NEW YORK CITY.

THE COURTS.

UNITED STATES CIRCUIT COURT.

Charge of Running an Illicit Distillery—Strange Conduct of a Jury.

Before Judge Benedict.

The United States vs. George Nicholls.—In this case the defendant was put on trial charged with "doing business as a distiller without having paid the special tax," in violation of the law and in fraud of the government. The prisoner was given in charge to the jury Friday evening and the case fully heard. Judge Benedict charged, after which the jury were conveyed to their room, and when the evening was far advanced and no prospect of an agreement upon a verdict being apparent they were ordered to be locked up for the night. Yesterday morning at ten o'clock Judge Benedict entered the court and ordered the jury to be brought in, when the foreman stated that they had not agreed upon a verdict. The Judge said that if it had been a civil case he would have directed the jury to bring in a verdict for the government; but, being a criminal case, to do so would be out of his province. He expressed his regret for being obliged to keep the jury together for so long a time; but it was due to the community and to the government that, in so plain a case as this proved to be, the jury should bring in a verdict. The government and the people were suffering from cases of this kind, where parties were refusing and avoiding to pay the tax imposed by law, and, in a case which was so plain as this appeared to him, he was reluctant to allow it to go abroad before the public without a decision by a jury, as in that case it would have a tendency to encourage others in the violation of the law. For the sake of the jury themselves, in their own interest and reputation, and the case being so plain, he would be sorry they could not agree. It was painful to him to be constrained to keep them together, and as he could not attend again before Monday, having other duties to discharge in Brooklyn, Judge Blatchford would be there to take their verdict if they should agree. The foreman stated that the jury stood eleven to one when they went out; that the majority were satisfied there was something in the background and that no agreement would be arrived at. The Judge said he considered it his duty to keep them together, and directed the Marshal to conduct them back to their room and provide breakfast for them. At eleven o'clock the jury summoned the Marshal and told him they had agreed, and requested he would send to Brooklyn for Judge Benedict to come and receive their verdict. The request was complied with. At one o'clock Judge Benedict came into court and the jury being brought in they returned a verdict of guilty. The jury were then discharged and the court adjourned to Monday morning at eleven o'clock.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT—IN BANKRUPTCY.

Before Judge Blatchford.

Judge Blatchford opened the court yesterday morning and took up cases in bankruptcy. In the case of Wood vs. The Washington Marine Insurance Company, which stood adjourned from Saturday last, counsel moved for a further adjournment to Saturday next, which was granted.

James R. Dickson vs. James A. McConkey.—This case was called, but no appearance was entered.

The case of J. Ogden Smith, already fully reported, came on for hearing. The court directed that the first meeting of creditors and all proceedings should be adjourned to February 17, at half-past two o'clock, before Register Ketchum, at his office, No. 83 Nassau street, and that an order to that effect should be entered by the clerk of the court.

Questions Which a Witness is Compelled to Answer.

In the Matter of William H. Knoeppel.—An order had been granted to show cause why an attachment should not issue against one Cobb, who was in the course of examination as a witness under this bankruptcy. The following were the questions which the witness declined to answer:—At this time where was your money and to what amount? did you ever keep an individual account in any bank?

Mr. Edwin James, counsel for the witness, contended that he was not compelled by law to answer such questions. This was not the case of a bankrupt, in whose examination much latitude was allowed, but that of a witness; and if such questions were admissible the powers of the act would be used for unjust and inquisitorial purposes.

Mr. Seixas appeared in support of the motion.

Judge Blatchford ruled that the questions should be answered. The investigations in all these cases must be of a strict and searching character. If a bankrupt alleges that he has had dealings with any person of a pecuniary nature the witness is bound to disclose all the facts. The Judge refused an attachment, and directed the examination to proceed and the questions to be answered.

Confessions of Judgment.

In the Matter of Asa Croft.—The argument in this case, which involves the question whether confessions of judgment given under the provisions of the code of New York, under acts of bankruptcy, was, by consent of Edwin James and Benedict & Boardman, counsel for the respective parties, adjourned till next Saturday.

Petitions Filed Yesterday.

Simon Fishel, New York city, referred to Register Dayton. Benjamin Lee Horton, New York city, referred to Register Allen. Ralph Benjamin, New York city, referred to Register Dwight. Peter M. Goetchius, Catskill, Greene county, referred to Register Gates. Gustave Bourgade, New York city, referred to Register Ketchum. Reuben Solomon, New York city, referred to Register Williams. Patrick Trainor, New York city, referred to Register Fitch. Number of petitions lodged up to yesterday, 677.

SUPREME COURT—CHAMBERS.

Decisions Rendered.

By Judge Barnard.

Henry Redmond vs. William Elmer.—Motion denied.

By Judge Cardozo.

In the matter of Chatfield Hardaway vs. The Hardaway Bell Company, &c.—Peremptory mandamus granted, with $10 costs.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS—SPECIAL TERM.

Decisions.

