NEW YORK CITY.

THE COURTS.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT—IN BANKRUPTCY.

Important Decision of Trusteeship.

This morning Judge Blatchford sat at eleven o'clock to hear motions in bankruptcy. In the matter of Francis B. O'Connor, an alleged bankrupt, Mr. B. K. Phelps, in pursuance of a motion to show cause, moved that Mr. W. H. Braman, the trustee of Mr. O'Connor's estate, be called upon to show why he should not be removed from his trusteeship for not having, as stated by counsel, given bonds to the amount of $100,000. Mr. Griswold said he was not counsel for Mr. Braman, but, in the capacity of an *amicus curiæ*, he would suggest a postponement for a few days, in the hope that a settlement of the question might be effected. He believed it would be very desirable that Mr. Braman should act as trustee. Judge Blatchford said he knew all about this case. Creditors to whom only $450 was due insisted on their right, according to the terms of the act, to have the bonds entered into by the trustee, while he believed the other creditors, representing debts to the amount of $100,000, would be perfectly willing, with the services of Mr. Braman, who, he thought, was competent to manage the trust—a large paper mill. The creditors without assigning any reason could demand the bonds to be filed, and the terms of the act were imperative upon the court to appoint another assignee if the bonds were not entered into. It was right to say that the creditors had not made any objection to Mr. Braman for want of pecuniary capacity. They merely insisted on their legal right. Mr. Phelps replied that he did not see from the papers that Mr. Braman was willing to act. Mr. Griswold said that Mr. Braman was a highly respectable gentleman, and it would be for the advantage of the creditors of the estate to secure the services of Mr. Braman as trustee. Mr. Dyatt, counsel for Mr. Braman, observed that his client was not willing to act in the matter; but it was probable that if the recent rule of the court in reference to the employment by assignees of solicitors who have acted or shall act for them in bankrupt matters could be got over, Mr. Braman would continue the trust. The further hearing of the matter was adjourned till Saturday next.

Motion to Discharge a Bankrupt from Arrest.

In the matter of Edward B. Stonehill, an alleged bankrupt, Mr. Dyatt moved to have the bankrupt discharged from arrest. Counsel on the other side having been heard, the court said the question was whether the debt provable against the party was one on which he would be entitled to his discharge from custody while the proceedings were going on; otherwise the court would have no power to deal with the matter. The Judge then ordered a reference to Commissioner Stallwell to take testimony and report to the court.

SUPREME COURT—SPECIAL TERM.

The Melville Divorce Case—Costly Litigation.

Sarah K. Melville vs. Henry B. Melville.—In the report of this case published in the HERALD recently it was stated that absolute judgment had been rendered for the plaintiff. The case had been for a long time before the court and in the hands of referees latterly upon the question of alimony. Prior to the entry of judgment on the 16th of November the following compromise was effected between the parties, releasing the defendant from the payment of upwards of $1,400 costs, back alimony and a future allowance of $15 per week to plaintiff:—

Sarah K. Melville vs. Henry B. Melville.—In consideration of the above defendant waiving the appeal taken to the general term of this court in the above action, it is stipulated that no decree shall be taken for any alimony or costs or counsel fees in the above cause according to the referees' report, but that simply a decree of divorce shall be taken, without any alimony or costs or counsel fees, either for the present or future, said claim for costs and counsel fees and present and prospective alimony having been compromised and settled.

SUPREME COURT—CHAMBERS.

Judgments of Divorce, &c., Granted Yesterday.

Before Judge Ingraham.

Judgments of divorce were granted yesterday in the following cases:—Manuella J. Avezzana against John L. Avezzana; Elenor G. Hartwell against Seth E. Hartwell, and Anna Jacobs against Marx Jacobs. In the case of Thomas R. Dawley against Antoinette A. Dawley, the court made the following order:—It is not usual to grant a divorce on the testimony of the person with whom the adultery is committed. Report referred back to the referee for further evidence.

SUPREME COURT.

The Late Ex-Chancellor Walworth—Meeting of the Bench and Bar.

A meeting of the bench and bar of New York city was held at noon yesterday in the Supreme Court, General Term room, and was attended by about fifty of the most distinguished and venerable members of the judiciary and legal profession. Among those present were:—Judges Leonard and Barbour, and Messrs. Charles Tracy, Marshall S. Bidwell, Edgar S. Van Winkle, William M. Evarts. Upon the meeting being called to order, Mr. Justice Daniel P. Ingraham was appointed president, and Judges John A. Lott and William Fullerton, and Professor Theodore W. Dwight, Charles Edwards and E. S. Van Winkle vice presidents.

The following resolutions were then offered by Mr. Nichol:—

Resolved, That the death of Reuben Hyde Walworth, the last Chancellor of this State, deserves peculiar commemoration by the profession of the law.

Resolved, That although nearly twenty years have passed since the judicial career of Chancellor Walworth terminated with the existence of the Court of Chancery, we still cherish a high sense of the eminent services rendered by him to the bar and to the public, while for so many years at the head of that great tribunal.

