NEW YORK CITY.

THE COURTS.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT—IN ADMIRALTY.

Collision Case Decisions.

Before Judge Blatchford.

Michael Murphy vs. The Bark Emilie, and Christian H. Watjen and Others vs. The Schooner Pilot Boat Abraham Leggett.—These were cross libels—the first by the owner of the pilot boat against the Emilie, the second by the owner of the Emilie against the pilot boat for collision. The Judge held that the collision was clearly the fault of the bark, in drifting with the tide against the pilot boat; that the evidence did not show that the pilot boat's anchor was off the ground, and that the hoisting of the jib by the pilot boat and putting her helm to port was a proper course to avoid, if possible, the collision. The libel against the pilot boat should be dismissed and the decree against the bark should be granted, with a reference to a commissioner to ascertain the amount to be awarded. J. K. Hill and W. Q. Morton for the Emilie; Beebee Donohue for the pilot boat Leggett.

Collision on the Hudson.

John H. Crawford and Others vs. The Steamboats America and New Haven.—This case, which was opened on Friday and adjourned to yesterday morning, was resumed after the calendar had been called. The opening statement and the cause of action have been already fully reported in the HERALD. The libellants were the owners of the canal boat Contest, which was one of a fleet in tow by the New Haven going up the Hudson in October, 1865, and at a point in the river near Albany; the America then coming down the river to New York struck the Contest and did her considerable injury. The libel was filed to recover compensation for the damages sustained by the boat and her cargo, and hence not only the America, by which the blow was struck, but the New Haven, which had the Contest in tow, is included in the action. The case is conducted as if the struggle lay between the two steamboats as to which should suffer the penalty. The libellants are demanding ample compensation for their alleged losses, and the only question at issue is, "Who is to pay?" The America says, "The fault is not mine," and the New Haven says, "It is, and not mine." The Contest looks on quietly at the struggle. The court is occupied in taking oral testimony and the case is still on.

The testimony having been concluded counsel summed up, the court taking the papers and reserving decision.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT—CRIMINAL BRANCH.

The Van Campen Habeas Corpus Case.

Before Judge Blatchford.

The United States vs. Samuel R. Van Campen.—In this case, which had been argued last Saturday, the Judge rendered his decision, in which, after a review of the evidence and circumstances of the case, he sustained the committal by Commissioner Betts, and affirmed that the defendant should abide the action of the Grand Jury in the ordinary course of the administration of the laws. The habeas corpus and certiorari had in this case should be therefore vacated.

Condemnations of Whiskey.

On motion of Mr. Rollins, United States Assistant District Attorney, decrees of condemnation and sale were taken in the following cases:—The still and ten barrels of spirits found at Ebling & Co.'s, West Thirty-ninth street; five barrels same at 34 New Bowery, one case of smoking tobacco at pier No. 21 North river, 130 gallons spirits at No. 54 Columbia street, four barrels same at No. 280 Elizabeth street, two barrels same at No. 42 Mott street, two barrels same at 426 East Twenty-sixth street, twenty-eight barrels same at No. 218 Pearl street, ten barrels same at No. 448 West Thirty-sixth street, two barrels same at No. 232 East Fortieth street, fourteen barrels same at No. 362 Greenwich street, and two stills and two tanks at No. 270 West Forty-ninth street.

Petitions Filed in Bankruptcy Yesterday.

Edward H. Branch—Referred to Register Williams.
John Franklin Burns—Referred to Register Fitch.
Solomon B. Cohn—Referred to Register Dayton.
The foregoing are of New York city.
James R. Allen, Chatham Four Corners, Columbia county—Referred to Register Beebe.

SUPREME COURT—CHAMBERS.

A Curious Divorce Case—A United States Consul in an Uncomfortable Fix—Complications in the Hymenial Knot—How Divorces Are Obtained.

Before Judge Barnard.

Morgan L. Smith vs. Mary Ann Smith.—In December, 1866, the plaintiff obtained in the Supreme Court of this city and county a decree of divorce from his wife, the defendant, on the ground of alleged adultery on her part with various persons. Mrs. Smith was at the time, and now is, a resident of Newport, Ky., and when plaintiff obtained the decree he swore that he was a resident of this State; but it is now claimed that he was then actually a resident of St. Louis, Mo. A short time previous he had occupied the position of General Agent of the Southern division of the Little Miami Railroad, and had during the war attained the rank of general in the Union army in the Southwest. A short time after obtaining his decree against this defendant he married a Miss Jinella, of Vicksburg, Miss., who has since borne him one child, and in February, 1867, he was appointed United States Consul at Honolulu, Sandwich Islands, and shown to be a citizen of Missouri.

