CONDITION OF THE SOUTHERN STATES.

GEORGIA.

OUR MILLEDGEVILLE CORRESPONDENCE.

MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga., Dec. 5, 1866.

The meeting of the Legislature concentrates information in reference to all parts of the State. Milledgeville is a small place of some two thousand inhabitants, half and half, with but one hotel of any prominence, in which a majority of the members, and those of most intelligence and influence at home, are domiciled together for the space of the six weeks which the session lasts. The utmost freedom prevails in the intercourse of the members. All disguise is thrown off, and questions of all kinds are discussed with all the abandon that prevailed in the palmiest days of the confederacy.

There is a disposition, to which I think proper to allude, among some who have lost all by the success of the United States arms, and who have not entered upon the work of repairing their fortunes, or who may have settled down in a permanent state of despondency, to talk, in a very free and unlicensed manner, against the measures of the government. This freedom of speech they sometimes use with a sort of fiendish pleasure, whenever Northern correspondents are present, little recking how their conversation would appear in Northern prints. And sometimes this sort of speech is used with evident intention to mislead those whom they think would gloat over the revelations they pretend to make, as evidence of lurking treason in the Southern heart. It is possible that sometimes ignorance profound and depravity unexampled may lead to the expression of disloyal sentiments towards a government all have sworn to support, and under whose protection they enjoy the very freedom of speech which they so grossly pervert. At home their conduct is regretted. But wherever you see men determined to reinstate themselves in the smiles of fortune, and to build up for themselves name and fame, nothing of the kind alluded to occurs.

The deprivation of fortune and the sudden plunging into the vale of poverty, if not of penury, has often proved a source of demoralization; and not the loss of property in slaves nor other pecuniary losses so much excite our pity and commiseration as the absence of self-reliance, energy and economy where that is all that can avail for the attainment of competency. If you see a man industriously at work to set himself up again, and to make use of all the means in his power to re-establish the fortune he may have lost, you may set it down as certain that such a man leaves the government to go its own way, and politics to take care of themselves. Nothing would make a Northern man more regret the non-restoration of the illegally rebellious States than the plea that is made by some of the fact to engage in no work by which individual prosperity may be promoted and the general weal of the State and of the whole country enhanced.

We do not wish to be understood as implying that any very large class of the citizens of Georgia are hopeless or desponding. The results of the crops this year prove the contrary. In the face of one of the most baleful droughts that the State has ever seen the crops are such as to give the greatest encouragement for future agricultural labor. Reasoning men will take into account the obstacles in the way of successful agriculture this year, and will be encouraged by partial success to strive harder the coming year. Already men have expressed their regrets that they have lost a year in inactivity, and another year they are determined to do better; while the feeling of hope has sprung up generally in the African breast, and higher wages are asked and promised the next year.

The Legislature of the State is also influenced by general hope which has revived. Railroads have been chartered to run in every direction through the State. State encouragement has been given to foreigners and people from the North to settle here, and manufacturing and mining companies are as abundant as could be desired. No papers are shunned because they are radical if they are true. All the principal papers of New York are freely circulated, and I even heard the *Tribune* spoken of by a prominent member of the Legislature as one of the best and ablest papers in the country.

In many instances the transformation of habits among the people is truly wonderful. I have often seen the Yankee character sticking out so plainly in native born Georgians that I have wondered myself. Men and even women and children have gone to the field or to appropriate work, while the African is left free to fill the schoolhouse with his children, and to refuse to allow his children to do menial work. The change will still go on. In addition to this a very marked change is taking place in the comparative number of whites and blacks in some of the counties. The counties best adapted to the raising of cotton, where the best prices for labor can be paid, are depleting rapidly the grain counties, while over the roads that lead to the more fertile lands of the West a constant stream of black population is flowing with increasing volume. A bill will be introduced into the Legislature to tax negro brokers $500, as it is seriously apprehended that under the enticing influence of high wages some counties may lose (and the loss will be forever) more of the black population than can be well spared at the present time. Under the inspiring influence of hope and reviving prosperity the demoralization and marked mortality among the African race has been arrested.

The great incubus on Georgia is private debts. The State Legislature strongly squints at repudiation; but it certainly will not be attempted in this session, except by the influence of stay and exemption laws of the kind indicated formerly.

The bonds of the railroad to run from Macon to Brunswick will be endorsed by the State, and in consequence the friends to the measure who have been using all their energies to carry the measure through the Legislature think the road will be finished in twelve or eighteen months. The railroad known as the Air Line, whose President lives in New York, will also have its bonds endorsed by the State; at least such is the probability. The Legislature has passed a bill to that effect, and the only doubt on the subject is whether a two-thirds majority in both houses can be obtained to pass it over Jenkins' veto, for he will certainly veto it.

The President's Message was received in Milledgeville the day after its delivery in Washington. I have heard but few comments upon it. Indeed, the days of painful solicitude in relation to messages of the President and acts of Congress have passed away from the people here, they rightly judging that any President must be a conservative man if he consults the good of the whole people, and any act of Congress that forges chains for the necks of the people of any one State has forged the same chain for the necks of the people of every State.

