NEW YORK CITY.

THE COURTS.

UNITED STATES COMMISSIONERS' COURT.

The Alleged Customs Frauds.

Before Commissioner Betts.

United States vs. Sigmund Guiterman and Simon Guiterman.—The defendants are importers, carrying on business at 63 Leonard street, under the name of Guiterman Brothers. They are charged with defrauding the customs revenue of large sums of money by invoices and entries of undervaluation of goods and by false entries and invoices as to what their importations consisted of.

The first intimation of the operations of Guiterman Brothers and Bendino & Feiglestock, doing business as importers, on Reade street, and who, it appears, were the willing and ready tools and aiders and abettors of Guiterman Brothers, came from the Commissioner of Customs, and who received his information from a party not yet brought forward.

The Commissioner at once communicated all his knowledge on the subject to an agent of the Treasury Department, located in this city, who at once went to work according to his instructions, to trace the charges to their source, to develop the criminality of Guiterman Brothers and their associates or accomplices and to bring the parties to justice. Investigations at the Custom House, directed by the information of the party who first moved in the matter, disclosed the fact that systematic frauds had been for a long time, with impunity and great success, perpetrated against the customs revenue. The guilty parties were soon made apparent to the officers of the customs, not at once as to the principals. The frauds were first traced to Bendino and Feiglestock, who were arrested and held to bail, but who have since fled to Canada. It was not till Saturday evening last that the parties charged as the principals in the course of frauds which have come to light were arrested. On that day Simon Guiterman and his brother Sigmund Guiterman were arrested and brought before Commissioner Betts. No examination was held, but the parties having secured bail came into court and entered into securities in $50,000 to appear for examination on Wednesday next.

THE AFFIDAVITS IN THE CASE—AFFIDAVIT OF THOMAS TOOLE.

Southern District of New York, ss.—Thomas Toole deposed—Is an agent of the Treasury Department; on or about the 20th day of November last I received an official letter from the Commissioner of Customs, stating that he had information that large frauds had been and were being committed on the customs revenue, by certain merchants or importers of foreign merchandise in the city of New York; that deponent called on the person who gave this information to the Commissioner, who then stated to him that two mercantile firms, S. Bendino & Co. and Feiglestock & Co., doing business in Reade street, in this city, had been for a long time importing a large quantity of silks and other valuable dress goods which were invoiced and passed through the Custom House as clocks, clock shades, &c.; that on application at the Custom House he ascertained that Bendino & Co. had recently imported by the Ville de Paris sixteen cases invoiced and entered at the Custom house as clocks, glass shades, &c.; that on the 28th November last the firm of Guiterman (Simon & Sigmond Guiterman), doing business at 63 Leonard street, were engaged in defrauding the revenue by undervaluing the goods, wares and merchandise imported by them; that a warrant was obtained from the Judge of the United States District Court for the seizure of the books, accounts and correspondence of Guiterman Brothers; that on examination of the same and comparing them with the records in the Custom House the fact that Bendino & Co. and Feiglestock & Co. had been for some time past engaged in importing silks and other valuable dress goods, the same being invoiced and entered at the Custom House as clocks and glass shades, &c., with intent to defraud the United States government.

AFFIDAVIT OF ALBERT N. SHEAR, DEPUTY SURVEYOR OF THE PORT.

Albert N. Shearer, the deponent, states that he resides at 350 Clinton street, in the city of Brooklyn; that information was filed on the 28th of November last alleging that the firm of Gurtterman Brothers, doing business at 63 Leonard street, in the city of New York, had been and still were engaged in defrauding the revenue of the United States by greatly undervaluing goods, wares and merchandise imported by them; that a warrant was subsequently issued by the United States District Judge for the Southern District directing the Marshal of said district to take the books and papers, invoices and correspondence of the said Gunttterman Brothers and have them before the Judge of said district, which warrant was duly executed, and that afterwards the Judge ordered the same to be delivered to Henry A. Smythe, Collector of the Port, for his examination, as by statute made and approved.

That an examination of said books, papers and correspondence of Guiterman Brothers and the records of the Custom House show the fact that said S. Bendino & Co., and said Feiglestock & Co., imported at different dates subsequent to the 1st day of June, 1868, numerous cases bearing different marks and numbers, all of which were invoiced and entered as clocks or clock shades, &c., and in all 119 cases, the foreign value of fifty-nine of which was stated in said invoices at 16,956 francs, and the invoice value of fifty-two cases of which was set forth as 4,672 florins, and eighteen cases of which were invoiced at £486 2s. 6d. sterling; and deponent believes that nearly all of said 119 cases so invoiced clocks or clock shades, &c., did in fact contain silks and other valuable dress goods of much greater value than is stated and set forth in the said several invoices now on file in the said Custom House.