Resolved, That the energy, quick perception and extensive erudition of Chancellor Walworth, stimulated by an active and fearless judicial honesty, have rarely been surpassed; that retiring as he did from the bench in the full zenith of his great powers, it is our pride to acknowledge that the high character which the Court of Chancery had acquired under his illustrious predecessors, was at all times maintained by their last successor.

Resolved, That in the examination and discussion by Chancellor Walworth of the numerous and important cases that were brought before him during his long term of office, soliciting as they did a thorough and luminous exposition of almost every branch of equity and jurisprudence, we possess a vast body of law, which is of the utmost value, and is daily resorted to by the profession.

Addresses of eulogium were made by Daniel Lord, James W. Gerard and Charles O'Conor, after which the resolutions were adopted, and Mr. Bidwell moved that a copy of the resolutions be communicated to the family of the late distinguished jurist. The motion was carried and the meeting then adjourned.

SURROGATE'S COURT.

Before Gideon J. Tucker, Surrogate.

The following mentioned wills were admitted to probate:—Will of Charles Boegehold, Thomas Lang, Susan A. Pott, Daniel B. Martin, Jr., Walter Strant, Joseph Tucker. Letters of administration were granted as follows:—To Ellen T. Ward, on the estate of Selah T. Reeve; to Agatha Zimmerman, of Charles Zimmerman; to Catharine Reppenhagen, of John Nicholas Reppenhagen; to Mary B. Pell, of George T. Bruer; to John Holthauzer, of Eliza Holthauzer; to Mary I. Griffith, of Richard D. Jones; to Henry Baldwin, of Anna Baldwin, otherwise Anna Matthews; to Frederick J. Augustan, of William Augustan; to Clara Byrne, of John Byrne; to Henry E. Davies, Jr., public administrator of William Clark; to Catharine Dunn, of James Dunn; to Louis F. Decanse, of Cecile M. Decanse; to Barbara Freysinger, of Frederick Freysinger; to Julia G. Jerome, of Phares Gould; to Bridget Latty, of John Latty; to Fanny Barrow, of Charles B. Mease; to John V. Morgan, of Charles E. Morgan; to Henry E. Davies, Jr., Public Administrator, of Otto Weisserharen; to Margaret Keirnan, of James Keirnan; to John Kennedy, of William Kennedy, of Jacob Hyers, of William Myers; to Eunice Tracy, of Frances E. T. Parks; to Henry Weete, of John Weete.

Guardianship papers were issued to the following named persons, viz.:—To Francis L. Lockwood, guardian of Ida M. Lockwood; to Walter S. Pinckney, of Willet Sherwood; to John P. Trenham, of Sophia Toet, Minna and Caroline Toet; to Mortimer Hendricks, of Gertrude A. Isaacs; to Ellen Armstrong, of George C. Seckiyn; to John Teughey, of Michael Teughey; to John P. Hunt, Jr., of William C. Atkins; to Charles A. Reason, of William Fallon; to Charles B. Fisher, of Virginia E., Albert T., Julia G. and George W. Fisher; to Henrietta S. Nelson, of Joseph Bond and Lewis Bond; to Anthony Kaess, of Catharine Bender; to Joanna Boyle, of Thomas F. Boyle; to Catharine Early, of James and John Dwyer.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

FIRE IN WEST THIRTY-FIFTH STREET.—A fire broke out between nine and ten o'clock yesterday morning on the third floor of the tenement building 221 West Twenty-fifth street, in the premises of George Hoffman. It was caused by children playing with matches. Mr. Hoffman's furniture is damaged to the amount of $400; insured for $800 in the Continental Insurance Company. The top floor is occupied by F. Herman, whose furniture is damaged about $100; no insurance. The first and second floors are occupied by E. Hain as a dwelling and school. Damage by water about $100; insured for $700 in the People's Insurance Company. The building is owned by H. Rohrscheib, and is damaged about $500; fully insured.

THE CHARTER ELECTION.—The Board of City Canvassers, after a long session yesterday, completed the canvass for Mayor, Aldermen, Councilmen, &c., in the Fifth, Eighth, Nineteenth and Twentieth wards, and adjourned until noon to-morrow.

WEEKLY MORTALITY.—There were 386 deaths in this city during the week ending Saturday, the 7th instant, an increase of 24 over the total of last week. The increase, it is worthy of notice, is to be found in the list of deaths from consumption and lung diseases. People should be careful and adapt their flannels to the state of the weather, say the sages of the Sanitary Board.

THE LINCOLN MONUMENT AT UNION SQUARE.—The special committee on the subject appointed by the Union League Club has accepted the design for a statue of President Lincoln submitted by H. K. Browne, the sculptor. It is a perfectly simple, full length statue of Mr. Lincoln, of colossal size, and is to be supported by a base twenty feet in height. The statue will be cast in bronze, and the base will contain several emblematic and historical designs illustrating Mr. Lincoln's career. Enough money is already subscribed to pay Mr. Browne for the statue—twenty thousand dollars. As much more will be needed to complete the monument. The work on the statue will begin at once. The money for the erection of the monument is yet wanting, but it is thought there will be little difficulty in procuring it. A movement which originates in very bad taste, if not in a selfish or private motive, contemplates a change in the location of the monument to the northwest angle of the square.

