furnished our vessels with supplies of all kinds, gave us information and turned the cold shoulder on the rebel bruiser. They offered the latter no facilities for preying upon our commerce.

The United States could have direct telegraphic communication with St. Thomas. Wires could be laid from the cape of Florida across the shoal water which extends, with some interruptions (of not very deep water), as far as Turks Island, and thence direct to St. Thomas. The distance would be somewhat greater than to Cuba; but, comparatively speaking, it would not be an expensive line, as there would be so much shoal water.

In fine, I think St. Thomas is the Keystone to the arch of the West Indies; it commands them all. It is of more importance to us than to anybody else, and if Europe was at leisure and its attention not distracted by its own complications, we would not be allowed to get the island on any terms. The chances are that we may not get it yet. The people of St. Thomas may prefer their present independent position to being mixed up with our difficulties.

DAVID D. PORTER, Vice Admiral.

NEW YORK CITY.

THE COURTS.

COURT CALLENDAR—THIS DAY.

United States District Court in Bankruptcy.
Held by Judge Blatchford.

Gustavus Herter vs. John A. Reed.—Order to show cause. To be heard on the 21st of December.

D. Kellogg Baker and Others vs. John Davenport.—Order to show cause. To be heard on the 14th of December.

Isaac L. Lefevre vs. Jonathan H. Hasbrouck.—Order to show cause. To be heard on the 28th of December.

Held by Registers.

James W. Meagher, order of reference returnable before Register Dayton, December 16, at 1 P. M.

In the matter of Martha L. King, New York, there will be a meeting of the creditors in this case to-morrow, at the office of Register James F. Dwight, Beekman street.

Supreme Court—Circuit—Part 1.
Held by Judge Sutherland.
Court opens at half-past ten o'clock A. M.
Short Causes:—

Nos.	Nos.
2993—Coomba vs. Stevens.	4035—Landro, Gras et al. vs. Poppe.
2975—Butler et al. vs. Bingham, &c.	4711—Self vs. O'Neill.
2995—Lewis et al. vs. Alexander et al.	4368—Weil vs. Meyer.
3279—Turnay vs. Young.	4830—Thalmessinger vs. Loebenstein.
3317—World Co. vs. Pappe.	4591—Yale vs. Cronogue.
4021—Spencer vs. Rogers.	4923—New York County Bank vs. Wilson.
4167—Frank vs. George.	4963—Strauss et al. vs. Goldensen et al.
4187—Gaston vs. Stowell.	4979—Spears et al. vs. Bates et al.
4335—Peck vs. Bell.	5009—Cunningham vs. Reuss.
4355—Powers vs. Scheidknecht.	5041—Broadwell vs. Hoffner.
4385—Pilsh vs. Gannon.	5063—Horn et al. vs. Conner et al.
4437—Atwater vs. Lovett.	5143—Reynert vs. Schaefer.
4458—Woodruff vs. Finley et al.	5159—Tremper et al. vs. Murray imp'd.
4480—National Park Bank vs. Rice, &c.	5209—Olivett et al. vs. Reed.
4527—Owen vs. Beeman et al.	5247—Nat. Bank of Commonwealth vs. Thiele.
4537—Colgate et al. vs. Hansen et al.	5283—Stuyvesant Bank vs. Tillman, &c.
4539—Hoffman vs. Thompson.	5227—Higgins vs. Smith.
4567—Wonderly vs. Blessing.	5261—Ran vs. Doran.
4571—McMurty et al. vs. Hansom, imp'd.	5271—Lyons vs. Graner.
4581—Raphael vs. Conant.	5287—Gallup vs. Grogan.
4591—Butterfield vs. Travis et al.	5299—Hilton et al. vs. Platt.
4655—Spath vs. Sperry.	5315—Arons vs. Hochstadt.

Supreme Court—Circuit—Part 2.
Held by Judge Barnard.
Court opens at half-past ten o'clock A. M.
Short causes:—