And that the examination of the books, papers, invoices and correspondence of the said Guiterman Brothers and the records of the Custom House show that the said Guiterman Brothers imported, in the names of S. Bendino & Co. and Feiglestock & Co., subsequent to the 1st day of June, 1868, 109 cases, being other than those before mentioned, sixty-eight cases of which were invoiced and entered under different marks and numbers at £809 17s. 6d. sterling, twenty-eight cases invoiced at 6,579 francs, thirteen cases at 1,426 florins, and that all or nearly all of said 109 cases purporting to contain clocks and shades, &c., did, in fact, contain silk and other dress goods of much greater value.

That the said Guiterman Brothers are the principals in intent in all the said several importations, whether entered and invoiced in the name of S. Bendino & Co., Feiglestock & Co., or in the name of Guiterman Brothers; that they gave their orders for the purchase thereof and shipments by correspondence in Europet that all of these importations were got through the New York Custom House by means of the instrumentality of Bendino and Feiglestock, who were the aiders and abettors of Guiterman and Brothers and were paid for their services; that Gutterman gave directions how the goods should be packed and invoiced so as to evade detection by the Custom House authorities, and that all these goods were fraudulently packed and invoiced with intent to defraud the United States, &c.

The foregoing gives in substance the gravamen of the charges against the parties implicated as far as the matter has been investigated and the particulars made known. Further investigations are being held by the customs authorities in the Custom House and its several departments, and it is expected when the case comes up for judicial examination some startling developments of fraud will be made public.

Post Office Embezzlement.

The United States vs. George J. Delaney.—The defendant, a clerk in the Post Office, is charged with embezzling a box containing money and jewelry that had been deposited in the Post Office for mailing. On being detected he threw the box and contents away, but subsequently confessed his guilt, pleading that it was his first offence. He was held for examination on the 26th inst. in $5,000 bail.

SUPREME COURT—CHAMBERS.

Decisions Rendered.

By Judge Cardozo.

Ackerman vs. Ackerman et al.—Proposed case and amendments settled.

Josephine B. Duesbury vs. Joseph C. Duesbury.—Report of referee confirmed and judgment of divorce granted.

Henrietta Williams vs. William H. Williams.—Report confirmed and judgment of divorce granted.

E. A. Crommy vs. A. Hagan et al.—Judgment ordered in partition and referee appointed to sell.

Gilbert T. Rastieck vs. Elizabeth Van Santon, &c.—Motion denied for receiver.

SUPREME COURT—GENERAL TERM.

A Lull in Business—The Funeral of Chief Justice Robertson.

Yesterday there was no business being transacted in the Supreme Court—General Term and Circuits—and all the branches of the Superior Court have also adjourned to allow the members of the bench to attend the funeral of the late Chief Justice Robertson, of the Superior Court.

The flags on the City Hall were drooped at half-mast throughout the day as a mark of respect to the memory of the late distinguished jurist.

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS.

Alleged Larceny of Diamond Earrings—A "Theatrical" Case.

Before Judge Russel.

The court met yesterday morning, and, in the absence of the Recorder, his Honor the City Judge presided.

The only case upon which a jury was called to pass was a charge of grand larceny preferred against George F. Hemming, who, it was alleged, on the 19th of October stole a set of diamond earrings valued at $400 from Mrs. Eliza Bevins, of No. 36 East Fourteenth street, in whose custody the property was placed, the owner of the rings being Mrs. Eddy Lynch, 66 East Twelfth street. Mrs. Bevins swore that as soon as the earrings were missed she telegraphed to the defendant at Pittsburg and subsequently went on there and had an interview with him. He told her that he had pawned them for $100, and upon exhibiting the pawnticket she had it out of his hand.

The prisoner was subjected to a searching and able cross-examination by Mr. William F. Howe, who stated that he proposed to show that Mrs. Bevins had been on intimate terms for the last nine or ten years; that during that period he pledged for her from time to time articles of jewelry at her request; that their intimacy had been of a peculiar character; that what he did in this instance was done at her solicitation and request upon the intimacy then subsisting between them.

Mrs. Bevins said about twelve years ago she became acquainted with the defendant when she was employed in the United States Mint; he stopped at the same boarding house. Subsequently she used her influence to get him a situation in Stewart's store, and Mr. Bevins gave him a suit of clothing; Mr. Bevins took the defendant with him to Saratoga to attend to his horses, and in another part of her examination she stated that she introduced Hemming to a gentleman in a hotel at Saratoga as her brother. She gave Miss Kate Fisher $300 on one occasion in the street when the defendant was with her (Miss Fisher), to enable that lady to bring on her theatrical troupe to Pittsburg to open a theatre there. When in Pittsburg the witness denied that she had a quarrel with Miss Fisher, and also said that she never gave the defendant directions to pledge her jewelry. He did so, however, on several occasions and appropriated the money to his own use and came crying and begging her not to tell Mrs. Bevins, and so as not to have any trouble in the house she did request Mr. Bevins to do nothing to him.

Alexander Barnard, a pawnbroker, testified that on the 20th of October the defendant pledged the earrings with him for $100 in the name of Mrs. Bevins, and he had frequently pledged articles before that in her name.

