyed by crew.
Merrimac, captured.
Juno, Cornubia, R. E. Lee, Ella and Annie and the Ella, all captured; Bendigo, destroyed; Margaret and Jessie and Banshee captured by the United States steamer Fulton.

The Late Archbishop Hughes.

LETTER OF HON. WM. H. SEWARD, SECRETARY OF STATE.

In reply to an invitation from the Very Rev. Administrator of the diocess, the following telegraphic despatch was received from the Secretary of State:—

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5, 1864.

Very Rev. WM. STARRS, Administrator of the Diocess of New York:—

VERY REV. AND DEAR SIR—I regret more deeply than I can express that indispensable official engagements will deprive me of the sad satisfaction of attending the obsequies of the late Archbishop, and thus manifesting, in the only way now possible, the respect and affection which I have so long cherished towards him as a faithful friend, a pious prelate, a loyal patriot, a great and a good man.

W. H. SEWARD.

Coroners' Inquests.

THE RECENT MYSTERIOUS MURDER IN CHATHAM SQUARE.—It will be remembered that at about nine o'clock on the evening of the 1st instant, a man whose name was unknown, while walking in Chatham square, near James street, was approached by a stranger, who stabbed him to the heart with a dirk knife, causing death in a few minutes afterwards. Coroner Naumann was called to make an investigation, but owing to the absence of witnesses necessary to proceed with the inquisition, it was postponed to afford the police an opportunity to unravel the mystery. Since that time officer Kelly, of the Fourth precinct, has been actively engaged in ferreting out the witnesses and obtaining facts tending to fasten the crime on the guilty individual. All the facts at present attainable being at hand, Coroner Naumann yesterday proceeded with the investigation at the Fourth ward station house. Several witnesses were examined, and the testimony elicited went to show that on the evening of the 1st instant, three Spaniards, named —— Castella, Joseph Silva and Jose Alfonsin, were in the lager bier saloon, corner of Chatham square and New Bowery, when deceased and a friend entered the place and called for some beer. In a few moments afterwards deceased (who has been identified as Jose de Souza, a Portuguese) had a few angry words as to which was the best country, Spain or Portugal. De Souza soon left the place with his friend, followed by Castella, and directly a man, believed to be Castella, ran up to de Souza and stabbed him to the heart. The murderer instantly fled, as also did the man with deceased, and while the latter was being conveyed to a drug store, Alfonsin & Silva, Castella's friends, made their appearance, and seemed so much excited that suspicion was directed against them. They left before the police arrived to take charge of the body. The jury found "that Jose and Souza, the deceased, came to his death by a stab wound at the hands of —— Castella, and we believe Joseph Silva to be an accessory after the fact." Warrants were issued for both Castella and Silva, and placed in officer Kelly's hands for execution. It is believed they have left the city and perhaps the country. Jose Alfonsin, who appeared before the Coroner, being deemed an important witness, will be sent to the House of Detention.

ALLEGED HOMICIDE BY A WOMAN.—Two women, named Sarah Dillon and Margaret Roundtree, who occupied apartments in the house 738 Washington street, became involved in a quarrel on Sunday afternoon, while standing on one of the upper landings of the house. Blows were exchanged immediately, after which the woman Dillon gave Mrs. Roundtree a violent push, thereby hurling her to the bottom of the stairs, and causing death almost instantly. Officer Collard, of the Ninth precinct, was called in and arrested Mrs. Dillon, who was held to await the result of an investigation. Coroner Ranney subsequently held an inquest on the body of Mrs. Roundtree, and, from the evidence elicited, the jury found that she "Came to her death from compression of the brain, caused by being pushed down stairs by the prisoner, Sarah Dillon." On this verdict Mrs. Dillon, who is the wife of a soldier now in the service, was committed to the Tombs for trial. She is thirty-four years of age, and a native of Ireland. Deceased was about sixty years old. It is said she was inloxicated at the time of the occurrence.

Personal Intelligence.

Mr. Postmaster Wakeman, who was in Albany last week, was not there in regard to the Collectorship, but on other business.

On the 2d inst. the lady friends in Cincinnati of the wife of General Rosecrans presented her a breastpin cut out of a shell from the Little Miami river.

