NEW YORK CITY.

THE COURTS.

UNITED STATES CIRCUIT COURT.

Indictments Found.
Before Judge Benedict.

The Grand Jury of the United States Circuit Court, Southern district, presented in open court yesterday true bills of indictment against the following named parties:—Richard Gerhardt, passing counterfeit fractional currency; William Walton, selling counterfeit national currency.

The Tradesmen's Bank Defalcation Case.

On motion of Mr. John Sedgwick, counsel for the defendant, and by consent of District Attorney Courtney, sentence against Garniss E. Baker, who was convicted of making false entries in the books of the Tradesmen's National Bank of this city, has been postponed until the last day of the January term. No ostensible reason was made public, but it is probable that the postponement was sought in the hope of obtaining, in the meantime, some favorable action on Baker's behalf, either from the President or the Attorney General, to whom certain facts in the case have been submitted.

The Stevenson Cotton Case.

This case was to come on for trial yesterday, but, owing to there being no jury, it was put over until new jurors are called and the Blaisdell & Eckell case is disposed of. If the latter case is not ready this morning the Stevenson case will be called on.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT—IN BANKRUPTCY.

Opposition to Discharge.
Before Judge Blatchford.

In the Case of Henry H. Grefe, a Bankrupt.—In this case it is decided by the Court that, although the creditors had not filed their specifications opposing the bankrupt's discharge until after the expiration of the ten days fixed by rule twenty-four; yet, as they showed reasonable excuse for the delay, and had given fair notice to the bankrupt's counsel, they will be allowed to file their specifications as of a time within ten days after the return of the order to show cause.

Petitions in Bankruptcy.