ALABAMA.

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

Interesting Proceedings of the Legislature—Rapid Growth of the Union Feeling—The Anxiety of the People in Regard to the Action of Congress—Bright Prospects for the Adoption of the Constitutional Amendment.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Dec. 5, 1866.

Affairs are looking brighter every day, and the indications are now that the Legislature will take some favorable action on the constitutional amendment this very week. The bill introduced on the 3d inst. by Mr. Brooks, of Lowndes county, providing for negro suffrage, set the ball in motion, and has been productive of the most happy results. Mr. Brooks has since heard from his constituents, and I am glad to say his action has met with their most hearty approval.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

In the Senate to-day the Committee on Federal Relations, to whom was referred the constitutional amendment, together with a preamble and resolutions submitting the proposition of Congress to the people at an election to be held in August next, reported that according to the constitution of the United States it was necessary for the Legislatures to ratify the proposed amendment, and that, apart from motives of propriety as well as courtesy towards the government of the United States, it was a plain and palpable duty which the Legislature owed to itself and the requirements of the federal constitution, that it should promptly consider and act upon the proposed amendment as wisdom and patriotism dictated. The concluding part of the report ran as follows:—"To ignore the subject altogether, to leave a question of so solemn a nature, and so vitally important to the commonwealth, to shift directly or indirectly the grave responsibility which attaches to it to a future Legislature, would be in the estimation of your committee a dereliction of duty without a palliating circumstance, discourteous to the authority which has sent it here, and unwelcome to the people of the State, who are in no heart at this juncture to become embroiled in any political strife. For this among other reasons your committee report adversely to the resolutions."

Mr. HARRIS, of Chambers county, got the floor and remarked that no good could come from any discussion upon a mere abstract question. He thought that people would be much better employed in trying to build up the State, and restoring it to prosperity than in arguing a question of State rights, which had been talked about for fifty years back. He, therefore, moved to lay the report on the table.

Mr. GARNETT hoped the motion to lay on the table would be withdrawn for a moment. He had a single remark to make.

Mr. HARRIS—With that understanding I am willing to withdraw my motion for the present.

Mr. GARNETT—There is a Senator here who wishes to offer a substitute for that report. Senator Sykes, I believe.

Mr. HARRIS—In that case I will not withdraw my motion.

Mr. SYKES said he was sorry to see that the gag law was about to prevail.

The report of the committee was laid upon the table by a vote of 21 to 9.

Mr. Sykes' proposition was to submit the constitutional amendment to a vote of the people to be given at a special election on the second Tuesday in January next, so that it might be a guide to the Legislature how to act. It is one which is thought very favorably of by Governor Patton, the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House and the most influential citizens of the place. In all probability it will come up again before the Senate before the end of the week.

LEGISLATING FOR THE FREEDMEN.

The present Legislature shows an excellent disposition to do justice to the freedmen. A bill to amend the Stay law so that it would not apply to contracts for labor and suits for assault and battery has received a second reading, and will no doubt become a law this session. The object of the amendment is to enable negroes to make contracts for the coming year without fear of being kept out of their wages two years or more, if their employers are disposed to take advantage of the Stay law. This bill ought to be passed immediately, as most of the contracts between the freedmen and their employers are made about Christmas time.

PETITION TO CONGRESS.

Mr. MORRIS presented a petition to the Congress of the United States praying for the passage of a uniform bankruptcy bill. In the present condition of things he thought it was the only means left the people of the State to recuperate their lost fortunes. The matter was laid over until the 16th of January next.

THE ANXIETY TO HEAR FROM WASHINGTON.

The President's Message, or rather a portion of it, is at hand, but the anxiety to hear from Congress overshadows everything else, and but little interest is taken in what the President has to say. The people are beginning to feel that they are completely at the mercy of Congress, and every movement of that body will be looked upon with the deepest interest. Consequently I am asked the question a dozen times every day, "What is the news from Washington?" Everywhere the hope is expressed that Congress will not act precipitately in the matter, and that the Southern States will be allowed a few weeks' grace before any definite plan is agreed upon. Some of the legislatures, among the rest the Legislature of this state, instead of adjourning now in a few days, as is the custom, have decided to take a recess until the 15th of January, so that the members might have an opportunity of going home and conferring with their constituents, and they are anxious that Congress will not decide upon any plan of action before the different legislatures meet again. There is no doubt the Southern people will be better prepared to act upon the constitutional amendment six weeks hence than they are today. They are becoming more reconciled to their peculiar situation day after day, and from the assurances I have received from several of the leading men in the Legislature I have no hesitation in saying that in less than six weeks from now the people of Alabama will be fully prepared to vote for the adoption of the constitutional amendment or some kindred measure that will be acceptable to Congress and the people of the North. "Give us a little time," they say, "to go and see our constituents and explain the true condition of affairs to them, and we will come back ready to swallow the dose, obnoxious as it is." They seem to be sincere in what they say, and I have no doubt will act in good faith if Congress allows them the few weeks of grace they ask for.