REWARDS FOR THE DETECTION OF INCENDIARIES.—The alarming increase of fires during the present season has led to the belief that a great many of them are the result of incendiarism. The Board of Fire Underwriters holding this view, has lately decided to appropriate the sum of $50,000, to be publicly offered in amounts not exceeding $5,000, as rewards for the conviction and punishment of persons guilty of arson or incendiarism within the limits of the Metropolitan district.

THE LICENSE BUREAU.—Marshal Tappan of the Mayor's office reports the following as to licenses granted by him during the past week:—Pawnbrokers and second-hand dealers, 38; coaches, 96; venders, 61; public carts, 326; expressmen, 13; drivers, 270; miscellaneous, 22; total licenses granted, 825; whole amount received, $1,789 50.

ROMAN CATHOLIC ORPHAN ASYLUM.—The preliminary arrangements have been made for the annual ball at the Academy of Music, in support of the Roman Catholic Orphan Asylum. A meeting of the Young Men's Association has been held at the Peabody House, at which the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—President, Jeremiah Quinlan; First Vice-President, Walter Roche; Second Vice President, Charles O'Connor; Corresponding Secretary, T. J. Flynn; Recording Secretary, T. J. O'Brien; Treasurer, Francis Higgins. The association now numbers among its members some of our most influential and wealthy citizens. The ball will come off at the Academy of Music on the evening of January 16.

DEPARTURE OF TROOPS FOR TEXAS.—Two hundred and seventy troops left this city yesterday *en route* to Texas; one hundred and seventy from Carlisle barracks, Pennsylvania, to join the Sixth cavalry, stationed at headquarters, Austin, and one hundred for the Fourth cavalry, headquarters at Camp Verde. The following officers of the latter regiment accompanied the detachment, which left in the steamer Gulf Stream for New Orleans:—Brevet Major Clarence Mauck, commanding detachment; Lieutenants Justiman Aiman, W. H. Hicks, W. C. Bayliss, W. A. Thompson, A. Fairfax Bayard, Lewis Warrington, D. M. Scott, H. F. Winchester and D. Lynch.

POLICE RECORD OF THE WEEK.—The record of the number of arrests made in this city by the police during the week ending Friday, the 6th inst., stands as follows:—Saturday, 30th ult., 224; Sunday, 1st inst., 88; Monday, 2d inst., 191; Tuesday, 3d inst., 226; Wednesday, 4th inst., 238; Thursday, 5th inst., 212; Friday, 6th inst., 171. Grand total, 1,250.

MERCANTILE LIBRARY LECTURES.—Professor R. Levison delivered a free lecture last evening in room No. 14, Clinton Hall, before a number of young men connected with the mercantile library class on political economy. The lecture constituted the first of the term series, and was devoted mostly to an analysis, rather more acute than broad and comprehensive, of the late financial report of the Secretary of the Treasury. The professor contended that in his financial management the Secretary had manifested more than usual judgment, insight and ability, but indulged in some verbal criticisms of the use of the word "money" as used in the report. Professor Levison was of the opinion that, in the document under consideration the secretary had confounded the idea of money with that of loanable capital, and thus a want of logical precision—a cloudiness of meaning—had been engrafted upon an otherwise very able report. Money was one thing, and loanable capital, which might or might not be money, was something else of intrinsically different meaning. Some further criticism, sometimes logical, sometimes verbal, completed the lecture, which was one of exceeding acumen and interest.

HISTORICAL LECTURES.—Mr. Ernest O. Hopp delivered the first of his series of historical lectures last evening in room No. 24, Cooper Building. The subject was the "First Inhabitants of America," a topic upon which a great deal of theorizing and speculation has been expended, not particularly valuable so far as the settling of the vexed question is concerned. Mr. Hopp discussed with considerable erudition the state and peculiar barbarisms of the aboriginals, more than once hinting at the possible precedence of a certain sort of oriental civilization to the ages of barbarism through which the aborigines must have passed to have lost all traces of their origin and remote derivation.

The assemblage of listeners, though small—the room being about half filled—was very attentive. The delivery of the lecture, which contained not a little acute though satisfactory speculation upon various points of interest to antiquaries, occupied nearly an hour, and was one of an intended series upon topics of kindred import.

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.—About eight o'clock on Friday night, as James Connolly, aged sixty years, an inspector attached to the Croton Aqueduct Department and residing at No. 111 East Fourth street, was attempting to cross First avenue, near Second street, he was knocked down and run over by a double team hay wagon, fracturing both legs, and one of the wheels passed over his body, crushing and breaking his ribs. Officer Voss, of the Seventeenth precinct, had the injured man immediately conveyed to the Bellevue Hospital, where, after lingering about forty-five minutes, he expired. The driver, so far as could be ascertained, was not arrested.