During the week ending January 2 petitions in bankruptcy were filed by the following named persons:—Lyman Cobb, Jr., Isaac Hamil, Albert H. Hovey, Thomas N. Sackett, Hen. M. McDonald, Truman Merrifield, Isaiah A. Lahey, William H. Crommelin, Theodore Karner, Daniel Lowenstein, Charles A. Scofield, Simon Lansburgh, Mortimer S. Brown, Samuel R. Willard, William H. Osborn, Thomas McElrath, Abraham Goldschmidt, Wolf Blumenthal, Ferdinand Kane, Leeman H. Tripp, Leonard Brewer, Henry Simons, George V. Mullan, J. Murdoch Mackey, John M. Hodges, James Mulligan, Samuel Levy, Samuel G. Adams, Hesse Bruce, Josiah S. Ferris, Jr., J. D. Chevalier, Charles A. Davidson, Joseph S. Mack, Augustine Ford, Joseph Low, Charles H. Ammidown, L. F. Choice, Joseph Solomon, G. S. Middleton, Lloyd Stevens, Edward N. Barringer, J. L. Leisner, John Jacobs, G. S. Belliss, Thomas Dennis, James B. Cook, Gabriel S. Ash, Elias Levy, V. W. Whittemore, G. C. Chevalier, Wm. W. Loring, Charles F. Witherbee, James G. Fountain, Henry Richardson, John H. Fuxon, Sigmund Donoker, William F. Demarest, William W. Kirkland, Abraham Moore, Sylvester B. Page, Josiah C. Dubois, Solomon Day, Edward B. Walker, F. H. Anderson, Charles Frank, Jr., George E. Kelley, Thomas A. Bennett, F. H. Lawrence, James H. Leeds, Henry Girstle, Charles Marquardt, William M. Purdy, Charles E. Lawson, Theo. B. Northrup, J. T. Clapp, George E. Brown, William H. Harden, John H. New, Herman Schuester, H. S. Van Etten, Joseph K. Deyo, Lewis Depuy, Chichester & Co., Byron E. Hogan, Thomas H. Reed, L. Satterlee, Thomas S. Wilcox, Nathaniel R. Stout, Elisha S. Caldwell, Charles T. Manson, A. T. Decker, Jacob Sinks, Emil Mendheim, D. P. Ketchum, Thomas W. Griffin, Henry Bogert, Thos. J. Sloan, Sigismund Abell, Chas. C. Nevers, Daniel H. Craig, George Graham, Charles W. Botteler, James R. Richards, Ferdinand Hartigan, Isaac Meyer, William H. Kerr, Edward Garrison, John W. Taylor, Julius Frankenstein, L. F. Fitch, Jacob W. Schmidt, George T. Levy, William Wolf, Abraham Hoes, William French, William H. Perry, Edmund F. Cook, Louis Cohen, Isidor Hahn, M. A. Wheeler, Abm. B. Mortley, Sam. R. Percy, Geo. F. Sades, Alpert Burnberger, John K. Bacon, Theo. K. Barrett, Herman Stern, Alonzo Dutch, Levy H. Lyon, Charles C. Hatch, Horace E. Browne, Julius Friday, Joseph Friedlander, Paul Morris, Hobart R. Griffin, Watson B. Farr, Barnet Cracow, George F. Short, William H. Schultz, John H. Ryan, Augustus F. Stout, William H. Loomis, Bruno Diamant, Danl. R. Northrup, Adolph Koningsberger, James A. Crosby, Antoine L. Mora, Richard France, A. H. Guttman, G. N. Hermann, T. H. Cosgrove, E. E. D. Freeman, Nathan Stein, William C. Stone, W. C. Robinson, Henry Cohn, Joseph Sulzberger, Charles H. Buschmann, Victor Wolff, B. B. Merrill, Meyer Meyerson, George K. Cooke, Frank Foote, Karl Schweeler, P. C. Tallman, Aaron Wolberg, Henry Wolfe, James G. Wilson, Thomas T. Atwood, Bronson Peck, Alphonse Brett, James S. Utley, William D. Adams, A. H. Baldwin, Josiah Lockwood, Harding Weston, Fredk. Goodridge, Chas. N. Josephson, Geo. M. Moren, Cæsar Peck, Wm. R. Scribner, John N. Drake, Henry Klein, Robt. E. Hancock, Jas. A. Maxwell, Wm. McArthur, Chas. Steward, Jr., Alpha Manning, Geo. S. Phillips, Arthur Burtis, Henry Merchant, Jr., Jas. N. Townsend, Christopher L. White, George Olney, Joseph Hertzfeld, Wm. R. Merwin, Chas. S. Bailey, Francis M. Kelley, Alfred N. Parker, J. H. T. Stockman, John L. Craig, G. A. Repps, Abraham Emanuel, Harvey Brown, Saml. J. Joyce, James Strauss, Saml. R. Brown, John R. Feeney, Joseph Harris, Frederick Repper, Alfonse Wolf, John F. Broderick, H. B. Newcomb, Danl. Wickers, Joseph Jacobs, Wm. F. Nast, John Covert, Wm. S. Hardenbush, John C. Covert, Wm. H. Powers, Henry G. Sherman, E. P. Maltby, David Wording, Wm. O'Donnell, Andrew W. Ketchum, Thos. Miller, W. J. Demarest, S. S. Burnstead, Wm. L. Miller, Wm. E. Gilbert, J. C. F. Beyland, John C. Anderson, J. T. Drumgold, Robt. Walmsley, Cornelius Tompkins, Josiah Briggs, Cornelius Fiske, Joseph E. Hanlon, Owen Keenan, F. A. Robertson, Berden W. Plumb, Joseph Emanuel, Chas. C. Day, Wm. C. Noyes, John C. Calhoun, Chas. Wright, Wm. T. Hoffman, Ralph F. Conner, Chas. M. Clark, Mark Lanigan, B. H. Martin, B. F. Clayton, L. Friedlander, John Livingston, Henry P. Cochrane, Benj. M. Freeborn, Hiram B. Jones, Herman Maxwell, John P. Dresian, Wm. N. Babbitt, Daniel R. Smock, Edward A. Morse, Wm. W. Robins, Isaac S. Sonenberg, Chas. M. J. Seymour, Thos. Larkin, Benj. L. Trafford, Jas. W. Ball, Patrick Kiernan, Henry J. Beach, Chas. L. Hunter, Geo. W. Holman, Alfred B. Bull, Adrian H. Beaucat, Chas. W. Lewis, Michael Doolady, Adolph Given, Saml. Meyer, W. B. M. Sheny, Edward Poinel, Austin G. Day, Geo. W. Kittle, John T. Wheeler, Merrick G. Reade, T. T. Temple, Moses A. Wissenell, Chas. A. Waterbury, Henry Marmuch, Eugene Bertrand, Mary T. Brandine, Geo. D. Leonard, Geo. E. King, L. L. De Verin, H. Koltengin, Joseph Blumenthal, David Flesh, Wm. W. Scott, Willet Barton, Elias Cohen, Jacob L. Davis, Wm. Frazier, Jas. C. Reid, John Eaklen, John R. Benn, Chas. Bentel, Willard H. Smith, Gustav Freyer, Wm. Brunner, Hannah B. Palmer, Garret Terance, Joseph L. Van Ely, Chas. Estabrook, Wm. S. Royce, Albert B. Bistuk, Lord M. Hyer, Daniel D. Conover, Alexander Muir, Wm. Swanbob, Wm. Beman, Thos. F. Sharpe, Chas. M. Talcott, L. R. Cranford, Jas. N. Graham, Isaac Simmons, H. N. Henderson, Henry Denman, S. N. Eggleston, Geo. C. Ellison.

UNITED STATES COMMISSIONERS' COURT.

The Alleged Customs Frauds.
Before Commissioner Betts.

The United States vs. Gurterman Brothers.—Mr. Ethan Allen, Deputy United States District Attorney, appeared before the Commissioner this morning and moved for a hearing on the above entitled case. Messrs. Burrill and Kaufman, counsel for the defendants, moved for its postponement till this day week, assuring the Commissioner that no further motions for delay would be interposed, and the defendants would then appear to answer. With this understanding the case is set down for trial on Monday next.

