NEW YORK CITY.

THE COURTS.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT—CRIMINAL BRANCH.

The Great Blaisdell Distillery Case—A Nolle Prosequi Entered as to Two of the Defendants—A Motion to Set Aside the Venire—Interesting Discussion—The Trial Postponed till Tuesday Next.

Before Judge Blatchford.

The United States vs. Alvah Blaisdell, J. J. Eckel and Others.—Another hitch was sprung in entering upon the trial of this case yesterday which resulted in its further postponement till Tuesday next.

In addition to the counsel appearing on the previous day for the defence were engaged and participated in the day's proceedings Ira Shafer, E. D. McCarthy, Messrs. Knox and Voorhies; Mr. Courtney, United States District Attorney, and Mr. D. K. Phelps, Assistant United States District Attorney, appearing for the government. The court room was well filled by expectant spectators before the case was called on, and when at last, the other business having been disposed of, the case was about to be called on, the room was quickly crowded in every part.

A NOLLE PROSEQUI ENTERED.

District Attorney Courtney, addressing the Court, said:—Before a jury is empanelled in this case I desire to make a motion that a *nolle prosequi* be entered for two of the defendents, in the case of James A. Dissendorf and Isaac S. Schuyler, two of the parties indicted with the defendants Blaisdell and Eckell. I make the motion before proceeding with the trial of the case, although in State courts the practice is the reverse.

Judge Blatchford—Under the law and practice of the United States courts it is held that a District Attorney may enter a *nolle prosequi* with regard to a defendant before empanelling a jury. The order shall be entered accordingly.

MOTION TO EMPANEL A JURY.

Mr. Courtney—I now, your Honor, move that a jury be empanelled to try the case. I will here make my opening address and propose that the further hearing of the trial be adjourned till Monday.

Mr. Voorhies, addressing the Court, said that he appeared for Mr. Beebe, who was too sick to attend as associate counsel for the defence. Under the circumstances he appeared as counsel in the case.

Mr. E. D. McCarthy said—Your Honor, in consequence of the illness of Mr. Beebe Mr. Shafer and myself were engaged at a late hour yesterday to take part in the defence of this case. The counsel to whom he had referred had unintentionally carried away with him the copy of the indictment that had been served on the defendant Blaisdell, and therefore both Mr. Shafer and himself were ignorant of the contents of that paper, except what they had learned verbally from the defendant. He would, therefore, notwithstanding the order made by the Court yesterday as to proceeding with the trial of the case to-day, move for a short adjournment, merely long enough, in fact, to enable counsel to read the paper and to understand the points and questions involved.

The Court—I shall order the jury to be empanelled and the case opened now; that will consume the rest of the day, and I shall then adjourn the case till Monday morning.

MOTION TO SET ASIDE THE VENIRE.

Mr. Shafer—Your Honor, I have to submit a motion. This venire I see is tested in the name of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. It is properly sealed by the seal of the court and it is properly signed by the clerk of the court. But, your Honor, this does not make it a valid instrument. My point of objection is, that being tested in the name of the Chief Justice and not by the Judge of this court, the venire is null and void, according to all the rules and practices of the court. I read from the statute May 8, 1792, section seven:—"And all writs and processes issuing from a district court shall bear test of the judge of said court (or, if that office shall be vacant, of the clerk thereof), which said writs and processes shall be under the seal of the court from whence they issue and signed by the clerk thereof." Now, your Honor, what we insist on is, that although the seal of the court is to this venire, and although the name of the clerk is duly signed to it, yet being tested by the Chief Justice instead of by the Judge of this court it is absolutely null and void. It should have been tested in the name of your Honor. The authorities on the point are uniform. (Counsel then referred to a leading case in support of his argument.) In this case, a criminal action, although the party was convicted, yet judgment was arrested and a new trial granted to the defendant. The syllabus says, "A paper purporting to be a venire." This venire being tested by the Chief Justice instead of by your Honor, the motion I make is as fatal as if the seal of the court or the signature of the clerk was not appended, and this being so your Honor might as well try these defendants by twelve arbitrarily chosen men, or by twelve referees, and if convicted and imprisoned the trial would be null and all concerned in it would be trespassers. This has been held in a well known case (1st Richards' reports), a case in which the clerk's name was omitted, and this was decided as fatal to the case. I do not know how the error occurred in this instance, but here is the venire in the form and shape as I have explained it.

Mr. Courtney—Your Honor, in reference to the objection taken by counsel to the validity of the venire, I will state that about a year ago, under one of the sections of the United States statutes, authorizing and empowering the empanelling and drawing of grand and petit juries in the United States courts, the rule heretofore in existence in the Circuit Court was vacated and a new rule under that section of the statute was substituted, and it would seem that this venire was drawn under that new rule of the court; it appears to be signed by the clerk of the District Court and Circuit Court. I submit, therefore, your Honor, that the power given to the court under that section of the statute is sufficient to maintain the validity of this venire.

Mr. Shafer—To what do you refer?

Mr. Courtney—To a rule made by the Court.

Mr. Shafer—I am not aware of any rule of a court overriding a statute; I know, however, what counsel refers to, but it cannot prevail here. I do not question any rule made under a recent statute. This is a question as to the test of the writ and the validity of the writ. The point here is as to the process of the writ; as if it had not been tested at all; as if the test and the seal of the court had been entirely omitted; for it cannot be said that a test in the name of the Chief Justice, instead of the test of the Judge of the District Court before whom these defendants are to be tried, is any test at all. In other words, it is no writ. There are three things essential to the validity of a writ. First, the writ must be tested; second, it must bear the seal of the court; and, third, it must be signed by the clerk. The test is the highest evidence of the authenticity of the writ, because in the theory of the law the writ is issued in the name of the judge by whom it is tested. To say that the Chief Justice can issue a writ in this court is as untenable as to say your Honor could test a writ issued from the Supreme Court of the United States.

The Court—How do you bring up the question?

Mr. Shafer—I bring it up on a motion in pursuance of the authority I have quoted—on the irregularity of the issue of the venire to summon a petit jury; such a motion as this must be presented before the jury is sworn. It is not an objection against the array. It is a special motion as in the case of Brown against the State, a special motion directed against the venire. The writ of venire by which a grand or petit jury are summoned are parts of the record of the conviction, if a conviction is had, and if the venire be defective it is null, and judgment must be arrested.