It appears that the first intimation his wife had of the decree of divorce against her was on December 8, 1866, when Mr. Smith came to his home in Newport, Ky., and just before leaving the house again informed his wife that he had obtained a decree of divorce. She asked what he meant, and he replied that it was "a kind of mutual arrangement for separation between us." She protested against the idea and asked him where he obtained it, and he declined to give her the information, merely remarking that "divorces could be obtained very easily in the State of Indiana." He then left her with five children and some time elapsed before it could be ascertained under what jurisdiction the decree had been granted, but it was ultimately found to be among the records of the Supreme Court of this State.

The case came up yesterday on a motion to set aside the decree as fraudulent and void. The defence asked for delay in order to secure the attendance or affidavits of witnesses who, it is alleged, are now living in Omaha (Nebraska), Cincinnati, New Orleans, Newport (Ky.) and St. Louis. These witnesses are the parties upon whose testimony the decree was granted, and it seemed to puzzle the court to ascertain by what singular circumstance all these persons should have left the city and taken up their residence in places so far distant, within so short a time after the former trial.

The court decided not to act peremptorily in the matter, but gave the defendant leave to submit his affidavits at any time before June 15, 1868, when judgment will be entered on motion. For the motion, E. B. Morrill; opposed, D. W. Adams.

The Erie Litigation—Another Postponement.

Eight motions in the Erie litigation were upon the calendar of this court yesterday, and upon being called were, after some unimportant discussion, adjourned at the suggestion of the court and by consent of the counsel until the 26th inst.

The motion on the Bloodgood injunction granted by Judge Cardozo, but which that Justice so frequently stated he was not desirous of hearing, will also come before Judge Barnard at the same date.

The contempt proceedings against Messrs. Devin, Davis, Skidmore, Lane, Thompson, Gould and Fisk, which were to have been heard this afternoon, were also adjourned until the 26th inst.

It was also announced by the court that upon J. S. Eldridge coming into court, which his counsel expected he would do yesterday had the case gone on, bail would be accepted in the sum of $10,000.

SUPREME COURT—CHAMBERS.

A Curious Case of Alleged Lunacy—Another Family Muddle—A Squabble About the Property of a Deceased Relative.

Before Judge Barnard.

In the Matter of Edward Humphreys, a Supposed Lunatic.—In 1834 Elijah Humphreys died in this city, leaving a widow, Maria Humphreys, and three children, named respectively Edward, Elijah and Anna. The two sons, it is said, were both lunatics. The daughter Anna died some time since, leaving one child, Anna Hughes. Mrs. Humphreys, the relict, took out letters of administration upon the estate of her husband, but no settlement of the affairs ever took place, and she afterwards claimed ownership in fee of all the property. In 1867 Mrs. Humphreys died, leaving her two sons and her granddaughter Anna surviving. She also left a will naming a second cousin, James B. Young, executor, and bequeathing all her property to her granddaughter, who is now about twenty years of age, leaving her two sons unprovided for. Mr. Humphreys' estate at the time of his death amounted to about $50,000, which is claimed to have accumulated to $150,000 at the decease of Mrs. Humphreys, and now consists mainly of extensive tracts of land in Illinois, and real estate in this city valued at $75,000. The will was offered for probate by Mr. Young, and the contestants claim that the existence of the two sons was not disclosed.

The case came before this court yesterday on two motions—one on behalf of the executor to vacate an order granted by Judge Ingraham shortly after the will was offered for probate, appointing a commission in lunacy on application of Mr. Lewis Beach, who claims to have been an intimate friend of the father of the family; and the second motion on the part of Mr. Beach to set aside a subsequent order made by Judge Ingraham, on application of Mr. Young and others, appointing the same persons who were appointed commissioners in lunacy on the preceding application.

Counsel for the Young branch of the case denied that the property was worth the amount stated ($150,000), and contended that it did not amount to more than $5,000—certainly a great discrepancy in calculation.

Counsel on behalf of Mr. Beach stated that Mr. Beach was neither a trustee nor creditor of the estate nor guardians of the lunatics, the two sons, but merely a trusted friend of Humphreys, the father, in his lifetime, and who wished in his action in this matter to protect helpless relatives from rapacious cousins.

After argument the court decided that the commission granted on application of Mr. Beach gave him only conditional power, and had been superseded or vacated by the subsequent one granted to Mr. Young. Though it was not expressly stated in the second order that the first was vacated, that was its meaning and force, and Judge Ingraham had stated to him (Judge Barnard) that such was his intent. The motion, therefore, to set aside the second order was denied and the application to vacate the first order granted.

SUPERIOR COURT—SPECIAL TERM.

The Robinson Divorce Case.

Before Judge McCunn.

Elizabeth D. Robinson vs. Cornelius D. Robinson.—Judgment was rendered in this case yesterday morning. The plaintiff brought a suit for divorce, on the ground of adultery, while the defence charged the plaintiff with a similar offence. The motion was now made for alimony, which was granted at $25 a week and $250 counsel fee.

Decisions.

By Judge Monell.

Hoffman et al. vs. The Union Paper Collar Company.—Injunction dissolved in part and in part modified.