Nos.	Nos.
2746—Welles vs. Mayer.	4834—Hallgarten vs. Gibson, &c.
2831—McGrath vs. McGrath.	4954—Sly ker vs. Hewitt.
2868—Deane vs. Rank n.	4970—City National Bank vs. Stevens.
2739—Geissenheimer vs. Leopold.	4975—Knapp et al. vs. Williams.
2978—Reppiser vs. Willis.	4982—Mott et al. vs. Wolf et al.
3350—Pilson vs. Copcutt.	4991—Higgins vs. Smith.
4241—Moeller vs. Talcott.	5010—Banta vs. Falk.
4274—Webster, &c., vs. Myrick et al.	5012—Brown et al. vs. Rider et al.
4292—Weston vs. Leonard.	5035—Obersby et al. vs. Bayersdorfer.
4438—National Union Bank of New York, vs. Moore, &c.	5070—Zinn vs. Brown.
4443—Ogden vs. Murphy et al.	5084—Sandy et al. vs. Kemmerer.
4472—Kessel vs. Abeles et al.	5081—Lasher vs. Lasher.
4512—Loughran et al. vs. Fisher et al.	5100—Freeman et al. vs. Pelvey.
4548—World Co. vs. Cilnch.	5140—Hall vs. Parker.
4577—Bernard vs. Forbes et al.	5170—National Bank Republic vs. Griswold.
4624—Hull et al. vs. Harris et al.	5181—Stuart et al. vs. Edmiston, &c.
4743—Myers et al. vs. Munn.	5232—Brown vs. Cassidy.
4746—Frear et al. vs. Wolf et al.	5277—Irool vs. Mc Hill et al.
4759—Van Vorst vs. Metzger.	5284—Milner vs. Knox.
4772—Wood vs. Van Eisenberg.	5286—Lyons vs. Cohen.
4778—Hoffner vs. Bradwell.	5292—Bliss et al. vs. Levy, imp'd.
4808—Claflin et al. vs. Mandle et al.	5330—Weldon et al. vs. Koch.
4820—Grillith vs. Williamson et al.	4151—Berger vs. Devlin.

Supreme Court—Circuit—Part 3.
Held by Judge Balcom.
Court opens at ten o'clock A. M.

Nos.	Nos.
882—Kane vs. Dinsmore, Pres't, &c.	449—Gunn vs. Comm'rs of Emigration.
1410—Makewen vs. Finigan.	1436—McIntyre et al. vs. House.
1583—Patterson vs. Swift.	1743—Ortega et al. vs. McGill.
891—Kayler vs. Jenkins.	1760—Montgomery vs. De Lavalette.
1316—Pippey et al. vs. Pond.	536—Carow vs. Kelly, Sheriff, &c.
828—Bed vs. Reynolds.	354—Cudlipp vs. Traiver.
831—White vs. Cortes et al.	1381—McGhee vs. Smith.
4051—Walsh, ex'r, &c., vs. Saxton.	374—Webster vs. Rackett et al.
1471—Best vs. Dempster et al.	1701—Baker vs. Rogers.
1193—Clancy vs. Harlem RR. Co.	5321—Kronn vs. Oechs.
1627—Bennett et al. vs. Powers.	

Supreme Court—Special Term.
Held by Judge James.
Court opens at half-past ten o'clock A. M.
Issues of law and fact:—

Nos.	Nos.
128—Hoxie vs. Kenworthy, executor, &c.	271—Fowler, Jr., vs. Auferman.
265—Sohns vs. Greene and another.	272—Hearing et al. vs. Atlantic Ins. Co. et al.
264—Henig et al. vs. Atlantic ins. Co. et al.	273—Jacobs vs. Goldsmith & May.
268—Thompson vs. Bogert & Co.	274—Wheelock vs. Williams & Florence.
266—Monheimer vs. Isett et al.	275—Cowles vs. Tomlinson et al.
267—Citizens' M. L. & A. F. A. vs. Stuls.	276—Lane vs. Lynch & Lynch.
268—Lyon et al. vs. Kitcher et al.	277—Keeler vs. Keeler.
269—Sherman vs. Newcomb.	278—Lane vs. Lynch et al.
270—Brown vs. Hembold.	279—Lauderman vs. Levy et al.
	280—Same vs. Same.

Supreme Court—Chambers.
Held by Judge Ingraham.
Court opens at ten o'clock A. M.
Call of Calendar at twelve M.:—

Nos.	Nos.
147—Kelly vs. Kelly.	227—Goss vs. Goss.
152—Sturgis vs. Zulerbier.	235—Phillips vs. Wheeler, &c.
168—Anderson vs. Anderson.	236—Smith vs. Same.
156—Greenleaf, &c., vs. Speyers, &c.	237—Zabriskie vs. Same.
180—Jones vs. Williams, &c.	250—Jaffray et al. vs. Brown et al.
195—Winans et al. vs. Meech et al.	251—Gillman vs. Hapiler, &c.
203—Goodkin et al. vs. Spyers.	256—Stenhouse et al. vs. Smith et al.
218—James vs. Wood.	271—Costello vs. Bertrand.

Call 275—Petting II vs. N. Y. and Pa. Petroleum, Mining and Manufacturing Company.