SUPREME COURT—CIRCUIT—PART I.

The New District Attorney—Administration of the Oath of Office.
Before Judge Cardozo.

Our new Mayor, A. Oakey Hall, accompanying Samuel B. Garvin, Governor Hoffman's appointee to the office of District Attorney, appeared before this court yesterday morning, and addressing Judge Cardozo, said:—"If it please the Court, I now produce to the Supreme Court the warrant of appointment by the Governor of the State of Judge Garvin as my successor in the office of District Attorney of this county, together with the accompanying certificate of the County Clerk, and Judge Garvin is now here to take the oath of office before your Honor. Your Honor will permit me to say that of course no one needs to be advised of the high qualifications of my successor, whom I take great pleasure in introducing to the public and to the Court. His experience of so many years in this office in Utica and in the United States courts and as Associate District Attorney in this county eminently fit him for the office to which the Governor has been pleased to appoint him. And, perhaps, your Honor will also permit me to say that it is with very great personal reluctance I retire from the office in which I have filled the principal chair for ten years and as assistant for the preceding four years, making fourteen years of service as District Attorney and Associate in this county. But I am pleased to know that while I shall not be allowed, of course, to practice in the criminal courts—being now a magistrate of this county—I shall still have the pleasure, perhaps, frequently of meeting your Honor and the other Judges of the several courts."

Judge Cardozo replied:—I regard myself as greatly favored. On the first day of this month I had the honor to swear into the high office of Mayor a friend to whom I am greatly attached, and now I am called upon to administer the oath of office to an eminent gentleman, who will fill worthily the position which his predecessor has made peculiarly his own. I congratulate you, Mr. Hall, upon your accession to the high office upon which you are about to enter, and I congratulate the city still more that she is yet to enjoy, though in a different sphere, the benefits of your talents, devotion and patriotism. I congratulate you, Judge Garvin, on your assumption to the office of District Attorney, and I can offer no better wish—a wish I have no doubt will be realized—than that your administration of the office may be second only to that of the great master who preceded you, the regret at whose retirement is only modified by the circumstance that the city retains his services in another position and is so fortunate as to possess in yourself so competent a successor.

The official oath was then administered to Judge Garvin, and in company with the Mayor he shortly afterwards left the court room.

Suit to Recover for Literary Services—Writing the Life of Ristori.

Isaac C. Pray vs. Henry D. Palmer.—This was a suit brought to recover $150 as compensation for three weeks' literary services which the plaintiff claimed to have rendered to the defendant and his copartner, Ullman, the impresario, in 1862. Mr. Pray claimed that the agreement for the labor performed was made conjointly with both the parties named, and embraced among other work the compilation of a biography of the Italian *tragedienne*, Ristori, in pamphlet form. This book was intended to be distributed throughout the country, in anticipation of the arrival of Ristori in this country under an engagement to defendant and Ullman. The negotiation of the engagement fell through, and defendant subsequently sold the stereotype plates of the pamphlet to Manager Grau, who afterwards introduced Ristori to the American public.

The defendant denied that the agreement for the work performed was made conjointly with himself and Ullman, and says that he purchased from Ullman whatever interest the latter had in the undertaking, and that Ullman is the party who is liable.

The jury gave a verdict for plaintiff in the sum of $100, with interest, making in all $149.

SUPREME COURT—SPECIAL TERM.

Decisions Rendered.
By Judge Sutherland.

White vs. McLean.—Motion for new trial denied, with $10 costs, &c.

Ferris vs. Aspinwall.—Demurrer overruled, with costs.

Alexander vs. Russell.—Judgment for plaintiff, with costs.

Bell vs. Waterbury.—Motion for a new trial granted, with $10 costs.

Bohnet vs. Lithauer.—Judgment for plaintiff, with costs.

Redhington vs. Fowler et al.—Judgment for plaintiff, with costs.

The People of New York vs. The New Jersey Central Railroad Company.—Judgment for plaintiff, with costs, &c.

Bigler vs. Furman.—Judgment for plaintiff, with costs, &c.

Graham vs. Brown et al.—Judgment for plaintiff, with costs.

Gerding vs. Kobbe.—Judgment for plaintiff, &c.

Prouty vs. Michigan Southern and Northern Indiana Railroad Company.—Complaint dismissed, without costs.

SUPREME COURT.

The Express Companies Again in Litigation—Suit to Annul the Consolidation of the Great Companies—Receiver Appointed of the Merchants' Union Assessment Fund.