Judge Brady rendered judgment in the following cases yesterday morning:—

Alloway vs. Markland—Motion denied without costs and without prejudice to plaintiff to renew the motion.

Mason vs. Board of Supervisors—Judgment for the defendants on the demurrer.

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS.

Before Recorder Hackett.

ASSAULT AND BATTERY.

James Crawford, who was jointly indicted with Terrence O'Neil, charged with felonious assault, pleaded guilty to a simple assault and battery. It appears that on the 6th of September Patrick Benson was struck by Crawford on the corner of Washington and Christopher streets, and subsequently was stabbed in the neck by O'Neil. Crawford was remanded for sentence.

Louis Brepson pleaded guilty to an indictment charging him with stealing, on the 14th of January, $62 50 in American gold coin, owned by James Reed.

John Martin was convicted of an attempt at grand larceny from the person, he having, on the night of the 26th of January, seized the watch and chain of Richard Halligan while passing through Park street. He was sentenced to the State Prison for two years and six months.

ALLEGED MURDER.

Wm. O'Brien was arraigned charged with murder in the first degree in causing the death of Lawrence Mullen at the corner of Broad and Beaver streets, on the 28th of January. The Recorder stated that he would assign counsel to defend the prisoner.

Jacob Gilbert was convicted of stealing $10 50 from John Blaurett on the 25th of January. He was sent to the State Prison for two years and six months.

SENTENCES.

Annie Schmidt, who was found guilty of an attempt at larceny, was sent to the State Prison for two years and six months.

Jeremiah Clifford, who pleaded guilty to a similar offence, was sent to the Penitentiary for two years.

John Farrell, who was jointly indicted with Clifford, was sentenced to the Penitentiary for one year.

Bridget Dillon, who pleaded guilty to attempt at petty larceny from the person, was sent to the Penitentiary for one year.

Robert F. Mather, who pleaded guilty to embezzlement, was sent to the Penitentiary for one month.

Henry Camp and John F. Lewis, who pleaded guilty to obtaining goods under false pretences, were each sent to the Penitentiary for three months.

SURROGATE'S COURT.

Before Surrogate Tucker.

Surrogate Tucker has admitted to probate the following mentioned wills:—John H. Lee, Amasa B. Howe, Mary E. Toothaker, Silas Bronson, Eliza H. Lawrence, Mary Niz, James B. Williamson, William Gale, William D. Hussey, Isaac Dyckerson, John L. Fullerton, Lyman Phillips, Eli Wainwright, Sarah J. McKeaye.

Letters of administration were granted on the estates of Alexander M. Matthews, Johanna Weier, Sarah Perry, John Perry, Catharine Simpson, Charles Werner, Anna Eugert, William Masterson, Martin Ryan, Amelia Spatz-Kasper J. Schmidt, Ernest Vermann, Gardner T. White, John Duffie, Clarinda Lowry, Catharine Brady, Ann Kelly, John Muir, B. Joseph Zimmer, Alonzo F. Bailey, Cleveland F. Brock, Alexander L. Coutts, Gertrude Halbeck, Francis Church, Cordelia Pitman, Ethelinda Thomas, Archibald Watts.

GUARDIANSHIP PAPERS GRANTED.

Ellen O'Neil appointed guardian of Patrick O'Neil; Sarah McIryke of James, Sarah and Lilly O'Neil; Catharine Lauer of Mary Hoffstater; Catharine Lauer of Thomas L. and Christiana Lauer; Mary Fox of Mary F. Fox; Catharine M. Noe of Rosetta and Kate E. Noe; Frederick Reitemeyer of Frederick Sake; John Lautry of Charles R. Thomas.

Accounts of the estates of the following named persons were settled, viz.:—Peter W. Malone, Henry Heisterberg and Lorenzo Moses.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CITY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.—The annual report of S. S. Randall, City Superintendent of Schools, just submitted to the Board of Education of the city of New York, presents many new and striking suggestions for improvement upon our present school system, and a gratifying exhibit of the benefits conferred under its administration during the past year. It appears from the report that the whole number of buildings under the charge of the Board of Education is 94, containing in all 187 separate departments or schools, of which there are 44 grammar schools for boys, 45 grammar schools for girls, and 7 for both sexes, together with 55 primary departments, and 36 primary schools. The whole number of pupils, white and colored, who have attended these schools for longer or shorter periods during the past year is 226,183.