Common Pleas—Trial Term—Part 2.
Held by Judge Brady.
Court opens at eleven o'clock A. M.
One hour causes:—

Nos.	Nos.
1798—Nudermeer vs. Van Beil.	1918—Finck vs. Massell.
1643—Hine vs. Wetherell.	1918—Feiss vs. McDermott.
1368—Darron vs. Schuetta.	1714—Day vs. Wallin.
1379—Seruson vs. Steinmer.	1867—Sohester vs. Green.
1434—Stout vs. Webster et al.	1639—Sheridan vs. Taylor.
1287—Norton vs. Laurence.	1669—Bristow vs. Patterson.
1332—Finn vs. Hall.	605—Whitehurst vs. Frederic.
1771—Lupton vs. Cline.	1863—Eagle vs. Patter.
1476—Reich vs. Lyons.	1866—Partridge vs. Dixon.
1654—Bruen vs. Whittaker, Jr	1866—Same vs. Sus & Wyoming Valley R. R. and Coal Company.
1786—Sunthauser vs. Fetzer.	
1730—Funke vs. Behr.	1123—Swane vs. Fannin.
1784—Fontaine vs. Lenow.	1731—Cohn vs. Salmon.
1681—Caldwell vs. Chace.	1732—Same vs. Rigtander.

Marine Court—Trial Term.
Held by Judge Hearne.
Court opens at ten o'clock A. M.

Nos.	Nos.
— Sands vs. Hawks	80—Hurlbert vs. Del. and Lac. RR.
29—Colby vs. Schlosmer.	81—Martin vs. Lynch.
— Gallagher vs. Rodgers.	82—Wolff vs. Marcus.
76—Bleecker vs. Behringer.	84—Carroll vs. Peterson.
78—Dugan vs. Connors.	84—Allerton vs. Wheeler.
— Michael vs. Arnold.	85—Townsend vs. Cafferty.
43—Pincus vs. Hirschfeld.	86—Hughes vs. Spratt.
— Campbell vs. Little.	87—Schweider vs. Babbitt.
— Wagner vs. Meanach.	88—Slaughter vs. Davison.
79—Kurgman vs. Harris.	89—Wehle vs. Marhun.

Superior Court—Trial Term—Part 1.
Held by Judge Barbour.
Court opens at eleven o'clock A. M.

Nos.	Nos.
3475—Goodman vs. Stein et al.	3477—Nicholson vs. Ackley, &c.
3332—Ward vs. Central Park N. & E. RR. Co.	3401—Mullen vs. Lynch.
3278—Hart vs. Willis.	3343—Hecker vs. De Forest.
3397—Nat. Shoe & Leather Bank, &c., vs. Ross.	3331—Dodge et al. vs. Clyde.
3413—Schermerhorn vs. Barnes ex rel., &c.	3311—Same vs. Hatch.
3337—Sanger vs. Bininger.	3376—Graham vs. O'Brien.
Short Causes.	3439—Murphy vs. Gerlizen.
	2973—Fowler vs. Breslin.
	3153—Mullen vs. Ross.

Nos.	Nos.
3423—O'Beirne vs. Lloyd.	3513—Burke vs. Meyer.
3394—Reynolds vs. Otterson.	3563—Hine vs. Knapp.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT—IN BANKRUPTCY.

Rights of a Bankrupt as Against Proceedings in the State Court.

Judge Blatchford, at half-past three o'clock yesterday, heard an important case in bankruptcy. It was in relation to the case of George W. Kimball, an alleged bankrupt, and came before the Court by way of motion to have Mr. Kimball discharged from the custody of the Sheriff of the city and county of New York. Counsel on behalf of Mr. Kimball stated that, some days since, while his client was proceeding to the office of one of the Registers in Bankruptcy, in accordance with a summons drawn up in conformity with the general rules in bankruptcy, he was arrested on the stairway of the Register's Office by virtue of a writ issued out of the State courts, where certain proceedings for debt are pending against him, and subsequently lodged in the county jail. It was, counsel observed, in the power of the District Court to interfere and order the liberation of the bankrupt, inasmuch as the debt upon which he had been arrested was one provable under the Bankruptcy act. Counsel on the opposite side took the ground that the debt was one not provable in bankruptcy, and, therefore, the bankrupt could not now seek to be discharged from prison by the interference of the District Court. If the bankrupt could give bail that was worth anything, he (counsel) would not have the slightest objection to his being discharged at once. Judge Blatchford took the papers and reserved his decision.

In the matter of Isaac Sommer.—A meeting of creditors was held yesterday at the office of Register Dayton. No business was transacted and the meeting was further adjourned. No day fixed.

In the matter of Elias Jacob.—The bankrupt was examined yesterday before Register Allen. Some evidence having been taken, the case was adjourned to the 17th inst.

Petitions Filed in Bankruptcy Yesterday.

James W. Meagher, New York city. Referred to Register Dayton. Albert Salter, New York city. Order of reference returnable before Register Allen Dec. 4, at one o'clock P. M.

UNITED STATES COMMISSIONER'S COURT.

The Peterhoff Case.
Before Commissioner Osborn.