By Judge McCunn.

Kirkpatrick et al. vs. Frederick Cyrus.—Motion granted and proceedings stayed.

Dilworth vs. Bostwick.—Motion granted.

Brett et al. vs. Mainy et al.—Motion to amend answer granted on payment of $50 costs.

Fowler vs. Burnham.—Motion granted.

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS.

THIS DAY.

Before Judge Russel.

In this court yesterday Edward Latton pleaded guilty to an indictment charging him with stealing a trunk containing $180 worth of clothing from Jesse Williams, and was sent to the State Prison for two years. Stephen Canfield, who was charged with burglariously entering the premises of the New York Varnish Company on the 25th of April, pleaded guilty to an attempt at burglary in the third degree and was sentenced to the Penitentiary.

William Christopher, against whom there was a charge of stealing a gold watch and a set of jewelry from Thomas Lynch, 20 New Bowery, pleaded guilty to an attempt at grand larceny. Sentence was postponed.

COURT CALENDARS—THIS DAY.

SUPREME COURT—CIRCUIT.—Part 1.—Nos. 1093, 1237, 1117, 913, 1191, 727, 1071, 1327, 533, 1329, 1331, 1333, 1335, 1337, 1339, 1341, 1343, 1345, 1347, 1349. Part 2.—Nos. 802, 284, 1084, 1554, 1588, 1794, 978, 340, 250, 1024, 1026, 1028, 162½, 860, 588, 1050, 1052, 1076, 1082, 786.

SUPREME COURT—CHAMBERS.—Nos. 26, 105.

SUPERIOR COURT—TRIAL TERM.—Part 1.—Nos. 3781, 3801, 3951, 3955, 3891, 3893, 3833, 3867, 1066, 3927, 3929, 3933, 3741, 3969, 3971. Part 2.—Nos. 4006, 3450, 4168, 3736, 4034, 4012, 4048, 4096, 4098, 4100, 4102, 4104, 4106, 4108, 4110.

COMMON PLEAS—TRIAL TERM.—Part 2.—Nos. 566, 966, 483, 343, 708, 735, 820, 1902, 888, 1232, 894, 431, 32, 1304, 921.

MARINE COURT—TRIAL TERM.—Nos. 1049, 1259, 1261, 1265, 1226, 1155, 1153, 1247, 662, 862, 1053, 452, 1201, 1314, 1315, 1317, 1316, 1318, 1319, 1320, 1321, 1322, 1323, 1324, 1325, 1326, 1327, 1328.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

PARADE POSTPONED.—The parade of the Fourth brigade, National Guard, General Aspinwall, called for in general orders for May 5, has been postponed until the 3d proximo.

PROBALY FATAL ACCIDENT.—Eugene Schultz, a German laborer, twenty years of age, while at work at 194 Canal street yesterday morning, had his right leg, thigh and arm broken by the falling of a derrick upon him. He was taken to Bellevue Hospital.

CORRECTION.—Richard Neville, the man whose death was noticed in yesterday's HERALD as having resulted from the effects of intemperance, proves, on investigation, to have died from disease of the heart.

FATAL ACCIDENT ON SHIPBOARD.—James Quinn, a laborer, while at work on board the ship Hays, at pier No. 45 East river yesterday afternoon, fell from the deck to the lower hold, sustaining a fracture of the skull, from the effects of which he died. He resided in Cherry street and leaves a wife and family.

NEW YORK AND HARLEM RAILROAD.—The annual election of directors for the New York and Harlem Railroad was held yesterday in the rooms of the company, corner of Fourth avenue and Twenty-sixth street. The following are the names of those who have been elected:—C. Vanderbilt, W. H. Vanderbilt, W. C. Wetmore, A. B. Baylis, H. F. Clark, Augustus Schell, James H. Banker, John M. Tobin, John B. Dutcher, William A. Kissam, Oliver Charlick, Joseph Harker and C. Vanderbilt, Jr.

NEW YORK HOSPITAL.—The election for Governors for the "Society of the New York Hospital" yesterday resulted in the choice of the following gentlemen:—George T. Trimble, James F. De Peyster, John A. Stevens, David Colden Murray, Robert Lenox Kennedy, John David Wolfe, Thomas Hall Faile, John C. Green, Frederick A. Conkling, Nathaniel P. Bailey, Otis D. Swan, James W. Beekman, James Boorman Johnston, Samuel Willets, James M. Brown, Israel Corse, Theodore B. Bronson, Sheppard Gandy, Robert J. Livingston, William Dennistoun, Jackson S. Schultz, George Cabot Ward, George D. H. Gillespie, William B. Hoffman, Edward S. Jaffray, Jonathan Thorne.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS.—This Order, which, it is reported, has created some interest throughout the States of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and the District of Columbia, has just been introduced into this city. On Monday evening, the 18th inst., the first lodge of the Order was instituted at Warren Hall, corner Oliver and Henry streets, to be known as "Rathbone" Lodge, in honor of the founder of the Order in the city of New York. It numbers among its members several prominent citizens. Past Grand Chancellor J. H. Rathbone, and Grand Chancellor W. P. Westwood, of the Provisional Supreme Grand Lodge, Washington, D. C., were present and installed the officers elect.

