NEW YORK CITY.

THE COURTS.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT.

The Great Blaisdell Distillery Case—Motion for Postponement—Lively Discussion Between Counsel—The Trial Fixed for This Morning.

Before Judge Blatchford.

The United States vs. Alvah Blaisdell and J. J. Eckel.—This case, according to previous order of the Court, was called on yesterday. A great deal of public interest attaches to the trial, inasmuch as the distillery owned by the defendants, located in Forty-fifth street, was one of the first of large capacity and great working power that was seized by Collector Bailey, and was, in fact, the forerunner of the series of raids made on most of the distilleries about a year ago. The distillery commenced running in July, 1867, and from that time was run continuously till the seizure on the 3d November following. On the latter date Collector Bailey, from information reported to him by his officers, made a sudden descent upon the premises, when enough was revealed to warrant their immediate seizure. Subsequently Collector Bailey turned over the distillery and its contents to the law officers of the government in this district that an action *in rem* might be instituted on the ground of frauds in the entries on the distillers' book. This resulted in the forfeiture of all the property seized to the United States. The defendants and others connected with them were subsequently presented to the Grand Jury, and that body, at their present session, found true bills of indictment against them for alleged frauds upon the Internal Revenue. It is upon this charge and indictment the parties are now being proceeded against. The Court room was crowded in every part at the opening of the court, as it was known that an effort would be made by defendants' counsel to postpone the case, and that Mr. Courtney, District Attorney, would resist to the utmost any postponement, and considerable curiosity was felt as to the result of the legal contest that must ensue. Mr. Fullerton and Mr. Beebe appeared for the defendants, Mr. Courtney on the part of the government. Collector Bailey, by whom the distillery was seized and which led to the present prosecution, was in court, attentively watching the case.

MOTION TO POSTPONE—LIVELY DISCUSSION BETWEEN COUNSEL.

Mr. Beebe, addressing the Court, said:—Your Honor, I move an adjournment in this case on the ground of the absence of material witnesses, whom we could not have here under the circumstances. The indictment against these parties was only found during the present term of the court. It was filed at the November term, and this is the first time that we have had any knowledge of it. (To Mr. Courtney)—Mr. District Attorney, have you got the indictment?

Mr. Courtney—Yes. It is not true that the indictment was found at this term. It is an old indictment, virtually, with some additional counts.

Mr. Beebe—The indictment was found on the 30th November.

Mr. Courtney—If counsel has a motion to make let him make it.

Mr. Beebe—I have, and that is what I was about to do. I have a motion to make for the postponement of this case.

Mr. Courtney—I object to any postponement of the case. You have had the proper notice that the case would be proceeded with to-day.

Mr. Beebe—I have been sick and absent from business for some time. I beg, your Honor, to press my motion for a postponement, and I submit the affidavit of one of the defendants to the effect that two most important witnesses of the defence are absent and cannot be brought here in time for the trial. I make the application in good faith and not for the purpose of any delay. Now, on this affidavit, I moveto postpone the trial, andmay add that there are other facts in the case which I am not at liberty to state in open court, which would show that it is impossible that I can, with safety to my client, proceed with the trial of the case now. My application is for a postponement of the case for the present term of the court.

Judge Blatchford (emphatically)—No, I shall not postpone the trial on this affidavit.

Mr. Courtney—I move the empanelling of the jury.

Mr. Beebe—I trust your Honor will not do that to-day.

Judge Blatchford—Clerk, empanel the jury.

Mr. Beebe—Well, your Honor, we cannot have a fair trial in the absence of these witnesses, and I do not believe that your Honor desires to do an injustice in this matter, but that your wish is that justice should be done at all hazards. Here is an affidavit setting forth the fact that these witnesses to whom I have referred are absent and cannot be here, and under these circumstances I do not think the Court will make itself a party to the consummation of an injustice against these defendants. This is the first application in the case on our part, and after an experience of thirty-four years as counsel, with considerable knowledge in criminal cases, this is the first time that I have known an application of this kind to be refused by the Court. He thought the Court would not act in any hasty manner in putting the defendants on their trial without their material witness. If that was done it would be, a hardship on the defendants. He would be sorry that any one who had a good defence should be assumed to be guilty until guilt was proved. In this case there had been a civil action trial, and many of the points involved in that case would arise in this one. The evidence in that civil case was thoroughly sifted, and his Honor came to the conclusion that these parties were not guilty of any fraud. He had got out of his sick bed to come here; he had intense ague in his face, and if the case had to go to trial to-day it should proceed without the aid of counsel, for he was unable mentally and bodily to devote himself to it now. He had no objection to state in detail what he would prove by these witnesses if the court desired it; he did not like to state openly what the parties would prove until they came on the stand. He believed that unjustifiable means had been used for the purpose of procuring evidence against the defendants; but he apprehended that his Honor's sense of justice would not permit any wrong to be done. Up to the time of his absence from the city he attended day by day in court for the trial with the witnesses they had. There were certain papers they wanted, and without them they could not go on to trial. He therefore contended that there should be an adjournment to the next term; if not to that term, at least for a sufficient time to enable him to procure important documents from Washington. If his Honor said he could not have that time he would get ready with the witnesses he had. They had written to Mr. Smith Ely, Jr., to hasten his return from Europe. He would say that on Thursday, when he left New York, there was, as he was informed, a direction from the Attorney General to the District Attorney that there should be a stay of proceedings in the case. With that understanding he left town, and it would be a pity that his clients should be injured by any act of his own. Those affidavits had been drawn in good faith, and, in his opinion, set forth good grounds for adjourning the case, and he did think that upon them his Honor would feel justified in granting the adjournment asked for. As he had said before, if the case was to proceed to-day it must be without his assistance, because, owing to the pain he was suffering in his face, he could not conduct the defence.