KNOCKED DOWN BY A HORSE AND RIDER.—Late last night a man giving his name as William Smythe, and from letters found upon his person evidently connected in some way at No. 484 Pearl street, was knocked down in Chatham square by a man on horseback, who immediately he saw the apparent injury he had committed spurred his horse into a gallop and disappeared down Baxter street. Smythe sustained an incised wound from the horse's hoof on the left temple, but the surgeon does not consider it of a dangerous nature.

POLICE INTELLIGENCE.

TROUBLES OF A TRAVELING AGENT—HE IS ROBBED BY SHARPERS.—Last Wednesday night John W. Simpson, a traveling agent temporarily stopping in the city, was accosted in Park row by an Irish woman giving her name as Mary Ann Sharp, who asked for alms; at the same time she invited Mr. Simpson to her apartments at No. 33 Rose street, and when in the room he gave her $1 75. In a minute or two afterwards Mary Ann locked the door, upon which she immediately rapped with one of her fists and cried out, "Come in, Harry, he's got lots of money." The room door was then burst in by Henry Sharp, alias Wilson, the reputed husband of Mary Ann, and another man, when Sharp, it is alleged, struck the frightened countryman on the head and knocked him down, holding him fast on the floor while the other individual rifled his pocket of a gold watch and chain, a revolving pistol and gold finger ring. The two then released Simpson, and after stripping off his overcoat fled down stairs, followed by Mary Ann, but as they were leaving the house the landlord seized the coat from one of the men and returned it to the owner. Mr. Simpson subsequently called at the Oak street police station and made known his loss to detective Herbelt, of the Fourth precinct, at the same time giving a minute description of the parties who robbed him. Search was immediately made for the offenders, and on Friday Mary Ann and her Henry were arrested by detective Herbelt, who also caught the other man at the same time; but he pulled away and made his escape. On searching Sharp, alias Wilson, a pawn ticket was found representing the pistol stolen from Mr. Simpson, and it was received from a shop in Brooklyn, where it had been pledged. This prisoner afterwards confessed to detective Herbelt that he had pawned the watch and chain at a place in Eighth avenue, where they were recovered. All the property stolen, except the ring, has been recovered. The accused parties were yesterday brought before Justice Hogan, where Mr. Simpson appeared and entered a complaint against them, upon which they were committed to the Tombs in default of $5,000 bail each. The prisoners are each twenty-three years of age. Detective Herbert is now in active pursuit of the third party concerned in the roberry. Mr. Simpson was detained as a witness.

A YOUTHFUL BURGLAR.—Charles W. Rodgers, a Boston lad, only sixteen years of age, was yesterday arrested by Officer Sulwell, of the Second precinct, on the charge of forcing an entrance to the store of Mr. Thomas Hooper, No. 122 Nassau street, on the night of the 14th ultimo, and stealing therefrom gold leaf, two glazier's diamonds, oil paintings, chromos, lithographs and photographs valued at $185. Recently Rodgers, it is alleged, offered to sell the stolen gold leaf to Mr. Walter D. Van Vechten, of 43 Ann street, which fact was subsequently brought to the notice of Mr. Hooper. Rodgers was called upon to account for his possession of the gold leaf, but failed to do so in a satisfactory manner. He says he found the property in Twenty-third street, but his story was not believed. In default of $1,000 bail Justice Hogan committed him to the Tombs for trial.

GOLD THEFT IN THE BOWERY.—On Friday evening Mrs. Jane Wilson, residing at No. 176 Duane street, while passing through the Bowery was jostled against by Charles Wilson, a colored waiter, who, it is alleged, cut out the pocket of her dress, in which was a portemonnaie containing $17 in Treasury notes and fractional currency, with which he attempted to escape. Mrs. Wilson seized hold of him and held him till officer Dolon, of the Sixth precinct, came up and took charge of the prisoner. Justice Hogan committed the accused to the Tombs for trial. Wilson denies his guilt. He lives in Thompson street.

ARREST OF ALLEGED BUTTER THIEVES.—John Thilman, of 102 Broad street, yesterday morning heard something heavy drop on the floor, and looking round saw a tub of butter rolling out on the sidewalk. Hastening to the door Mr. Thilman saw a young man running away. He was pursued, and being arrested by officer Ryan, of the First precinct, gave his name as John Brown, a Scotchman, twenty-two years of age, living at 139 Cherry street. Patrick McManus was arrested by officer Lamoreux, of the Third precinct, charged with stealing a tub of butter from John B. Cadugan, of 173 Chambers street. The prisoner, it is alleged, was caught in the act of shouldering the butter, which stood in front of the store. Both Brown and McManus were taken to the Tombs and committed by Justice Hogan to await their trials. The butter alleged to have been stolen by Brown is valued at $30 and that taken by McManus $5 less.