SUDDEN DEATH OF EX-ALDERMAN REED.—About ten o'clock yesterday morning Ex-Alderman James Reed, who was serving his second term in the Legislature, he having been elected from the Eighth Assembly district of this city, entered Crook's restaurant, 40 Park row, and, sitting down on a sofa, fell backwards in a state of insensibility. A gentleman present immediately hastened to the Coroner's office and procured the services of Wooster Beach, M. D., but when the Doctor reached the restaurant Mr. Reed was found to be dead. Coroner Keenan subsequently gave a permit to remove the body to the late residence of deceased, 122 Essex street, where a post mortem examination and inquest will be held to-day. It is impossible to state positively what was the cause of Mr. Reed's death, but it is believed to have resulted from dropsy of the heart. That, however, will be determined by the post mortem examination. Mr. Reed was nearly fifty years of age, and is said to have been a native of this city. Some six years ago he was a member of the Board of Aldermen from the Sixth Aldermanic district. Mr. Reed came down from Albany on Friday evening to spend the Sabbath with his family, and was intending to return next Monday morning. On purchasing his ticket for New York the ticket agent asked Mr. Reed if he would not like to have his life insured, to which he returned a negative reply, little thinking at the time that his earthly career was so nearly terminated.

THE ACCIDENT AT STEWART'S NEW BUILDING.—Coroner Schirmer yesterday held an inquest at Bellevue Hospital on the body of John Gischwind, the man whose death was the result of injuries received at Stewart's new building corner of Tenth street and Fourth avenue, on Thursday last. The evidence adduced showed the occurrence to have been accidental, and the jury accordingly rendered a verdict to that effect. Deceased was thirty-five years of age and a native of Germany.

POLICE INTELLIGENCE.

LOST AND FOUND.—A singular case was brought before Justice Dodge at the Jefferson Market Police Court yesterday. Sergeant Brush, of the Sixteenth precinct, while travelling up town on Friday night in one of the Eighth avenue cars, had his pocket relieved of a $100 gold watch. About the same time that he missed his property he noticed a man leave the cars, and suspecting he was the party who took his watch, he followed him. The man attempted to get away from the sergeant by dodging round a truck, when he was nabbed by an officer. On arriving at the station house the prisoner was discovered to be the notorious John Smith, alias Walter Brown, who has frequently been arrested as a pickpocket. The watch was not found on his person, but during the evening officer McCaffarty brought it to the station house, as is stated, having received it somewhere or from somebody in the Eighth ward. Smith was brought before Justice Dodge yesterday on a charge of picking pockets and was held to answer. It has not yet been explained why the somebody in the Eighth ward who gave the officer the watch has not been arrested.

THE DARLING GAMBLING CASE.—An examination of the complaint which was preferred against Richard and Charles Darling, a few days since, and which was noticed in the HERALD, took place before Justice Dodge, at the Jefferson Market Police Court, yesterday. James T. Brady appeared for the defendants. On the examination it was shown that Sergeant O'Brien, of the Twenty-ninth precinct, with a squad of men, entered the premises No. 1 West Twenty-sixth street, by means of a key which had been furnished him by his superior officer for that purpose. It was also shown that no game was going on, no money was exposed to view, and the only apparent approach to gambling was the presence of a number of gentlemen in a room in which there was also a faro table, lay out, cards, &c. Justice Dodge took the papers and reserved his decision.

ACCUMULATED TROUBLES.—J. T. Harvey was brought before Justice Dodge, at the Jefferson Market Police Court, on Friday last, charged with defrauding Samuel J. Tyler, No. 402 Bowery, of $100, by means of false representations. He was held to answer. Yesterday three other complainants appeared against the accused, John Hodman, of No. 104 Wall street, charged him with defrauding him out of $75; Jacob Gerhart, of No. 173 Eighth avenue, and George A. Marsh, No. 9 West Twenty-first street, alleged frauds perpetrated by the prisoner of $59 and $500 respectively. The complainant in the latter charge alleges that Harvey presented to him a check for the sum of $500, purporting to be drawn by C. E. Prescott & Co., 32 Broad street, on the American Exchange Bank. This check was represented to be perfectly good, and on this representation it was cashed. It was afterwards ascertained to be worthless, and from this fact it is supposed that it was presented with the intent of defrauding the complainant out of his money. The accused has been held to answer.

ALLEGED EXTENSIVE THEFTS BY A DISHONEST PORTER—AN ALLEGED RECEIVER IN CUSTODY.—On Friday last a patron of Messrs. Adolph Bandman & Co., merchants, doing business at No. 130 Church street, ordered some goods sent to his store, across town, and they were entrusted to John Hiles, the porter, for delivery. In the package, as subsequently appeared, Hiles feloniously placed a piece of farmers' satin, valued at $45, which he intended to convert to his own use. Unfortunately for him, however, the porter was caught in the act and the stolen goods found in his possession. Detective Fields, of the Fifth precinct, being notified, took the dishonest porter into custody, after which the prisoner confessed that on the 15th ultimo he stole another piece of farmers' satin worth $23 50 and sold the same to John Baumach, of 13 Delancey street; that at intervals since August last he had stolen goods from his employers and sold them to Baumach at a great sacrifice. Detective Field, accompanied by officer Mack and Mr. Bandman, proceeded to the alleged receiver's place, and, after arresting him found on his premises goods to the value of nearly $300, which Mr. Bandman at once identified as having been stolen from his store at different times within the last few months. Mr. Bandman estimates that his loss at the hands of his porter will amount to at least $2,000. After his arrest Baumach confessed that he had bought goods from Hiles, but, through his counsel, Mr. Orlando L. Stewart, denied knowing that they had been stolen. On the other hand, it is alleged that Baumach had instructed Hiles what kind of goods to bring him, and that Hiles acted accordingly. The prisoners were arraigned before Justice Dowling at the Tombs yesterday afternoon, where Mr. Bandman appeared and made two complaints against Hiles for larceny and one against Baumach for receiving stolen goods with a guilty knowledge. The porter pleaded guilty, but the reputed receiver claimed to be innocent. Hiles is twenty-three years of age, a native of Germany, by trade a carpenter and lives at No. 202 Broome street. Baumach is also a German, forty years of age, a tailor by trade and lives at No. 13 Delancey street. Both the prisoners were committed to the Tombs. Baumach demanded an examination, which was named for next Monday week.