The Court—This is a very small point and one which could be of no sort of avail on a motion for a new trial, or on a motion for arrest of judgment. The objection is purely technical, and can only be interposed for the purpose of delay, and, therefore, is not worthy the slightest amount of consideration. The power of the court in ordering the empanelling of a jury in the courts of the United States has been extended by various rules. The last rule on the subject was one made last November, providing the mode of summoning and drawing a jury. The rule provides that the clerk of the court shall draw a jury by lot, according to the statute law of the United States—that a list of the names shall be attached to the writ of venire issued to the marshal summoning the jury. It appears that the venire here issued to the marshal has the list attached, and in all respects the practice has been followed. It has the seal of the court to it and the signature of the clerk, and in all respects appears to be regular, except in the matter of the test, it having the name of the Chief Justice to it instead of that of the District Judge. How that thing crept in here I do not know. It appears to be a printed form—the words "District Court Clerk" at the bottom are printed, and the test by "Chief Justice" also printed. Every one knows that in the District Court processes are tested by the District Judge, and processes in the Supreme Court are tested in the name of the Chief Justice. This has been always the practice since the passing of the act of 1792. Under the laws of the State of New York and the statutes of the State of New York the validity of a verdict shall not be affected by a mere omission of the clerk of a court unless where the party shall be prejudiced thereby. That is the general rule of law, supported by numerous authorities. An informality, therefore, in empanelling a jury is no ground for a motion for a new trial, unless such informality shall prejudice the case of the defendant. Under the circumstances the objection here raised is entitled to no consideration whatever. The statute of 1792 provides specially that all writs and processes issued from the District Court shall be tested in the name of the District Judge, except it is vacant, and then they shall be tested for the time being by the clerk of said court, under the seal of the clerk. This writ is issued under the seal of the court and is properly signed by the clerk, though not tested by the District Judge. The powers of the courts of the United States are all provided by statute and regulated as in civil cases, and there is no provision in the statutes different from those relating to criminal cases. The Court will therefore regard this matter in the light of a civil case, according to the act of 1792, applicable to civil cases, and the Court shall give judgment according to the writ issued in this case, without regard to the want of form. The only exception to this would be where a party demurs. That is confined to civil cases; but there is no corresponding provision applicable to criminal cases. This, however, would be of no avail if brought on a motion for a new trial, or on a motion for arrest of judgment. I think in this case the party making the motion now at the commencement of the proceedings in the case, and before the jury has been empanelled, that he has a right to take advantage of it. I am always disposed in criminal cases, where a party takes advantage of a thing at the proper time, to regard the plain requirements of the statute. If it had gone to a jury you would have had to waive objection, and, as it is, the only effect it can have will be to put off the trial to Tuesday next. The objection, in fact, practically amounts to nothing. We could not, had we proceeded with the case now, have made much headway before Tuesday. I confess I do not yet understand the ground of the motion. What is the motion?

Mr. Shafer—My motion, your Honor, is to quash the venire, because of the defect to which I have called your Honor's attention.

The Court—You cannot quash a venire.

Mr. Shafer—Then to quash the writ.

The Court—You cannot quash a writ.

Mr. Shafer—We contend that it is irregular and defective, and we except to it because of that defect in the writ; and therefore we allege that it is consequently null and void. There is no technical language to use like as in a challenge to an array. The motion to which I referred your Honor in the case I quoted from the authorities was made on a similar motion to this before the empanelling of the jury. As your Honor properly remarked, if we had gone on till a jury was sworn in the case we would have had to waive objection to the defect. My motion is to set aside the writ because of the defect in the test.

The Court—I do not know that in a case where other defendants are joined that a single defendant has a right to move to set aside a venire. If he should object to go on with the trial on grounds the Court will decline to accede. The District Attorney can withdraw his motion to proceed with the trial; but the motion of a single defendant to strike out or to vacate the venire is not the thing.

Mr. Shafer—The motion is made in the name of all the defendants. This is our theory—we are in the first place entitled to a constitutional trial by jury—a jury which must be present by proper venire.

The Court—No doubt.

Mr. Shaffer—We claim that the venire produced under which the jury has been summoned was, as a process of venire, irregular—to wit, in not being tested by the Judge of this court; therefore, the jury we are entitled to is not here, and inasmuch as a motion has been made to try us by this jury, we move to set aside the venire because the jury summoned is not the jury to which we are entitled.

The Court—I shall enter a refusal to proceed on the motion of the District Attorney, on the ground of informality in the venire. That will be entered on the records and nothing more. The Court then ordered the clerk to vacate the order issued for summoning a panel of thirty-six petit jurors and the subsequent order for six additional jurors, and now enter an order for summoning a panel of forty-eight jurors for the first Tuesday in January, upon which day I set down the case for trial, and the clerk will see that the venire is issued in proper form and tested in the name of the Judge of this court.

The orders as above were entered and the proceedings in the case closed for the present.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT—IN BANKRUPTCY.

Register's Powers—A Decision.

Before Judge Blatchford.

In the case of Joseph M. Lane, a bankrupt, Judge Blatchford has decided that power is given to the Register, by section four of the act, "to make all computations of dividends and all orders of distribution," and, within the power given to him by General Order No. 5, to conduct proceedings in relation to the following matters when uncontested, namely:—"Taking evidence concerning expenses and charges against the bankrupt's estate, auditing and passing accounts of assignee's proceedings for the declaration and payment of dividends." The doings of the Register therein are made by General Order No. 5 "subject to the control of the court," but when there is no issue of law or fact raised and contested by any party in regard to the question the Register has the power to entertain it and make the order. The fees paid to the officers of the court set forth in the bill of items are fees which are embraced in the first subdivision in section twenty-eight, and that section directs that the order for a dividend shall direct the payment of those fees first in full by the assignee. An order for the assignee to pay those fees is an order of distribution within section four.

Bankrupt's Discharge.

Thompson Greenfield, a bankrupt, was refused his discharge on the ground of not having petitioned for it within one year of being adjudicated a bankrupt. In accordance with a more recent decision of Judge Nelson, to the effect that it is only in cases where the bankrupt can apply for his discharge within six months from his adjudication that he must do so within one year, the discharge is now granted, as the present case is not in that category.

UNITED STATES CIRCUIT COURT.

Work of the Court During the Year 1868.

Samuel Nelson, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States and Presiding Justice of this court; Kenneth G. White, clerk; Richard E. Stilwell, chief deputy clerk; John A. Shields, deputy clerk.

During the year 1868 there have been commenced in the common law branch of the court ninety-nine suits, exclusive of cases under the Internal Revenue law and against the Collector of the Port for alleged illegal exaction of duties.

In the equity branch 219 suits were commenced, ninety-six heard on motions for injunctions, eighty-nine granted and two dismissed.