The case of the Peterhoff cargo was again up for examination yesterday morning before Commissioner Osborn. It is alleged that the claim brought by Ward & Gore for the storage of the cargo of this prize steamer is excessive. Evidence was produced yesterday for the purpose of showing that the demand for storage in 1863 was not excessive. Mr. E. Benedict, for Ward & Gore, asked for adjournment till Monday, when, he said, he would be prepared to rebut the statement that storage was not in demand in 1863. The adjournment was granted.

SUPERIOR COURT—TRIAL TERM—PART I.

A Slightly Mixed Trespass Suit—A Verdict for $7,000.
Before Judge Barbour.

Joseph Cohen vs. John Kelly, Sheriff, &c.—This was an action for trespass, the defendant having, in 1866, seized six boxes of dry goods belonging to plaintiff. It appeared that in 1864 and 1866 the plaintiff loaned one Louis Peyser, his brother-in-law, two sums of money, amounting in all to $15,000, Peyser being engaged in business in Columbia, South Carolina. In October, 1866, the plaintiff obtained from Peyser, in New York, a confession of judgment for the whole amount, and afterwards went to Columbia, obtained a judgment there, based upon that previously obtained in New York, and levied upon Peyser's stock. Peyser compromised by turning over to Cohen goods worth $10,000, which were shipped by Cohen to this city. Defendant attached them upon the arrival here on two actions in the Supreme court, brought by two New York firms from whom the goods had been purchased by Peyser, and sold them for $3,000. The defence set up fraud on the part of Peyser in the original purchase of the goods, and that the transfer from him to plaintiff was sham. The testimony showing fraud on the part of Peyser was ruled out, on the ground that defendant had not established complicity of the plaintiff with Peyser in obtaining the goods. Verdict for plaintiff in the sum of $7,000. For plaintiff, E. W. Dodge and Jas. T. Brady; for defendant, Brown, Hall and Vanderpool.

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS.

Alleged Manslaughter—Sentence of Prisoners.
Before Recorder Hackett.

Yesterday John V. Donovan, who was charged with causing the death of Christian Kretzer, on the 12th of October, was put on trial. It appeared from the testimony, which was very brief, that on the morning in question the deceased was lying in an intoxicated condition at the door of the Frankfort House. The clerk directed Donovan, a porter in the establishment, to remove him. He proceeded to do so, and gave him a slight push which caused him to stumble, and fall back upon the curb-tone fracturing his skull, and resulting in his death. The accused established an excellent character for quietness and good behavior, and Assistant District Attorney Bedford co-operated with the counsel for the accused in requesting the Recorder to charge that if the jury believed the prisoner was justified in what he did, they should acquit. The jury rendered a verdict of "Not guilty" without leaving their seats.

John W. Boyer was convicted of stealing $100 worth of clothing from Nicholas Paulo, a sailor on the ship John Crosas. Sent to the States Prison for three years and six months.

Mary Sheehan pleaded guilty to a charge of larceny in stealing $[illegible] worth of ribbons and laces, the property of Joseph Wescott. Sentenced to the States Prison for two years and six months.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

REPUBLICAN GENERAL COMMITTEE.—The regular monthly meeting of the Republican General Committee was held at headquarters, corner of Twenty-second street and Broadway, last evening. Charles S. Spencer presided. After calling the roll of members, reading and approving the minutes of the last meeting, the Committee adjourned without transacting any business.

THE POLYTECHNIC ASSOCIATION.—Twenty members of this association assembled last evening at their room, Cooper Institute. Communications from associate members in distant States treated with personal judgment upon the cattle plague, and the effective treatment of this disease with salt water; the organism of animals of the northern latitudes of Europe being more hardy than those of the equator; the productive growth of Peruvian bark; the absorption of mercury by aluminum, and the peculiarities of human decadence. There were no new ideas promulgated in the limited discussion of these subjects.

THE BOARD OF HEALTH.—The Board of Health met yesterday afternoon, President Shultz in the chair. A large number of applications made by the Soldiers' Business and Messenger Company to erect booths in certain streets were refused. The usual weekly report of the Superintendent was read, after which the Board adjourned.

THE HAYTIEN RECEPTION.—Yesterday, in addition to those already announced, Admiral Ravignaux, Lieutenants, Gilliarde and Clapham, Dr. Burcey, Lieutenant Leo Lloyd, and others have responded to invitations to attend this novel and international reception at the Cooper Institute this evening.

THE ELEVATED RAILWAY.—Yesterday, in spite of the unpropitious weather, workmen were engaged in digging the foundations and in fixing the brick and iron settings for the continuation of this high level railroad, from the finished portion of it at Rector street, up to the end of Liberty and Cortlandt. The completed portion has been subjected to severe tests by the engineers, and found to work satisfactorily. The manufacture of the passenger cars has been commenced, together with the stationary engines.