JUVENILE SHOW CASE THIEVES.—Three boys, of tender years, named James Malloy, Felix Lovell and Thomas Redden, were yesterday brought before Justice Dowling at the Tombs on the charge of bursting open a show case in front of Mr. Stephen Ryder's store, No. 66 Fulton street, and stealing therefrom a valuable mink fur collar, with which they attempted to escape. They were arrested by officer Finn, of the Fourth precinct, and the magistrate committed them for trial.

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

The Fifth Avenue and Laurens Street Proposed Improvement.

The committee of the Board of Aldermen to whom was referred the petition of the property owners of Laurens street, regarding the widening and extending of that street to connect with Fifth avenue, held a second meeting yesterday at noon in the chamber of the Board, for the purpose of hearing persons opposed to the proposed improvement.

At the hour appointed the chamber was crowded with persons representing various interests affected by the movement, and as soon as the meeting was called to order by Alderman Hardy, Mr. Gross, on behalf of the property owners of Laurens street, rose to suggest the propriety of extending Fifth avenue across Washington square to connect with Thompson street, instead of Laurens street.

Alderman HARDY stated that, although the suggestion of Mr. Gross could not be considered by the committee, yet they desired to hear all that was to be said or could be said on the subject, and that as no person present appeared to answer for the property holders on Fifth avenue, Mr. Gross' plan would be heard.

Mr. R. M. HENRY stated that he appeared on behalf of some of the property owners on Fifth avenue in opposition to the proposed improvement, and Mr. Gross then gave way for Mr. Henry. The latter gentleman stated that the question now should be whether there was any need of additional facilities for down town traffic, and he believed there was not. He believed that the tendency of business was to concentrate about midway of the island, and that in a few years no extra means of reaching the lower part of the city would be needed. He suggested that if it were found necessary to make a continuous avenue in order to create additional facilities for traffic, it would be better to cut Sixth avenue through from where it joins Carmine street in a direct line to Varick street, and by that means connect with West Broadway. He claimed that if Fifth avenue be extended as proposed the result would be to make three great thoroughfares—Fifth avenue, Broadway and University place—concentrating at Broadway and Twenty-third street; whereas the proper policy, to relieve the business portion of the city, would be to have the thoroughfare concentrate at some point down town, and thence diverge through the island, and that by no means could this be better effected than by cutting through Sixth avenue to Varick street, as he had stated, as then communication would be made with an avenue which is now a business avenue; and by means of this route the Seventh and Eighth avenues could be easily reached by Greenwich avenue.

Alderman HARDY here interrupted the gentleman by stating that the Common Council did not propose to go on an expedition for the purpose of ascertaining what streets it would be feasible to cut through in order that they might create a new thoroughfare; that the question now under consideration arose from the fact that the property holders on Laurens street had petitioned the Common Council to have the improvement made, and that as no request had been made or intimation given by the property holders of Carmine or Varick streets that such an improvement was desired, it did come properly before the committee at the present time, and that he as a member of the Common Council did not believe they had a right to interfere with the property of any citizen unless the owner of the property requested or accepted the interference.

Mr. HENRY then continued by stating that if this proposed improvement were carried out, the result would not be to make a Fifth avenue of Laurens street, but make a Laurens street of Fifth avenue; and he did not think that the claims of business should now be allowed to override the parts of the city beautified by private residences, and that when business should force private residences away, then the public authorities should lend a hand in favor of the major interest. He contended that the ultimate result of this improvement would be a bid a for railroad through the avenue, and he thought that if people were now so much opposed to having a railroad run through the only longitudinal avenue free from such incumbrance, the best way in which they could show their opposition would be in opposing this matter and advise the Common Council to keep their hands off of the avenue now exempted. He questioned also whether the Common Council could legally pass such a measure, and as far as his researches would lead him to believe he thought they could not and that they had no right to move without authority from the State Legislature. He hoped, therefore, that the committee would report against the proposed improvement, first, because there was already sufficient accommodation for down town traffic; secondly, because the route proposed was by no means the best that could be found; thirdly, that it would greatly injure the value of property on Fifth avenue and the many millions there ought not to be sacrificed to the few on Laurens street, and fourthly, because it was a matter of questionable legality.