SHOPLIFTERS.—Yesterday afternoon Thomas Nugent and Thomas Murray, twenty and twenty-one years of age, stepped up in front of Mr. William B. McKenzie's store, No. 751 Broadway, and, it is alleged, stealing a cloak valued at $30, ran across the street with it. Detective Woolsey, of the Broadway squad, followed in pursuit, and arrested the offenders, who struggled hard to escape from him, but in vain. Murray and Nugent were taken before Justice Hogan and committed to the Tombs for trial.

SWINDLERS ABROAD.—It is stated that one or more persons have recently been engaged in collecting bills due to the Knickerbocker Ice Company by falsely representing themselves as agents of the company. What amount has thus been collected has not transpired, but the parties are known and the police are in search of them.

THE CASE OF PATRICK MCDONALD—CASE DISMISSED AT REQUEST OF COMPLAINANT.—In the case of Patrick McDonald, arrested some weeks ago on the charge of defrauding Antoine Charnoy, a Frenchman, out of $450, the complainant recently addressed a letter to Justice Hozan, requesting permission to withdraw the complaint against McDonald, inasmuch as he had grave doubts as to his guilt. Charnoy has been furnished a free passage back to Europe by Mr. Inman, of the Inman line of steamers, and is very anxious to return to his family and business. By consent of the District Attorney and at Mr. Charnoy's earnest solicitation Judge Hogan dismissed the complaint and honorably discharged McDonald from custody.

ALLEGED ATTEMPT AT BURGLARY.—About two o'clock yesterday morning the premises occupied by Albert Challberg, No. 285 Third avenue, were attempted to be burglariously entered, and a quantity of property, consisting of jewelry, wearing apparel and money, in value amounting to $450, attempted to be feloniously taken and carried away. Mr. Challberg says that he was awakened by noises as if some one was endeavoring to enter the house, upon which he got out of bed, and looking from the window saw a man in a stooping position on the shed. The alarm of "watch" was then given by complainant, when the man jumped from the shed and ran down Twenty-third street. A few minutes after officer Clinchy appeared with a man in charge. Mr. Challberg then went to the station and made a complaint against the young man, who gave his name as James Short. He was brought before Justice Ledwith, at the Jefferson Market Police court, yesterday, and a charge of attempted burglary preferred against him. Short says he is twenty-two years of age, a porter by occupation, and is entirely innocent of the charge preferred against him. He was committed for trial in default of $1,500 bail.

PRECOCIOUS YOUTHS.—Detective Reilly, of the Twentieth precinct, arrested two youngsters on Friday night on the complaint of George W. Raynor, No. 56 Hicks street, Brooklyn, who charged them with stealing a leather sample case and whip, valued at $20 50, from a wagon which was standing in the street. The prisoners' names are Hugh Curry and Richard Weeks. They were brought before Justice Ledwith yesterday morning on the above charge, who committed them to answer the complaint at the Court of Special Sessions.

KNOCKED OFF A FIVE STORY HOUSE AND NOT HURT.—A few days since one of the Killeen boys, whose Christian name is Thomas, but who is usually called Tom for short, was brought before the presiding magistrate at the Second District Police Court, on a charge of disorderly conduct. From the complaint made by the officer it seems that Tom was employed in the important position of hodcarrier by a master builder, who had a house in course of erection, but who was discharged by his boss for some cause, and from this circumstance the disturbance arose which resulted in the arrest of poor Tom. When brought before the magistrate he was asked what he had to say.

"Well, yer 'onor," began Tom, "I was workin' whin the boss knocked me off the bildin."

"How high was the house?" asked the magistrate.

"'Twas a tiniment house, sur; 'bout five stories up," replied Tom.

"And were you much hurt?" pursued his Honor.

"Hurt, yer 'onor?" says the man of the hod carrying persuasion, inquiringly. "An', shure, whot 'id I be hurt for, eh?"

"Well," replied the magistrate, by way of information, "you have said you were knocked of the building by your boss."

"Ah, sur, I thought you was mistaken," spoke out Killeen, "when I sed I was nocked off the bildin'. I didn't mane that the boss shov'd me off the lather; I maned I was stopt from workin'. Thim me and me boss had a few words, you see, and it inded wud the officer (askin' me up."

"You can go this time," said the Judge, "but don't get taken up again for being knocked off."

NARROW ESCAPE FROM DEATH.—On the night of the 3d inst. a quarrel took place between Charles Cullam and Francis Real in a liquor saloon in Third avenue, near Fifty-eighth street, during which Real pulled out a small penknife, and opening it, it is alleged, drove the blade deep into the fleshy part of the neck of Cullam and within an eighth of an inch of the jugular vein of the said Cullam. Although immediate danger from the wound was not apprehended, still it bled so freely and continuously that it was thought necessary to call in a physician to stay the profuse sanguinary flow. It was not until yesterday that Real could be arrested; and when finally arraigned before Justice Connolly, of the Fourth District Police Court, he was held to bail in $500 to appear and answer at the General Sessions a charge of felonious assault with intent to take life. On his examination, and preliminarily to fixing the amount of bail, the defendant declared himself innocent of the charge preferred. Real is a man of thirty-five and a mason by trade.