James N. Lynch and James Bevins were examined, the latter stating that when he went on to Pittsburg the defendant procured his arrest upon an affidavit that he had used threats, but the complaint was dismissed.

Officer Young, who procured requisitions from the Governors of New York and Pennsylvania, went to Pittsburg and brought the defendant to this city.

Mrs. Lynch testified that she loaned her earrings to Mrs. Bevins and accompanied her to Pittsburg.

Mr. Howe asked for an adjournment of the case till this (Tuesday) morning, in order to enable the pawnbroker to produce his book. There were also two important witnesses for the defence, who would arrive at that time. The motion was granted, with the understanding that the case would be finished early in the day.

The courtroom was crowded by "fancy men" and theatrical hangers-on, who seem to evince great interest in the case.

COURT CALENDARS—THIS DAY.

SUPREME COURT—GENERAL TERM.—Nos. 177, 178, 183, 185, 191, 199, 200, 206, 223, 242, 256, 260, 324, 326, 333, 95, 64, 67, 69, 70, 74, 76, 79, 184.

SUPREME COURT—CIRCUIT.—Part 1—Nos. 1469, 495, 1467, 1461, 1519, 1483, 1539, 1557, 2289, 817, 1301, 987, 1606, 1607, 1631, 1641, 1643, 531, 1453, 4681. Part 2—Nos. 1584, 1418, 812, 1784, 1150, 916, 1722, 1692½, 1166, 762, 890, 1026, 366, 624, 1686, 1230, 162½, 606, 1788, 1692, 286.

SUPREME COURT—SPECIAL TERM.—Nos. 13, 14, 136, 153, 142, 159, 161, 9, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223.

SUPREME COURT—CHAMBERS.—Nos. 7, 30, 32, 34, 36, 48, 50, 59, 64, 70, 73½, 90½, 92.

COMMON PLEAS—TRIAL TERM.—Part 1—Nos. 1522, 1523, 1524, 720, 1538, 1541, 1542, 1544, 1183, 848, 1483, 1549, 1550, 1553, 1554. Part 2—Nos. 431, 1488, 857, 858, 1518, 1537, 715, 1770, 1058, 1305, 1545, 1546, 1548, 991, 1556.

MARINE COURT—TRIAL TERM.—THIS DAY—Nos. 991, 1063, 875, 881, 882, 883, 923, 1149, 1044, 879, 948, 946, 1022, 1074, 1090, 1094, 1127, 1151, 1152, 1153, 1154, 1155, 1158, 1156½, 1157, 7159.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

THE WEATHER YESTERDAY.—The following record will show the changes in the temperature for the past twenty-four hours, as indicated by the thermometer at Hudnut's pharmacy, HERALD Building, Broadway, corner of Ann street:—

3 A. M.	44	3 P. M.	45
6 A. M.	44	6 P. M.	41
9 A. M.	44	9 P. M.	40
12 M.	48	12 P. M.	38
Average temperature			43
Average temperature Sunday			41

FULTON FERRY.—Complaints are numerous from the patrons of the Fulton ferry to the effect that for several days past the street crossings at that thoroughfare have been covered with two or three inches of mud. Will the superintendent of the company rub his eyes and then attend to this matter?

THE MORGUE.—The body of an unknown man was brought to the Morgue yesterday from 122 Cedar street. Deceased was about thirty-nine years of age, five feet eight inches high, brown hair and goatee; had on gray pants, plaid flannel shirt and blue flannel undershirt. The body was too much decomposed to be kept for identification.

A BUST OF FRANKLIN FOR THE PARK.—Governor Hoffman has received a letter from George W. Childs, of Philadelphia (now in Europe), in which Mr. Childs expresses a wish to erect in the Park, at his own expense, a stone statue of Franklin by the celebrated sculptor Bailly. The Park Commissioners have requested Governor Hoffman to inform Mr. Childs that they accept his very liberal offer with many thanks.

ST. DAVID'S BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.—The regular quarterly meeting of St. David's Benevolent Society, J. H. Pullson, President, in the chair, was held at Cooper Institute last evening. It was decided by a vote of the members present to have a concert some time during January, the proceeds of the same to be added to the funds of the society, and that the 1st of March (St. David's Day) be celebrated by a public dinner.

POSTMASTER KELLY'S HOUSE ROBBED.—A sneak thief entered the front parlor windows of Postmaster Kelly's residence, 21 Irving place, on Sunday evening, while the family were at tea, and stole four overcoats from the hall, containing valuable papers. This is the third time the Postmaster has been robbed by sneak thieves. A good business has recently been carried on by this class in the neighborhood of Gramercy Park and Irving place.