REMOVAL OF THE CATTLE BLOCKADE.—It is estimated that since the decision of the Supreme Court in this matter between two and three thousand cattle have entered the city for holiday consumption.

THE THISTLE BALL.—The thirty-sixth annual ball of the Thistle Benevolent Society will take place this evening at Irving Hall. This society was organized in 1861 for the charitable purpose of "relieving the poor and distressed of all nations," and has ever since been one of the most active and benevolent institutions of the city. In addition to the usual Terpsichorean amusements, some very entertaining attractions are promised, comprising, among others, the "music of the slogan," some old fashioned Scotch reels, and the possible presence of Mr. Charles Dickens.

THE GREAT WALKING MATCH FROM NEW YORK TO PHILADELPHIA.—The judges who were appointed to accompany Mr. Frank McIntire in his attempt to walk from New York to Philadelphia in twenty-six hours, leaving at an early hour this morning, met yesterday at No. 14 Ann street, and because of the violent snowstorm were unable to perfect arrangements necessary for such an undertaking. Mr. James Lee, the referee, desired that the whole matter should be deferred until twelve o'clock to-day, which was agreed upon, when the point of extending the time because of the storm will be definitely settled. The meeting of the interested parties will be held at the same place as yesterday.

SUICIDE ON SHIPBOARD.—Yesterday afternoon Coroner Schirmer received information that Isaac Brevoort, recently an apothecary on board the United States steamship Piscataqua, lying in the stream off the Battery, had committed suicide by taking poison. Deceased had been discharged from his place on board the ship, and it is believed that despondency resulting therefrom prompted him to terminate his existence. An inquest will be held on the body to-day.

ARREST OF AN ALLEGED FUGITIVE.—Detective Elder yesterday arrested a man, thirty-five years of age, named John H. Wentworth, on the charge of being a fugitive from Philadelphia. It is alleged that, some months ago, Wentworth obtained $1,800 from the Safety Deposit Company of that city, by means of a forged check or order. Wentworth consented to return to Philadelphia without a requisition, and accordingly was delivered over to detective Schlemm, of the Quaker City, who had long been in search of the fugitive.

CORONER'S INQUEST.—Coroner Gover held an inquest yesterday, at the Fourth ward station house, upon the body of William Wall, aged seventeen years, who was killed on Wednesday afternoon last by falling through the hatchway of Gray & Green's establishment, in Jacob street. The jury, after a short deliberation, returned a verdict in accordance with the above facts, censuring Messrs. Gray & Green for employing so young a man to take charge of the dummy (as it appears deceased was employed), and for not having proper guards around each well hole.

POLICE INTELLIGENCE.

ARREST OF AN ALLEGED BIGAMIST.—Some time since Justice Hogan issued a warrant for the arrest of Oliver Lonsdale on the charge of abandoning his wife; but as he worked in Jersey City the officer holding the warrant was unable to arrest him until Wednesday, when in the act of crossing the ferry Lonsdale was secured. Yesterday morning the prisoner was brought before Justice Dowling, when the matter assumed a different and more serious aspect, he being charged with bigamy instead of abandonment. Maria Burke, living at No. 63 Mangin street, appeared and deposed that on the 7th of September last she was present in St. Mary's church, Grand street, when the prisoner was married to her sister under the name of Charles Oliver Davis. The complainant further charges that Lonsdale then had and now has another wife living to whom he was married some four years ago and that he is now the lawful husband of said wife. She therefore charges him with bigamy, and prays that he may be dealt with as the law directs. The accused was committed to the Tombs to await a further examination. The last wife of the accused is now lying very ill, with prospect of her never being any better. Lonsdale is twenty-eight years of age, born in Ireland and by trade a brass finisher.

SUPPOSED ARREST OF AN ALLEGED BURGLAR.—Not far from twelve o'clock on Wednesday night a young Frenchman named Alphonse Deplechon was discovered in the new building 42 Lispenard street, by officer Kerns, of the Fifth precinct, who proceeded to make an investigation, when the suspicious individual commenced throwing bricks at him. The alarm was then given by officer Kerns, which brought to his aid officer McInerny, who fired two shots at the contesting individual, but without effect, when Deplechon became frightened and jumped down an area, a distance of seventeen feet, and attempted to escape, but was secured by the officers. On entering the premises the officers found that the silk warehouse of Messrs. Despres, Hartley & Co., 44 Lispenard street, had been been burglariously entered and robbed of twelve pieces of silk and other goods, valued at $1,500, which were found in the new building, where they had been taken preparatory to removal by the burglars. Other goods had been packed up in the silk warehouse, but not removed. The accused was yesterday taken before Justice Dowling and held for examination. It is supposed that Deplechon had some confederates in the burglary, but they managed to make their escape.