STEALING FROM A PAWN OFFICE.—On complaint of Mary Smith Isabella Wood was yesterday arrested and arraigned before Justice Mansfield, of the Third District Police Court, charged with stealing sixteen yards of French merino from the pawn office corner of Delancey street and East Broadway, where it was lying on the counter. The property being found, as is alleged, on her person by the officer who arrested her, she was committed to prison in default of bail on the charge of larceny.

ALLEGED ATTEMPT TO STEAL A CASK OF GIN.—Two longshoremen, Timothy Connors and Thomas Moore, were arrested yesterday afternoon while in the act of rolling a cask of gin, valued at $200, from a pier on the East river, by the owners, Messrs. Hagememe & Brown. When arraigned before Justice Mansfield, at the Essex Market Police Court, the accused stated that they had been employed by some man, to them unknown, to remove the cask, and had no idea they were guilty of doing any wrong. One of the accused remarked "that a poor man didn't know what to do nowadays; for, if he didn't work he would starve, and if he did the chances were that he would be arrested for stealing from some one." In default of $500 bail each, the accused were committed for trial at the General Sessions on a charge of highway robbery.

STEALING ROPE FROM A VESSEL.—Henry M. George, an officer on board the ship Nonpareil, now lying at pier 46 East river, went before Justice Mansfield, of the Third District Police Court, yesterday afternoon, and alleged that he saw James O'Brien, whom he caused to be arrested, and who was present in court, in the act of taking one hundred and twenty feet of rope from the vessel. The accused denied the declaration of Mr. George; but, notwithstanding, in default of bail, he was locked up for trial.

SHIPPED FOR HAVERSTRAW.—Yesterday afternoon an officer brought in to the Jefferson Market Police Court a man named Paddy McGurk, who was suffering somewhat from the effects of an over-dose of whiskey. Paddy is a seafaring man, and makes frequent visits to the cities, towns and villages which line the shores of the lordly Hudson. A short time since he served on board a craft which brought a load of bricks to the city, and it is presumed after having received his honest wages he determined on having a little "hurrah" on the strength of it. When Paddy was brought before his Honor he was asked where he lived.

"Well," replied McGurk, "I ain't got as I knows of any particular place to live; I lives on board the skooner some times, in New York, in Haverstraw, and all over."

"Don't you know that it's not right for you to be drunk, and especially down around the docks?"

"Well, Judge," says Patrick, "I don't know that's any one's bizness but my own. I ain't got any too much in me, do ye think I have, your Honor? and what's more, Squire, I'd be on my way to Haverstraw now only for the officer. I think, Judge, you'd do right by me if you locked up him for interfering wid me in the performance of me duty, as I was agoing aboard the skooner. Now that's just how the land lies, Judge."

"You might have fallen into the water and been drowned only for the officer," said Judge Dodge.

"Ah, Judge, that's all in me eye," replied the Hudsonian navigator, "I ain't afraid of gettin' drowned, no way you can fix it. I ken swim like a duck, drunk or sober; that's what's the matter, and I want so M. P.'s to help me, I don't."

"Well, Patrick," said his Honor, "as you appear to be a little unwell just now, I'll give you permission to go with the officer down stairs, where you can remain until you get well."

"That's all right, your honor, I ain't got any objection to that; but, Judge, that 'ere skooner 'll be in Haverstraw afore me." Patrick then left.

HEAVY ROBBERY—$5,000 INVOLVED.—A safe in the house of Mr. Listen, 39 West Thirty-fourth street, was opened by a false key on Friday night, and diamonds and other jewels, and two five-twenty bonds of $500 each were carried off. The total value of the articles taken is estimated by the owner at $5,000. How or by what means the safe was reached by the thieves seems just now to be quite a mystery, as it was located in a sort of a closet in a room on the second story of the house, which could not have been entered by any person who did not, as the robbery proved, know more about the house than was good for the owner of the stolen goods.