James W. Blatchford vs. the Merchants' Union Express Company, its Directors, &c., and the American Merchants' Union Express Company.—Plaintiff is a stockholder of the Merchants' Union Express Company and brings this suit to enjoin the consolidation of the Merchants' Union with the American Express Company, and claims that various matters connected with the Merchants' Union have not been properly managed and accounted for; that the consolidation of the two companies named was being entered into and effected by the directors without authority; that at the same time the directors were without authority retiring about $2,000,000 of the capital stock of the Merchants' Union Company, and levied an assessment of five per cent, or five dollars per share, on all the capital stock of said company; that this assessment was unnecessary and improper, and was levied to make good the amount of stock retired from the capital. The complaint prays that the Merchants' Union Express Company be forever enjoined from entering into consolidation with the American Express Company; that the American Merchants' Union Express Company, under which title the consolidated companies have styled themselves, be restrained from using or enjoying the property of the Merchants' Union Express Company; that the directors of the Merchants' Union Express Company be compelled to account for all the funds they have received on behalf of the company or on account of the assessment levied; that the consolidation be declared illegal, null and void; that the officers of the company be enjoined from collecting the assessment, and that a receiver be appointed to have control of said fund; that the officers of the said company be enjoined from making any conveyance or transfer of the property of said Merchants' Union Company to any corporation or persons; that the present officers of the Merchants' Union Company be removed and new officers appointed, and that a receiver be appointed with the usual powers and for temporary injunction.

On the 28th of December Judge Barnard granted the temporary injunction and appointed George A. Osgood receiver of the assessment fund, directing him to give a bond in $100,000 and to deposit the funds as fast as they accumulate to $50,000 with a trust company.

On Saturday last Mr. Osgood appeared at the company's office and demanded possession and control.

Application was then made to Judge Cardozo, who granted a stay of proceedings in the matter of this special receivership and an order requiring the plaintiff to show cause on Wednesday next at ten o'clock A. M. why the order appointing the receiver only should not be vacated. For plaintiff, Strong & Shepard; for defendants, Sewell & Pierce.

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS.

Opening of the January Term—Charge of Judge Bedford to the Grand Jury.
Before Gunning S. Bedford, Jr., City Judge.

The January term of this court commenced yesterday morning, and was held in the chamber of the Supreme Court, General Term, in consequence of extensive alterations being made in the room occupied by this court. The room was crowded by a number of our most distinguished citizens, who were drawn thither to witness the inauguration of the new City Judge, who was summoned by an unprecedented vote of his fellow citizens to the responsible and honorable position of Judge of the highest criminal court in this city.

Shortly after eleven o'clock Judge Bedford took his seat upon the bench. He was accompanied by ex-Judge Garvin (the recently appointed District Attorney) and Robert C. Hutchings, his assistant.

The clerk proceeded to call the panel of Grand Jurors, after which the Judge selected Mr. Francis H. Amidon to act as foreman. After the Grand Jury were sworn Judge Bedford charged them as follows:—

MR. FOREMAN AND GENTLEMEN OF THE GRAND JURY:—There is no better guide for the faithful performance of the sacred duties devolving upon you than the oath which has just been administered to each one of you—an oath solemn and impressive in its nature, definite in its character, comprehensive and yet concise in its terms. That oath, let me remind you, declares "that you shall diligently inquire and true presentment make of all such matters and things as shall be given you in charge; the counsel for the people of this state, your fellows and your own, you shall keep secret; you shall present no one from envy, hatred or malice, nor shall you leave any one unpresented through fear, favor, affection or hope of reward; but you shall present all things truly as they come to your knowledge, according to your understanding. So help you God." By the simple fulfilment of this oath you will have at once discharged your duty to the State, to the accused and to your own consciences. Your duties will be onerous, your responsibilities great, and your power is indeed unlimited. For your acts you are irresponsible, save to your own consciences. [illegible] in your deliberations remember that while justice is done let it be tempered with mercy. It has been said that "[illegible] grand jury ought to be thoroughly satisfied of the truth of an indictment [illegible] as their evidence goes, and not to rest [illegible] satisfied merely with remote probabilities—a doctrine that might be applied to very oppressive purposes." The importance and value of this remark you can all fully appreciate, steadily bearing in mind how easy it is for a grand jury to indict, and yet how difficult, very difficult it is for the party indicted ever completely to regain his good name, once questioned by the fact of an indictment. The learned District Attorney is the law officer of the Court, and either he or his assistant will be in readiness; should you at any time require legal advice. Sixteen of your body constitute a quorum and twelve of your number must concur to find a bill. The statute makes it a misdemeanor for any grand juror or officer of the court to disclose the fact that an indictment has been found for a felony against any one not in actual confinement until such party be arrested. The statute makes it incumbent upon me to call your attention especially to the Excise, Lottery and Election laws, also to laws against the taking of illegal fees by public officers and to an act passed March 3, 1860, to prevent frauds in the sale of tickets upon vessels; also an act to suppress intemperance and to regulate the sale of intoxicating liquors; and to an act for the suppression of the trade in and circulation of obscene literature, illustrations, advertisements, and articles of indecent or immoral use and passed April 23, 1868. With these few remarks, gentlemen, I will order to be placed in your hands "A Brief for Grand Jurors," prepared by the Hon. A. Oakey Hall, the accomplished and eminently distinguished late District Attorney of this county, whose ability, zeal and fidelity to the interests of the people during his many terms of office are so well known and so highly appreciated that they speak for themselves and need no comment. This "Brief" will be of great service and value to you in your deliberations during the present term. Gentlemen, you may now retire and enter upon your duties.