CORLAER'S HOOK LODGING HOUSE.—The Children's Aid Society has opened a new lodging house for poor boys, bearing the above title, at Nos. 325 and 327 Rivington street. Last night it was formally opened and about fifty boys presented themselves. They were addressed by the President of the society, Mr. Booth, and the Secretary, Mr. Brace, both of whom exhorted the boys to be truthful, diligent, persevering and industrious, and success in life would be sure to reward their efforts. After listening to the remarks of these gentlemen the boys retired down stairs to the supper room and partook of a good substantial meal. At present there are sleeping accommodations for fifty boys, and in a short time places for fifty more will be provided.

THE LATE CHARGES AGAINST POLICE CAPTAIN MILLS.—At a meeting of the Board of Police, held a day or two ago, the charges that have been for some time standing against Captain Mills, of the Eighth precinct, were passed upon. For having arrested a man named Hayden, because he was standing on the corner of a street talking to a friend one night, Commissioner Brennan moved that he should be dismissed from the department. This motion did not prevail, when Commissioner Bosworth moved that the captain be fined ten days' pay. This motion was also voted down and an amendment that the accused be severely censured by President Acton was finally adopted, Commissioner Brennan voting against it. The sentence of the Board was duly carried out by Mr. Acton. On the charge of having locked up in a cell a woman with a dead infant in her arms, Commissioner Brennan moved that he be censured. The motion did not prevail.

AN ADVANCE IN THE PRICE OF LAGER.—A circular signed by the secretary of the New York Association of Brewers, by order of the executive committee, was yesterday delivered to each brewer in the city and vicinity, giving the reasons why an advance in the price of lager from twelve to fourteen dollars per barrel was necessary. Chief among these is the increased cost of barley and hops, the higher rate of wages, the internal revenue tax and the fact that brewers in St. Louis will charge from sixteen to eighteen dollars. Reference is also had to the fact that since the repeal of the Reciprocity treaty with the British American provinces cheaper Canadian barley cannot now be had. Another rather peculiar ground is that the hop and malt dealers had resolved to deny credit to any brewer who shall not have paid up his arrearages by the 1st of October next. There is no doubt that the suggestions of the association will be followed by the brewers and lager will become a more expensive beverage this summer.

JANE STREET UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—Last evening Mr. Mathews was installed pastor of this church by the Presbytery, in the presence of a large congregation, who manifested considerable interest in the proceedings. The services opened with prayer by the Rev. Hugh Brown, moderator, who subsequently preached a lengthened sermon. The reverend gentleman adverted to the pastoral relations of the ministerial office, and explained the manner in which its important functions should be exercised. The power of the minister, he observed, was not sovereign but delegated, and was divided into three classes—the dogmatic, the ordaining and the power of discipline. Rev. Mr. Campbell, of the West Forty-fifth Street Presbyterian church, then delivered the charge to the pastor, which was followed by the charge to the people by the Rev. A. M. Connell, of Newark. Mr. Mathews having been formally installed, he was accorded the right hand of fellowship by the Presbytery and congregation, after which the new pastor invoked a solemn benediction upon those present, and the impressive and interesting proceedings were brought to a close.

LAYING A CORNER STONE.—The laying down of the corner stone of the First German Baptist church took place yesterday afternoon. The new edifice, now in course of erection, is situated in East Fourteenth street, close to First avenue. The church was organized in 1846, and up to recently the congregation worshipped in avenue A, convenient to Fourth street. The material of which the building will be composed is the marble from the lecture room of Dr. Cheever's old church in Union square, which was purchased by the committee of the First German church. About three o'clock yesterday the children of the Sunday school attached to the church assembled on the ground, having with them the banners of the school. The Rev. Herman M. Schaffer, pastor of the congregation, commenced the ceremonies with a hymn. An address was then spoken in German, and Mr. J. W. Stevens, chairman of the church extension committee, proceeded to lay the corner stone. With the stone was placed the usual tin box, containing the history of the church, the newspapers of the day, American and German currency, and English and German Bibles. The building, when finished, will accommodate about seven hundred people. Its estimated cost, including lot and building, is about $40,000.