A THEFT THAT WAS NEATLY DISCOVERED.—Frank Valerian, cashier to the auctioneer, Edward Schenck, No. 60 Liberty street, on Wednesday last received a letter purporting to be signed by a "worthy friend," asking him to meet him at three in the afternoon on Broadway and Fulton street on particular business. Mr. Valerian went to the corner mentioned, and after waiting some time and no friend appearing concluded that he had been badly sold, and returned to his place of business, where he found that $250 had been taken from the money drawer, for which he was responsible. He informed Mr. Schenck of the matter, and that gentleman, knowing that no one had been in the place while the cashier was absent, thought fit to suspect that the latter had taken the money and was trying to "pull wool over his eyes." The following day another letter was received at the store, addressed to Mr. Valerian, in which "an unworthy friend" stated that he had taken the money and had spent $30 of it, but that he would refund it as soon as he could manage to replace the $30. Mr. Schenck became more suspicious of his cashier, and that gentleman, feeling that he was deeply wronged in the matter, consulted Inspector Dilks and Captain John Young as to what should be done. The result of the consultation was that detective Dusenbury was sent to Mr. Schenck's to arrest a young man in the employ of the latter whom Mr. Valerian strongly suspected of being the thief. On being brought to headquarters the clerk in question, Charles Emerson by name, stoutly denied any knowledge of the missing money, while he was sustained in his assertions by his employer, who believed him to be honest, upright and honorable. Captain Young, however, put things in a very different light to Mr. S.'s view by a simple manœuvre, which was as follows:—He caused Emerson to write while he dictated the words which were written in the letters sent to Mr. Valerian by a "worthy" and an "unworthy" friend. The handwriting was not so disguised by Emerson in his task as to lose all identity with that of the original; but the wrong spelling of certain words in his dictated letters corresponded so exactly with the same spelling of the same words in the original letters that there was no doubt as to his being the thief even in the mind of his employer. Finding that he was caught in his own trap Emerson made a clean breast of it, and stated that he was the writer of the letters of a "worthy" and an "unworthy" friend, and that he had sent the first to get Mr. Valerian out of the way, so as the more easily to take the $250 from the till. About $130 of the money was recovered, and Emerson was committed on the complaint of Mr. Valerian to await his appearance before a magistrate.

THE PETERSEN ABANDONMENT CASE.

Argument of Counsel—Decision Still Reserved.

Yesterday the complainant and defendant in this case, together with their friends, assembled at the Third District Police Court to listen to the arguments of counsel (Mr. Reymert for Christopher Petersen, and Mr. Harrington for Catherine Petersen) in this remarkable case. The auditorium was crowded during the hearing of the argument, and so interested did the listeners seem, that for upwards of an hour (the counsel were limited to half an hour each) the utmost silence prevailed.

Mr. Reymert opened the argument by saying that it did not seem to him necessary to review at any length the evidence adduced in the course of the preliminary examination. It was overwhelming as to the innocency of his client; and it only surprised him that the complaint had not been dismissed weeks ago, and doubtless it would have been had not the claim of the woman been so audaciously presented, and at the beginning with certainly some slight show of truth; but, as his Honor must be aware, the evidence subsequently taken—evidence of seventeen responsible gentlemen—dissipated into air, thin air, these pretensions originally and so gravely set up. Counsel was not prepared to deny the marriage of this woman; but it was incontestable that she never was joined in marriage to his client, Christopher Petersen. Even Father Daily, the priest, on whom the complainant relied to prove her case, and who was brought to this city at great expense, on his cross-examination could not, he said, identify my client as the man whom she charges with being her husband, and cohabiting with her from November 1, 1857, and from that date for two years and nearly four months subsequently, or until the time of the disappearance or abandonment of her by that person, a French Canadian the priest thought him. The testimony was conclusive on one point, and that carried the whole question, the person whom the complainant asserts was her husband is not Christopher Petersen. We have proved conclusively that the years and months she claims that he lived with her in the relation of husband, and which claim her sister sustains by solemn averment, we show were passed in this city and Chicago. Now, how could this man, living with a woman as his wife, since dead, and who bore him five children, also deceased, in the years 1856 and 1857 in Chicago, and this, added to the fact that we have witnesses who declare that while in Chicago he was not out of their presence at any time to exceed the space of two hours; and while residing in this city he was seen by either one or the other witness every day. Thus, your Honor, we trace this man daily, almost every day, from his arrival in this country in 1854 to the present hour, and at no time could he have been out of this city or Chicago—the only two places in which he has resided, except when serving in the army—without the knowledge of some one of the very many who know him. And yet, sir, in the face of these facts, this woman declares this man her husband, who, seven years since, abandoned her! When this woman saw Mr. Peterson for the first time, some months ago, she then, in the presence of a credible witness said to her daughter, "This is not your father!" To which the child replied, "Mama, shall we never find father?" Mr. Reymert then reviewed, with some particularity, the evidence of the several witnesses, and concluded by saying, "Your Honor, I here close my review of this most extraordinary case—a case which has excited so much inquiry and sympathy in this city. To me it has seemed unnecessary to enter into a minute argument or assume any line of defence other than the plain facts adduced present. Resting secure in our innocence, having proved by a number of gentlemen our whereabouts almost since the hour we landed in America, and particularly have we covered those years wherein it is declared he cohabited with Catherine Patterson (as her marriage certificate authorizes her to call herself, and not Peterson, as she insists her maiden name is), we entrust our honor to your keeping, prepared to abide the issue.