THE THIRD AVENUE ARSON CASE.—The investigation into the origin of the fire at No. 679 Third avenue, on Wednesday morning, was resumed yesterday afternoon, before Judge Connolly, at the Yorkville Police Court. It resulted in holding the alleged incendiary, Robert Cohen, in $1,000 bail to appear when called on for trial at the General Sessions and answer to the charge of arson.

SEIZURE OF AN ILLEGAL LOTTERY ESTABLISHMENT.—Captain Brackett, aided by Officer Wilkinson, of the Twenty-sixth precinct, yesterday seized and deposited at Headquarters the effects of the firm ostensibly known as Messrs. Wright Brothers & Co., 161 Broadway. This firm, it is alleged, has long been known as carrying on an illegal lottery business, and numerous have been the complaints to the police of their various modes of operation and promises in swindling poor men and women throughout the country. It has recently been ascertained that the firm was also a myth, but one person, known as Gustavus W. Hubbard, directing the business under the former name. It is also alleged he has been prominent, and carried on business in other places under the style of Hinckley & Co., and the American Watch Company. Among the latest parties who have been dealt with unfairly is Mr. Edward Corrigan, of Paterson, N. J., who, under the promise of receiving a $95 watch for the limited sum of $11 35, sent this sum to him, and instead of obtaining the expected prize, received a watch worth but $1. As Hubbard refused to refund Corrigan's money, and treated all advances toward a settlement of the affair with disdain, Mr. Corrigan made his complaint, and upon a bench warrant issued by Recorder Hackett, upon an indictment of the Grand Jury, Hubbard was arrested and yesterday held to bail in the sum of $500 to await trial.

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS.

Board of Aldermen.

The Board held a special meeting at three o'clock yesterday afternoon, Alderman Shannon, the President, in the chair.

Corporation Counsel Richard O'Gorman sent in the following communication:—

OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL, NEW YORK, Dec. 9, 1867.

TO THE HONORABLE THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN:—

GENTLEMEN—In answer to your resolution of November 14 relative to Tavern and Excise licenses, and asking my opinion,

First—"Whether a person taking out a license from the city author ties would be relieved from the necessity of taking out another from the Excise Commissioners,"

Second—"In what manner the rights of the city in the premises can be tested,"

I beg leave to submit:—The first question propounded was examined by me at length in my former communication. I can only add that it should be decided by some competent court on argument. As to the second question, I would recommend the re-enactment by the Common Council of ordinances on the subject in accordance with the provisions of the Dongan Charter.

The ordinances to be found in the edition dated 1856 will substantially answer the purpose with such changes as are manifestly necessary. Provision should be made therein for the collection of a license fee in accordance with the provision of said charter. A person omitting to obtain such license from the Mayor would then be liable to a suit for infringement of the Corporation ordinances. A person taking out such license from the Mayor and omitting to take out license from the Excise Commissioners, as provided for in law of 1856, would be liable to suit on the part of the Excise Commissioners. In this way the opinion of the court could be obtained on both aspects of the case.

RICHARD O'GORMAN, Counsel to the Corporation.

Referred to a special committee of five.

Mayor Hoffman transmitted the following communication:—

MAYOR'S OFFICE, New York, Nov. 30, 1867.

THE HONORABLE THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK:—

GENTLEMEN—I have this day received from the Honorable Judge Charles P. Daly, of the New York Common Pleas, and General Charles G. Halpine, Register, a communication calling my attention to the proceedings of the two public meetings recently held in this city in reference to the rights of naturalized American citizens abroad, which communication is as follows;—

"NEW YORK, Nov. 29, 1867.

"DEAR SIR—The undersigned respectfully call your attention to the enclosed resolutions, adopted at two meetings held in Cooper Institute in this city—the first called by the surviving officers and men of the Irish brigade and Corcoran Legion, on last Saturday evening, and the second a mass meeting of citizens, called on Tuesday evening last to consider the subject of the due protection of the rights of the naturalized citizens of the United States; and, knowing your sympathy with the object of these meetings, we would respectfully suggest the propriety of your officially calling the attention of the Boards of Common Council to the documents herewith enclosed, with a view to calling forth such action as they may see fit to take in the premises.

"With very sincere respect we have the honor to be your very obedient servants,

"CHARLES P. DALY,
"CHARLES G. HALPINE."

In my judgment the municipal authorities of our city should take decided and emphatic action, representing the sentiments of our people in vindication of the principle that American citizens are free before the world, and owe no duty but to our government. The assumptions of Great Britain in opposition to this principle, recently so aggressively enforced, present the question in a form demanding that it shall be met by our government, and decided now and forever. The principle contended for by the English government makes a man the slave of the soil on which he happens to be born, compelling him to a life of service and bondage, from which he can never free himself.