Mr. DALY, associate of the last speaker, remarked that there are now seven great thoroughfares connecting the upper and lower ends of the island and that in addition to these there were below Houston street forty-one streets running parallel in a portion of the city not more than two and a half miles in width and that above Fourteenth street there were fourteen streets running parallel in a width of not more than two miles, and this, he thought, was sufficient to answer all purposes. He thought that in a few years business would concentrate above the proposed improvement and that the idea of making additional and broad avenues was an insane idea, and quoted the Bowery as a specimen of a wide avenue and the stagnation of business consequent upon the distance between the sides of the streets, and claimed that for business success a narrow street was much preferable to a wide street. He stated also that the result of the proposed improvement would be to lessen the value of property on Broadway, while it would not materially benefit the property on Laurens street. He also claimed that the improvement would not be a benefit to New York, that it would make an accommodating connection between New Jersey and Westchester and make this city a second Jersey City—a place where people are brought to from all quarters and where they stay just long enough to know which way they must turn to go some place else. He claimed that by this proposed improvement one hundred and forty business or residence lots would be destroyed on Laurens street, and he would like to know where the present occupants would go to.

Mr. CLARK, one of the property owners on Washington square, stated that he was not opposed to the improvement; but he would like to have the avenue cut directly through Washington square to connect with Thompson street, but that if it was determined to cut obliquely through the square he, and he was sure the other property owners around the square, would oppose the project to the fullest extent of the law.

Mr. A. T. STEWART stated that he was slightly interested in property on Broadway, and loved Broadway for many reasons, as much, almost, as any property holders on that thoroughfare, and that he did not agree with the remarks of the young man (Mr. Daly) who stated that this improvement would lessen the value of property on Broadway. He did not think that any avenue that could be made would affect Broadway, provided the same men of enterprise and energy who are now in business in that street would care for it. He thought with Mr. Clark, that the avenue, if extended at all, should be cut through in a direct line, and if it were otherwise cut the improvement would be no improvement. If it were not for the avaricious views of the railroad interest, which seems to be gormandizing everything, he would be glad to see Fifth avenue extended to the Battery or not at all. If the matter be really intended as an improvement it should be carried through; but if it were stopped at Barclay street he would oppose it entirely.

Mr. G. W. PELL then read a resolution which he said would be offered by the property holders on Laurens street if the improvement should be made, by which it was resolved that in case a railroad track or tracks be at any time laid in the said street or the avenue with which it is proposed to connect it, then the property thus intended to be taken for the said widening and extension shall revert to the original owners.

Mr. A. T. STEWART stated that he believed the gentleman's resolution to be nothing more nor less than a law against the laying of a railroad track on the street, and that no resolution made now could effect anything. If a railroad grant was given by the State Legislature it might be annulled by the next Legislature. He had heard that parties had been buying up property on Laurens street for the purpose of speculating, on the passage of this proposed improvement, and he trusted that unless it would appear to be a benefit to the entire city to widen that street he hoped the committee would report against it.

The idea last referred to by Mr. Stewart was denied by Mr. H. A. Cram in behalf of the Laurens street interest, who stated that two-thirds of the signers of the petition were among the oldest residents and property owners on Laurens street, and he was not aware of any property having been bought up by speculators. He thought that the property holders of Fifth avenue could not be very much opposed to the extension or they would be on hand to oppose it, or would be appropriately represented; but they maintained a neutral position, and if they desired to put a stop to this grand project they should come out from their neutrality and say so. He could not see how it would be an improvement to widen a street through which a railroad already runs in preference to one in which there is no railroad, and in which no railroad would ever be laid if the property holders could have any weight in opposing it.

Mr. ANDERSON gave a sharp retort to the gentleman who thought there was sufficient accommodation for getting down town, and stated that in behalf of one hundred thousand people who have daily occasion to go up and down town, he denied that they had accommodation enough.

Mr. J. B. IRELAND read a petition signed by property owners on Fifth avenue and Washington square in favor of the improvement, and stated that now, because of the jump the retail business had taken from below Washington square to Union square, property between those two places had not increased in value as it should have done and as it would do if this improvement were carried out.

A lively discussion then sprung up as to whether Thompson street or Laurens street was the more fitting one to be included in the improvement.

Mr KINNEY thought another question to be considered was whether it was not more desirable to have the street widened fifty feet instead of twenty five.

Mr GROSS asked that in order that the expression of the property owners of Thompson street should be heard another meeting of the committee might be held. This request was granted by the committee, and the meeting adjourned to Saturday next at noon.

Meeting of the Board—More Light Wanted.