The Court—I do not think that there is any valid or sufficient reason shown in those papers for the postponement of the case. The only reason for which I would adjourn it is the illness of counsel. That is a circumstance which I am always prepared to take into consideration. Counsel states that he is too ill personally to go on with the case. That, of course, is a circumstance which is entitled by the Court to consideration. Now, if counsel is too ill to attend to the case this morning I will put it off to-morrow for that cause alone and on that personal ground alone. Nothing more.

Mr. Courtney—Mr. Beebe, are you the only counsel in this case for the defendants?

Mr. Beebe—Yes, for all the defendants, except Mr. Schuyler, for whom Mr. D. McMahon appears. I would ask for the day after to-morrow, for I am so ill I am not prepared to go on with the case to-day. I have come down here out of my sick bed, not having slept for the last forty-eight hours, owing to the intense pain I have suffered. My gums are over my teeth, and I cannot close my mouth without much suffering.

The Court—I know counsel is subject to these attacks, and that they are very severe when they come on. So far as the personal application of the counsel is concerned I can understand it, and know that it would cause a temporary delay.

Mr. Courtney—This case has been called every day since the indictment was found, and the defendants have pretended to be ready when it was reached. As the matter is apparently to go over this day, on the personal application of my learned friend, who states that he is ill, and the Court favors the postponement, I can make no successful objection; but I must state that we have come here with all our witnesses and are now ready to go on with the case, and if it be adjourned I cannot consent to its being adjourned longer than to-morrow. If it is adjourned I must ask your Honor that these defendants give a larger amount of bail, for I say, on my official responsibility, that it is my opinion, from information I have received, that unless their bail is largely increased these defendants never will be tried at this term of the court.

The Court—What is the present amount of bail?

Mr. Beebe—They are bailed in the case in the Circuit Court and they are bailed here.

Mr. Courtney—I call attention to the fact that, from what I am informed, I believe the defendants will not appear if their bail be not increased. I deem it my duty to make this statement to the Court.

Mr. Beebe—I assure the Court and my friend Mr. Courtney that they will appear. They are under $5,000 bail, and also bail in the Circuit Court, making the bail $7,000, so that their attendance is sure.

Mr. Courtney—That is in the other case.

Mr. Beebe—It secures their attendance in this city.

Mr. Courtney—It does not secure their attendance at this term of the court. Their object, in my opinion, is to get rid of this term of this court.

Mr. Beebe—There are several recognizances for their appearance.

The Court—It is only a misdemeanor as the case, and the bail of $5,000 is, I think, sufficient. The defendants are here this morning, and I see no reason that they will not be here to-morrow. In proportion to the punishment to be awarded the bail is sufficient. It is with very great reluctance that I entertain the idea of at all postponing this case beyond to-morrow. If the jury desire to be relieved from attendance to-day they may be; all other business stands blocked by the idea that this case was to come on.

Mr. W. Fullerton—I desire to ask permission to make a statement in this case, though I am not one of the counsel engaged in it, with the view of seeing whether the Court will not consent to a longer postponement of the trial than that which has been asked. I examined all the facts and circumstances of this case to see whether the defendants did not fall within the protection of the government, and whether the faith of the government was not pledged to them through me in a way to call on the authorities at Washington to stay these proceedings and not force this action. The question was of such a character that it was submitted to the Attorney General through me, and the Attorney General considered it of sufficient importance to entertain it and stay these proceedings. A letter from the Attorney General to me was received on Saturday morning, stating that the case should go to trial and proceed, under certain safeguards and restrictions as regards the defendants. When I received that communication, and learning that Judge Beebe was counsel in the case for some of the defendants, I found that I could not communicate with him, as he had left town, under the impression that the trial was not imminent. Not being able to confer with Judge Beebe when the case was about being called—not being able to communicate with him at all on the introduction of this case—I should state that I was informed that there are important papers at Washington that are of vital importance in this case, not living witnesses, but records which are of the greatest consequence, and it is a question for your Honor whether those documents should not be obtained. Considering the relations in which I have stood to those transactions I feel it would be criminal if I were to remain silent.