Judge Wiley, the member of Congress elect from this district, leaves for Washington in the morning. He is a staunch Union man, and will, no doubt, do what he can to induce Congress not to act precipitately in any matter affecting relations between the people of this State and the general government.

NORTH CAROLINA.

OUR RALEIGH CORRESPONDENCE.

RALEIGH, N. C., Dec. 8, 1866.

There are two or three matters of fact which I send you this morning as an illustration of what is going on in the "Old North State."

The "regulators," or, more appropriately, "unhung scoundrels," have renewed their work of burning, robbing and murdering with vigor as Christmas approaches. The operations are mostly confined to the Eastern half of the State, and their compliments are almost universally paid to negroes and Yankees, thereby indicating the animus of the animal. The devils who compose the rank and file of these "regulators" are low born brutes; but they are led by the sons and relatives of former nabobs, and, inasmuch as the better classes do not cause them to be arrested and hung, therefore I charge that these upper classes sympathize with them. It does no good for them to say they do not, so long as they remain passive, while their sons and relatives are encouraging and leading on the miscreants to their work of diabolism.

Recently they set fire to the gin house of a Mr. Coltgrove, a Northerner, who had purchased and was cultivating a plantation in Jones county. Besides the gin house they destroyed his cotton press and quite a large amount of cotton that he had gathered, pretty much ruining the man's prospects. And it was intended that it should ruin him. They don't want the "damned Yankees" here. And yet they talk about encouraging emigration! It gets the encouragment the wolf gives to the lamb. A few days ago a German family emigrated to Newbern, and but for some Germans and Yankees who have looked to them, as I learned when there yesterday, they would have starved since their arrival. Emigration is encouraged here with a vengeance.

Recently a Mr. Williams was shot by the regulators in Greene county. Negroes are robbed and murdered by the same persons every day in the eastern half of the State. This is not mere assertion, but fact, and whoever denies it knows, if he knows anything, that he denies what is true. The most of these cases never get into the papers. They are kept hushed up by the offenders themselves, or else the papers dare not publish them. This may all go to indicate a pretty bad state of feeling down here, but it is true, nevertheless; and if Southern Unionists, Yankees and the negroes dared to speak out just what they think, every one of them would avow it all to be true, and not the hundredth part told at that.

A New York merchant, who is buying cotton in this State, recently took two nieces who are spending the winter here to a tournament ball at Goldsboro, where they were so insulted by the chivalric rebel ladies (!) present that they were obliged to leave the dancing hall. And this, too, when their uncle has large interests in the State. "Encouragement to emigration" comes in here.

There is just now considerable giggling in the towns along the railroad in the Eastern part of the State, (where the parties are generally quite well known) over the following blood thirsty correspondence. You will see from this (as well as from other evidence I have given you) that the war is not over yet. Mr. Disosway, one of the parties named, is a broker, and Mr. Justice, a lawyer, both being old citizens of Newbern. Here is the way it is done among the chivalry, as posted about the streets of Newbern, and also published in one of the Newbern papers:—

TO THE PUBLIC.

The following card was handed to me by a friend this morning:—

A CARD.

NEWBERN, N. C., Dec. 3, 1866.

A personal difficulty having occured between Mr. Alexander Justice and myself, and having demanded satisfaction usual between gentlemen, which he has refused, I hereby post him as a poltroon and coward. I. DISOSWAY.

In justice to myself, and from a jealous care to preserve the good opinion of a community in which I have lived thus long, enjoying its respect and esteem, I am now called upon to discharge the most disagreeable and painful duty of my life.

I shall proceed to a correspondence which of itself is enough to convince the public mind of my desire to screen from its gaze a private family quarrel; and nothing but my own good name, and a desire to return it pure, as a legacy to my children, should force me to divulge what I believe is necessary to attain this end.

On Saturday evening last I was presented with the following note:—

NEWBERN, Dec. 1, 1866.

Mr. JUSTICE:—Sir—Your conduct to me to-day cannot be overlooked, and the bearer of this note, my friend, Mr. Primrose, will make such arrangements for satisfaction as may be proper and necessary for the vindication of my honor. I. DISOSWAY.

Hereupon follows a correspondence in the good old Southern chivalric style, summed up in this conclusion of the card of the challenged party:—

Vain glory! He knew I would not fight him when he challenged. I would chastise him for bad treatment to a sister, but I would not deprive her of a husband, contemptible as I thought him.

So much for his bravery; a word for his pusillanimity, and I have done.

Having some misgivings that I might fight him, he seeks every means of giving publicity to the challenge; not only makes confidants of all he meets, but confides the secret to the wife of his bosom, my own dear sister. How noble! how generous of him! "I am going to kill your brother, dear wife, but I do not want you to say anything about it."