The panel of petit jurors was called and the customary excuses made by a number of them for non-service. Judge Bedford directed the clerk to say that none but legal excuses would be entertained by him. His Honor speedily disposed of this part of the proceedings.

The District Attorney suggested that as there were not a sufficient number of petit jurors in attendance to try any cases, and as it was impossible to transact business in that room for a few days, it would be advisable to adjourn till Thursday.

His Honor concurred in the suggestion and directed the court to be adjourned till Thursday.

COURT CALENDAR—THIS DAY.

SUPREME COURT—CIRCUIT.—Nos. 1254, 902, 617, 2784, 875, 965, 941, 123, 233, 693, 789, 881, 895, 925, 1039, 1021, 1055, 1060, 1071, 1087.

SUPREME COURT—CHAMBERS.—Nos. 28, 29, 30, 32, 34, 37, 43½, 56, 58.

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.	44
6 A. M.	38	6 P. M.	42
9 A. M.	38	9 P. M.	42
12 M.	41	12 P. M.	43

Average temperature 40¾
Average temperature Sunday 36¾

THE WASHINGTON STREET HIGHWAY ROBBERY CASE.—In the account of this affair published in yesterday's HERALD the residence of John Kearney was inadvertently stated as No. 90 Water street. It should have been Watts street.

DEMOCRATIC UNION GENERAL COMMITTEE.—Elections were held last night in the several wards of delegates to the above committee and subsidiary ward committees for the ensuing year. The General Committee will meet in Masonic Hall on Wednesday evening to effect an organization.

SLATE ROOFERS.—Yesterday morning the employers of slate roofers gave notice to their hands of an immediate reduction of wages from four dollars and a half to four dollars a day. The men objected to this and called a meeting, which was held last night, to take action on the subject. The meeting was held at Sheridan's Jackson Hall, corner of Greenwich avenue and Horatio street. Thomas McHale occupied the chair and Christopher Collins acted as secretary. An earnest protest was made against the action of the employers and a determination expressed of refusing to work till the former rate of wages is restored.

HONORABLY DISCHARGED.—On the 28th and 29th of June last we published a case which came up before Justice Hogan at the Tombs in which Mrs. Gilman charged Mrs. Mary Ann Beuch with stealing certain pieces of jewelry. The accused was arrested as she was disembarking from the Panama steamer Henry Chauncey. When brought before the magistrate she emphatically denied the accusation. The subsequent history of the affair showed that the articles of jewelry said to have been stolen had been in possession of Mrs. Beach for years, the receipted bills for which were fortunately preserved and produced. All proceedings against the accused have therefore been abandoned, the complainant failing to appear against her.

THE TEMPORAL POWER OF THE POPE.—This very interesting and important subject will be the text of a lecture to be delivered in the great hall of the Cooper Institute by Rev. Father Boylan, on Thursday evening next. Father Boylan has made this subject his peculiar study, and there is no doubt but that he will present it in a manner that will not only be gratifying to thousands of our fellow citizens who will be drawn to the lecture, but instructive to many whose attention must be more or less directed to the consideration of a subject that is of world-wide interest. As a lecturer Father Boylan has been frequently before large audiences of his fellow countrymen in Ireland, who are deeply anxious for his success among his fellow countrymen here.

REMOVALS IN THE NEW YORK CUSTOM HOUSE.—Collector Smythe has made the following removals:—Peter I. Nefus, gauger, $2,000 per year; Joseph R. Bleecker, vessel clerk, Auditor's Department, $1,600; General William De Lacey, import clerk, Auditor's Department, $1,500; John Campbell, bond clerk, third division, $1,500; Wright Wilson, clearance clerk, fourth division, $1,500; E. K. Aldrich and Ten Broeck, store bookkeepers, $1,200 each per year; Thomas Wynants and Michael Welden, clerks in public stores, $1,200 per year; E. Miller, third division, and J. Binckell, messengers, $800 per year; also the following inspectors receiving $4 per diem:—Douglas F. O'Brien, John J. Gleason, H. M. Welling, C. G. Van Reypen, J. W. Bryce, J. L. Chapman, Samuel Harrison, and eight night inspectors receiving $3 per diem.

MINOR INQUESTS.—Coroner Flynn received the testimony yesterday of one of the witnesses in the case of Thomas Mulhein, who was run over on the 30th ult. by a Second avenue dummy engine at Sixtieth street, when he had both legs fractured, death occurring a day or two after. The evidence taken yesterday was unimportant and the case was further adjourned.