THE FARMERS' CLUB.—The leading topic discussed at the meeting yesterday of this club was "Does deep ploughing remunerate the cultivator?" A correspondent who had been present at a convocation when the question was on the *tapis*, put it in an epistle to the President, in which he insinuated that "philosophers'" and "amateur farmers'"—such as he supposed the club to be composed of—opinions were not of particular moment. The question, however, brought the "philosophers" and "amateur farmers" to their feet, and for a time deep ploughing was discussed with a warmth of manner, if not of language, which must, if he were present, have greatly edified the propounder. As usual the discussion took a wide range, and while several among the number, "the philosopher," H. G., took up the line of argument that deep ploughing was the secret of successful farming; others insisted, and cited instances to sustain them, that it was oftentimes most injurious. The President finally proposed that farmers should plough and manure as deeply as possible, and if they found that loss resulted to report the fact to the club. The debate finally turned upon pisciculture, in which again "the philosopher," H. G., assured his audience that very deep ponds were apt to kill trout, for the reason that deep water was always warm—(something new)—and that consequently trout would die rather than consent to be parboiled. On listening to an address from a gentleman from Vermont and a statement by another that there were one thousand agricultural associations in the country, the club, without formality, adjourned.

POLICE INTELLIGENCE.

CHARGE OF SWINDLING THROUGH FALSE PRETENCES.—Henry L. Webb was yesterday arrested by officer Robinson, of Judge Kelly's court, and brought before the Judge at the Yorkville Police Court, on a charge of swindling George D. Crary, of No. 218 Pearl street, out of $250, through borrowing this sum on a $500 bond of the Southern Minnesota Railroad Company, which, it is claimed, he falsely represented to be his property. After Mr. Crary had sworn to the above facts, Mr. A. T. Willis, of No. 20 West Twenty-eighth street, testified that he gave the bond in question, No. 214, to the accused as a sample of bonds to be exhibited to parties desiring to loan money on said bonds as collateral security, the latter having represented that he could readily dispose of $50,000 worth of the bonds. The prisoner was held in $1,000 bail to answer the charge.

ALLEGED HIGHWAY ROBBERY.—As Daniel Ryan, living at No. 417 East Fourteenth street, was passing through Twelfth street, near Third avenue, about three o'clock yesterday morning, he was suddenly set upon by two men, knocked down and robbed of $9, all the money he had about him. His cries for the police reached the ears of a policeman, who, seeing the two men running, at once gave chase, and after a run of two blocks succeeded in capturing them. The stolen money was found in their possession. The two men, who gave their names as James McCluskey and John McNamara, were taken before Judge Mansfield, at the Essex Market Police Court, and fully committed in default of bail.

THE LABOR QUESTION.

Proposed Strike of the Piano Makers To-Day.

Between seven and eight hundred piano makers, workingmen employed at factories in this city, assembled yesterday afternoon at Ruppert's Hall, on Forty-fifth street, between First and Second avenues. Mr. Henry Siebert presided. After resolving to hold a picnic at Jones' Wood on the 24th of August next, the real object of this gathering in mass was reached, which is the enforcement of their demand for an increase of wages. On last Thursday, at a meeting of delegates from the various factories, which convened at No. 28 Stanton street, it was determined to inquire of each employer what he intended to do in the matter, and yesterday the result of their inquiries was reported. Of all the numerous factories in the city, only that of Smith & Co., successors to Bradbury, agreed to an advance of fifteen per cent upon the present scale of wages. Decker & Co. having continued to pay the same prices as before Christmas, agreed to any increase above that which may be adopted by the other manufacturers. Lindemann & Sands refused any and all advance, and E. Gabler told his workmen that when they had finished the work now in hand they might just as well stop if they declined to continue at present rates. The answer of the proprietors at nearly all the other establishments, as reported to the meeting yesterday, was, that if Steinway & Sons will pay the increase asked for they would do likewise, and not if they don't. A rather irregular and desultory debate ensued after these reports were received, during which the president of the meeting indulged in some very improper and unjust aspersions of the press of the city, as being "in the pay of capital and against the labor interest," which, however, were not very favorably received. For a while it seemed quite uncertain what the result of the meeting would be, as some extremists among the members insisted upon the return to old prices—some thirty-five or forty per cent higher than those paid now. At last a motion was made and carried, with but a dozen voices in the negative, that an increase of ten per cent, which would amount to the wages paid before the last reduction, should be demanded; and then it was unanimously resolved that this morning in every shop, except those of Smith & Co. and Decker & Bros., before commencing work, the men should in a body proceed to the several proprietors and demand an immediate answer, and if any do not agree then to retire from the factory and decline to receive work. Those employed at Steinway & Sons were then instructed to report at once to the other shops the answer they may receive; as the others have made their action in the matter dependent upon the course adopted by this leading establishment. A committee of three will be in session to-night, at headquarters, 28 Stanton street, to receive the reports of how these proceedings resulted during the day, and then the Executive Committee will determine what further action, if any, may become necessary.

Operative Plasterers.

A large and very enthusiastic meeting of the plasterers of New York was held at the Dentil Institute last night. There were over three hundred and fifty members present, the largest number that has ever attended a regular meeting of the association.

The chief business of the session was to consider the propriety of insisting upon an advance of wages from $4 50 per day to $5, in accordance with a notice given at a previous meeting by Mr. Munday. The chair was occupied by Michael Goode, and P. Grogan acted as secretary.