Immediately after the conclusion of the above mentioned proceedings the Board of Aldermen, pursuant to adjournment, convened, with the President, Alderman Conlin, in the chair. A large amount of routine business relating to the grading, paving and laying of curb and gutter stones in streets near the upper end of the island was transacted, and resolutions were adopted directing the paving with Nicolson pavement of Twenty-fourth street, from First avenue to Madison avenue, and from Broadway to Sixth avenue; Thirty-third street, from Fifth avenue to Sixth avenue; William street, where not paved with Belgian pavement; Twenty-seventh street, from Fifth avenue to Sixth avenue, and Washington place, from Broadway to University place.

An attempt was made to rush through some fifteen distinct ordinances directing the laying of gas mains and erection of lamps in various streets up town.

Alderman NORTON suggested as an amendment that gas lamps be erected at a distance of one hundred feet from each other throughout every street and avenue in the city. He thought this was going into the gas business by wholesale, and he would like to know whether on those streets in which these pipes were to be laid there were any houses.

Alderman FARLEY spoke in favor of the passage of the resolutions and ordinances, because, he said, "We want more light," and this was a matter of public accommodation and should be attended to.

Alderman NORTON thought "we want more light" indeed, but he had observed and had called the attention of others to the fact that in many of the streets crossing the line of the Harlem Railroad gas lamps were erected quite close to each other, block after block, and no house within a radius of half a mile. He liked to accommodate the public, but he did not think that the public should be taxed $2,000 or $3,000 to light up the way on an uninhabited street for the accommodation of one or two property holders who might have houses on the street within half a mile of each other. Besides he thought the Common Council ought to understand what they were doing by ordering this work in such a wholesale manner. It was nothing more or less than a big job for the gas companies, and the proposition under consideration was quite enough to support a gas company. The city, he said, has no contract with the companies for the price of gas, and when the work was ordered the gas companies did it and then charged what they pleased. He stated that he was chairman of the Committee on Lamps and Gas, but that not one of these resolutions were ever presented to him.

Alderman FARLEY stated that Mr. Norton's name was appended to the report of the committee in each case, and he also stated that on most of the streets named houses were erected and people living in them.

Alderman NORTON replied by stating that he had never signed any of those papers, and had never given any person any authority to sign his name for him.

The resolutions were then recommitted to the Committee on Lamps and Gas.

Resolutions relative to the death of Anson Herrick and of ex-Alderman James Reed were presented, read and adopted, and a committee of five appointed to act in connection with a similar committee from the Board of Councilmen to make arrangements for the Common Council to attend the funeral of ex-Alderman Reed. The committee comprised Aldermen O'Brien, White, Connor, Repper and Farley.

The Board then adjourned to Monday next, at two o'clock P. M.

BOARD OF COUNCILMEN.

Paving Seventh Avenue—Salt on the Railroad Tracks—The Corporation Manual—The Nicolson Pavement.

The Board met yesterday afternoon at four o'clock, Mr. Stacom, the President, presiding.

A petition was received from property owners requesting that Seventh avenue, from Greenwich avenue to Fifty-ninth street, be paved with Belgian pavement, except where that pavement is now laid. It was referred to the Committee on Belgian Pavement.

Mr. HARTMAN offered the following:—Whereas, by an amendment of the ordinance the railroad companies were allowed to use salt on their switches and turnouts, and whereas, some of the railroad companies abuse the privilege so accorded by sprinkling their tracks with salt over the entire length of their roads; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Committee on Railroads be instructed to investigate into the said matter, and that to enable them to have a thorough investigation they have power to send for persons and papers.

Mr. HARTMAN said that in view of the prevalence of bronchial diseases the railroad companies who, he understood, were using a dummy car filled with holes to sprinkle salt on their entire route, should be compelled to desist this injurious practice.

The resolution was adopted.

THE CORPORATION MANUAL AGAIN.

A resolution was presented directing the Clerk of the Common Council to prepare and compile the Manual of the Corporation for the year 1868, and that fifteen thousand copies be printed, which was laid over.

A resolution in favor of appointing Charles Baulch Assistant Librarian in the City Library at a salary of $1,000 was lost and subsequently reconsidered.

The resolution in favor of increasing the salaries of the clerks, assistants and other officials connected with the Clerk's offices was called up and debated. An amendment was made by increasing the salary of the Sergeant-at-Arms to $2,000 and that of the official reporter to $3,000 per annum. The paper was then laid over.

NICOLSON PAVEMENT.

Resolutions were adopted in favor of paving the following streets with Nicolson pavement:—Exchange place, from Broad to Hanover street; Marketfield street, from Whitehall to Broad street; Franklin street, from Elm street to West Broadway, and Great Jones street, Liberty street, Pearl street, from Wall to Hanover; Bridge street, from Broad to the Battery; Ninth street, from Sixth avenue to Broadway.

Mr. HENRY MURRAY endeavored to procure the passage of resolutions to pave certain up town streets with Belgian pavement, but they were lost for want of a sufficient number of votes.

OBSTRUCTIONS AT HELL GATE.

The Board concurred with the Aldermen in requesting the New York members of Congress to urge immediate action on the removal of the obstructions in Hell Gate.