Coroner Keenan held an inquest yesterday over the body of Moses P. Mussey, the old time book publisher, whose sudden death has already been noted. The cause of death was hemorrhage of the lungs. The relatives of deceased are unknown, and as there is some valuable property left by deceased they are requested to communicate with Mr. John A. K. Duval, at police headquarters, 300 Mulberry street.

Ferris Cushing, of 469 Pearl street, died suddenly yesterday from unknown causes. Coroner Flynn will hold an inquest.

Coroner Flynn will also hold an inquest to-morrow over the body of John Gaffney, aged twenty-six, who was stabbed in the abdomen by Patrick McGaligan in First avenue on Friday.

COOPERS' UNION No. 4.—Coopers' Union, No. 4, held a regular weekly meeting last evening, at Oriental Hall, corner of Clinton and Grand streets, President Colligan in the chair. A set of resolutions, with preamble, was offered by Thomas Doherty and adopted, reciting that it is quite a common practice with certain flour merchants to purchase unclean barrels—worm eaten, filthy, and in many instances fresh from the garbage service—and pack flour in them, to the great detriment of public health. The resolution concludes by calling upon the Workingmen's Union to bring the matter before the Legislature. Reports were next read from different committees. The Finance Committee reported expenditures for the last month, $345 61; receipts, $407 96. The shop committees reported full work, full wages and no strikes. The next business was the installation of the following officers:—P. H. Sullivan, president; John Fox, vice president; Charles W. Marx, recording and financial secretary; John Hewett, corresponding secretary; William Cagney, treasurer, and Peter Fanning, secretary.

POLICE INTELLIGENCE.

IN THE SUGAR BUSINESS.—Edward McEwen, a man, living in Hudson City, N. J., was arraigned before Justice Dodge, at the Jefferson Market Police Court, yesterday, charged by Samuel L. Campfield, of 541 Ninth avenue, with stealing from his place of business, during the latter part of December, a barrel of sugar, valued at $30. The accused was seen to commit the larceny, but he escaped apprehension at the time. Yesterday morning he again visited the city, but whether on a similar errand was not developed, as officer Lewis, of the Twentieth precinct, who knew of his little doings in the sugar line, observing him on the street, arrested him. The accused admitted the charge, but pleaded as an extenuation that he was drunk at the time. He was committed to answer in default of $1,000 bail.

IN THE FANCY CAKE BUSINESS.—J. Pursell, residing at No. 910 Broadway, where he is engaged in the pie, cream cake, candy and ice cream business, appeared before Justice Dodge, at the Jefferson Market Police Court, yesterday morning, and accused Lewis Williams, a colored lad, of visiting his place and by false pretences obtaining at different times quantities of the above articles, valued at $19 35. This he did by representing that they were for a lady living in East Twenty-third street, who had long been a patron of the establishment; but when the bill was sent to her she denied having [illegible] for them, and further advised that Lewis had not been employed by her for a long time previous to his obtaining the first lot. The accused finally acknowledged his guilt, and was committed to answer at the Court of Special Sessions.

ARREST OF AN ALLEGED FEMALE PICKPOCKET.—Mrs. Marcella L. Smith, residing at No. 406 West Thirty-fourth street, while riding in one of the Grand and Forty-second street cars, yesterday afternoon, had her pocket picked of bank bills and fractional currency to the amount of twenty-five dollars. The circumstances attending the robbery and the arrest of one Lizzie Weinmann, who is accused of being the light fingered person who endeavored to relieve Mrs. Smith of the trouble to take care of her money, partake of boldness and adroitness. They were narrated before Justice Dodge, at the Jefferson Market Police Court, as follows:—When the complainant entered the car she took a seat beside the accused and had her money inside her dress on the left side. When the conductor asked for his fare she was compelled to exhibit her pocket-book and probably showed portions of its contents. It was returned at once, but when she reached her destination and was in the act of leaving the car it was gone. Mrs. Smith immediately accused Lizzie of stealing it, when the latter expressed great surprise and desired to be searched. The car was stopped, and detectives Young and Ribbard, of the Eighteenth precinct, being in the vicinity and observing the excitement hastened to the spot, when Lizzie was taken into custody. Subsequently, when further search was made through the car, John Zahn, an employé of the company, found the missing pocketbook with its contents intact under the straw, directly over the the place where the accused was standing. Lizzie in her informal examination said that she was thirty-two years of age, born in Connecticut, was residing on Seventh avenue at present, a housekeeper by occupation and not guilty. She was committed to answer the charge in default of $3,500 bail.

EXPLOSION IN THE BAY.

Sacrifice of Human Life—Four Persons Killed and Others Wounded—A Boat Demolished by the Explosion of a Torpedo—Particulars of the Occurrence.