Mr. Courtney—The case for the prosecution will take a day or two. If there are any affidavits or papers in Washington which counsel for the defendants desire I shall obtain them when their side of the case is reached. What the gentleman (Mr. Fullerton) outside of this case has done or said I do not know, and what the question of protection afforded or suggested by him to criminals has to do with this court I am quite at a loss to imagine. The prerogative of protection does not belong to this court nor the counsel, but to another tribunal. That question has no relevancy here, and it cannot be considered for a moment before the court. I desire and mean to get at the trial of this case some time or another. Every obstacle has been thrown in the way of this trial in this tribunal by the defendants and their advisers. Inside counsel for the defendant asks for a postponement on the plea of illness, and that is granted until to-morrow. Counsel outside the case gets up and asks that a longer time should be granted. I desire that these defendants shall have a full, fair and impartial trial, and I do not intend that through any act or agency of mine the trial of these defendants, who have repeatedly published their readiness to be tried, and that they will show their innocence to the world, shall be delayed or hindered. As to these papers from Washington, whether they are material or not for the defendants, I do not know. No evidence has been offered to show that they have any relevancy or pertinence to this case. If they are important to these defendants they will have plenty of time to get them from Washington, even if there should be a special agent or ambassador sent for them, or if they should be entrusted to the hands of an officer of the government to produce them. This case, on our side, will take at least one day; my assistant says two. It takes twelve hours to go to Washington and twelve hours to return; and I suppose these valuable papers are in such a position that they can be had or that some official of the government will be entrusted to produce them. The defendants having obtained this adjournment I trust the case will proceed to-morrow. Whatever my instructions are in the letter of the Attorney General, to which the outside counsel refers, I will faithfully and cheerfully obey, and his request will be fully complied with.

Mr. Beebe said he did not know what that letter was. Many of the points made by the gentleman were vulnerable. He said that he desired the defendants should have a fair trial. Words and professions were cheap, but the action did not correspond to the word. The statement made by Mr. Fullerton should have great weight with the Court, and that was that he (Mr. Beebe) left town solemnly believing that the case would not be on this term of the court and so he had advised his clients. He presumed that in the direction given by the Attorney General he did not act hastily. With the desire of the Attorney General to do justice and the assurance of Mr. Fullerton as to the importance of those papers the case should not be pressed on. The papers should be used on the cross-examination of the witnesses for the United States.

Mr. Courtney—If you furnish me with a list of those papers I will telegraph to Washington for them.

Mr. Beebe—I will go on to-morrow with the case if I am able to be out of my bed. If not, the parties will be notified that they must have other counsel. The District Attorney has evinced much feeling in this case. I say that the District Attorney goes into this case with more feeling than he would try a man to-morrow for murder. He talks of incessant delay. It seldom happens that a case is tried in the same term in which the indictment is found. This is the first time that an adjournment of this case has been moved for, and I have attended here from day to day to make that motion. I believe the grounds upon which I have sought for the postponement are sufficient. Justice ought to be done, though the heavens should fall. To put those parties on trial now would be an act of injustice to them. I think your Honor would require the attendance of Mr. Dittenhoeffer, who took the affidavits of the parties which are now going to be used against Mr. Blaisdell. They would contradict the statements made against him in this case.

The Court said it would be impossible to act on a mere matter of this kind without some sworn statement as to what these papers were.

Mr. Fullerton—I can state to your Honor what these papers are. These defendants, or some of them, were defendants in a civil action brought in this court to confiscate certain property of theirs. The government, or District Attorney, I believe, failed to confiscate the property. Now, the subject of this inquiry—or the trial of this indictment—extends over the same ground and the same time, and, as I understand it, the papers are affidavits made by parties for the purpose of obtaining the release of this property seized. Application was also made to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, based on numerous papers, signed by numerous parties, in the shape of affidavits, and in which the parties have stated all the facts in the case on paper. That is a matter of record, as the application to the Commissioner was made on papers now on file. Your Honor will therefore plainly see that as the affidavits made in the case for the confiscation of the property of my clients were made by the identical men who make the affidavits in the case, it becomes my duty to have them here to see whether they form the basis of a complete contradiction. That, your Honor, is the plain English of it.

Mr. Courtney—Your Honor, counsel who has just taken his seat in making the statement made by him is entirely mistaken. The government did not fail in the prosecution of the civil action. The Court condemned that property, and one of the very counts of the present indictment is for the criminal offence committed and the action under the proceeding was had that resulted in the condemnation of the property referred to. This indictment does not cover the time alone in which the first proceeding was confined, and if the gentleman had only read the indictment he would have noticed that. There are other counts in the indictment, which brings the offence committed by the defendants within the time covered by October, 1867, down to April 1868—three indictments covering offences committed long after the proceedings for the condemnation of the property in question were commenced—so that the statement that the witnesses who were on the trial of that case are material witnesses in this case is not of much account.