In Admiralty on appeal from the District Court twenty-three cases were brought and eighteen heard and decided; seven appeals were taken to the Supreme Court of the United States.

In the criminal branch sixty-three indictments were found and nineteen heard and disposed of.

During the year Judge Nelson was sitting in the Supreme Court of the United States in January, February, March, April and December, and in the District during May, June and September; and as Circuit Judge he also held terms of the Circuit Court in Vermont, Connecticut and Northern district of this State. During Judge Nelson's absence from this district the court was held by District Judges Benedict and Blatchford.

UNITED STATES COMMISSIONERS' COURT.

Kenneth G. White and Richard E. Stilwell, United States Commissioners for this district, have issued during the year 1868 warrants for various offences, viz.:—Bribery, passing counterfeit money, distilling without a license, embezzling letters in the Post Office, subornation of perjury, accepting a bribe as a revenue officer—a number of which were sent to the Grand Jury to be disposed of on trial.

SUPREME COURT—CHAMBERS.

The Erie Litigation—Interlocutory Stay.

Before Judge Cardozo.

Belmont vs. The Erie Railway Company, Fisk et al.—At the close of the argument recently had in this case on the motion by defendants to reopen and set aside the order appointing Henry E. Davies receiver, an incidental motion for a stay of proceedings on the appeal from that order was made.

Judge Cardozo has decided the motion as follows:—"It is manifestly just and proper that, pending a motion to vacate an order, the moving party should not be compelled to prepare to argue his appeal from that order, and the defendant ought not, as suggested by the plaintiff's counsel, to be required to withdraw the present appeal, because in case of an adverse decision upon this motion the defendant, if the time to appeal from the original order had then expired, might be remediless. Neither party can be harmed, except to the extent of the delay of one term by the stay asked for, and which is obviously right. The order is, therefore, granted."

SURROGATE'S COURT.

Calendar of Contested Issues for January Term—Term Commences January 5.

Held by Surrogate Tucker.

No. 1, will of Jesse Brown; 2, Janet Logan; 3, Tunis Van Brunt; 4, John McKinley; 5, Daniel Kinsman; 6, Michael Gillea; 7, Jeremiah H. Monarque; 8, Mary Fanning; 9, Frederick Wm. Dietrich; 10, allegations against probate of will of Robert Watson; 11, will of Moses W. S. Jackson; 12, Nicholas Dimond; 13, administration of the goods of Henry C. Lyon; 14, will of John Blackett; 15, Charles Grunow.

The Patullo Case.

The Patullo case was brought to a summary termination yesterday. A consent to discontinue the proceeding was given by the Public Administrator, and the mandamus issued against the Surrogate falls to the ground.

COURT CALENDAR—THIS DAY.

SUPREME COURT—CHAMBERS.—Nos. 299, 308, 309.

MARINE COURT—GENERAL TERM—CALENDAR.—Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15.

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

Average temperature..........38
Average temperature Tuesday..........37½

POLICE ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY.—Superintendent Kennedy has issued an order directing that the entire police force of this city and Brooklyn shall be on duty on New Year's Day.

SUDDEN DEATH.—An inquest was held yesterday by Coroner Schirmer over the body of Michael Menzer, the German who died suddenly at Pidgeon's saloon, corner of East Houston and Crosby streets, as already reported in yesterday's HERALD. As death was found to have resulted from heart disease the jury so rendered their verdict.

KNOCKED DOWN AND BEATEN.—At an early hour yesterday morning officer McDermott, of the Twenty-eighth precinct, found Fritz Bleecker in West Houston street helpless, from wounds about the head which he had received from some unknown parties who had knocked him down and afterwards savagely beaten him. He was assisted to his residence, No. 407 Greenwich street, by the officer.

CHILD SCALDED TO DEATH.—Coroner Schirmer held an inquest yesterday over the body of Alfred Dr[illegible]merlein, aged twenty months, who was so terribly scalded at 239 Rivington street on the 28th inst. that death ensued yesterday. The boy was lying on the floor, when his mother took a kettle of boiling water from the stove and spilled a portion of the contents over the child. The jury rendered a verdict in accordance with the facts.

THE SEVENTH STREET SUICIDE.—An inquest was held yesterday by Coroner Schirmer, at Bellevue Hospital, over the remains of Nathan Konigsberg, the Prussian, aged seventy-two, who cut his throat on the 28th inst., at his residence, 215 East Seventh street, as already described in the HERALD. The jury rendered a verdict that deceased came to his death by exhaustion, caused by Bright's disease of the kidneys and injuries inflicted by himself.

INSURANCES ON THE FORTY-EIGHTH STREET FIRE.—The following is the list of insurances on Messrs. Prince & Bachrach's distillery, Nos. 318 and 320 East Forty-eighth street:—Humboldt, $3,000; Standard, $1,500; Firemen's, New York, $3,000; Firemen's, New Jersey, $1,500; Fulton, $3,000; Guardian, $1,500; Excelsior, $3,000; Imperial, London, $2,500; Greenwich, $1,500; Williamsburg City, $2,500; Franklin, Pennsylvania, $2,500; United States, Baltimore, $2,500; Enterprise, $3,000. Total, $31,000.

FATAL RESULT OF A FALL.—On Tuesday afternoon John Connelley, aged thirty-eight, a carpenter, a native of Ireland and residing at No. 137 East Thirtieth street, accidentally fell from a scaffold at the new building in Forty-fifth street, near Fifth avenue, and was so severely injured that death soon ensued at St. Luke's Hospital, where his brother workmen carried him. Coroner Keenan gave permission for the removal of the remains to the late residence of deceased, where an inquest will be held by Coroner Flynn.

THE TIEMAN MURDER.—In consequence of the absence of witnesses in the case of Patrick Tieman, whose murder in Tenth avenue, on Tuesday night, was fully and graphically narrated in the HERALD of yesterday, Coroner Schirmer found himself unable to hold the necessary inquest yesterday, so the case was adjourned until nine A. M. to-day, at the Morgue. Dr. Cushman made a post-mortem examination yesterday and will report to-day on the result. The prisoner Groenig is still in custody.

MASONIC SCHOOL AND ASYLUM.—A promenade concert and ball in aid of the Masonic School and Asylum was given last evening at the armory of the Seventy-first regiment, in Thirty-second street, between Sixth and Seventh avenues. Until ten o'clock some excellent promenade music was played by the band of the Seventy-first, and after that time dancing was the order of the night. The attendance was not so large as the merits of the institution for the benefit of which the affair was got up deserved; but the comparatively small number who were present evidently enjoyed themselves very much.