About noon on Sunday an explosion occurred at the wreck of the steamer Scotland, in the lower bay, which caused the death of four men and the wounding of several others. It will be remembered that some time since a contract was entered into with the United States government by the Neptune Submarine Company to remove the wreck of the large iron steamship Scotland, which still lies under water in the lower bay, a short distance inside of Sandy Hook. About three months since operations were commenced, and the company sent down to carry on the work the propeller William T. Truxton, Captain Churchill, and four yawl boats, about the size of a ship's longboat, for the use of the divers and the other men employed in raising the sunken vessel. During the recent storm the expedition left the vessel and anchored in Sandy Hook dock until the weather should again become calm. On Sunday morning, about nine o'clock, there being a prospect of fine weather, the steamer cleared out from the dock and proceeded to the wreck; but before leaving the government magazine was visited and two torpedoes containing eighty-five and a half pounds of gunpowder each were placed on board one of the small boats, which was towed along at some distance from the steamship.

AT THE WRECK.

After obtaining the torpedoes and making fast the line attached to the small boat the expedition started for the scene of operations. Arrived there, two small boats, one containing the torpedoes and the electrical apparatus, and the other the divers and the air pumps, were moored over the wreck, the steamer standing off from them and coming to anchor some 600 feet distant. Operations were at once commenced by sending down a diver named Sterne, who, after being below the water a short time, signalled those in the torpedo boat to send down one of the blasting charges. His signal was complied with, and after fixing the torpedo under some portion of the wreck, at a distance of about twenty-eight feet below the surface of the water, he came up and reported all ready for the firing of the charge.

THE EXPLOSION.

This intelligence was given to Captain Churchill, who, together with George Moore and James Obey, two seamen, constituted the persons upon the boat which contained the electrical apparatus and the other torpedo. Before attaching the wires connected with the submerged torpedo to the galvanic battery, the sparks from which would ignite the fuses in the charge, Captain Churchill expressed an opinion that the wires attached were not sufficient to cause ignition. But nevertheless the two boats were pulled away from the wreck about 150 feet, a distance, by the by, only half as much as is generally allowed, and the electric current was passed along below the water. An explosion of the submerged charge ensued directly, of so great force that both boats were lifted from the water into the air a distance of at least six feet. Hardly had the sound of the first discharge passed away when the secured torpedo in the boat also exploded, blowing the boat in which it was lying to atoms and capsizing the other, which was being used by the divers. Captain Churchill and the two men who were in the boat with him were blown to atoms, and a diver named Louis Juger, who was on the other boat, had his brains knocked out and was instantly killed, as is supposed, by a falling fragment of the shattered boat. All the men in the divers' boat were thrown into the water at the time of its capsizing, but were fortunately rescued. One of the divers was standing in the boat at the time, with all his uniform on, except the helmet and one loaded shoe, which he had just sufficient time to cut off. His heavy clothing soon caused him to sink, but, hauling on his life line, he came to a buoy, to which he clung until taken off by a boat from the steamship. The other men in the capsized boat, curiously enough, also clung to a buoy, and were rescued in the same manner.

THE CAUSE.

The cause of the explosion is wrapped in mystery. Some of the saved men are of opinion that Captain Churchill attached the wires of the unused torpedo to the battery; but it is generally thought that the explosion was caused by the concussion consequent upon the explosion of the submerged charge. This seems the more probable, as the fuses employed are of a very delicate nature and easy of ignition, as also from the fact that no other theory will explain the almost simultaneous discharge of both torpedoes. From the fact that Captain Churchill was an electrician of acknowledged ability, and had held a position of that character in the United States Navy, it is generally believed to have been an altogether accidental occurrence, which, under the circumstances, could not have been prevented.

THE KILLED.

As already stated, four men's lives were sacrificed by this frightful catastrophe—namely, Captain Churchill, the two seamen and the diver, who was killed by some portion of the falling debris. It is supposed that the three first were blown to atoms, as nothing was seen of their bodies after the explosion; and this supposition is supported by the fact that portions of human entrails were discovered on different parts of the other boat. The diver who was killed no doubt had his skull broken, as brains are also spattered upon the gunwale, near which the unfortunate man stood. Boats were sent from the steamer and every endeavor made to recover the bodies, but all search was in vain.

Captain Churchill leaves a wife in very straightened circumstances at the Belmont Hotel, where for some months deceased had been living. He will be mourned by a large circle of friends, who always found him a pleasant, genial man, and by his employers, who will find it difficult to fill his place. James Obey and George Moore, the seamen, were both single and boarded in Cherry street. Louis Juger, the diver, was a married man, without family, also a resident of the East side.

Several of the men in the boat which was saved were more or less hurt, but fortunately none of them seriously. Their wants have been attended to by the company.

THE INTELLIGENCE.

Owing to the very foggy state of the weather the steam propeller William T. Truxton found it impossible to reach the city with the mournful news on Sunday night. She was therefore anchored under Staten Island until yesterday morning, when she came up and anchored at the foot of Bridge street, Brooklyn. The officers of the company held an investigation into the circumstances attending the explosion yesterday morning, but did not elicit any further particulars than are given above.

AN ADROIT HOTEL THIEF CAUGHT.