After the transaction of the usual routine business and the initiation of a number of new members Mr. MUNDAY moved that the society's wages of the men in New York be $5 per day on and after the 20th of May.

Mr. MUNDAY advocated the adoption of the resolution on the ground that now was the most favorable time to ask for the increase, which was just, and at this season of the year, when business was brisk, the demand would doubtless be acceded to. He had understood that already some twenty or thirty societies which had demanded an advance of wages had been successful, and there was no reason why the plasterers should be an exception.

Mr. STERRITT moved for a postponement of the matter until the first meeting in July, which was lost on a division.

An exciting discussion followed. Mr. CAHILL opposed the proposed strike at the present time, when work was so dull that many could not get jobs.

Mr. BURNS supported the resolution, and thought this was the time to demand the increase, before the jobs were done.

Mr. Mansfield, Mr. Gleson, Mr. Fortune and others spoke for and against the proposed demand, and on a division there were 198 for it and 144 against it. As the rules require a two-thirds vote the motion was lost.

BOARD OF HEALTH.

The Law in Regard to Tenement Houses—Precautions to be Adopted in Regard to Foreign Vessels—An Infected Vessel Ordered Back to Quarantine—The Weekly Mortality List.

The Board of Health held their regular meeting yesterday afternoon, Dr. Stone in the chair.

The attorney reported a form of notice to be served on tenement house owners who refuse to obey the Tenement House law, allowing them fifteen days' grace before obeying the injunctions of the Board. For every day that passes after the expiration of the fifteen days of grace without the house owners complying with the law there is attached a fine of $10.

The Sanitary Committee reported a communication to be sent to Secretary Seward, in which he is requested to inform our consuls abroad, for the benefit of all whom it may concern, that any vessel coming to this port from a foreign port without clean bills of health will be regarded as coming from infected ports. The report was adopted.

On motion of Commissioner Manierre the Board of Estimate, it was resolved, should meet at one o'clock P. M. on the 26th inst.

On motion three assistant sanitary inspectors were appointed to act during the summer months in Brooklyn and one inspector for Fort Washington and vicinity.

The Board was informed by our Consul at Matanzas that the brig Dirijo had, on the 29th ult., left that port for New York, and that several persons had been sick and died on board of her, before clearing for this port, of some contagious disease. This letter of information the Health Officer said he had received only yesterday morning; that the vessel had arrived here on the 15th, and that the letter was addressed to the consignees of the vessel, who enclosed it to him three days after the arrival of the vessel, and that the captain had said on his arrival that there had been no sickness on board during the passage. On motion it was resolved that the vessel be sent back to Quarantine, the quarantine authorities to do as they thought proper with her.

The following is Dr. Harris' weekly letter on the mortality in this city and Brooklyn, for the week ending on Saturday, the 15th inst.:—

METROPOLITAN BOARD OF HEALTH,
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS, May 19, 1868.

In the week that ended on Saturday, the 16th inst., there were 440 deaths in New York, inclusive of the seventy-six which occurred in public institutions. There were 149 deaths in Brooklyn, besides twelve that were reported from the Kings county institutions and streets beyond the city limits. The zymotic diseases slightly increased in their fatality, and so did the infantile diseases generally; 27.50 per cent of all the deaths in New York were in children under one year of age, and 44.77 per cent of the total was in children under five years of age. These periods of childhood gave 23.49 and 44.39 per cent, respectively, of the total mortality in Brooklyn.

The First, Fourth, Seventh, Tenth and Seventeenth wards in New York, and the Twelfth and Sixteenth in Brooklyn, suffered the heaviest death rates. In the crowded tenements of those wards is felt the greatest want of cheap and accessible public baths; and, as usual, there were important sanitary lessons illustrated in the local circumstances of the mortality wherever it was accessible last week. For example:—Of the 364 deaths that occurred outside of public institutions in New York last week we found that no less than 251 were in tenement houses, 2 in shanties and only 111 in the private houses, hotels and boarding houses of all kinds. This is a clear demonstration that the death rate last week was more than twice as great in the so-called tenement houses as in the whole mass of other kinds of dwellings. Of the 27 deaths by scarlatina 21 were in those tenements, and of the 4 by measles and 9 by diphtheria 3 and 6 respectively were in such crowded apartments. The fact was also ascertained that of the 22 deaths which occurred in the dwellings of the Twenty-first ward there were only 3 in the seventy blocks west of Third avenue; while of the 18 in the narrow eastern belt of that ward, exclusive of public institutions, all except two were in tenements.