SUICIDE BY A GERMAN BOY.—Yesterday afternoon, about two o'clock, Mark Klein, aged eighteen, and a native of Germany, shot himself through the breast while alone in a room on the second floor of 197 Elm street and died in a few minutes. It appears that the deceased had been unwell for some time and became quite melancholy in consequence, so he took advantage of the temporary absence of his mother to commit the dreadful act which precipitated him into another world. An inquest will be held to-day by Coroner Flynn.

MEETING OF THE KNIGHTS OF ST. PATRICK.—This evening the gallant Knights of St. Patrick will meet at their headquarters, corner of Broadway and Eighth street, to wind up the business of the year 1868; to add new members to the roll of the society and to pay a tribute to those who have been dropped from the roll during the last twelve months by the inevitable law which consigns knights and commoners to the tomb without distinction. The memory of three deceased gentlemen has to be honored tonight—namely, the late Michael Phelan and P. M. Flanigan, ex treasurers of the society, and General Charles G. Halpine, the genial, brilliant "Miles O'Reilly." The meeting upon this occasion will, no doubt, be largely attended.

THE INDIAN COMMISSION.—The General Committee of the United States Indian Commission was to have met yesterday morning, in the rooms of the Geographical and Statistical Society, in Cooper Institute, to confer with Colonel E. W. Wynkoop, who has recently resigned his position as Government Indian Agent for the Cheyenne, Arapaho and Apache Indians, on the subject of our Indian difficulties. Among those present at the appointed time were Professor B. N. Martin, Revs. E. A. Washburn and Alexander Vinton, and Messrs Peter Cooper, Benjamin Fathan and Vincent Colyer. After some informal proceedings it was determined to request Colonel Wynkoop to give in full his reasons for resigning and an account of the true condition of our Indian affairs. The meeting then adjourned to meet again on Wednesday evening, when Colonel Wynkoop is expected to be present and make an address.

INQUESTS.—Coroner Rollins will hold an inquest to-day over the remains of John B. Higgins, Jr., aged twenty-three, at No. 237 West Forty-eighth street, who died there very suddenly.

John Wells, a patient in the Charity Hospital on Blackwell's Island, died there suddenly yesterday morning from unknown causes. Coroner Flynn will hold an inquest.

George Krantz, a German, aged twenty-four, and residing at No. 146 Elizabeth street, died yesterday at Bellevue Hospital, in consequence of a fracture of both legs, received a few days ago by being run over. Coroner Flynn will hold an inquest to-day.

Eliza Smith, aged five months, died suddenly yesterday at No. 532 West Fifty-second street, and Coroner Rollins was duly notified.

The unknown man who was found in the Fourteenth ward on Sunday in an insensible condition, with a fractured skull, died early yesterday morning at Bellevue Hospital. Coroner Flynn will make an investigation into the cause of the injury.

METHODIST CHURCH EXTENSION SOCIETY.—The two Boards of Management of this society, represented in the New York and New York East Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church, held a meeting yesterday afternoon at 200 Mulberry street. The Rev. L. S. Weed, of the New York East Conference, presided. The Rev. Dr. Kynett, General Secretary of the Church Extension Society, explained the plan of operations adopted by the society for the ensuing year and in which the several conferences are expected to co-operate. The society propose to raise $1,000,000 here in the North and East, which shall be mainly expended in providing religious places of worship in the South and in aiding weak congregations to maintain the same where they do exist. The Rev. Chaplain McCabe, of the Ohio Conference, who was present at the meeting yesterday, will advocate the cause of the society and the needs of the South in this regard here during the winter.

SALE OF FINE BOOKS.—The salesrooms of Messrs. Leavitt, Strebeigh & Co., in Clinton Hall, were well filled last night by connisseurs in books, the attraction being the announced sale of a choice collection of modern works, superbly illustrated and specially adapted for holiday gifts. Among the more valuable works of the collection are masterpieces of art, three volumes, full morocco, gilt; Hogarth's Works, folio, half morocco, gilt; Irving's Works, twenty-eight volumes, large paper, elegantly bound in full Turkey morocco by Mathews; "Pictures of British Artists," two volumes, folio, morocco; the "Queen's Bible," a superb book, two volumes, folio, full Turkey morocco; Finden's "Royal Gallery of British Art," proofs, folio, and the works of Dickens, Longfellow, Hawthorne, Tennyson, De Quincy and others. The bidding was quite spirited and large prices were obtained for the books sold. Illustrated books and those bound in rich and costly dress were eagerly bought up for Christmas presents, and works of standard literature were sold for excellent prices. There are upwards of 5,000 volumes in the collection, embracing some of the choicest of modern literature, and the sale will be continued for some days.