It is strange that counsel who last addressed the Court (Mr. Fullerton) should know or assume to know—because there has been a good deal of assumption presented here since the commencement of this discussion—it is strange, I repeat, your Honor, that he should assume to know what witnesses the government intend to call. He assumes we are going to call everybody. I beg to inform the gentleman that I shall call everybody who knows anything about the commission of these frauds in that distillery, dating from October, 1867, to the date of this indictment.

One word more, your Honor. An effort has been made on the part of one of the counsel to create an impression that I am acting under personal feelings. The cry of "personal feeling" seems to be their panacea for mitigating all charges and crimes against persons presented by the Grand Jury.

Mr. Beebe—I say you have feelings mixed up with it.

Mr. Courtney—Yes, your Honor, I have feelings mixed up in any case where I am called to prosecute, and I should be derelict in my duty if I had not such feelings, especially in a case like this, where the evidence is so clear and overwhelming against these men of systematic robberies committed by them in this city. In these days it seems that whenever a public officer endeavors to do his duty and to bring to light frauds upon the revenue he is charged with being actuated by personal feelings. Yes, I have just this kind of feeling when I find in a case of this kind counsel making application to postpone the trial and operating in an effort to prevent these men being brought to justice—a feeling to prevent their succeeding and expose their object. This is my feeling, and they may make the most of it.

THE CASE FIXED FOR A TRIAL.

Judge Blatchford—It would be exceedingly improper, on the mere statement made by defendants, for the Court to postpone the trial for any such general reasons as here assigned. With regard to these papers at Washington, if it shall turn out on the progress of the trial that the defendants have been taken by surprise with regard to any witness, and that witness can be contradicted by his own affidavit, made by him, and in the possession of the Internal Revenue Department at Washington, the Court will unquestionably give the defence an opportunity of getting the necessary papers. The defence cannot, of course, anticipate every witness that may be called, but to postpone a trial in advance is contrary to all proceedings in courts of justice. The Court will endeavor to guard the rights of the defendants as the facts arise. And wherever it can be shown that the defence can contradict a witness by affidavit of his own, if taken from the files of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, the Court will allow the amplest time and opportunity for procuring the same. The case must proceed to-morrow; but if it be found that counsel for the defence are unable to proceed, then I will not press it beyond empanelling a jury, but commence to-morrow we must. I will suggest to the District Attorney, inasmuch as there has been no preliminary examination in the case, that his opening statement be made as full as possible—of course he is not bound to name his witnesses—but to state all the facts, so that the defence may be fully informed of all he (the District Attorney) intends to prove; so that there may be a fair and full development of the case from the very outset. Therefore to-morrow morning the jury will be empanelled and the case will be opened.

The matter then dropped.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT—IN ADMIRALTY.

Calendar Notice.

Notes of issue for the admiralty permanent calendar for 1869, of all cases not on the calendar for the year 1868, must be filed on or before Thursday December 31, 1868.

UNITED STATES CIRCUIT COURT.

Indictments Found.

The Grand Jury of the United States Circuit Court presented the following indictments:—

United States vs. Joseph Barnabo alias Italian Joe and John Smith.—Uttering and having in their possession counterfeit fractional and United States notes.

Same vs. James Archer.—Passing counterfeit fractional note.

Same vs. Michael McCormick and Joseph Barnabo.—Uttering and selling counterfeit fractional notes.

Same vs. Charles Harper alias Charles Jackson.—Uttering counterfeit currency notes.

Same vs. James McLaughlin alias John H. Fuller.—Perjury.

Same vs. George Meyers.—Passing a counterfeit United States note.

Same vs. James Jones.—Passing national counterfeit currency note.

Same vs. Joseph Reid alias Louis Reece.—Passing counterfeit United States notes.

COURT CALENDAR—THIS DAY.

SUPREME COURT—CHAMBERS.—Nos. 65, 116, 127, 201, 267, 277, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 302, 303, 304, 306.

COMMON PLEAS—TRIAL TERM.—Part 1—Nos. 1712, 2479, 1654, 2425, 1669, 2090, 2244, 2057, 1401, 1402, 2475, 2583, 2585, 2686. Part 2—Nos. 2616, 2624, 2602, 2443, 2212, 2182, 2383, 2519, 2625, 2468, 1991, 2449.

MARINE COURT—TRIAL TERM.—Nos. 1272, 1275, 1277, 1278, 1280, 1282 1283, 1284, 1285, 1288, 1290, 1291, 1292, 1295, 1297, 1267, 1298, 1301, 1302, 1303, 1305, 1306, 1308, 1309, 1310, 1312, 1313, 1314, 1315, 1326.