The death rate for the whole city was equivalent to 28.76 in 1,000 yearly, and in Brooklyn to 26.16 in 1,000, estimated on the census of 1865. The mean temperature was 55 degrees Fahrenheit, or two degrees cooler than the mean for twenty-five years. The average humidity was 70, an excessive degree of dampness for the season, and the total rainfall was equivalent to 2.4 inches depth of water. The great storm on Wednesday did sanitary service in flushing gutters and sewers. In every portion of the Metropolitan district the undrained lands and the wells show that the surface water (ground water) is at a maximum height, and it is easy now to discover what grounds are insufficiently drained. This is a sanitary question that will become vitally important before the end of the next dry season.

E. HARRIS.

INSTITUTION FOR DEAF MUTES.

The fiftieth anniversary of the New York Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb was celebrated yesterday at the buildings of the institution, Washington Heights, at 163d street. The first business on hand was the business meeting of the directors for the May election, which took place at one o'clock and resulted as follows:—President, Benjamin R. Winthrop; First Vice President, Shepherd Knapp; Second Vice President, Rev. William Adams, D. D.; Treasurer, Joseph W. Patterson; Secretary, T. M. Adams; Directors, Harvey P. Peet, D. D.; Henry E. Davis, Erastus Brooks, John Astyne, Frederic De Peyster, Daniel F. Tieman, James N. Cobb, E. L. Fauçer, LL.D.; Cyrus W. Field, Avery T. Brown, William Niblo, Benjamin H. Field, George Folsom, LL.D.; Oliver S. Strong, Rev. Francis Vinton, D. D.; Rev. Thomas Gallaudet, Morris K. Jesup, Henry K. Bogart, Rev. F. A. P. Barnard, D. D., LL.D., and William A. Wheelock.

The number of pupils in the Institution is larger than at any previous time. The admissions of the year have been 71, 66 having left the Institution, leaving 439 in the institution, against 434 for the year 1866. An exhibit of the progress of the Institution in number of pupils is presented in the following figures:—

December 31, 1862	319
December 31, 1863	337
December 31, 1864	358
December 31, 1865	408
December 31, 1866	434
December 31, 1867	439

Thus it will be observed that the number of pupils has increased for five years about 120, or nearly forty per cent. The greater part of this increase has been due to the operation of the act of March 25, 1863, requiring and authorizing the counties to support in the Institution deaf mutes between the ages of six and twelve not yet eligible by age to the list of State beneficiaries. The following schedule exhibits the financial condition of the Insitution:—

Expenses for the year	$150,677
Payment of balance for 1866	15,512
Total	$166,192
The receipts amounted to	142,563
Debt for current expenditures unpaid	$13,629

A large proportion of these expenses has, however, been extraordinary, necessitated by sanitary considerations and ordered by the Superintendent of the Board of Health; and of these the statement amounts to a sufficient sum to have balanced the books, leaving something in favor of the institution. The following is the statement of these extraordinary expenditures:—

Introduction of Croton water	$5,058
Two new steam boilers	3,025
Wash house and outhouses	3,550
Repair of north wing of mansion for hospital purposes	613
Carpenters', masons' and plumbers' work	1,895
Ventilation	114
Extra professional attendance	740
Renewal of beds	257
Board for pupils during prevalence of epidemic	373
Total	$15,631

The treasurer's account for the year exhibits the subjoined budget of necessary expenses in the way of food, clothing and the like:—

Groceries and provisions	$42,634
Salaries and wages	18,051
Clothing, shoes, &c	12,352
Furniture	7,439
Fuel and lights	8,128
Washing	2,083

This gives an average of about $260 per pupil for necessary expenses—the State only allowing $180 per year for State beneficiares.

The order of exercises was the same as that adopted for previous exhibitions. Benjamin R. Winthrop presided and Dr. Peet generally superintended the exercises of the pupils. The order was—first, prayer; second, reading of letters from guests invited, but not present; third, introductory address, other addresses; and finally, exercises by the pupils, which consisted mostly of exercises in the alphabet, in finger spelling, finger reading and recitation and writing tasks on the blackboard. A large audience, composed mostly of ladies, was present.

SCIENTIFIC INTELLIGENCE.

A New and Powerful Light.