THE NEW UNIFORM OF THE LETTER CARRIERS.—The letter carriers of the principal cities, with the exception of New York, are now clothed in their new uniform. Postmaster Kelly is the originator of this new and desirable distinguishing mark, and his penny-post staff will soon be furnished with it. The uniform will consist of a sack coat, having pockets with flaps, one row of large gilt buttons, upon the face of which is a postboy riding at full speed over the letters P. O. D., rolling collar, and bound with black braid. The vest is of the same material, bound like the coat, buttoning close up to the throat, with small gilt buttons, on which are the letters P. O. Pants are of the same material, with a stripe of black cloth down the side half an inch in width. An overcoat of the same material, cut surtout style and ornamented with a double row of gilt buttons, the same as on the undercoat. The option was given to the carriers of either having a cape or an overcoat; but a number of the men are veterans of the army, and it was decided by a large majority to adopt the overcoat. The cap is of the navy pattern, with a band of black, glazed peak, a strap confined by buttons of the kind upon the vest. The cost of the uniform, including the cap, is forty-two dollars. It is not only neat and handsome, but serviceable. The law requires that the uniform shall be worn while on duty.

POLICE INTELLIGENCE.

SHOOTING AFFRAY.—Stephen Maloney, a desperate looking ruffian, appeared before Justice Shandley, at the Essex Market Police Court, yesterday morning, charged with assaulting and shooting Martin Tristan, of 337 East Thirty-fifth street. Officer Jarboe, of the Seventh precinct, stated that the affray occurred about five o'clock on Saturday afternoon in front of the Marion House, corner of Catharine street and East Broadway. Nothing is known as to the origin of the difficulty, and beyond the allegation that Maloney knocked Tristan down and then shot him in the leg no particulars have transpired. Hearing that the police were searching for him Maloney surrendered himself to Captain Jourdan, of the Sixth precinct, on Sunday afternoon, at the same time denying that he had fired at Tristan. A revolver was found in his possession, one chamber of which was empty. Officer Jarboe took Maloney to the residence of the wounded man, and on returning reported that Tristan had recognized the prisoner as the man who shot him. Tristan is a deputy sheriff. The prisoner was committed.

ALLEGED LARCENY OF NOTES.—Messrs. Bowen, Whitman & Winslow, of No. 97 Franklin street, lost two promissory notes for $11,218, drawn to the order of themselves in favor of Hoyt, Sprague & Co., on the 2d inst.; and, as they had reason to suspect one of the clerks, named James W. Morrison, he was arrested and confessed his guilt. Morrison stated that he gave the stolen notes to William Lewis, who attempted to dispose of them to a broker. Lewis gave them next to James W. Talmadge, who visited several cities in hopes of selling the same, and was recently arrested in Cleveland with the papers in his possession. All three prisoners have been kept for several days under arrest at the Fifth ward station house, and were yesterday arraigned before Justice Dowling, at the Tombs Police Court, who committed them for trial without bail. Lewis gave his age as eighteen, is a native of New York and lives at 168 Greene street. Morrison is sixteen, was born in New York and resides at 97 Franklin street. Talmadge is twenty-five, a native of Albany, and declares he did not know the notes were stolen.

HOW PRISONERS ESCAPE FROM BLACKWELL'S ISLAND.—Mary Patterson, a woman of depraved and repulsive appearance, was taken before Justice Connolly at the Yorkville Police Court, yesterday, charged with having unlawfully aided and assisted Catharine O'Connor, Lizzie McDonald and Josephine Pridhoe to escape from the Charity Hospital on Blackwell's Island. Mr. Sibell, the warden, testified that, having served out her term of imprisonment, Mary had been for some time employed in the hospital as a "helper without pay." The women whom Mary had assisted to escape had been convicted of misdemeanors and were transferred from their several places of imprisonment to the hospital, where they were under medical treatment for certain infectious diseases with which they were and are at present ailing and afflicted. Catharine O'Connor testified that on Sunday, the 20th inst., she was a prisoner in the Charity Hospital; that Mary Patterson offered to let her escape on the payment of one dollar; having received the required sum, Mary opened the window of the hospital and let her out; Lizzie McDonald and Josephine Pridhoe got out at the same time; Mary told them they would find a boat waiting for them. The women were recaptured by a watchman, who saw them making signals to some men in a rowboat who were evidently awaiting an opportunity to take them off. The prisoner was committed for trial. As she was being taken out of court she sprang upon the witness, Catharine O'Connor, and before the officer could interfere she gave that unfortunate creature several severe slaps and blows on the face. As quite a number of prisoners have escaped from the island lately, Mary will, doubtless, be made an example of.