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.	38	3 P. M.	39
6 A. M.	37	6 P. M.	39
9 A. M.	39	9 P. M.	36
12 M.	40	12 P. M.	35

Average temperature 37⅞
Average temperature Monday 38⅜

BURGLARS INTERRUPTED.—During Monday night a gang of burglars made a foray upon the premises No. 523 Third avenue, and had just succeeded in forcing open the side door on Thirty-seventh street when the opportune arrival of the Twenty-first precinct police frightened them from the undertaking, and they fled with great precipitation, leaving their tools in the hands of the enemy.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.—Mrs. Eliza Dunham, who resides at No. 82 Charlton street, during a paroxysm of temporary insanity yesterday morning, swallowed a quantity of blue vitriol with the intent to commit suicide. The act was, however, fortunately discovered, almost simultaneously with its commission, and a physician being quickly summoned she was soon relieved of the poison and pronounced out of all danger.

A THIEF ARRESTED.—At an early hour yesterday morning officers Cole and Van Riper, of the Fifth precinct, met a man in Church street whom they considered to be loaded suspiciously heavy and whom they took into custody, greatly to his disgust. The prisoner gave the name of William McKnight, and his pack proved to contain a number of shawls and other woollen articles, which were identified during the day as a portion of the proceeds of a burglary committed in Jersey City on Monday night. McKnight was, therefore, transferred to the other side of the river to await a trial for his offence.

A FATAL LEAP.—About two o'clock yesterday afternoon an unknown man, about thirty years of age and dressed in a black coat and gray pants, jumped from the New Haven express train as it passed the corner of Sixty-second street and Fourth avenue, when the reckless man was so severely injured that he died in a few moments and before any trace to his identity could be gained. The body was taken to the Morgue for identification and inquest.

FELONIOUS ASSAULT.—Officer Wm. Robertson, of the Twenty-seventh precinct, was suddenly and fiercely assaulted on the 4th of December by a ruffian named Garrett Baldwin, who endeavored to inflict a stab wound in the side of the officer, though he failed in doing so, as the coat of the policeman was the recipient of the weapon. Since that time Baldwin has been at liberty and was only overhauled on Monday night. When arraigned before Justice Hogan at the Tombs yesterday. He was fully committed for trial.

THE MORGUE.—In addition to the many improvements lately made at Bellevue Hospital, in the Morgue, we have to mention the important arrangement for having photographs of the bodies placed in the Morgue taken, so that parties having friends drowned will have an opportunity to examine from these mementos of those who have mysteriously disappeared. Beneath each likeness is a card, with all the attendant circumstances explained and the place of burial designated.

BOARD OF FIRE UNDERWRITERS.—The New York Board of Fire Underwriters held a secret session yesterday afternoon at their rooms, No. 156 Broadway. The meeting was called for the purpose of considerthe subject of making a rebate from the premiums in insurance. About seventy members were present, the president occupying the chair. A resolution having for its effect the rescinding of the rebate was proposed, and after some two hours' debate was put to the meeting and lost. The Board then adjourned.

COCK FIGHTING.—John Mullholland, the proprietor of a liquor store in Mott street, appeared before Justice Mansfield at the Essex Market Police Court yesterday to answer a charge of cruelty to animals preferred by John Terrence. The complainant alleged that Mullholland runs a cock pit in connection with his liquor business, and that fights are of nightly occurrence. Mr. Terrence also stated that a number of game cocks are now "training" on the above premises, and that Mullholland is in the habit of "setting on" and otherwise aiding and abetting the belligerent birds. The accused was bailed to answer in the sum of $300.

INSTITUTE OF LETTERS, ARTS AND SCIENCES.—A meeting of the members of the National Institute of Letters, Arts and Sciences was held last evening at No. 37 Lafayette place for the purpose of organizing an Academy of the Natural Sciences. Mr. Horatio Allen occupied the chair and Professor Eggleston officiated as secretary. The report of the sub-committee having been read and adopted the following gentlemen were elected as officers of the Academy of Natural Sciences:—Joseph Leidy, M. D., president; John S. Newberry, vice president; Professor C. A. Joy, secretary, and J. Carson Brevoort, treasurer. Jeffries Wyman, M. D., and Spencer F. Baird were appointed members of the council of the institute. The following gentlemen were chosen for the Academy of the Mathematical, Physical and Mechanical Sciences:—Professor Joseph Henry, president; Mr. Horatio Allen, vice president; A. L. Holley, secretary; Edward Cooper, treasurer; Professor W. H. C. Bartlett and Mr. W. P. Trowbridge, for members of council.

BURGLARY IN WHITE STREET.—At this late date the police have vouchsafed the information that a burglary was committed in White street during Wednesday night last, but did not accompany the information with any explanation of its tardiness. It appears that during the night stated some burglars effected an entrance into the rear building No. 38 White street and into the office of G. Berenbroick, a manufacturer of silver filagree work. Finding nothing of value in the office unless it might be contained in the safe, they set to work upon that receptacle, and by dint of patience and good chisels finally cut their way into it. They were rewarded by finding in it silverware valued at $800, and also a gold snuff-box, almost priceless as a relic and by reason of its venerable age, as the owner possesses indubitable proof that it was made 200 years ago, in the days of the Merry Monarch, and is thus almost coeval with snuff itself. With this most ancient snuffbox and all of the silverware the burglars made their exit unobserved, and thus far no trace of them or of their spoils has been discovered.