He is too small in stature, in mind and in character to require further from me at this time. ALEX. JUSTICE.

Dec. 3, 1866.

We are having here the loveliest kind of weather, the days being as warm and sunny as in June. It cannot continue thus much longer, however. Business is dull; so much so that the merchants are all having the dumps. The cotton crop is so very much lighter than was anticipated that it takes all the money that comes from that to pay up debts for past expenses, and nothing can be afforded for luxuries. No one, scarcely, in all the State has raised more than one-half what they anticipated, and what they had very good reason to anticipate even as late as the latter part of August. Then the rust struck it, and a very short crop is the result. Many will not raise more than one-third of what was reasonably anticipated, which will not pay expenses.

With all these drawbacks the South is truly in a deplorable condition. She is hardly any better off now than when the war closed. The curse of God seems to be smiting her more and more every day; and, what is the worst of it, her people will not see and acknowledge it, and act in a spirit becoming such a condition of things. Instead of owning up that they have done wrong and made fools of themselves, and with a cheerful face extending the hand of fellowship and pledging amity and co-operation in all that pertains to the glory and welfare of the country hereafter, as one would naturally infer it would be their true policy to do, to say nothing about the promptings of magnanimity and chivalry, they go scowling about, grinding their teeth, cursing the Yankees and the "d—d niggers," deploring the "lost cause," and constantly raking up social, military and political embers that ought to have been permitted to die out long ago. The President's message, even, does not seem to revive their gloomy spirits. And yet they are wondering all the time why emigrants do not pour in here; why business does not revive; why the "niggers" will not go out into the country and work for them; why Yankees will complain if they rob them; why the "niggers" won't consent to be murdered without grumbling; why the Southern States are not admitted, and various other idiosyncracies of this aristocracy, innocent and chivalrous people.

VIRGINIA.

OUR RICHMOND CORRESPONDENCE.

RICHMOND, Dec. 6, 1866.

In the House of Delegates to-day a communication was received from the Governor in relation to the Loudon and Hampshire Railroad, which is now in running order a portion of its length, and will be completed to Leesburg shortly by its present company, who are unable to proceed further with the work. The Governor recommends the sale of the road on condition that it shall be completed by its purchasers to the coal regions in Hampshire county, which are said to be the most extensive and valuable in the country, the Pennsylvania mines not excepted. For the manufacture of gas this coal is unsurpassed in quality. That now brought to Baltimore by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad from the adjacent Piedmont region, though of a superior quality, is far inferior to the Hampshire coal. Added to this the road would pass through the most fertile and wealthy portion of Virginia, Loudon, Jefferson and Berkley counties into Hampshire, and would cause the development of their great resources, besides building up the city of Alexandria as a commercial mart. The route will involve the bridging of the Shenandoah river and the tunnelling of the Knobby Mountain, on the border of Hampshire county, or a heavy and circuitous grade to reach the location of the mines. For an investment of capital there is no better enterprise than this. Copies of the message were ordered to be printed for the use of the House.

A bill was passed in the Senate authorizing the Dismal Swamp Canal Company to issue eight per cent bonds by a vote of seventy-seven yeas to two nays. No other business of importance was transacted, and both houses adjourned at an early hour.

By an examination of the books of the Collector of Internal Revenue it is ascertained that the people here are not altogether without resources. Incomes are reported by four hundred persons at $1,000; one hundred and twenty-five at from $500 to $1,000, and twenty-one over $500 each, which is a gratifying exhibit considering the poverty stricken condition of the community generally; but should the crops the coming year turn out favorably there is every reason to believe that a new era of prosperity and welfare will dawn on the people of this old commonwealth, such as their most sanguine expectations never before realized. The crop of wheat now planted is estimated to be the most extensive yet deposited in the soil of the State. Other grain crops will also be comparatively large, as will also the tobacco crop, so that with a propitious season next year the State will again be in a prosperous condition.

There is no news whatever of a political character here; the people are tired of the present radical agitation, and wish it ended by almost any means possible; they are anxious only to build up their State, and to do this are busy in attending to their domestic affairs—the cultivation of their lands, the rebuilding of their houses, and the development of their internal resources as means will permit. There is some talk as to the probable fate of the amendment at the hands of the Legislature. A great many are anxious that it should be adopted, while others are bitterly opposed to it, the press being unanimous against it. Some say it will be rejected by both houses without a dissenting vote, while others declare there will be a large number in its favor. This latter is the opinion most generally entertained, though it is conceded by all that it will be rejected.

EPISCOPAL CONVENTION.

Assembling of the Convocations of Long Island—The Diocesan Question Considered—A Large Attendance of the Clergy, &c.

The convocations of Long Island assembled again yesterday morning, pursuant to adjournment, at Grace church, corner of Hicks street and Grace court. The attendance was not very large.

After preliminary religious exercises the business meeting was organized, the Rev. Dr. Littlejohn being called to the chair.