BURGLARS AND THEIR TROUBLES.—Two hard looking youths, giving their names as Francis Conklin and George Disbrow, were arrested yesterday morning, after a merry chase, in the Sixteenth ward, on a charge of burglary. The circumstances attending their arrest show vigilance on the part of the officers and desperation on the part of the thieves. They were detected and apprehended in the following manner, as narrated yesterday morning before Justice Dodge, at the Jefferson Market Police Court:—As officer Manning, of the Twenty-ninth precinct, was patrolling his post on Sixth avenue, he looked through the glass door of the jewelry establishment of Messrs. Kohn & Frankfield, corner of that avenue and Fourteenth street, and discovered the figure of a man inside behind the counter, working at a glass containing many articles of value. He instantly raised an alarm, when the men—as it was afterwards ascertained there were two—made their escape through an adjoining entry way and ran up Sixth avenue, pursued by the officer. The alarm given had reached officer Cunningham, also of the same precinct, and he, observing the fugitives near the corner of Fifteenth street, attempted to arrest the foremost one, when he dodged the officer and ran into the plate glass window of Ponchon, the confectioner, at that corner, demolishing some $200 worth of plate glass. He was then arrested, when the pursuit of the second party was continued, and that with success, as on the corner of Seventeenth street and Seventh avenue he fell into the arms of officer Watson, also of the same precinct. They were taken at once to the station house, and there gave the names of Francis Conklin and George Disbrow, the former the unfortunate individual who went through the plate glass window. Upon investigation regarding the burglary the officers discovered the jewelry store was entered through the oyster saloon of Charles P. Odell, on Fourteenth street, in the rear of the store, the burglars first breaking into it by forcing a window and then cutting through a thin partition with a hatchet, which was afterwards found. When arraigned they pleaded not guilty, but were committed to answer both charges in default of $6,000 bail each.

NEW YORK NAUTICAL SCHOOL.

Anniversary Meeting Last Night.

The seventeenth anniversary meeting of the New York Nautical School was held last evening at the school building, 92 Madison street. The rooms had been profusely decorated with bunting for the occasion, and a large number of sailors and those interested in sailors were present. Dr. V. Morse presided, and the proceedings commenced by the offering of prayer by the Rev. C. J. Jones. The Chairman then addressed the meeting, speaking of the importance of education to all classes, and more particularly to those who "went down to the sea in ships and did business in the great waters." He then introduced Dr. William Faulds Thoms, who delivered the annual address.

Dr. Thoms took as his subject "The Merchant Service." The importance of this subject would be apparent to every one when he reminded his hearers that 200,000 vessels had cleared from the port of New York for foreign parts during the past year, and that the American merchant fleet numbered 40,000 vessels and found employment for 600,000 sailors. One of the most important matters connected with maritime pursuits was the education and moral training of mariners. It was common to hear complaints against sailors for bad conduct, and it was often thought that the rougher a seaman's life was the more efficient he would become. The opportunities and education of the class must be taken into consideration before judgment was passed upon it, and it should always be remembered that to whom little is given of his little would be required. There was a general want of aspiration among seamen, and to alter this it was necessary that some modified system of apprenticeship should be adopted, as the main reason of this want of aspiration was the lack of proper nautical education. Dr. Thoms' address was an interesting and practical one, containing much good advice to mariners.

Speeches were also delivered by Dr. J. L. Hodge, Revs. C. D. Murphy and C. J. Jones and others interested in the welfare of sailors.

The Nautical School is carried on under the auspices of the Society for the Education and Advancement of Young Sailors. It is conducted by Mrs. Brownlow and Mrs. Thoms, and since its opening it has educated over 6,000 seamen, 2,000 of whom were officers in the navy during the war. Those who study in the school receive practical instruction, capable to fit them to navigate a vessel to any part of the world and to pass the various boards of education. Every Monday evening a free lecture is delivered upon some subject of interest to mariners. During the past year fifty-two seamen have been educated, 1,800 have attended the lectures, and 25,000 pages of reading matter have been distributed. The society is sustained entirely by voluntary contributions.

THE PARK PLACE EXTENSION.

Arguments in Favor of and in Opposition to the Proposed Improvement—Opposition to a Prospective Big Job.

The announcement that the project of extending Park place from College place to the Hudson river, by widening Robinson street on both sides, would be considered by the Committee on Street Openings of the Board of Aldermen yesterday at noon, and that parties interested *pro* or *con* would be heard by the committee, had the effect of drawing to the chamber of the Board of Aldermen a large number of the leaseholders in the neighborhood of the proposed improvement. At the time announced Alderman O'Brien, as at the first meeting, was the only member of the committee in attendance, but Aldermen Hardy and Moore volunteered to assist him, in order that the business men, who were present at both meetings, might have an opportunity of stating their views. The argument yesterday was opened by Mr. Abraham R. Lawrence, Jr., on behalf of a number of the residents, business men and extensive property owners of the neighborhood of Robinson, West, Washington and Greenwich streets, who favored the project of widening Park place to the river, and who had prepared and signed the following petition:—

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

The undersigned, representing a large amount of property situated in the vicinity of and between Park place and the North river, respectfully call the attention of your honorable body to the fact that the extension of Park place in a straight line from College place to West street by widening Robinson street on both sides to make a street sixty-five feet wide would be a great public improvement, relieving Broadway by giving easy access to the North river above Fulton street, and could be made at present, before Robinson street is expensively built up, at a comparatively small cost.

We respectfully request that your honorable body will take the matter into consideration, believing that a simple view of the premises will convince your judgment that the measure should be ordered without delay.