Mr. Harrington, in behalf of the complainant, in reply to the arguments of the counsel for Peterson, said it was unnecessary to go over the ground again. He would be brief as possible. We do know by the evidence of Mrs. Quelch, who kept a boarding house in 1855 in Montreal, that Christopher Peterson, then calling himself Daniel, boarded with her—was an inmate of her house for upward of four months; that she saw and served him at table and elsewhere daily, for all that time. Now, is it possible that this woman could be mistaken? So intimate did he become in the family of Mrs. Quelch that he proposed to and was accepted in marriage by her sister, Catharine Maher, and, of course, as her brother-in-law, she further knew and associated with him for a further period of two years and nearly six months. She persists, and her testimony is nowhere shaken, that the man, Christopher Petersen, now present, is the man Daniel Petersen, who joined her sister in marriage. Again, your Honor, putting aside the contradictory testimony of the witnesses called in behalf of Peterson, I ask is it possible that this simple-minded, upright woman, who bore two children to this man, and lived two years and three months with him, in the conjugal relation can be mistaken as to identity? Impossible. To this testimony we add that of Father Daily, who swears that the man Christopher Peterson, to the best of his knowledge and belief is the Daniel Peterson whom on the 1st of November, 1857, at the house of a Mr. Lacy in East Canada, in the presence of many witnesses, he united in bonds of matrimony to Catharine Maher, my client. Are all these people mistaken? Have these women and this Christian gentleman perjured themselves in the sight of God and man, and for what? Let the conscience of Peterson answer—let the consciences of his brotherhood of swearers answer. Sir, there is one point to which I would particularly call your attention and the contradictions that follow. I refer to the scars or marks on Peterson's face. His wife, Catharine Petersen, my client, and her sister swear to certain marks on his nose, which scars or marks were there when he became husband to one and brother-in-law to the other sister. These averments the counsel for the defendant endeavors to rebut, and he attempted to prove that there were no scars on the man's face until the year 1864, and that they are the result of a disease for which, as a patient, he received treatment at the New York Hospital. Several witnesses testify to his absence until some time subsequent to his admission into that hospital; but, your Honor, they prove too much. One of their most reliable witnesses declares that there were scars on his face in 1862, or two years anterior to the time the others swear his skin was smooth as the face or an untainted child. How is this discrepancy—and it is only one among many which your Honor will discover when you weigh the testimony—to be reconciled with truth? The counsel continued in this strain for some time, closing by assuring his Honor that he labored only for truth and justice, and that he was not paid to advocate the woman's case. He felt she was the injured party, and he could not leave her without offering her some assistance, however slight, in furtherance of the assertion of a claim which he believed to be true as Heaven itself.

At the close of the remarks of Mr. Harington Justice Mansfield stated that he would read the evidence with great care, and two weeks from yesterday (Saturday, December 21,) give his decision.

The parties interested in the case then withdrew, and the ordinary business of the court was resumed.

DEPARTURE OF STEAMSHIPS YESTERDAY.

The following is a list of the steamers leaving this port yesterday for European and coastwise destinations:—

The Europa, Captain Craig, of the Anchor line, for Liverpool, with 32 cabin and 136 steerage passengers; miscellaneous cargo.

The Pennsylvania, Captain Lewis, of the National Steam Navigation Company, for Liverpool with, 40 cabin and 172 steerage passengers; full miscellaneous cargo.

The City of Paris, of the Inman line, for Liverpool, with 91 cabin and 185 steerage passengers; also carrying $10,375 in specie and a full cargo of cotton, bacon, &c.

The Rapidan, Captain Everson, of the Atlantic Mail Company, for New Orleans, with 12 passengers and a light cargo.

The Gulf Stream, Captain Bates, of the Southern line, for New Orleans, with passengers, 210 troops and a light cargo.

The George Washington, of the Cromwell line, for New Orleans, with 25 passengers and a fair freight.

The Manhattan, Captain Woodhull, of the New York and Charleston Steamship Company, for Charleston, with 35 cabin and 12 steerage passengers and a fair freight.

The Saragossa, Captain M. B. Crowell, of the regular Charleston line, for Charleston, with 30 passengers and a fair freight.

The Tillie, Captain Partridge, of the Texas line, for Galveston, with 13 passengers and a light freight.

The San Jacinto, Captain Atkins, of the Empire line, for Savannah, with 42 cabin and 10 steerage passengers and an assorted cargo.

The Huntsville, Captain Crowell, of the Black Star Independent line, for Savannah, with 12 passengers and a fair freight.

THE CHOLERA AT QUARANTINE.

Dr. Reid reports that the cholera on board the Lord Brougham was pure Asiatic cholera. The disease abated within eight days of reaching land, and there have been no new cases since; those now sick are suffering from diarrhœa, the effects of the cholera. The Lord Brougham is a fine, clean ship, fifteen feet between decks, but, unfortunately, had no doctor on board. Though the captain and crew did all in their power to alleviate their sufferings, still the proper want of medicine and the services of a regular practitioner must have assisted the disease. The deaths averaged twenty per cent of the passengers. Though a few of the crew took it, none of them died. It is thought that those sick will all recover. Sloman & Edye, the consignees of the vessel, sent down a supply of fresh provisions for the passengers yesterday.

INTERNAL REVENUE MATTERS.

Nothing of interest transpired at the Revenue headquarters yesterday. As is usual on Saturday,