THE DANBURY DISASTER.

BURSTING OF THE RESERVOIRS.

Full Particulars of the Loss of Life and Property---Scenes and Incidents.

Rarely has the usual quiet of a New England town been so suddenly and fearfully disturbed as was Danbury on Sunday night. The brief outline of the terrible disaster which appeared in the morning papers yesterday told the tale of ruin; but no description, however vivid, could properly portray the fearful scene of desolation in all its sickening details. Like most of the calamitous accidents which are chronicled from time to time this was caused by the most criminal neglect. The town officials who have direction of the water supply are not paid by the borough, but are merely honorary officers. Some four months ago a break was discovered in the upper dam and the matter was in due time reported to the authorities. There was some talk then of drawing off the water and mending the rent, but whether the expense was too well considered or that the officers were unwilling to undertake the trouble and responsibility of the act nothing was done, and the fissure through which the water constantly flowed increased in width until Sunday night, when the whole front part of the dam suddenly gave way. The sixty acres of water it contained rushed down on the lower reservoir which held ten acres and swept it with it also, the whole forming a deep and wide volume of water. Both dams were built of loose stone and earth, and the water was twenty-five to thirty feet deep in each. The distance from the upper reservoir to the city is nearly five miles, and the elevation above the level of the river, which runs through the town, is nearly 250 feet. The connection between the upper and lower dams was by a twelve inch pipe. The pressure of water in the feed pipe was ninety-six pounds to the square inch. The velocity of the water, rushing from the upper dam, taking the lower one with it and sweeping through the narrow gorge that leads down to the town, was therefore very great.

THE DISASTER.

The horrors of the night will long dwell in the minds of the citizens of Danbury. Just as the bells ceased to ring the people to evening worship a low, wailing sound floated on the air, and soon after a noise like distant thunder was heard, followed in a few seconds of time by a prolonged roar, as if the mountain had parted from its moorings and was rushing on the devoted town. Many persons in their houses were so greatly frightened that they dared not go out, while those who happened to be in the streets awaited with painful anxiety the approach of what each felt to be an impending calamity. Suddenly cries were heard in the direction of the river, and all whom fear had not paralyzed rushed to ascertain the cause.

AT WHITE STREET BRIDGE

the scene was terrific for the short time it lasted. The water came upon the village through the gorge above Flint's dam, bringing with it huge masses of stone and lumber. It came with fearful velocity, striking the houses on Main street, near the river bank, sweeping them from their foundations in an instant. Rushing down the flats along the north stream and east of Main street it carried destruction to everything before it. Fully fifteen feet above the bed of the stream the water bubbled and foamed with a roaring noise, while huge stones that had lain deep in their rocky bed were sent whirling before the torrent. Pieces of ice of immense size which covered the water in the reservoirs tumbled and clashed together, impelled by the force of the surging water. Like dice flung from a box, the white, gleaming masses tumbled over fields and fences. The noise of wrecking houses, the scream of drowning men, women and children, caught in the wild whirl of rushing water; the creaking of lumber, dashing madly to and fro; the harsh roar of the triumphant waves dashing madly forward on their errand of death and destruction, appalled the spectators who stood upon the high ground unable to render assistance to the unfortunate persons caught in the maelstrom.

THE SCENE BY MOONLIGHT.