BOARD OF HEALTH.—The Board held their regular weekly meeting yesterday. A petition from the Metropolitan Gaslight Company, with regard to certain complaints made against them, was read, and a long discussion arose in relation thereto. Dr. Stone said that bad gas was most deleterious to health. Mr. Bliss, the Attorney of the Board, said that the Metropolitan Gaslight Company was the poorest in the city, and apparently wished to favor them. It was finally resolved to give the company a hearing before the Board. The weekly report of the Superintendent of Vital Statistics states:—In the week that ended on Saturday, the 26th instant, there were 569 deaths in New York and 152 in Brooklyn. The weather and the circumstances of the population were favorable to life. Yet, from special effects of the two weeks of very cold weather there was an increase in the number of deaths in adults, and a considerable decrease in the infant mortality. There was a decided increase in the fatality of diseases of the respiratory organs. The mean temperature last week was 27 degs., with a range from 8 degs. to 40 degs. Farenheit; and in the previous week the mean was at 29½ degs., with a range from 13 degs. to 45 degs.

THE ORPHANS' HOME OF THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH.—The anniversary meeting and Christmas festival of the Orphan's Home of the Protestant Episcopal Church, took place yesterday at that institution, corner Forty-ninth street and Lexington avenue. Bishop Potter presided and Rev. Dr. Morgan, rector of St. Thomas', opened the proceedings with prayer and reading of the Scriptures. The secretary's report was read by Dr. Morgan. The following is a brief abstract:—Owing to the necessity of making some improvement in our building, by painting and repairing, the expenditures for the past year have been greatly increased, so that, including the amount required for provisions, fuel, clothing, &c., they have reached the sum of $19,989. Part of this additional expenditure has been covered by the sale of bonds reserved for that purpose, while for the ordinary current expenses we have depended, as usual, upon church colleges, subscriptions, donations and the seventy-five cents a week payment from the friends of some of the children. The whole amount thus received was $17,504. For the infirmary the total receipts during the time of building and furnishing were $32,671; expenditures, $32,391. The balance will be used for current expenses. Besides the matron and three female teachers there are employed a nurse and six domestics. There are at present in the institution 149 children; 36 have been received during the year, 23 have been placed out and 26 have been returned to their friends. None have died. Receipts—Balance from last account, $568; sundry donations, $5,385; annual subscriptions, $2,105; board money received, $3,527; collection in churches, $3,345; cash found in alms box, $68; apportionment of State's fund for 1867, $578; interest and premium on gold, $545; balance of infirmary fund, $380; proceeds of sales of $5,000 United States securities, $5,380; legacies and donations to permanent fund, $27,592; balance due treasurer, $245. Total, $49,722. Paid out—Salaries and wages, $1,797; provisions, clothing, &c., $11,717; coal, $895; repairs on building, $4,935; Mrs. Alex. Smith, trustee of permanent fund, $27,592. Among the principal legacies were:—Late Peter Lorillard's, $2,500; late Joseph B. Scole's, $22,000. Total amount of securities held by the trustee, $33,500.

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

The City Fathers Under the Gaslight—Happy Effects of the Holiday Season—The Park Place Extension.

Pursuant to adjournment this Board convened last evening, at five o'clock, with the President, Alderman Coman, in the chair. There were also present, at the time of opening, Aldermen Moore, Norton, Cuddy, Ward, O'Brien, Miller, Connor, Hardy, Repper, Coulter, McGrath and McQuade. It will be seen, therefore, that there were members enough present to transact any business that might be brought up, and subsequent events showed that they meant to wind up the business with the winding up of the year. The chamber of the Board certainly looked most pleasing, as this was the first time it was lighted up since the repainting, refitting and refurnishing. The light, streaming through the handsome cut glass globes, reflected by the brilliant and ornamental chandeliers, mellowed by the pretty and tasteful tints of the fresco on the walls and ceiling, and still further toned by the heavy window drapings and walnut furniture, seemed to shed a peculiar halo of ease and quietude on everything and everybody under it.

The Board made donations to the Bloomingdale Methodist Episcopal church, $103; Thirtieth street German church, $500; the Ladies' Union Aid Society, $5,000; St. James' church, $800; to the House of the Good Shepherd, $25,000. They introduced resolutions granting donations to several other churches, to the Central Dispensary and $10,000 to the Union Home and School. They ordered $404 to be refunded to J. H. McCabe and $272 to Thomas Duffey, as those amounts had been deducted from their receipts from the city for overtime on certain contracts.