Ex-Judge Vanderpoel then asked permission to offer a remonstrance against the proposed extension, but Alderman Hardy, who was acting as chairman of the committee, suggested that it would be better to hear what was to be said in favor of the movement first and in opposition afterwards. Mr. Vanderpoel pressed his request, and permission being given he read the following protest:—

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

The undersigned respectfully remonstrate against the passage of a resolution now before the Board of Aldermen, and referred to a committee of said Board, to widen Robinson street. Your remonstrants respectfully represent that between College place and Greenwich street the lots on Robinson street are generally if not uniformly held under leases from Columbia College, which bear date in 1772, and will expire in 1871; that all of said leases contain a provision that the tenants shall pay all assessments that may be imposed on said premises, ordinary and extraordinary; that all the lots on College place, between Murray and Barclay streets, are also held under leases from said College which will expire early in 1872, and which will then be subject to one more renewal of twenty-one years; that these leases also contain a provision that the tenants shall pay all assessments, ordinary and extraordinary; that, as we believe, all the lots on the east side of Greenwich street, between Murray and Barclay streets, are held under old leases dated 1772; that the principal part of the territory to be assessed for said opening is thus held by tenants who are to bear the burden of the assessment in so much that some will be ruined by it, while no compensatory benefit can possibly result to them. Your remonstrants are informed and believe that a vast majority of the property holders on Park place and elsewhere where they will be subject to assessments for this widening are opposed to the project. We are not aware that any one petitions for it, but we believe that action has been taken upon it at the sole instigation of an honorable Alderman, who on his own responsibility proposes the scheme. Without denying that an Alderman has the power thus to initiate a public measure of this kind, your remonstrants humbly submit that such power should never be exercised except in cases where there is no opposition and where the public exigency calls for prompt action. This is not such a case, but is one that will be vigorously opposed by all the means with which most cogent, reasonable and unanswerable principles of justice invest your remonstrants. The undersigned earnestly remonstrate against said widening.

This protest was signed by a large number of the leading merchants and leaseholders of the neighborhood.

Alderman HARDY—Judge, do you propose to submit that remonstrance to the committee? If you do, I would suggest that you strike out or alter a portion of the remarks which appear in it. They contain an unjust, untrue and entirely uncalled for allusion to a member of the Board of Aldermen.

Judge VANDERPOEL—I certainly did not intend to cast any slur on Alderman Moore, and do not think that any such construction can be placed on anything contained in the remonstrance. You will see that we say that we acknowledge the power of the Alderman to initiate a public measure of this kind, and we humbly submit our views in regard to it.

Alderman HARDY—The remonstrance certainly does reflect on the action of the Alderman of the district, and as we know he has no personal interest in the matter, and stated in your presence at the last meeting of the committee that he had been requested to offer the resolution, and had done so in good faith, the committee cannot receive any protest or remonstrance in which such unjust allusions exist, and will not receive it unless they be expunged.

Mr. J. MOLONEY (one of the protestants)—I agree with the Chairman, and think that the allusions to the action of Alderman Moore as given in the protest are rather illiberal, and that it would be as well to leave them out.

Judge VANDERPOEL—I will, as it is desired, strike out the objectionable part and assure the honorable committee that no imputation was intended.

Mr. W. C. HASBROUCK, of Newburg, said he appeared in behalf of the owners in fee simple of the property at the southwest corner of Vesey and Greenwich streets and of the lessees of the lot on the northeast corner of Barclay and Greenwich streets. The lease on the latter property was held under the covenants alluded to in the protest read by Judge Vanderpoel, and he said he had "applied to the agent of the College some time ago and asked if the lease, which expired on the 1st of September, 1871, could be renewed on any terms, and was told distinctly, 'No.'" The parties he represented would be assessed heavily for this extension, if it should be passed, and would derive no benefit from it.

Mr. JOHN M. BOWERS offered another remonstrance, signed by a large number of the lessees of portions of the college property. This remonstrance reiterated the objections contained in the protest first read, but stated, in addition, that the only parties to be benefited by this extension would be the Neptune Steamship Company, a foreign corporation. Mr. Bowers argued on the points contained in the protests, and said that those who opposed the project had caused an investigation to be made and had found that the Neptune Steamship Company were the prime movers in the matter. In regard to paying assessments he said it was but a few months since the tenants along this route had paid an assessment for the extension of Church street. He found that the parties who signed the petition asking for the extension were mostly tenants of Mr. Rhinelander, and he had happened to ask one of them to sign the protest, but the gentleman he had asked stated that he had been obliged to sign the petition in favor of it because he might otherwise not be able to get another store.