HANGED HIMSELF IN A CELL.—On complaint of J. Watson, Jr., watchcase maker at 35 John street, one of his employés, Numan Fatou, a native of France, aged fifty-six, was arrested yesterday afternoon by the Second ward police on a charge of stealing fifteen dollars' worth of gold. The prisoner was locked up in the Beekman street station house at one o'clock. One hour later the doorman discovered that he had committed suicide by hanging himself to the bars of his cell with a silk pocket-handkerchief. Death had ensued before the discovery was made. Coroner Rollins held an inquest and a verdict in accordance with the above facts was rendered.

BURNING OF A PALACE CAR.—Yesterday morning about seven o'clock the splendid palace passenger car of the New Haven Railroad Company, while in the depot, corner of Twenty-seventh street and Fourth avenue, took fire from the apparatus for heating it and was so far consumed as to be made valueless. It will be remembered that the company built two of these cars at great cost and used them on the express trains between this city and Boston. The enterprise, however, seemed doomed to ill-luck, as one of the cars was destroyed some time since in Boston, and the other has now followed its partner to destruction. The loss amounts to about $10,000.

IONE YACHT CLUB.—The Ione Yacht Club, of New York, an organization which has won some reputation during the four years it has been in existence, held its annual meeting on Tuesday evening, and elected the following officers:—Commodore, P. Malone; Vice Commodore, A. J. Luckey; Recording Secretary, John Fitzgerald; Corresponding Secretary, Thomas McLaughlin; Treasurer, Thomas F. Myers; Measurer, James H. Havens, Jr.; Auditing Committee, William B. Clifford, N. N. Depew, James McKenna. The yachts belonging to this club are as follows:—The Willie, now building, twenty tons, owned by William H. Cornet; the Sweeney, by James H. Luckey; Arrow, by R. Wilson; Unknown, by J. Malone; Mutual, by John McGrady; the Flirt, Thetis, Agile and Humpty Dumpty.

FIRE COMMISSIONERS.—The usual meeting of the Board was held yesterday, at Firemen's Hall, Mercer street, President Shaler in the chair. Several parties were ordered to be notified that they will be prosecuted for having combustible matter on their premises, in violation of the city ordinances. Mr. Wilson moved that the President be directed or requested to appoint new committees at the next meeting of the Board. Mr. McLean asked what was the regular course in appointing committees—did the President or the Board appoint? Mr. Myers moved, as an amendment, that the President report names to fill present vacancies. The President said it was a delicate matter, and he did not desire to assume any powers; he would suggest that the motion be that he report committees at the next meeting for the action of the Board. The motion thus amended was agreed to. The request of Mr. W. H. Phillips, for the use of engine house in East Fourteenth street for Sabbath school purposes was denied. A resolution was offered by the President that the Committee on Apparatus be requested to take into consideration the advantage of locating one or more patent fire extinguishers with each of the fire companies.

POLICE INTELLIGENCE.

FELONIOUS ASSAULT.—John Tyler, a shoemaker, residing in the tenement house No. 129 Washington street, quarrelled on Tuesday evening with another inmate, named Martin Ryan, when both men pummelled each other right lustily. Tyler put a sudden stop to the further progress of the affray by drawing a shoeknife and cutting Ryan several times in the face. He was arrested and yesterday arraigned before Justice Hogan, at the Tombs, who held him for trial in default of bail.

LARCENY OF OIL.—Hugh McKenna, a native of Ireland, aged twenty-four, a barkeeper, and residing at 20 Orchard street, was yesterday arraigned before Justice Hogan, at the Tombs, on a charge of having, on the 3d of October, stolen from the possession of Geo. Mitchell, at 124 Maiden lane, two barrels of oil and three barrels of gasoline, valued at sixty dollars. Hugh Rodaham, of 148 Plymouth street, Brooklyn, testified that he had purchased the property alleged to have been stolen from McKenna, and that a portion still in his possession had been identified by the owner. The magistrate committed the accused for trial.

ALLEGED BURGLARY.—Francis Grenn, residing at 54 Wooster street, appeared before Justice Ledwith, at the Jefferson Market Police Court, yesterday morning, and accused Eli Owens, a seaman, of breaking into his workshop on the night of the 26th inst. and stealing property valued at fifty dollars, from the fact that officer Casey, of the Eighth precinct, had found articles then stolen in his possession. In his explanation of the burglary the complainant testified that the premises were entered by means of forcing a rear window, and the property carried away consisted of boots, shoes and clothing. After the arrest of the accused his lodging place on Broome street was searched, where the remainder of the stolen articles were found. Owens, notwithstanding this rather positive evidence, denied his guilt, and attempted to explain that he obtained the articles in trade. He was committed to answer at the Court of General Sessions in default of $1,500 bail.

CAUTION TO EMIGRANTS.—Gottlob Rile, lodging house keeper, of No. 38 Clinton street, appeared before Justice Mansfield, at the Essex Market Police Court, yesterday, charged with "taking in" a stranger by the name of Johannes Sturchi and "doing for him" to the extent of $200 in gold. Sturchi arrived in New York from Switzerland on the 14th inst., and was induced to take board at Mr. Rile's establishment. On the 20th Rile demanded sixty-four dollars in advance, and while handing over that amount the unsuspecting stranger mentioned the fact that he carried with him about $500 in gold coin. The next day, as Sturchi was on the point of going out for a stroll, Rile seized him by the coat collar and declared that he would not allow him to go out with so much money. Sturchi protested in vain; Rile could not bear the idea of so rich a prize falling into the clutches of the thieves outside, and consequently insisted on the $500 being given to him for safe keeping. The innocent emigrant was finally persuaded to leave his cash in the hands of his considerate landlord. On Monday Sturchi requested the return of his money. Rile at first refused to return any portion of the sum entrusted to his care, but finally gave Sturchi $300 and claimed that he held the remaining $200 as a loan. Sturchi denies having loaned any portion of the sum to the accused and says he would not have entrusted him with the $500 had he not been so urgently importuned. The accused was bailed to answer in the sum of $500.

THE LETTER CARRIERS IN UNIFORM.

Yesterday morning the letter carries of this city, to the number of 308 men, attired in their new uniforms, preceded by fife and drum, left the Post Office at the usual hour and marched up Wall street, and thence to the different stations to which they are attached. Postmaster Kelly stood on the corner of Wall and Nassau streets and inspected the corps as they passed by, but owing to the pressure of business no formal review was had. The new uniform is of a peculiar silver shade of gray, and consists of a sack coat, bound with black braid, a semi-military cape with the same binding, trowsers with broad black stripes and a cap of gray bound with black. The button is about the same size as the regulation button of the army, and bears upon its face a figure of a mounted postman galloping at breakneck speed, the whole surmounted by large letters, setting forth that the bearer belongs to the P. O. D., or, in other words, Post Office Department. Altogether the uniform is a very neat and pretty one.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Closing Meeting of the Board—Report of the Financial Operations of the Year—Address of the President.