They also concurred in a resolution directing the Street Commissioner to thoroughly refit and repair the Chamber of the Board of Aldermen and the offices of the clerk.

A large number of "general orders" pertaining to routine matters were adopted.

The resolutions from the Board of Aldermen respecting the death of Mr. Anson Henrick and ex-Alderman Reed were read and concurred in, after which the Board adjourned, out of respect to the memory of the deceased.

The Board will meet to-morrow (Monday), at two o'clock.

MAYOR'S OFFICE.

Marshal Tappan has issued during the past week licenses as follows:—Coaches, eight; express wagons, three; public carts, nine; dirt carts, three; vendors, thirty-five; drivers, twenty-nine; porters, three; boarding houses, four; junk dealers, two; intelligence office, one—total ninety seven. He has collected:—For fines $6, for permits $1,424, making a total for fees, fines and permits of $1,635 50.

James Coyle, a hack driver, was fined $5 for having no license, no number on his coach and for having the vehicle in a condition unfit to be licensed.

The driver of coach 115 was fined $1 for having no badge exposed while he was soliciting hire. Jacob Horn, driver of a public cart, was fined $2 for violation of ordinances.

THE POOR OF NEW YORK.

That section of the city embraced within the limits of the Ninth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth wards, notwithstanding the anomalous character of its population, admits a very favorable report as regards the number of unemployed poor requiring aid at the hands of charity. No serious destitution prevails anywhere in this district, as is shown in the fact of no special relief associations having been organized thus far in either of these wards. In the Ninth ward there is probably less positive destitution than in any other ward in the city. What destitution does prevail is mainly confined to Little Twelfth and Gansevoort streets, whose residents are mainly made up of the more destitute Irish persuasion. In the Fourteenth ward, that part known as "Gibraltar" and the section christened "Bull Run alley," the tenements are very compact and densely crowded, and there are a good many very poor people living in them who are not bountifully supplied with the necessaries of life, but the usual city charities have managed thus far to supply their more pressing wants. The west portion of Amity street, Minetta lane and West Thirteenth street, in the Fifteenth ward, contain most of the unemployed and destitute in this precinct. Nearly all the churches are doing something to relieve their wants, so that with the help of the stated city charities no cases of extreme and unrelieved destitution have occurred or are likely to occur.

The grand head centre of the benevolent operations on behalf of the outdoor poor of the city, as is well known, is at No. 1 Bond street, within the boundaries of the Fifteenth ward. The scenes daily to be witnessed here at the office of the Commissioners of Charities and Correction afford a sure and infallible index of the amount of distress existing among the poor people of the city. Over a thousand applicants for assistance daily present themselves here. Long before the opening hour, ten A. M., a crowd of several hundred men, women and children are in waiting to put in their applications for relief. They come from all sections of the city and represent all possible classes of people. Clerks, tailors, shoemakers, hatters, in fact representatives of every mechanical employment, pursuit or profession, and all out of employment and all suffering. At no time in the history of the city have there been, according to the statement of Mr. Kellock, the superintendent, so many persons, and especially mechanics, applying for relief. Such rigid inquiry is now made into the condition and antecedent habits of each applicant by visitors specially commissioned for this purpose that that class, so to speak, of born paupers—men who come into this world to live on the products of others, and who are inherently principled against doing anything either for themselves or others—do not begin to be as numerous as they formerly were under the more lax system of dispensing our public charities. Although poverty with many who whimper forth their long complaints is self-inflicted woe, the effect of laziness of sottish waste, the most are those suffering the necessaries of life from being thrown out of employment. Iron-clad must be that heart, and callous to any generous emotion, that can view this assemblage unpitying and unmoved. Look on these men, ragged, emaciated, and utterly wretched and forlorn of aspect,

Whose rawboned cheeks, through penury and pine,
Are shrunk into thin jaws, as they did never dine.

Look on these women. The majestic beauty of noble womanhood shrouded by the wretched habiliments of poverty and all the adorning graces that crown the female character with so much loveliness, obscured by the terrible imprints of wretched and wasting want. Look on these children, and in their tattered garments and shrunken cheeks, and pitifully wasted little faces, wearing that prematurely old look so characteristic of poverty's children, strive to evoke from philosophy the deeply hidden law of poverty, and why it is those so young and innocent and helpless deserve such miseries. Columns could be filled with the special and deeply touching instances of want occurring in our visits here yesterday to which Mr. Kellock called our attention. Want of employment is the almost universal complaint.