Judge VANDERPOEL resumed the discussion, and stated that in 1856 this matter was first broached, but it died out in the Board of Aldermen. In 1862 the matter was brought up again, presented in the Board of Aldermen, laid over without, as usual, being referred to a committee, then passed and sent to the other Board. When he learned of it he came down to see his friend Alderman Varnum and asked him about it. The Alderman said the proceeding was somewhat irregular, but that he had not given the matter consideration and was equally culpable, as out of regard for the Alderman who presented it he had voted in favor of it. The attention of the Board of Aldermen was called to the subject, and a resolution was adopted directing that all the papers in the matter should be returned to them, which was done, and it died out in the Board of Aldermen, as did the first. Mr. Vanderpoel continuing, said:—"I do not know even if Mr. Rhinelander, who now demands his pound of flesh, has asked for this extension. Even Columbia College has not sanctioned it. When it appeared in the papers that a resolution had been introduced directing the extension of Park place the treasurer of the college wrote me a note telling me of it, and from this I infer that the college authorities do not sanction it, although they do not appear in opposition to it. Almost all the signers of the petition are tenants of Mr. Rhinelander, who will not be obliged to pay any assessment and who can dance without being obliged to pay the piper."

He then went on to describe the location of his store, one portion fronting on Robinson street and the other on College place, forming an L. If, he said, you carry out the plan proposed you cut twelve feet off of my store on the Robinson street side, and you assess me on the other side to pay for it. The assessment would swallow up the amount allowed for damages, and the result would not benefit me in any way. We are told that "the big fish eat up the little fish"—the mammoth Rhinelanders gobble up the industrious and hard working merchants and tenants in the street. It may be fun for you, but it's death to us, as the frogs said to the boys when they were pelting them with stones. Yes, sir, it will be death to us, for we can't stand it. Business is moving up town, and leaving us, and we can't pay the assessment; we won't pay it. God knows we are taxed heavily enough already, and if these matters be allowed to go on we may as well ask, "Where will it all stop?" There was a time when we could put it on the tenants, but the last straw breaks the camel's back, and they can't stand it. We might not object to it so much if it was made a general tax, as was proposed in the matter of extending Fulton street. Then the idea of wanting a broad avenue to the river. The merchants don't want it. They have Murray street on one side—a wide street—and Barclay street—another wide street—on the other side, a distance of only 200 feet. The merchants on Park place, who might be supposed to be benefited by it, don't want it; they oppose it, and you can't act in advancing this matter without irrevocable ruin to the tenants on the route of the extension.

Mr. JOHN H. GLOVER appeared also in opposition to the project. He said that the mere widening of a street does not improve the value of the property, and quoted West Broadway as an example. Then in regard to narrow streets and their desirableness for business purposes, he stated that merchants were leaving Park place and building palatial stores on Church street, a street only as wide as Robinson street, and in Church street, he said, stores bring nearly three times as much rent as stores on Park place. Referring to the petition he said:—If the petitioners would show that they would be obliged to pay any portion of the assessment he would acknowledge that they stood on the same grounds. Those whom he represented had been obliged to pay an assessment for the extension of Church street, and because of the delay in the matter they had also been obliged to pay seven per cent in addition from the time of the confirmation of the commissioners' estimate. For Church street there had been awarded as damages $2,177,152, and $2,567,554 had been collected as assessment, and yet the street is not open; no advantage has been derived from it, and none can be derived from it before the majority of the leases he represented would have expired.

Mr. TITUS would like to know the *cui bono* of this extension. If it was to the good of the general public, then the assessment should be general.

Mr. A. R. LAWRENCE then commenced his argument in behalf of the petitioners, and after explaining satisfactorily why they were not represented at the previous meeting of the committee said:—I will undertake to say that no sane man whose business compels him to go below Chambers street can fail to see that all the streets below that street must, in the course of time, be widened. If, as a question of public utility, it were put to the vote of all those who go below Park place I will undertake to say that they would declare the widening of all the streets below Chambers street would be a public benefit and an improvement to the city. Should you, I ask, throw out this improvement simply because certain persons will be assessed who believe they can derive no benefit from it? There are peculiar reasons why Robinson street should be the first street taken in this march of improvement. Park place, for two blocks, is sixty-five feet in width. If this improvement be carried out you will have a noble avenue direct to the river, relieving Broadway and many of the streets which lie north and south of Park place. Another reason is that we are to have a new Post Office building located at the lower angle of the City Hall Park. The project of extending Beekman street across the Park has been already agitated and will be brought up again and ultimately carried out. It must be done. Then we will have this broad avenue from river to river, relieving the streets on either side, as well as Broadway, and rendering a benefit which will readily be felt. The objections to this project all group around the gentlemen who hold leases from Columbia College, and their objections are, not that it will not be an improvement, but simply because they will be asked to bear a part of the expense. Judge Vanderpoel in his remarks gave a clear account of this subject when it was up before, in 1856 and 1862, and he says that by his efforts and those of a few of his neighbors the matter was defeated. What becomes of their plea of hardships? In 1862 they had leases which had nine years to run. Had they allowed the improvements to be carried out at that time the fee of the land and the interest of the leases would have been benefited and the increased value would have repaid them by this time. Their argument kills itself. But for their opposition the improvement would have been made when property was less valuable, when the cost