The last regular meeting of this Board for 1868 was held last evening at the hall of the Board, corner of Elm and Grand streets, with the President, Mr. R. L. Larremore, in the chair. The attendance of members was quite full, while the spectators' benches were filled by a large and highly intelligent crowd, many of whom were present, no doubt, to see the workings of the body which the machine politicians wish to transform into a *fac simile* of the Board of Supervisors. As few, if any, of the citizens ever know when the latter Board is about to meet, what comparison could be made between the styles of doing business it would be difficult to imagine. After the usual preliminaries of the meeting were disposed of communications were handed in and committed, as follows:—From the trustees of the Eleventh ward, nominating vice principals for Primary Schools Nos. 3, 5 and 9, referred to Committee on Teachers; from trustees of the Eleventh ward, asking for authority to purchase a new site for Grammar School No. 22, referred to Committee on Sites and New Schools; from trustees of the Eleventh ward, asking for authority to award contract for furnishing School No. 36 for $11,509, to Finance Committee; from trustees of the Thirteenth ward, for authority to award the contract for furnishing School No. 34, to Finance Committee; from trustees of the Twenty-first ward, to award contract for furnishing Primary School No. 16, to Finance Committee; from trustees of the Sixth ward, asking authority to purchase two houses and lots for the enlargement of School No. 23, in City Hall place, to Committee on Sites and New School Houses.

Commissioner VANCE, from the Finance Committee, offered the following report, which was adopted:—

TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION:—

The Finance Committee submit herewith statements in detail and a summary account of the financial operations of the Board during the present year, from which it will be seen that the expenditures and liabilities through special appropriations exceed by a small amount the moneys at the disposal of the Board in 1868.

The amount, $1,550,000, that was appropriated in February to meet the payments of the salaries of the teachers in the grammar and primary schools, has, by the establishment of five new schools and the additional appointment of teachers in several of the wards represented as required by the trustees, has been exceeded by about $65,000, which sum will be met under the resolutions for the adjustment of the accounts of the Board adopted the 16th inst., by the transfer of the unexpended balances of other appropriations made for current purposes.

The small amount of the liability to be transferred to the next year's fund, which would have been more than met had the full sum of the school fund for 1868 been asked for by the Board, is a subject of congratulation on a review of what has been accomplished during the year in erecting and completing, furnishing and providing heating apparatus for new buildings and altering and repairing others. Two large grammar school buildings and one large primary school have been completed, furnished and put in operation, and one other grammar school building remodelled and furnished; two primaries furnished and in successful operation, and three grammar buildings and one large primary (two of them nearly completed) and a building for colored school children are also being erected. In addition to the drafts upon the means of the Board required by these buildings is the unanticipated in part increase in the cost of the current repairs, furnishing and alterations, which has added largely to the item of expense.

The aggregate salaries of the teachers in the grammar and primary schools, colored schools, evening schools and normal schools, with those of the janitors, paid, is $1,770,000, and the payments for sites, new buildings, furniture, heating arrangements, repairs and alterations of buildings will amount to about $720,000; the residue of the fund is aborbed by the liabilities in buildings, contracts, supplies, books, &c., for the schools, rents of buildings, payments to corporate schools, &c. The largest item of expenditure is of necessity that for teachers' wages. No apology to our ourselves or the public is required in justification of the scale of salaries adopted by the Board on a consideration of the qualifications exacted in a teacher and the severe mental and physical labor required of them, both as novitiates and experts. The average salaries paid female assistants in the three departments is less than fifty cents, and those for male assistants and vice principals about $1 33 per hour for the time actually employed by them in the duties of the school room; which for men and women of culture and experience and the tact to manage as principals masses of children, and direct to a successful issue the labors of the assistants, the sums paid these are much below in many instances what the same talent will command in other spheres of business, and afford no scope for provision for age or infirmity except by the meanest of economies. The statements submitted are to the present date, and will vary but slightly when the entire figures are made up to the 1st proximo.

The balance of liabilities will of course be defrayed from the fund for 1869. There can be no question that the rapid growth of the city northward will require from the Board additional appropriations for the sites and new buildings for the accommodation of the increasing school population of the upper wards, and will exhaust, however well economized, the fund asked for the coming year; this, for all purposes, is $3,150,000—$225,897 less than the Board is authorized to call for, and includes $100,000 for a normal school building, such as the advancing system of public education positively demands.

Much has been said of late in relation to the increased cost of this portion of the public expense, estimating it in the aggregate, but no candid mind can fail, if the items which make up the aggregate are looked into and appreciated by a proper estimate, to see that the city receives in return material wealth, by hundreds of thousands of dollars, in sites and buildings devoted to school purposes, and untold moral and mental wealth derived from the faithful instructions given to the sons and daughters of its citizens by the 2,500 teachers employed to take charge of them.

Your committee take the liberty which the close of their annual labors gives them to reaffirm the facts alluded to, and express the hope that in every way compatible with the liberal views entertained by the Empire City, for which you act, you will, as heretofore, use the fund entrusted to your keeping in such manner that no caviller with any degree of truth can charge you with wastefulness in its appropriation.

The suit in reference to the forged warrant ($17,500, paid by the City Chamberlain) is still in the hands of Messrs. James T. Brady and William E. Curtis, the counsel retained by this Board to bring an action to recover the same. A letter from William E. Curtis, one of the counsel in the case, is hereto annexed, in which he explains the causes of delay in proceeding in this matter.

Respectfully submitted.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1868.—RECEIPTS.