It is idle at this day to enter on any argument on this question. Our government does not and cannot recognize any such principle. When we accept the adjuration of allegiance to all other Powers and confer the title of citizens, we enter upon an obligation to maintain the condition which we accept and the authority and protection which we confer. Between the citizen thus created and our government mutual duties are established which neither can disregard or violate.

The citizen thus adopted becomes bound up in our government. In time of peace he performs all the duties which good government, law and order require. In time of war he is equally with all other citizens called upon to fight for our flag and maintain our institutions with his life. We receive and enforce the duties which arise from this relation. We have simply to say and live up to our declaration that we will perform our obligation and protect our citizens against any and every other Power whatsoever; to decline that citizens of the United States are free and independent, owing no service to any government but our own. Self-preservation, as well as our dignity, our duty and our honor, require that this shall be firmly and unchangeably asserted by our government.

Suppose in the late war to maintain our national existence, in which our adopted citizens fought with such devotion and valor, Great Britain had openly taken sides against us, and had sent its soldiers to fight under the British flag on the side of revolt for our national destruction, the principle contended for by England would have made every adopted citizen born in any part of England's "dominions," fighting on the side of the Union, a traitor liable to be ignominiously executed.

Can any stronger illustration be needed to show how clearly national safety as well as national honor are involved in this question? We know not what the future may demand of us as we for our foreign governments are concerned; but it is not difficult to see how this question enters into our very existence as an independent nation. The recent aggressions of Great Britain against adopted citizens not guilty of any overt act within her territory, visiting that country, have revived this question in the most striking form, and it must be finally decided. The great duty of a State is to be extensive, to maintain their rights and protect their personal.

This is a question which affects adopted citizens of every nationality, and which belongs to the whole country and our entire people; and I am rejoiced to see that our ablest and most influential citizens and jurists are united in demanding immediate and resolute action on the part of our government in vindication of our national duty and dignity.

I trust that your honorable body will appreciate the importance of the issue and will promptly and unanimously give expression to the undivided sentiments of our citizens to maintain the sovereign and independent character of our nation. JOHN T. HOFFMAN, Mayor.

In this connection Alderman LOEW offered a resolution calling upon the city and State governments to protect the rights of naturalized citizens, and censuring the acts of Great Britain in relation to the recent Fenian executions, and calling for the appointment of a joint committee of five members from each branch of the Common Council to co-operate with the committee appointed at the people's meeting. Adopted.

Alderman NORTON offered the following:—

Whereas, the importance of the West India Islands to the country, both as regards commerce and increased military and naval facilities, cannot be over estimated, the question of their acquisition to the United States by treaty with Denmark is not alone one of commercial and defensive policy, but in relation to the natural political destiny of that rich and fruitful portion of the New World it rises in dignity to a question of greatest magnitude; and whereas, by geographical relationship and commercial affinities the acquisition is especially acceptable to the commercial city of New York; be it, therefore,

Resolved, That the Common Council, the representatives of the people of the city of New York, regard the recent acquisition of the island of St. Thomas to the United States by a treaty with Denmark as a movement in the direction of American interests and destiny abroad which the authorities of this city, for themselves and in behalf of their constituents, desire to signalize with their most emphatic approbation, and for and in the same spirit earnestly hope that no impediments may be placed in the way of the consummation of the treaty by the Senate of the United States.

Which was adopted, and the Board adjourned.

Board of Councilmen.

This Board met yesterday afternoon, the President, Mr. Brinkman, presiding.

Mr. HART offered the following resolution, which was adopted:—

Resolved, That permission be given to the property owners on Fifth avenue, between 125th and 135th streets, to regulate, grade, curb and gutter and flag sidewalks four feet wide, at their own expense, under the direction of the Street Commissioner.

The subjoined resolution was called up and laid over:—

Resolved, That the Comptroller be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to draw his warrant in favor of David T. Valentine, Francis J. Twomey, Isaac J. Drake, Patrick Fitzsimmons, James Dunphy, Edward Fox, John Cox, John H. Munn, Edward Brooks, O. A. Valentine, Wm. Walsh, Cornelius Callaghan, Cornelius Cassidy, Alfred H. Clarke, Terence P. Smith, George W. Betts, Charles Saulsb, John R. Greene, W. F. T. Chapman, Andrew J. Miner, John Walker, James A. Farley, Cornelius Corson, Wm. H. Moloney, Lewis McDermott, Richard Enright, Wm. J. Stewart, Lewis Frost, John B. Wilt and George Letterman, for the sum of $150 each for extra services rendered to committees of the Boards of Aldermen and Councilmen during the year 1867, and charge the same to the appropriation for Salaries—Legislative Department," or any other appropriate account.

On motion the Board adjourned till Monday.

INTERNAL REVENUE MATTERS.