The Rev. Mr. MOORE moved that the laymen present be requested to hand their names to the Secretary, that it might be known how many parishes were represented. Before this motion was put, on motion of the Rev. Mr. Partridge, the minutes of the last meeting were read by the Secretary, the Rev. Mr. Appleton. The orginal motion was then carried.

The Rev. Dr. HOFFMAN said he had learned there was a letter from the Bishop of New York, explaining why he was not present, and on his motion it was read.

LETTER FROM THE BISHOP.

This letter stated that he could not be present owing to the fact that he had made an appointment to preside at a meeting of the Northern Convention, held in Albany on the same day, and having had on Wednesday to consecrate a church in the neighborhood. The Bishop added:—"My presence with you is the less necessary inasmuch as at your last meeting I declared very distinctly my entire readiness to concur in measures for the erection of Long Island into a diocese in the manner suggested in my address to the last convention of the diocese, and I confess I hope that nothing may occur to prevent its being accomplished with perfect good feeling."

On motion of Mr. HOFFMAN the letter was placed on the minutes.

A DESULTORY DEBATE.

On motion of D. R. FLOYD JONES the report of the committee of which Rev. Mr. Paddock was chairman was read by the latter—which sets forth the urgent necessity of active missionary measures, and advising the distribution of religious knowledge by means of the religious press and pamphlets, and also the establishment of branch Sunday schools and active mission work for adults and young.

Rev. Mr. RILEY advocated the establishment of a school in his parish.

Rev. Mr. HASKINS offered a series of resolutions referring to the object of the meeting. He reviewed the history of the endeavor, for several years continued, to establish a new diocese. Bishop Potter had opposed the division of the diocese, and had declared that he could not consent to it until he saw it was required by the interests of the diocese; and to this result he would come without any pressure from outside parties. Now he had concluded that the time for the division had arrived.

Rev. Dr. HOFFMAN moved that the secretary be requested to return to the Bishop the acknowledgment of the reception of his letter, and the regret that his official duties had prevented his attendance. A resolution and preamble embodying these ideas was then offered and adopted.

Mr. HASKINS' resolutions provided that the subject of discussing the question of the diocese be taken up, and that such knowledge be obtained from those present as would lead to the furtherance of the object in view.

On this resolution some discussion ensued. It was stated that $40,000 would have to be raised for the establishment of the Episcopic, while some estimated that $100,000 would be required. It was a question, therefore, whether the necessary sum could be raised.

Rev. Dr. GREENLEAF remarked upon the activity exhibited in the Roman Catholic Church, and the need of more energy and more churches of the Episcopal denomination. A Bishop was needed to superintend and properly care for the interests of this Church on Long Island, particularly in Brooklyn.

Rev. Dr. LITTLEJOHN remarked on the questions to be put by the committee of the Episcopal Convention to the representatives of the parishes of Long Island, and gave assurances that the committee would endeavor to do its duty fully and faithfully.

Rev. Dr. PADDOCK stated that the question was one between a very large diocese and a diocese of moderate size. The diocese of Long Island would be large enough to take a respectable stand, and its responsibilities would be sufficient for any one man to assume.

QUERIES PROPOUNDED.

In behalf of the committee appointed at the last Convention to consider the whole subject and report to this meeting, they propounded the following questions to the Long Island convocations previous to making a report to the next annual Diocesan Convention of New York:—1. In your judgment, is the erection of a new diocese in the southern part of the diocese of New York desirable, to consist of Long Island, and, in a certain contingency, of States Island; and with an endowment of the episcopate of not less than $40,000; it being understood that a connection with the mother diocese shall be retained for the promotion of their common interests? 2. Should such a connection not be retained, would the erection of the proposed new diocese, in your judgment, be advisable? 3. Is it, in your judgment, practicable to raise a sum of not less than $40,000 for the creation of a fund for the support of the episcopate of the proposed new diocese? If yea, please state on what facts or information your judgment is founded. 4. If your judgment is adverse, either in whole or in part, to the erection of the proposed new diocese, will you state the grounds of your opinion?

DEBATE ON THESE QUERIES.

Rev. Mr. HOFFMAN then spoke in favor of the endowment of a bishopric and of the amount which would be necessary for that purpose.

Rev. Dr. FARRINGER spoke in objection to the severance of the diocese, and remarked that what the Episcopal church needed beyond anything else was vital godliness on the part of the ministry.

Rev. Mr. STOCKING presented a series of resolutions favoring a division, with or without any connection with the mother diocese, and answering the several queries before given. The previous resolution was withdrawn to give place to these as a substitute.

Rev. J. CARPENTER SMITH opposed the division on the ground that it involved a change in the organic law of the church. This diocese, if separated, would rank sixth or seventh of all the dioceses in the United States.

Mr. COONSKILL, of Jamaica, remarked that in a country so rich as Long Island it was ridiculous to question the ability to raise $40,000, and he felt satisfied $100,000 could easily be procured for a purpose of this kind if necessary.