Amount reserved from the fund of 1867 for special appropriations and other liabilities, as per report of 1867	$206,341
Balance of fund, 1867	49,954
Total to the credit of the Board with the Chamberlain January 1	$253,299
Amount of school fund for the year	2,900,000
Total receipts	$3,153,299
PAYMENTS.	
Salaries of teachers in ward schools	$1,615,268
Salaries of janitors in ward schools	80,072
Incidental expenses of ward schools, for repairs, cleaning, painting, &c., by trustees	90,341
Support of evening schools, salaries of janitors, teachers, &c.	35,171
Rents of school premises	29,718
Salaries of superintendents, clerks, &c., of Board of Education	61,788
Apportionment to corporate schools	50,963
Supplies through the depository, books, maps, slates, &c.	184,993
Gas for ward and evening schools	14,174
Fuel for ward and evening schools	78,123
Support of colored schools, salaries of teachers, &c.	41,227
Pianos for ward schools	4,775
Support of normal schools, salaries, &c.	8,684
Repairs through shop, materials, wages, &c., by special appropriations, requisitions, &c.	22,603
Incidental expenses of the Board of Education, printing, advertising, fuel, gas, stationery, &c.	45,695
Payments on special appropriation for sites, buildings, repairs of buildings, furnishing and heating apparatus	633,447
Total payments for warrants	$2,996,450
Balance to the credit of the Board with the Chamberlain	156,848
Liabilities, balance of appropriation for erecting buildings, furnishing, &c.	173,528
Balance of colored school building fund	6,506
Estimated balance due sundry wards on incidental expense account	5,000

REPORT OF THE ATTORNEY OF THE BOARD ON THE FRAUDULENT CHECK.

DEC. 29, 1868.

SAMUEL B. H. VANCE, Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Board of Education:—

DEAR SIR—In reply to the communications of the Finance Committee respecting the warrant for $17,500, paid by the Broadway Bank, and which the City Chamberlain declines to place to the credit of the Board of Education upon the proofs presented by the several gentlemen whose names purport to be signed to it of its utter forgery, permit me to say that delays have arisen, in the prosecution of the claims, from the technical difficulties incident to the complicated legislation concerning the relations of the Board of Education with the City Chamberlain. It was hoped that all technical difficulties would be waived in order that the question, if any, of the restoration of the sum to the Board of Education might be simply considered upon its merits. It has also been hoped that a further and careful consideration of the facts would lead to a return of the money without an appeal to a court of justice.

These views have caused the counsel whom the Board have employed in this matter to seem—perhaps to be dilatory in urging forward legal steps, especially as both the President and the late President, your committee and the Clerk of the Board have earnestly pressed the prosecution of the demand upon them.

There have been embarrassments connected with this matter with which the Board and its officers have no relation; but it is to be hoped and desired that with a wish to do what is just and due to the beneficent interest you represent this fund may be returned to be employed as donated by the State, and that, too, without further delay or controversy.

WM. E. CURTIS.

The Committee on Colored Schools reported on the generally good condition of the schools under the control of the committee.

Commissioner ALLEN called up the report of the Committee on Evening Schools, providing for increasing the salaries of the teachers engaged in the evening schools, and which was laid over from the previous meeting. Mr. Allen offered to amend by adding one dollar per night to the salaries of each of the teachers engaged in the evening high school. This proposed amendment gave rise to an extensive debate. After a motion to lay on the table was put and lost the amendment was adopted. The report as amended was then put upon its passage, when the point was raised by Commissioner Patterson that the clause of the report dating the increase from the beginning of the present session was a violation of the rule of the Board, which provided that no retrospective increase of salaries should be allowed. Mr. Allen contended that the proposed increase referring to the present session was not retrospective. Commissioner Small (in the chair) decided that the rule quoted referred only to the local boards, but did not restrict the action of this Board. Mr. Allen then moved the previous question, which was adopted, and the report as amended adopted.

Commissioner Neilson offered a resolution directing the Clerk to prepare and furnish blanks for the purpose of ascertaining the average ages at which pupils withdraw from attendance at our grammar schools. The resolution was adopted, after which the report of the Committee on By-laws, recommending certain amendments to the rules, was taken up and adopted. Resolutions were then introduced giving the thanks of the Board to the President and Clerk. Commissioner Warren, in offering the resolution for a vote of thanks to Mr. Boesé, passed a glowing and deserved eulogy on his efficiency and integrity. Mr. West seconded the resolution, and also made some very pleasing remarks in regard to Mr. Boesé. The usual complimentary resolutions to the retiring members and the attachés of the Board were then passed, after which

Mr. LARREMORE returned his thanks to the Board and said as follows:—The year just closing has been one of marked prosperity in the great system of schools committed to our charge, and their progress and condition afford the highest satisfaction. The whole number of teachers employed is now but little short of 2,500. The increase in the number of pupils taught in the various grades of grammar and primary evening, normal and corporate schools has been 11,130, of whom 6,243 belong to the primary and grammar schools. The increase in the annual average attendance is 6,831; that of the primary and grammar schools being 4,950. To accommodate the large additions to the numbers seeking the benefits of the schools the Board has opened, during the years 1867 and 1868, Grammar Schools No. 57, in the Twelfth ward, and No. 58, in the Twenty-second ward, each of which furnishes room for about 2,000 pupils; besides Primary Schools, No. 12, in the Fourth ward, providing for 1,000 pupils, and No. 31, in the Eleventh ward, accommodating 1,200 more. In addition to these new school buildings various old ones have been altered and enlarged under the same necessity. Grammar School No. 12, in the Seventh ward, will now accommodate 500 more pupils; No. 42, in the Tenth ward, 1,200, and Nos. 5 and 13, together with Primary No. 9, have room for about 1,000 more—a total of 9,900 new sittings in all the various schools. The funds supplied from various sources amounted to $2,900,000, of which these new buildings, including sites, furniture and other expenses, cost $640,000; the extensions and alterations of the old ones $110,000 more. Besides these three new primary schools, Nos. 4, 21 and 33, have been established in hired premises and furnish a much needed accommodation to their respective localities. The rapidity with which all these new schools have been filled is a matter both of astonishment and satisfaction. Scarcely were they opened when each in its turn was thronged with eager parents seeking places for their children. Already it is unmistakably manifest that far more accommodations must be provided, especially for primary children. The new Board and the proper local authorities will, no doubt, give this matter early attention. Besides the schools already enumerated others are in process of erection and will be completed during the coming year. In the Eleventh ward Grammar School No. 36, on East Ninth street, will accommodate some 2,000 pupils. In the Sixteenth ward Grammar School No. 56, on West Eighteenth street, will furnish accommodation for 1,800 pupils. In the Twentieth ward Grammar School No. 26, on West Thirtieth street, will furnish accommodation for 1,800 pupils. In the Twenty-first ward Primary School No. 16, on East Thirty-second street, will give accommodation for 1,500 pupils of the primary grade. Colored School No. 3, on West Forty-first street, will have accommodation for 1,000 pupils. The amount paid to our teachers for salaries during the year was $1,697,772, which, for so large a number, is far from an inordinate sum. The fidelity and efficiency they have so generally manifested fully merit all we have been able to do in this particular. Our supplies, which are furnished to our pupils free of cost and which include every article necessary to the course of instruction, amounted to $185,000; the cost of fuel in all was $78,000; the amount paid to the various corporate schools under the supervision of the Board was $51,000. The cost per scholar, on the basis of the whole number taught, as obtained from the census recently taken by direction of the Board, was about $13. It is interesting to compare this with the average expense of pupils at the private schools, which, from returns furnished by the conductors of these institutions, was about $63 a year. The general condition of the scholarship and discipline, as reported by the City Superintendent of Schools and his assistants, is every way satisfactory and fully sustains the high character which our schools have won in the estimation of all intelligent persons, not only in our own community, but throughout the world.