And here, in closing our present chapter about the poor of New York, we will devote the concluding paragraph to describing the lodgers at our police station houses. They are all alike. One picture answers for all. But it is an incontestible fact that our station house lodgings, to be even approximately appreciated and understood, require to be seen when filled with the unfortunate poor driven here for shelter. Nothing short of the actual seeing can give one a comprehensive idea of the mingled features of woe and wretchedness, the curious combination of squalor, filth, shabby gentility and jaded smartness, the diverse exhibitions of impudence and shyness, of goodness and modesty and the basest villainy and depravity, and above all the irrepressible clatter of discordant voices making night hideous; and one should see the lodgers as they come in, watch their faces as they approach in front of the iron railing, strutting about with a sort of magisterial dignity, the police sergeant on duty takes note of their responses to the questions asked them, and as a *finis* of observation and study looks in upon them after they have reached their allotted apartments for the night. They commence coming early in the evening—early coming being the best guarantee of lodging, so many having to be turned away. Very many are what are called and known as "rounders," a soubriquet taking its derivation from their making the circuit of the station houses, and so in the infrequency of appearing at any one station house—it taking about three weeks to make the rounds—managing to secure their lodgings for the whole winter. Let it not be supposed that any

Lie down to pleasant dreams,
Wrapping the drapery of their couch about them.

A hard floor is the couch, the sole drapery the cold, cheerless walls, and the only bedclothes their thin, threadbare and tattered garments. The beds of the city have just sounded forth their nine o'clock evening peals, and the two lodging rooms—one for men and one for women—in the Fifteenth ward station house, the closing scene of our observations to-night, are already filled. There are thirty-two women in the room devoted to their use. Nine are lying upon fashion on the floor, seeking to combat the chilly air from warmth derived from mutual contact. The rest are sitting or standing, or walking about, for the most part women of repulsively forbidding countenances.

No more like graces
Than Venus like an owl;
And we would take them rather
Like a midnight pack
Of witches, met together
With Beelzebub in black.

And this is not all; women like, they are all talking—a perfect Babel of linguat confusion.

They contradict, affirm, dispute;
No single tongue one moment mute;
All mad to speak and none to hearken—
Their voices like forty dogs a-barking.

We have but faintly sketched the outlines of the picture, and leave to the imagination to fill it up. The men's room is likewise already filled to its utmost capacity, having to-night seventy-three lodgers. Hardened, rough, brutal, sottish faces, the most are—a heterogeneous mixture of depraved men, whose ribald jokes and obscene oaths are too repulsive for record. Poverty makes strange bedfellows, and there are some in whom the better human traits are yet discoverable, who, for the shelter here afforded them, patiently bide the agonizing war of such companionship and the coming of better, brighter days, when opportunity for renewed labor and earnings will raise them above the plane of charity's compassion such as this, and revive the feeling of independence and self-respect fast waning under such influences and surroundings. Such are the nightly scenes to be witnessed in our station houses. It is an o'er true tale and a sad one—a part and parcel of poverty's painful record, as developed in a great city like ours; a recital giving food for reflection to the rich who have never experienced poverty's woes; a basis for broad philanthropy on the part of all endowed with human sympathies and a disposition to make those sympathies practical in good deeds.

THE NATIONAL GUARD.

The admirers of the First division, who are legion, have been during the past week working like beavers to induce the Legislature to pass a bill setting apart a certain plot in the Park as a parade ground for the use of the division. It may now be authoritatively announced that a bill for this purpose will soon be introduced, and that it will pass no one has a reason to doubt. The Park would become all the more attractive were the bill passed, and as the chief aim of the Commissioners is to increase the attractions of the Park in every possible legitimate way they could not do better, it is contended, than to show, by using their influence in the furtherance of the measure, that they are heart and soul with the division and its friends as far as the new parade ground is concerned.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S REPORT.

The annual report of Adjutant General Marvin, which has just come to hand, contains some suggestions that are worthy of attention. In relation to the maximum force of the National Guard he says:—It is certain that a smaller force, well disciplined and thoroughly instructed, that can be quickly collected, is of more service to the State in the protection of its varied interests, than a large force scattered throughout its entire borders, and difficult of concentration, without the burden of taxation being very grievous upon the people. For all our wants in time of peace, I am of the opinion that the force could with propriety be reduced one-half, and with very few exceptions should be principally located in the cities, with a small force in the populous villages on our northern boundaries, and at such points in the southern part of the State as would seem to be available for the protection of the people resident in that locality.

The following remarks concerning the election of officers may not be palatable to many of the members of the militia, but no one can fail to appreciate the force of their truthfulness:—

The system of the election of officers, to the extent now provided by law, is a great drawback towards the advancement of the National Guard. It interferes with the establishment of discipline when promotion is dependent upon the will and voice of those occupying inferior positions. Favoritism, or special admiration for a man irrespective of any qualification he may have for the office to which he aspires, too often elevates him to an official station for which he is totally unqualified and signally unfitted. To make the military effective it should be divested of every consideration not bearing upon the true interests involved in those matters which are to make it reliable and trustworthy in its relations to society and the general good. The Commander-in-Chief should have sufficient appointing power so that there may be a certain proportion of the officers whom he can hold responsible for a proper discharge of the duties of their respective offices, and so should the intermediate officers have a like source of responsibility. The election of brigadier generals is in all its features wrong. Men for this important position are by the system of election apt to be selected,