They ordered the paving of South street, from Montgomery to Catharine street, with Belgian pavement; ordered the Comptroller to pay Jeremiah O'Brien and others $500 each for expenses incurred in contesting their seats as members of the Board of Councilmen; ordered the Corporation Counsel to take measures for the opening of 146th street, from Eighth avenue to the Harlem river; ordered White street, from Broadway to West Broadway, and Franklin street, from Broadway to Hudson street, to be paved with Belgian pavement, and a large gas lamp to be erected in the centre of Chatham square; pier No. 37 East river to be repaired; a sewer to be constructed in avenue B, between Third and Fourth streets; increased the salary of the official reporter of the Board of Councilmen, and ordered the construction of a number of sewers in different parts of the city.

On motion of Alderman NORTON they then took up the general orders remaining on the list and disposed of a large number of them. They adopted, among others, those providing for the following:—Croton mains in Lexington avenue, between Fifty-first and Fifty-second streets; gas mains in Madison avenue, between Fifty-ninth and Sixtieth streets; Croton mains in Fifty-ninth street, between Fifth and Sixth avenues; flagging, curbing, grading, lighting and otherwising a large number of streets up town. A large number of general orders were referred to the committee, among others those "sunken lots" to the Committee on Public Health, and an immense amount of work to the Committees on Streets, Sewers and Roads.

The list was read through by the President in quick time, and it was quite an amusing scene to see the potent legislators, with eyes wide open, reading along after him. The resolutions were referred to the appropriate committees.

When the resolution to donate $50,000 to the "House of the Good Shepherd" was called up, Alderman NORTON stated that "the trustees of that institution had petitioned the Legislature at its last session for aid, and that the objects and management of the institution were deemed so worthy that the Legislature donated $25,000, on the condition that the trustees should raise $25,000 more. The $25,000 from the State is in the hands of the Comptroller, as yet untouched. If, therefore, this resolution were amended so as to give $25,000, the trustees might thus be enabled to obtain the $25,000 donated by the State." Alderman Norton explained the objects of the institution, and the resolution, being amended as he suggested, was adopted. Alderman Hardy, from the Committee on the Park Place Extension, reported that the committee were unable to agree, and asked that they be discharged from any further consideration of the subject. The committee was discharged and the Board adjourned to meet for the final session of 1868 on Thursday, at ten A. M.

BOARD OF COUNCILMEN.

One Million and a Half Subscribed to the New York Bridge Company—Streets and Avenues to be Paved with Wooden and Belgian Pavements—Donations to Religious Societies.

The Board met last evening, the President, Mr. Monahan, presiding.

At a special meeting the following petition was received from the President of the New York Bridge Company:—

TO THE HONORABLE THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COMMONALTY OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK:—

The New York Bridge Company respectfully present their application to your honorable body and represent that your applicants were duly incorporated by the Legislature on the 16th day of April, 1867, and authorized to construct a bridge across the East river, between the cities of New York and Brooklyn, at such an elevation as not to obstruct the navigation of the river, and to terminate at some point on the New York side between the junction of Nassau and Chatham streets and Chatham square. The capital of the company is fixed at $5,000,000, with power by the directors to increase the same, and to borrow a sum equal to the capital for the purpose of building the bridge. The cities of New York and Brooklyn are authorized to subscribe to so much of the capital as two-thirds of the Common Council of either city may deem proper.

* * * * * * *

While showing the entire feasibility and desirableness of the structure, Mr. Roebling estimates the cost of the bridge, independent of the damages for land taken, at $7,000,000. The cost of the land we estimate at about $2,000,000 more, making the total cost safely within $10,000,000.

The city of Brooklyn, under the authority given it by the act of incorporation of the company, has subscribed the sum of $3,000,000 toward the capital of the company on condition that the Mayor, Treasurer and Comptroller of the city be *ex officio* members of the Board of Directors and as representatives of the interests of the city, and that a further sum of $2,000,000 be subscribed by other parties, which sum will make up the authorized capital of $5,000,000.

* * * * * * *

In connection therewith the President presented the following ordinance:—

AN ORDINANCE SUBSCRIBING TO THE CAPITAL STOCK OF THE NEW YORK BRIDGE COMPANY, AUTHORIZING THE BORROWING OF MONEY AND ISSUING OF BONDS IN PAYMENT OF SUCH SUBSCRIPTION, AND MAKING APPROPRIATION THEREFOR.

The Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the city of New York, in Common Council convened, do ordain as follows:—

SECTION 1. The sum of $1,500,000 is hereby subscribed, on behalf of the Mayor, Aldermen and Commonalty of the city of New York, to the capital stock of the New York Bridge Company—provided, nevertheless, that the charter of said company shall be so amended that the Mayor, Comptroller and President of the Board of Aldermen be ex officio directors of said company, and that such city officers shall represent the interest of this corporation in said company.