THE COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS.

Meeting Yesterday—The License Laws to be Tested.

An adjourned meeting of the commercial travellers was held yesterday afternoon at the Astor House. The attendance was large. Mr. S. A. Haines occupied the chair and Mr. W. G. Smythe acted as secretary. After the reading of the minutes the committee appointed to procure the written opinion of Attorney General Evarts as to how far travellers had the right to sell merchandise throughout the United States, and as to the State, county and municipal laws relating to licenses for travellers, presented the following report:—

The committee to wait upon and procure the written opinion of Attorney General Evarts respectfully report that with great exertion they obtained an interview with the Attorney General without the expense of going to Washington. After a lengthy explanation the Attorney General expressed the following:—That he was opposed to the present State and municipal laws, as being obnoxious and conflicting; cited the case of this State passing a law taxing brokers one-half per cent, when they were only receiving one-eighth per cent; the case was tried through him and beaten in the State courts, and was never carried higher, the general laws of one State governing another, and, in his opinion, we should put the matter in the hands of some intelligent young lawyer to give it shape and bring it before him, on which he would then give his written opinion. All of which is respectfully submitted.

JAMES BURKE.
FRED. STEVENS.
S. A. HAINES.

After some discussion the report was adopted.

Mr. FRIEL proposed that the same committee should be empowered to employ counsel to take a case and proceed with it through the proper channels of justice to a decision in the Supreme Court. The motion was carried. As a test case it was proposed to instruct counsel to proceed with the case of a Mr. Ward, who was then under bonds of $600 to appear in Baltimore to answer a charge of breaking the License law. Mr. Ward stated that he was in the store of Mr. Day, in the city of Baltimore, offering fancy leather for sale from samples, when a detective came in and arrested him, and took him to a station house, in which he was detained for thirty-six hours. After some discussion it was unanimously agreed to employ counsel to take charge of Mr. Ward's case.

The list of vice presidents was then called, and each gentleman was requested to state what sum of money he had collected in his trade. The result was an announcement that about $1,700 had actually been subscribed, and that promises of $3,000 or $4,000 more had been made. As a test case it was Mr. Hurd, of the firm of Hurd & Houghton, was elected treasurer of the association, and after the transaction of some routine business the meeting adjourned for a week, to meet at the same place.

THE LATE NATURALIZATION FRAUDS.

Circular of the Union League Club—Information Wanted.

The Union League Club Committee, on whose memorial Congress ordered an investigation into alleged election frauds, have addressed a circular note to the chairman of the republican committee in each county of the State advising them that the select Congressional committee of seven, consisting of Hon. William Lawrence (chairman), with Austin Blair, Henry L. Dawes, O. J. Dickey, Benjamin F. Hopkins, Lewis W. Ross and Michael C. Kerr, who are now sitting here to investigate the naturalization and other frauds and irregularities in our recent election, will presently begin to sit by sub-committees in different parts of the State. The circular adds:—

"We deem it important that the evidence of frauds in your county should be arranged and ready to be presented with as much promptness and exactness as possible; and we beg to ask you for a brief note of the points which will be embraced and the names of the witnesses immediately. It has been, and will continue to be, our aim to let the evidence adduced be complete and decisive, with the view of collecting a body of proof in the report of the committee, which, while it enlightens Congress as to legislation, is proper to be had on the subject of naturalization, and the election of members of Congress may also prove a convenient guide in the proceedings which it may be found at any time expedient to take in this State in reference to the frauds in the late election."

The circular is issued with the full approval of Judge Henry R. Low, chairman of the State Republican Committee, and the county chairmen are called upon to act promptly and advise the club committee without delay of the proof to be found in their respective counties.

HOLIDAY WEEK.

Albums, New Books and Chromos.

It is astonishing to note how the tastes of the present generation incline towards the useless though expensive articles of virtu used to adorn our etageres, mantels and centre tables, entirely ignoring the former day literary ornaments that served to fill vacancies both in parlor and mind. Among the most sensible of these latter day trifles is the photographic album, which can be scarcely classed among the useless nicknacks, as, combining utility with elegance, it brings to our immediate view departed and absent friends, handsomely filling at the same time a space otherwise vacant.

The album business commenced in Paris about seven years ago. The least expensive of imported albums are made by convicts in Berlin, Prussia; but those of American manufacture excel, both in cheapness and beauty, their sisters from over the ocean. The beautifully planned gilt outside ornaments, inviting the examiner's attention by their wondrous delicacy, are designed and executed by French, Germans and Prussians, whose superior attainments in these pursuits render us in a measure dependent upon them.

Japan and Madagascar are assuredly progressing rapidly, cultivating a taste for the fine arts, and displaying their advancement in civilization by sending a Broadway dealer in albums an order for two superb albums, with solid silver ornaments, valued at $225 apiece. Were it not that Americans so thoroughly understand their different occupations that advice is entirely malapropos we should certainly hint to some enterprising photographer the expediency of a journey to Asia. One album of antique morocco, elegantly embossed, heavily mounted with silver, having clasps of the same, was presented to the Metropolitan Sanitary Fair and there sold for $150. Superb blendings of black velvet with silver or jet, having a large cross of either of the latter materials on the upper cover, form appropriate receptacles for the countenances of deceased friends. It does dampen joyous mirth, aroused by some funny reminiscence, recalled by face of living friend, to, turning over, meet features whose originals may never again be seen on earth. The contrast is too sudden, too saddening. Let the "dear departed" have a niche to themselves, where, when the heart craves longingly a glance at counterparts of loved ones gone before, it may not view them in unseemly guise. Patriotic affairs, with goddesses of Liberty daintily embossed in silver or gilt, stand ready to receive the eminent statesmen and warriors who have so nobly defended our country during different national difficulties. Tiny cupids, appearing ready for instant flight, designate albums intended for the bewitching little fancy *cartes* which no lover of the beautiful need scorn on account of size or cheapness.