Yesterday's HERALD gave an account of the discovery and seizure of an alleged illicit still in East Sixth street, and statement was made at the same time that whiskey was reported to have been conveyed from the premises to a rectifying place in Seventy-ninth street. Yesterday orders were given to Inspector Mollenry to visit the rectifying establishment (corner of Seventy-ninth street and Second avenue), and if he found there anything suspicious to make seizure of the premises. Acting in accordance with this order the officer called at the place, which proved to be a small rectifying establishment, and after making an examination discovered in the basement a small still. Thereupon he arrested the owner of the premises and brought him to the headquarters in Cedar street. The arrested party avers that the still does not belong to him; that he let the basement some time ago to a man who claimed to represent the firm of Carlos & Co., cordial dealers, and that he did not know the still was there at all. The still was torn out and taken charge of by the officers, and the arrested party allowed to go on his own recognizance after promising to produce the man who hired the premises from him before the Metropolitan Board to-day.

Inspector Doty, while passing through South street yesterday, discovered on a cart near Fulton ferry four barrels of whiskey, the brands on which he found on examination to be fraudulent. Thereupon he put the goods under seizure. The driver of the cart averred that he did not know who owned the whiskey; that he had agreed to meet the owner on the corner of Maiden lane and Broadway. He was ordered by the officer to drive to that point, which he did; but after remaining there with the officer for three-quarters of an hour and no owner appearing, he was directed to drive to the United States bonded warehouse, No. 56 Broadway, where the whiskey was put in store and a report of the seizure made to the Metropolitan Board.

The following is the amount of whiskey reported as having arrived in this city from all quarters so far during this month:—December 2, 488 barrels; December 3, 378; December 4, 808; December 5, 566; December 6, 326; December 7, 50; December 9, 583. Total, 3,199 barrels. Of the above amount 173 barrels were reported as "free" whiskey. The balance was mostly consigned to the Collector of the Thirty-second district, and is now under bond at the United States bonded warehouse, No. 56 Broadway.

There was no meeting of the Metropolitan Board yesterday. The session to-day will commence at three o'clock P. M.

RECONSTRUCTION.

THE GEORGIA STATE CONVENTION.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE OF THE HERALD.

Meeting of the Convention—The Opening Scenes—A Motley Gathering of Georgia Solons—Proceedings of the Day—A Rich Discussion on the Question of Permanently Organizing—Parliamentary Rules at a Discount—Very Literary Negroes.

ATLANTA, Ga., Dec. 9, 1867.

In a small room located in the City Hall of this place was to-day enacted the prologue to the drama or farce which will be on the boards for the next six or eight weeks. The room itself is worthy of the use to which it has been devoted, being small and shabby, and furnished with an abundance of fine desks painted brown, and red bottomed chairs the very picture of hard times; to say nothing of the wooden inkstands and cheap stationery, together with the green calico of different shades of color which covers the long glass windows at the back of the president's chair. Taken as a whole, a most melancholy air pervades the apartment, strongly suggestive, indeed, of the garret on Broadway in which the "Ghouls" occasionally meet to expound their religious doctrines. There are no galleries; no places for spectators, save and except a small space at the further end of the room which has been railed off, and which by hard squeezing might be made to hold about seventy persons.

It might have been about nine o'clock in the morning when the delegates began to assemble in their funeral looking hall. At first the number was small, and the few present grouped around the stove that stood between the first row of benches and the president's chair and discussed politics. Without exaggerating, I can say that a more seedy looking body of men never assembled together in Georgia. As the men warmed themselves by the stove the scene was decidedly rich. Unshaven, uncombed, unwashed, and in most cases very dirtily dressed, stood and sat the legislators of the State, deep in conversation, which was only interrupted by the continual squirting of tobacco juice into small tin spittoons, of which there are over two hundred scattered over the room. One delegate, apparently troubled with cold feet, slowly took off his shoes, displaying, as he did so, a pair of most shockingly dirty socks, the nauseating odor from which had the effect of driving off the more delicate stomached bystanders, among whom was your correspondent. As I remarked before, no negroes had yet entered the Convention Hall; but a step across to the room opposite discovered the presence of some thirty or more sable delegates, who had thus assembled together, probably, because they were ashamed of being seen in the company of their white colleagues. They formed a motley and interesting gathering. From the light yellow mulatto to the coal black African, and from the obsequious barber to the sturdy cotton picker, there they were as large as life, and carrying themselves with a dignity and air of importance at once ludicrous and pitiful. A few out of the number are able to read and write; the majority are as innocent of all educational qualifications as a babe of three weeks old. A single glance at this body of negroes will tell you how utterly farcical must be a convention which contains such members.

Whites and blacks engaged in conversation in their respective rooms until ten o'clock, when all assembled together in the Convention Hall. Had a stranger, ignorant of the purpose for which the men present had been convened, arrived at the moment he never would have supposed that a State Constitutional Convention was being then called to order. It looked more like a political meeting than anything else. Delegates and spect