SEC. 2. The Comptroller is hereby authorized and directed, upon the amendment of the said charter as aforesaid, to borrow, on the credit of the corporation, from time to time, the sum of $1,500,000, for the purpose of paying the amount of such subscription, and to issue bonds therefor for such period as in his judgment may be most expedient, pursuant to the provisions of the twelfth section of the act entitled "An act to incorporate the New York Bridge Company, for the purpose of constructing and maintaining a bridge over the East river, between the cities of New York and Brooklyn," passed April 16, 1867.

SEC. 3. The said sum of $1,500,000, so borrowed, shall be applied to the payment of such subscription, from time to time, as instalments thereof shall be called for by said company, and the same is hereby appropriated for that purpose.

This general order was called up and unanimously adopted without a word of debate.

WOODEN PAVEMENTS.

The Board concurred with the Aldermen in adopting the following resolutions:—To print 5,000 copies of Hoffman's Digest of the Laws of the State for use in the public offices; directing the Croton Aqueduct Department to advertise for bids for the paving of John street, from Broadway to the East river, except where now paved with Belgian or wooden pavement, provided the expense does not exceed five dollars per square yard; also for paving Twenty-fifth street from Third to Madison avenue, Forty-sixth street from Third avenue to the East river, Bond street from Broadway to the Bowery, Waverley place, from Broadway to Christopher street, with the same pavement.

BELGIAN PAVEMENTS.

The Croton Aqueduct Department were ordered to pave the following streets and avenues with Belgian pavement:—Second avenue from Fourteenth to Twenty-second street, Fifty-fourth street, between Second avenue and East river, Twenty-first street from Sixth to Tenth avenue, Forty-first street from Eighth to Ninth avenue, Madison avenue, between Fifty-third and Fifty-fifth streets, Fifty-sixth street from Third to Sixth avenue.

DONATIONS TO CHURCHES.

The Comptroller was directed to draw his warrant in favor of the chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Church of the Holy Apostles for $179; in favor of the pastor of St. Joseph's church for $706; in favor of the pastor of the Union Reformed church in Sixth avenue for $1,139; in favor of the President of the Board of Trustees of the African Methodist Episcopal church for $69; the treasurer of the Third Universalist church for $195.

A resolution was concurred in increasing the salary of the Assistant Librarian to $1,500 per annum. On motion the Board adjourned till Thursday at twelve o'clock.

BOARD OF EXCISE.

Official Analysis of Brandy and Whiskey—The Work of the Bohemian Commission at an End—Interesting Facts for Whiskey Drinkers.

Several months ago the Board of Excise adopted a resolution ordering the analysis of brandy and whiskey from samples selected from corner groceries and liquor stores. The chemist engaged in the investigation sampled thirty-eight specimens of spirituous liquors, with the following result:—

1. Bourbon, Andrew Curley, No. 34 First avenue.—Reaction, slightly acid; specific gravity, 930; percentage of absolute alcohol by valum, 55.44; trace of fusil oil; quality, independent of strength, fair; flavored of brandy, 11 per cent above proof.

2. Robert McLaughlin, No. 69 Sixth street.—The same headings as above give faintly acid; 941; 49.12; no fusil oil; fair quality.

3. John Lee, 52 First avenue—Brandy; reaction, faintly acid; 960; 32.39; trace of fusil oil; inferior quality; 35 per cent below proof.

4. John Cunningham, 34 First avenue—Brandy; reaction, neutral; 940; 49.12; a little fusil oil; fair quality.

7. John H. Prehn, 87 Allen street—Bourbon; reaction, neutral; 964; 35.15; trace of fusil oil; fair quality; 30 per cent below proof.

8. James Goodwin, 50 Delancey street—Bourbon; reaction, faintly acid; 960; 39.01; no fusil oil; 20 per cent below proof; fair quality.

9. Same—Brandy; reaction, neutral; 958; 39.90—very little fusil oil; inferior quality diluted with tea; 20 per cent below proof.

10. John H. Prehn, 87 Allen street—Brandy, acid reaction; 980; 22.62; a little fusil oil, bad quality; flavor like vinegar and rancid lamp oil; the worst sample in the lot; 54 per cent under proof.

11. Fred. Lowe, 110 Eldridge street—Bourbon, neutral reaction; 965; 30.30; trace of fusil oil; inferior; 40 per cent below proof.

15. Campbell, 233 Mulberry street—Brandy, faintly acid reaction; 920; 56.20; a little fusil oil; inferior; 12 per cent above proof.

16. Pat Sexton, 118 Mulberry street—Brandy, faintly acid; 951; 44.13; trace of fusil oil; inferior; 12 per cent below proof.

17. M. Campbell, 233 Mulberry street—Bourbon, acid reaction; 935; 51.16; much fusil oil; inferior quality; 3 per cent above proof.

18. Patrick Sexton, 118 Mulberry—Bourbon, faintly acid; 952