The prices of these beautiful specimens of workmanship range from fifty cents to $350. But adequate descriptions of the varied and elegant styles would require an almost inconceivable amount of space and time, so we must fain stop just where we are.

Appleton's collection of both books and albums is more varied and extensive, if possible, than ever before. The "Schiller Gallery," containing characters from Schiller's works, with descriptive text, bound in morocco antique, extra morocco or morocco gilt, forms a most magnificent and interesting volume. "Roadside and Seaside," combining selections from Mary Howitt, Blake, Milton, Tennyson, Stoddard, Bryant, Dickens and Shelley, is also an extremely beautiful and readable book. "Poet and Painter" likewise contains gems from distinguished poets, with lifelike pictures attached; and gazing upon the countenances glowing with ardor and genius, it seems almost impossible to realize that the majority have passed into that hereafter which all so graphically, though differently, describe. Dante's "Le Purgatoire et le Paradis" is elegantly gotten up, and those owning his "Inferno" would do well to add this to their possessions.

The "Royal Dresden Gallery" is a selection of subjects engraved after pictures by Correggio, Guido, Reni, Raphael, Rembrandt, Rubens, Vandyke and other well known and dearly loved artists. A new volume of Bryant's poems, tastefully bound in blue and gilt, will afford infinite pleasure to all admirers of our renowned American poet. "Les Jardins" contains descriptions, with life illustrations, of all the public gardens in the world. "The Life of Man Symbolized," illustrated by John Leighton and portrayed by Dick Pigot, will prove a most interesting work to the few who do not allow the cares and worriments of business life to distract their attention from the one to come. "Household Book of Poetry," by Dana, is a large edition, comprising gems from favorite authors, elegantly bound in morocco antique. "Half Hours With French Authors"—Mme. De Stael, Chateaubriand, Lamartine, Mme. Roland and a host of others—will be an agreeable work for all admirers of these literary meteors. "The Insect World," by by Louis Figuier, describes the habits of Daddy Long-legs, Pediculus Capitis (find out by your learning what this is), the inimitable, uncatchable flea, and numberless other common and troublesome "critturs." "The Republican Court," by Griswold, will entertain creditably those who are at all interested in our prominent Congressmen and Senators. The collection of juvenile works is larger and more perfect than any previous stock. Among the most prominent are—"Our Dumb Companions," with thorough descriptions of domestic animals; "Jack the Conqueror," naturally illustrated; "Animal Sagacity;" "Adventures of Robinson Crusoe," gotten up in a new and original style; "Appleton's Juvenile Annual," and numberless others suited to the comprehensions of any of our young *literati*.

The Oxford Bible, with photographic illustrations, bound in full Russia gilt with two clasps, worth $125, and prayer books, velvet backed, pearl sides, mounted with pure silver, worth seventy-five dollars, for showy religious volumes. Very many of these latter ornamental devotional books have been sold for holiday presents. Worshipping God, surrounded on all sides by the cold and hungry, to whom one-quarter of the amount paid for a prayer-book would seem a collossal fortune, appears to us the most terrible of mockeries. Lavender, velvet and silver mounted prayer book; velvet cloak and ermine, moire antique, and a $100 hat, kneeling daintily and beseeching God to remember the poor!

Those who have not carefully examined the new style of paintings called chromos would do well to take an hour or two for that purpose. The sale within the last two months has been enormous. This recent and peculiar kind of lithography was first invented by Mr. Lennefelder, of Munich, in Bavaria. Figures and designs are traced upon stone, and then transferred to paper or canvass by impression. Sometimes twenty different stones are used in the completion of one picture. The English use water colors entirely in painting, the Germans oil exclusively, and the versatile French both. A variety of these pictures are on exhibition in Broadway, attracting the attention of every lover of the beautiful. One of General Grant is peculiarly noticeable for its style, finish and expression.

Anthony has on exhibition some of the most beautiful gems in this line that it is possible to conceive of. One painting of the "Lord's Supper," copied from the original, deserves special mention. But one copy remains out of a large stock, having all been disposed of for holiday gifts. "The Old Oaken Bucket," "Picking Cherries," "Making a Scrap Book," were especial objects of interest to visitors. The rapidity with which these chromos have come into notice is truly wonderful; but a moment's reflection will explain the seeming mystery. A fine chromo, well framed, can be purchased for twenty-five dollars; smaller ones, equally fine, from six to fifteen, making it possible for many who could not formerly afford to decorate their walls with works of art to gratify their tastes for the beautiful. Not a few of these will bear setting side by side with the original pictures, and a near approach to a chromo does not mar its effect. It sometimes, so we are informed, costs $10,000 or $15,000 for the stones to finish one picture, but afterwards the picture can be got up very cheaply, and when there is no longer a demand for the same design it can be erased and others impressed. Tropical landscapes, side by side with icy representations of the wintry North, cause one's imagination to travel with wonderful velocity. One basket of different kinds of cake—jelly, fruit and plain, with a few maccaronis interspersed—looked good enough to eat. Every detail is perfect; even the fringed napkin upon which the cake rested is as natural as natural can be. It is said by those in the business that the demand for certain styles of chromos for presents can not be supplied.

What the next art invention or improvement will be we are at a loss to conjecture; but probably this very moment some genius of contrivance is stowed away puzzling his brain over the minute technicalities of a beauty, almost ready to astonish the world. To understand how rapidly we have grown in the arts and sciences it is only necessary to compare the pictorial gems and books of to-day with those of ten years ago even. But, looking at the photographic albums and chromos of December, 1868, it seems hardly possible that the most effervescing genius can ever improve upon them.

AUCTION SALE OF COAL.

Break in the Market—Extraordinary Falling Of in Prices—Seventy-five Thousand Tons Disposed Of—Good News for the Poor.

The monthly auction sale of coal by the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad Company took place yesterday and was largely attended. Buyers moved with caution, and the fall in prices was extraordinary.

The following are the qualities, quantities and the extreme prices as contrasted with the sale a month ago:—

	Tons.	Dec. 30.	Nov. 25.
Lump	10,000	$4 37½ a 4 75	$5 35 a 5 55
Steamboat	12,000	4 60 a 4 75	5 90 a 6 32½
Grate	14,000	4 62½ a 4 80	5 30 a 6 12½
Egg	10,000	4 64½ a 4 82½	6 00 a 6 35
Stove	20,000	6 50 a 6 80	7 85 a 8 50
Chestnut	9,000	4 60 a 4 67½	5 62½ a 5 97½

The question now arises, will the retail dealers discover the decline of yesterday, and govern themselves accordingly?