Rev. Dr. MANSFIELD was decidedly in favor of a division of the diocese, but he was as strongly opposed to its severance just now. He felt satisfied that the Bishop was opposed to the division, and he venerated and loved the man.

Rev. Mr. STOCKING said he had had a conversation with the Bishop this morning, and knew he was in favor of the division.

Rev. Mr. MOORE said a division of the diocese must eventually take place, and that it was especially necessary to appoint an assistant bishop, in order to relieve the present bishop of much extra labor, which in his advanced aged it is a providence of God that he is able to accomplish.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED.

The first resolution offered by Rev. Mr. Stocking, which affirmatively answers the first query, was adopted. The second resolution was also passed, and expressed the idea that if practicable a connection with the Mother Church ought to be maintained for the promotion of the general interest. The third resolution, which advises the erection of the new diocese, whether any connection with the mother diocese be retained or not, was also adopted. The fourth resolution, that the proposed endowment can be raised at the time specified by the Bishop in his address, was also passed.

A further discussion ensued after a short recess, during which nothing important was elicited—a vote of thanks being passed to the Bishop, as alluded to before. The Convention then adjourned.

COURT OF OYER AND TERMINER.

Alleged Murder.

Before Judge G. G. Barnard.

Leonard Fay, who had been indicted for alleged murder, was brought up for sentence. It appeared the prisoner admitted that a pistol which he had in his possession went off accidentally and shot his friend. There was no evidence to sustain the indictment, except the prisoner's own admission. Judge Barnard ordered the prisoner to be discharged, intimating that the judgment of the court was suspended for the present.

THE TEST OATH IN BALTIMORE.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 11, 1866.

In future no teacher employed in the schools of this State will be required to take the test oath or any other oath as a condition of love[illegible]

THE DIVISION STREET CATASTROPHE.

Inquest on the Bodies of the Victims—Testimony Before the Coroner—Verdict of the Jury—The Fire the Work of an Incendiary—The Mayor Recommended to Offer a Reward for the Detection of the Offender—Recommendation of the Jury Regarding the Storage of Petroleum, &c., &c.

Coroner Gover held an inquest at the Seventh precinct Police station house yesterday, on the bodies of the victims of the late disastrous fire at 215 Division street.

After the jury were empanneled they proceeded to the scene of the calamity, and made a thorough research of the premises. The rooms occupied by the unfortunate people were found in the utmost disorder; the furniture charred and blackened by smoke, and the dresses of the late occupants and the toys of the children were laying just as they had been left when their owners retired to rest the night before.

Having returned to the room where the inquest was to be held, the Coroner impressed the jury on the necessity of carefully investigating all the circumstances connected with the melancholy occurrence. It seemed to him there must have been some fault in regard to the storage of such dangerous materials as kerosene on premises where human beings resided, and he trusted the Legislature would enact laws that would better protect life in the city for the future.

TESTIMONY OF MICHAEL HACKETT,

who testified as follows:—I live at No. 201½ Division street; last night about half-past eleven o'clock I heard an alarm of fire, and went to No. 215 Division street, where I found smoke coming out of the front door and up through the grating from the basement; having friends in the house I attempted to enter the hall, when I met some friends coming out, who told me the police would not allow me to go in; I then returned to the street; one or two fire engines were there at the time; the most of the smoke seemed to be in the back of the house and going up the stairs; I saw the inmates making their escape; I think had I been allowed to go up stairs at the time I first attempted to do so I could have saved the lives of those who were lost; I saw a policeman standing at the door; I did not attempt to pass him, hearing from others that it was no use to try to do so; I arrived at the fire about three minutes after the alarm was given.

TESTIMONY OF PATRICK O'BRIEN.

Patrick O'Brien was the next witness examined, and testified as follows:—I live at 62 Market street; was sitting last night in a barroom at No. 3 Hester street, right across from where the fire was, about twenty-five minutes to eleven o'clock; I heard a noise in the street which I supposed was a fight; I ran out and saw at 215 Division street a crowd, and noticed a hose being stretched in there; I attempted to pass in at the hall door, when I met a policeman who asked me if I belonged to the fire department, I replied no, when he said "you cannot go in then;" finding it useless to stand there, I ran through the milk store and found the proprietor and his wife just getting out of bed; I told him to hurry out, as his house was on fire; I passed through their bedroom to gain the rear door in the hallway; when I opened the door leading to the back hall the flames met me, and I shut the door again and went to the front of the house; I attempted to go in through the front door again, but the policeman refused me admittance; while talking to him I was struck on the shoulder by something; did not know what it was at the time, but afterwards learned it was Mr. John Ford, who fell on me as he was jumping from the second story window; I went again to the policeman and told him there were others in the house; he said go away; the inmates were all out; I called a friend and we went through an adjoining house and got on the roof; I saw some firemen on the roof as we were going up, but when we got on the roof they were gone away; the smoke was so intense we had to leave also; there was no ladder leading from the top floor to the roof in the adjoining house, and we were compelled to swing ourselves up by our hands; had I been allowed to enter the house the first time I attempted to do so, I think I could have saved all the inmates, with the assistance of friends who were with me; at that time the smoke was not very dense; I did not see any of the inmates leave the house by the door of the burning house; the most of them escaped over the roof of the adjoining building.