MAILS FOR EUROPE.

Affairs in Western Virginia—News from New Orleans and Texas—Operations in Virginia and Tennessee—Obsequies of Archbishop Hughes—News from Central America, Mexico, Cuba, &c.

The Cunard mail steamship Persia, Captain Lott, will leave this port to-morrow for Liverpool.

The mails for Europe will close at eight o'clock to-morrow morning.

THE NEW YORK HERALD—Edition for Europe—will be published at seven o'clock to-morrow morning, and will contain full details of the recent Rebel Operations in Western Virginia, accompanied by a map showing the Scene of the recent Rebel Failure; Late and interesting news from New Orleans and Texas; The latest news from the Army of the Potomac; Operations in Eastern Tennessee; An account of the Obsequies of Archbishop Hughes; Late News from Central America, Mexico, Cuba, St. Domingo, and a variety of other interesting news of the past week.

Single copies, in wrappers, ready for mailing, five cents.

MAILS FOR THE PACIFIC.

The mail steamship Northern Light, Captain Tinklepaugh, will leave this port at noon to-morrow for Aspinwall.

The mails for Central America and the South Pacific will close in this city at half-past ten o'clock to-morrow morning.

THE NEW YORK HERALD—Edition for the Pacific, will be published at half-past nine o'clock to-morrow morning, and will contain full particulars, from our special correspondent, of the recent Rebel movements in Western Virginia, accompanied by a Map showing the scene of operations; Late and interesting News from New Orleans and Texas; The Latest Despatches from the Army of the Potomac; Interesting News from Grant's Army and East Tennessee; Late News from Europe, and all other News of the past ten days of interest or importance.

Single copies in wrappers, ready for mailing, six cents.

Court Calendar—This Day.
SUPREME COURT—CIRCUIT.—Part 1—Oyer and Terminer. Part 2—Nos. 600, 812, 641, 1121, 958, 1138, 604, 1144, 1211, 1178, 1047, 12 2, 1216, 1055, 707, 587, 985, 1074.
SUPERIOR COURT.—Part 1—Nos. 2550, 3133, 3139, 3203, 3235, 2487, 2921, 3147, 3207, 3219, 3211, 3213, 3215, 3217, 3219. Part 2—Nos. 3124, 216, 2558, 3148, 486, 2568, 3152, 3154, 3156, 3158, 3160, 3162, 3164, 3166, 3172.
COMMON PLEAS.—Part 1—Nos. 75, 257, 196, 262, 298, 299, 309, 89, 211, 88, 263, 148, 115, 246, 360. Part 2—Nos. 135, 233, 288, 289, 291, 281, 294, 94, 92, 91, 90, 302, 303, 304, 306.

Where Birds with Rainbow Plumage wing their way through the groves of Brazil grows the most fragrant flower that drinks the dew of Heaven. No need to go to the tropics to inhale its perfume, however, for it exhales in all its freshness from PHALON & SON'S "Extract of the Night Blooming Cereus."

Official Drawings of Murray, Eddy & Co.'s Kentucky State Lottery.
KENTUCKY, EXTRA CLASS 113—Jan. 11, 1864.
47, 44, 41, 24, 62, 61, 57, 42, 39, 74, 31, 55, 59.
KENTUCKY, CLASS 114—Jan. 11, 1864.
10, 30, 16, 38, 58, 67, 5, 33, 26, 65, 8, 69, 74, 57.
Circulars sent free of charge, by addressing either to
MURRAY, EDDY & CO.,
Covington, Ky.

Official Drawings of the Shelby College Lottery of Kentucky.
EXTRA CLASS 17—Jan. 11, 1864.
49, 68, 70, 78, 72, 16, 58, 73, 18, 23, 66, 6, 64.
CLASS 18—Jan. 11, 1864.
15, 5, 57, 63, 8, 33, 22, 12, 43, 40, 31, 73, 35, 48.
Circulars sent by addressing
Z. E. SIMMONS & CO.
Successors to John A. Morris & Co.

Official Drawings of the Library Association Company's Lottery of Kentucky.
EXTRA CLASS 513—Jan. 11, 1864.
13, 63, 31, 37, 35, 65, 2, 56, 45, 66, 27, 6, 47.
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