Early last Saturday evening an elderly and very respectable looking man called at the St. James Hotel, corner of Broadway and Twenty-sixth street, and signing his name as Walter S. Wells obtained lodgings for the night, room No. 125 being assigned him. About two o'clock Sunday morning Robert Clough, the night watchman, heard footsteps on the fifth floor, where this room was situated, and although he thoroughly searched for the party from whom they proceeded he did not discover any one. At half-past three o'clock the noise was repeated, and rushing up stairs quickly he saw an individual run quickly along and across the hallway and enter the above room. Following the retreating figure the watchman endeavored to first reach the door, which was opened, but failed, and it was shut in his face and instantly fastened. Listening for a moment the watchman heard the window, which looked out upon Twenty-sixth street, open and then the rustling of paper, as if the inmate had hurriedly thrown something out. The watchman quickly descended to the office and informed the bookkeeper of what had transpired, when he advised him to look about the street after a package, which he immediately did, being rewarded in his search by finding a kit of burglars' implements, such as false keys, nippers, muffled picklocks and other articles not even recognized by experts, all being new and of the finest qualities. At this juncture roundsman Blackman, of the Twenty-ninth precinct, was called, who at once went to the above room and effected the arrest of Wells, when he was conveyed to the station house. Yesterday morning he was arraigned before Justice Dodge, at the Jefferson Market Police Court, to answer the charge, when the accused was recognized as an old hotel thief, with a dozen different aliases, among them being "Alfred Long" and "Alfred Moore." A photograph taken of him by the police authorities in April, 1867, was exhibited and shown him, which is a perfect likeness of the accused, but he had nothing to say upon this point. He was committed without bail for further examination.

The proprietors of the St. James alleged that this is not the first time they have been visited by this individual, as about a year ago he called upon them, obtained a night's lodging and decamped with $1,500 worth of jewelry stolen from the room of one of the guests. Since then they have not seen him, nor did they recall his features until this last attempt at robbery was made and his fortunate apprehension.

Among other articles found upon the person of the accused when searched at the station house were several cards bearing the names of down-town dealers in diamonds and jewelry.

This old hand at hotel thieving is calculated by his appearance, language and manners to deceive the most wary. The uninitiated in the roguery and rogues of our city, would instantly conclude that, instead of being a villain, he was some shining light of the clerical profession.

JANUARY THAW.

Sloppy Thoroughfares and Miserable Walking—Dirty Snow Below and Fog Above.

"Beautiful snow" is an exclamation which sounds well enough from the lips of sentimental ladies when the fleecy flakes are falling from the heavens; but when the covered ground is acted upon by a thaw it would be difficult to find any one, even among the ladies, who would be rash enough to indulge in any terms so sentimental of earth's white or rather dirty covering. Yesterday was a genuine January thaw, and it was attended with all the inconveniences which always go to make up the peculiarities of the going away of the snow. The snow accumulated upon the house tops melted and either flowed down in tiny streams or fell in big watery drops, the sidewalks were covered with rivulets and puddles, the crossings were over ankle-deep in liquefying snow, and the streets were filled with a mixture of snow and dirt of a most unpleasant color, while overhead a thick fog hung about the city.

"Miserable walking" was the greeting on almost every one's tongue. Pedestrians who, either on account of pride or necessity, were only provided with thin boots, vainly endeavored to pick their way in order to avoid wet feet; ladies who had the courage to attempt walking found themselves floundering in snow and water over the tops of their boots; walkers on the sidewalk were treated at the same time to the inconveniences of the wetting fog, the surprise of finding themselves floundering in deep puddles and the besprinkling influences consequent upon slipping horses and revolving wheels; in fact, every sort of unpleasantness was experienced by every kind of people as they tramped along with the slushing snow below them and the penetrating fog around them. Little streams of water from the eaves found their way into the necks of passers by; the fog entered into the nostrils of pedestrians and mingled with the air they breathed; snow splashed on every side, covering pantaloons and bespattering coats, and locomotion was everywhere a toil and a nuisance. Happy was the man who had foreseen the snow, and who, when he left his home, had donned high boots, and happy that lady who had encased her tripping feet in heavy gaiters.

It would have been bad enough to have had to walk slip-slop without the fog, but when to the inconveniences of pedal progression was added the other nuisance of a wet coat from the thick Scotch misty atmosphere, it was simply disgusting to have to move from spot to spot. Down town the streets were of course much worse than up town, but even in the higher parts of the city the thaw carried on its operations, converting the snow into a curious mixture of dirt and slush. Sleighing was attempted, but there was no pleasure to be found in it, and cars, stages and even carriages had to plough their way through a dirty compound, which was spattered by them upon every object that came into close proximity with them. It was a day to be remembered by all whom business or inclination led into the thoroughfares, and every one experienced inward satisfaction when the dirty boots could be taken off and when the slippered feet, instead of ploughing through liquid dirt, ranged at will over the carpeted floors of home.

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