TESTIMONY OF MR. JAMES CLARK.

I live at 90 Monroe street; was with the previous witness last night at the commencement of the fire; heard the alarm about twenty minutes to eleven o'clock, when I ran out and saw a crowd; proceeded to the spot and found it was a fire and not a row, as I at first supposed; we attempted to enter, but were stopped by a policeman; I heard O'Brien say to the policeman, "I have some friends there, and I desire to save them;" the officer asked him was he a fireman, and he answered he was not; I fully corroborate Mr. O'Brien's testimony; had I been allowed to go in there at first I could have notified all the persons in the house of their danger without the assistance of my friends; there were no firemen or any other persons going in or out therethen, but there were persons going through Mr. Kelly's store; the smoke was not very intense at the time, and I am sure I could have got up stairs and saved the people.

TESTIMONY OF MR. WALTON.

I live at 636 Water street; I was at No. 3 Hester street last night, when I heard a noise, and thought it was a row; I went out and saw Hook and Ladder Company No. 6 screwing the butt on the hydrant; I ran over to 215 Division street, and as I was going in the entry I heard some one sing out "take this baby;" the baby was being lowered out of the front window, first floor; some one took the baby and then another person said "take this woman," alluding to a woman who was being lowered from the same window; I then helped to take the woman; she fell on me and we both fell down; I then returned to the hall door and there met a policeman, who asked me if I was a fireman, and I said I was not; then said he, "you cannot go in;" I told him I had some friends there, but he again said "you cannot go in;" this was long before the fire alarm rung, but there was a hose cart there; Mr. Kelly then came out of the entry, and I assisted to remove his furniture across the street; there was no smoke at the time Mr. Kelly came out of the hallway that would affect anyone; I think I could have gone from the bottom to the top of the building at the time and aroused all the inmates if allowed to do so; I have been in worse fires than that was; it was about five minutes after I got there I saw Mr. Kelly; it was not the officer that they say was on duty at the time that stopped me; I did not see a fireman attempt to go into the house; they were attending to their apparatus.

To Mr. Phillips, the foreman of the jury:—It was about ten minutes after I arrived there the first ladder was raised, and that only reached to the first story, and it was fifteen minutes after that before the higher ladders were raised; the hydrant stream was the first water put on the fire; it was a good while before a steamer came there; I first thought it was a stable on fire, but when I saw the smoke coming out of the front cellar it looked like smoke produced by Kerosene oil, it was so thick and black; the ladder was raised in front of the building; we were after taking all Mr. Kelly's furniture across the street before the high ladder was raised.

TESTIMONY OF WM. HERBERT.

William Herbert, the next witness, said:—I live at 215 Division street, and occupied the room over the milk store; about half-past eleven last night I was passing through the bedroom and first noticed the smell of smoke; my sister opened the door and said the house was on fire; seeing smoke in the hall which was rushing up the stairway, I lowered all my people out of the front window; I then went round the room to gather up some things, and remained about twenty minutes in the room before I left; a small ladder was put up about five minutes before I left the house, over which I escaped; ten minutes after I left the house a long ladder was put up; if the long ladders had been put up when they first arrived, and an entrance gained by the windows, in my opinion, all could have been saved; I had to holloo sometime to put up a ladder before the small one was put up for me to escape by; I believe at the time I left the room nobody had been smothered; I have always had a dread of that house on account of the quantity of kerosene oil stored in the basement, that some accident of this nature might happen; Phalen, who is dead often said to me it ought be put out of the house; there is a subcellar under the basement; I have often noticed the floor of the basement soaked with kerosene oil; the smell of it in the sub cellar was very strong, and led me to think the gas generated would sometime blow us up; I have no knowledge that any person went into the cellar last night; the cellar was divided into wood houses for the families living in the house.

TESTIMONY OF MATTHEW DOUGAN.

Matthew Dougan was then examined and said:—I live at No. 215 Division street, and keep a kerosene oil store under the dwelling part of the house, and also use the basement under the milk store as a storage room for oil; I returned home last night from feeding my horse about half-past nine P. M., and retired to bed about ten or half-past; I sleep in the rear part of the store; as I was getting into bed my dog barked so incessantly; that my wife said I had better look lest some person was in the house, and I said no one could get in; the dog still continued to bark; I then got up and noticed smoke forcing itself through the crevices of the fan light over the door leading into the back hall; I then went out to the street through the store; I saw a hook and ladder company at work putting up their ladders to the house; I heard no bell at this time; dense black smoke was coming up through the grating just in front of the store door; my wife and child escaped; I did not attempt to save anything on account of the smoke coming up through the grating and entering the hall door; when the smoke had somewhat subsided I went in with one of the firemen and got some of my clothing; I am insured for $700, and value my stock at $1,000; I never had any oil in the sub cellar; never have been in it; have known tenants go down for wood there with a light, but do not know of any person doing so last night; the smoke was dense in my place; I had last night in my place only one full barrel of oil, about five gallons in another and about fifteen or twenty gallons in cans, which I brought back, not having sold all I brought out in the morning; I never my oil leaked so that it would drop into the subcellar; I have no personal knowledge of it but from what I have been told; I have a policy from an insurance company which allows me to keep from eight to ten barrels of oil; I do not know the name of the company; I never keep more than five barrels in my store at a time. (He was here asked if an oil can found in the sub cellar.) That oil can belongs to me; it had no right to be in the subcellar and I do not say how it got there; it was a can which leaked oil and had been repaired, and was lying in the hallway since then; I have no idea how the fire originated. (A policeman who had been sent to the fire origination of which was in Deegan's place returned examine his place and was only half a barrel there.)