There was yesterday exhibited at the office of Stevens, Stern & French, 22 Nassau street, to an invited audience, the new and powerful artificial light just burned at the Exposition Nationale, Paris, and which received the cordial approval and direct countenance of the Emperor Napoleon, made according to the process of Tessié du Motay and Maréchal, of Metz, France. The new light is called "oxygen gas." Its manufacture is simple and comparatively inexpensive, while in intensity it is as sixteen to one of the common carburetted or street gas. In other words, while the cost is one-fourth of ordinary gas, the light from a single burner is as sixteen to one. In the burners there seems to be too much machinery; but, apart from this, the light is delightful to the eye, notwithstanding its intensity, and, however close the apartment in which the gas is consumed, the air is not vitiated, as by coal gas, but rather improved. It is hardly necessary to enter into detail as to the manner in which the oxygen introduced into the gas consumed is produced. It is simply extracted in large and pure volumes by intense heat and solution of alkaline manganates. The manganates are placed in a series of retorts, and these again are deposited in a furnace, the temperature of which has been raised to 850 degrees Fahrenheit, and are then alternately submitted to the action of a jet of steam and a current of air. The steam as it passes over the manganates disengages the oxygen, and the cold air resolves them again, they taking up, as before, as a dry sponge absorbs water, oxgen contained in the atmosphere. The process is exact and beautiful. As the oxygen is disengaged from the manganates it is conveyed by tubes to a condenser and thence by other pipes or means of conveyance to the burner, and thrown, in combination with ordinary gas, upon a fencil of magnesium, where, all but void of heat, it glows with a brilliancy that far surpasses any artificial light, with perhaps the exception of that known to us as the "calcium." From its cheapness, purity, strength, and when shaded by ground glass, agreeableness to the eye and the complexion, it will, we are persuaded, become a general favorite in a little time. For theatres, ball and concert rooms, street burners, withdrawing rooms, studios, in fact wherever a magnificent light at a trifling expense is desirable, the oxygen gas will be found unexceptionable.

A New Electro-Magnetic Engine.

There was exhibited yesterday afternoon in the lecture room of the College of the City of New York (formerly Free Academy), on the corner of Lexington avenue and Twenty-third street, before a large and deeply interested audience, wholly composed of gentlemen, a series of experiments by Prof. Doremus, illustrative of the nature and power of electro-magnetism, preliminary to the operations of an engine, whose force was the tenth of a "horse," the motion of which was supplied by a galvanic battery of forty cells (charged the interior vessel with nitric and the exterior with sulphuric acid), and which, it was contended, could be run at a cost that would, in addition to other advantages, such as non-liability to explosion or fire, recommend it to the public, where power, without attention or possible danger, is a desideratum.

The machine when put into operation worked satisfactorily and continuously, with an evenness and steadiness that was admirable, making the engine revolve and the piston-rod attached to a water pump work at the rate of five hundred revolutions and strokes per minute, raising water ten feet at the rate of nearly one thousand gallons in the hour. The engine worked, as we have stated, to the satisfaction of all who looked at it; but several questions put to the inventor, Mr. Stuart, revealed the fact that, although he would not admit it, the cost of power was somewhat startling. The forty cells of the battery cost to run forty-eight hours $12. This, when the force is increased from a tenth to a whole "horse," if the price of running is in proportion, would, for the same number of hours, require an expenditure of about $120 for acids, zinc, &c. The inventor, however, contended privately that an engine of one horse power, by adding to the length of the negative and positive wires, would not cost to exceed three times that which was consumed in the forty cells of his battery for his tenth of a horse power engine. Possibly Mr. Stuart is right. He certainly has added to the sum of human knowledge. His inquiries in the broad and ever-expanding science of electricity have not been altogether profitless. He has accomplished a fact—made a discovery in galvanism which no other electrician has reached—a discovery that must ultimately redound to the cause of mechanical as well as chemical science. His claims are continuity of the electrical current, and the charging of the revolving magnets therewith but twice in every second. Heretofore the electric force has acted and reacted. With him it is continuous. This is a point gained and in the right direction. Mr. Stuart is perfectly confident that he has succeeded in bringing electricity, as a motor, within the realm of mechanics. He proposes building engines of two-horse power, for the present. He does not despair of ultimately compelling the largest ships forward at a less cost of power and space than the steam engine and its fuel demand, and that without danger from explosion of boilers or fire from furnaces. Mr. Stuart may be regarded as an enthusiast, but his enthusiasm is of the kind which urges its possessor forward to the making of magnificent discoveries in science.

PUBLIC EDUCATION.

Examination of Candidates for the United States Military and Naval Academies.

Mr. J. W. Chanler, member of Congress from the Seventh Congressional District of this city, having offered to grant to the boys residing in his district who should pass the best competitive examinations, scholarships at the West Point United States Military Academy and the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, selected Messrs. John T. Hoffman, John Kelly, William Schirmer, Prof. Horace Webster and Commissioners Samuel P. Patterson, Theodore Tooker, Francis V. Euving and Horatio P. Allen as a committee before whom the candidates should be examined. Four o'clock yesterday afternoon, at the Hall of the Board of Education, was appointed as the time for the examination, and at that time all the members of the committee except Messrs. Hoffman and Kelly were present and nine candidates occupied the "anxious seat." Superintendents Kiddle and Harrison conducted the examination and tasked the students critically, yet fairly, in reading, writing, spelling, parsing, arithmetic, definitions, geography, history and compostion. The examination as a whole was very satisfactory, and the committee, after a full investigation of the merits of the respective candidates reported that they had decided to recommend for the appointment to the Naval Academy J. H. Griesel, of 137 Pitt street, and for the appointment to the Military Academy C. H. Watts, of 91 Third avenue. Professor Webster, chairman, in announcing the determination of the committee, stated that the best examination in every way and