TESTIMONY OF JAS. H. BALLENTINE.

James H. Ballentine next testified:—I am a member of the Metropolitan Fire Department, and live at No. 215 Division street; my truck lays at No. 150 Clinton street; was called out of my bunk room last night, but when I got down stairs the truck had gone; I then met Mr. Kelly, who told me my house was on fire; I ran home and was anxious to get to the top floor, as my wife lived there; Mr. Riley, one of our members, said he would go with me; we both attempted to go up, but were driven back before we reached the first floor by a dense smoke, with an occasional flash of flame in it; this smoke was black and perfectly stifling; I did not see a policeman at the door at this time; no one could have got up at the time except he was a perfect salamander; I then went into the street and assisted to raise a ladder, which reached up to my room, and went up it, and with my fire cap broke the window when the smoke gushed out and made me leave; I then went on the roof of the stable adjoining, from which a ladder led to the roof of No. 215; I went up this and found smoke and flame coming up the scuttle door; I tried to go down to look for my wife, but could not remain an instant there; I then returned as I came to the street; I subsequently learned my wife made her escape to the roof and dropped from that to the roof of the next building; if she had retired to bed at the time the fire broke out, I am satisfied she would have shared the same fate as the others; I have been always apprehensive a fire would break out in this house on account of the quantity of kerosene oil stored there, and that any person could come in from the street and go down to the cellar; the oil used to leak so freely through the basement floor as to saturate my wood in the subcellar; I have spoken to the agent about the necessity of putting a lock on the front door; my wife said, before finding the smell of smoke, she heard a noise which she thought was caused by a disturbance down stairs; after finding my wife safe I assisted in removing the dead bodies; I was at the fire before the bell rung; I am positive no human being could have succeeded in gaining the upper floors when I first attempted it, and I was at the fire very soon after it broke out.

TESTIMONY OF SIMON HESSE.

Simon Hesse testified he lived at 123 Suffolk street and leased the houses 217 and 217½ Division street, the adjoining houses to the one where the fire was; did not know there was a scuttle ladder in the house, and was never told that there should have been one there; knew there was a law regarding such matters; had this house only since May last.

TESTIMONY OF ABRAHAM C. HULL.

Abraham C. Hull, foreman of Hook and Ladder Company No. 6, said that on hearing the alarm of fire he started for the place, and attached a hose to the hydrant; the truck came up immediately after; a short ladder was put up, and he then went into the hall; after he got in eight or ten feet he could not get in further; he then ordered a long ladder put up outside; Ballentine and he went up together, but the smoke caused them to retreat after breaking a window; he then sent a ladder to the stable roof to reach the roof of No. 215, and some of the men went up that way; the first ladder was raised half a minute after the truck reached the fire, and the long one was up within four minutes; he succeeded in reaching Ballantine's room from the roof, when Engineer Owen called out from the window of the floor below to send some men to bring down the bodies; hearing this he at once went below, and found the engineer in Phalen's room, and lying on the floor were the bodies of a man, woman and two or three children; they looked as if they had got out of bed and could go no further.

TESTIMONY OF CHARLES L. KELLY.

Charles L. Kelly, a member of Hook and Ladder No. 6, testified to finding the bodies of the remaining victims.

TESTIMONY OF MRS. MARY MILLS.

Mrs. Mary Mills, of No. 14 Suffolk street, recognized the bodies of Mrs. Schilling and her child. Mrs. Schilling was a sister of Mrs. Galpin, who also lost her life at the same time.

TESTIMONY OF MRS. BUCKELMAN.

Mrs. Buckelman, a sister of Mrs. Gaipin, identified her body and stated that she resided at Savannah, Georgia, and was on a visit to her sister, Mrs. Schilling, at the time of the melancholy occurrence.

TESTIMONY OF POLICEMAN WINANS.

Charles H. Winans, the policeman who first discovered the fire, said his attention was first directed to it by seeing a light puff of smoke and a blaze which came up out of the basement and reached as high as the second story. When this explosion occurred he immediately gave the alarm and went to Hook and Ladder No. 6 and told them of it