The terrible roar of the water merging into a low, humming sound still lingered in the valley, when the moon, rising above Chaobord Ridge, dispelled the deep gloom which hung like a pall over the ravine and calm, and brought out into full relief the wreck of ice and rock the impetuous water had thrown together. The moon's rays, slanting down through air and bush, at first touched the white head of the opposite hill, with long fingers of glancing light; illuminated the dark recesses of the rocks that hung over the crest of the ridge and brought out in strong relief against the starlight sky the wide-reaching arm of the hoary oaks, which stood, spectrelike, over the scene of ruin. As the moon rose the valley of the Kohanzie glittered in the light. From the blocks of ice, thrown twenty feet above the level of the river's head, prismatic colors in million particles of light tinted the ragged rocks and mounds of earth. Looking down from the crest of the ridge the scene in the valley was one of wild but grand magnificence. Blocks of ice from 500 to five tons in weight encumbered the ground. In some places huge pieces of frozen water and stone, welded together, stood bolt upright, or stretched along the high ridge in the middle of the valley, while in the wide cavities of the rocks, through which the running stream murmured a mournful melody, ghostlike bodies of disturbed ice lay huddled together. Where the moon's rays were obstructed by high bluffs dark shadows stretched across the valley, adding more solemnity to this scene of dazzling beauty. To people who were attracted there from the neighboring farm houses by the roaring, crushing sound which filled the air while the dread element was on its march of destruction, the weird appearance of the usually smooth and peaceful valley was truly appalling. If in the stillness of the night, when the mind was overwhelmed with the sense of a sudden and terrible calamity, the thousand white objects glittering in the light of the moon, the low murmuring of the stream and the sighing wind, did not suggest the thought that the spirits of the dead had come together to mourn over the scene of desolation it was because the patches of white, in some places, as regularly placed as if laid out with a rule and compass and in others thrown carelessly together, looked like headstones in a cemetery. In the centre of the valley, on a ridge of rock, a maple tree, mangled and shattered, spreads its branches over a dozen huge pieces of ice, which lay like tombstones about its root and glistened in the moonlight. The force of the water was evidently greater at this point than at any other. Immense rocks which had lain imbedded in the stream were cast far up on the ridge, and blocks of granite, of which a portion of the abutments of the dams were built, were huddled one upon another in picturesque confusion. The earth, which formed the principal ingredient of the dams, filled the crevices, and, soon becoming frozen hard as the rocks with which it mingled, covered every small object the torrent of water had carried away.

THE COURSE OF THE TORRENT

was through the valley of Kohanzie easterly to Flint's dam and from thence southerly to Still river at the junction of White street, where it spread and poured along the railroad track for the distance of a mile and a half. Following the track of the desolating element from the lower dam the character and extent of the calamity was plainly seen on the fences and trees which marked the boundaries of the little farms into which the valley was divided. The scene at the lower end of the range of hills overlooking the town, by which the water rushed in impetuous force, was one of black desolation. Scarcely a tree had been left standing, and huge spurs of rock which stood in the path of the current were swept away. There were not many buildings, fortunately, in the vicinity of the dam, and the few houses that did stand near it were built on high ground. A little above and below Flint's dam, however, a number of wooden houses stood directly in the track of the flood, and these were entirely demolished. What the force of the water failed to destroy huge blocks of ice from the dam, borne forward with terrific force, speedily demolished. Sweeping southward from Flint's mill, to which the water raised to the second story, it spread over the level meadow, and from thence, carrying the debris of the wrecks and blocks of ice with it, rushed on the railroad track, rooting up the ties and damaging the bridge over Washing river.

SCENES AND INCIDENTS.

In about fifteen minutes after the first premonitory roar of the approaching torrent had been heard all was over. Thirteen person, who were utterly unconscious of the near approach of death, were hurled into eternity and the homes of many families were swept from their foundations and not a trace of them remained. One building which stood a little way from the track of the water was struck by pieces of ice and nearly demolished; another lying south of Patch street was wrecked in the first onset of the destroying element. The Main, North and White street bridges were completely destroyed and the Patch street structure was badly shattered. A building hurled from its position in Main street struck Chase's carriage manufactory, on North street, and demolished it utterly. Sunderland's carpenter shop, on White street, was whirled away by the torrent. In some unaccountable manner a horse stabled in one end of this building got out and bravely breasted the waves and swam safely to land. The stables of the Wooster House were flooded early, and thirteen horses in them had only their heads above water when they were fortunately rescued. The office and builders' hardware store of Ives Brothers was considerably damaged. Isaac W. Ives' lumber yard was also flooded and a large lot of lumber swept away.

When the water reached White street two women were seen to cling to a tree and were heard to cry for help, but the huge cakes of ice and masses of timber surging between them and the spectators rendered all attempts to rescue them from their terrible position ineffectual, and after the lapse of a few minutes they loosened their hold of the tree and their mangled bodies were swept out of sight. It is thought that one of these ladies was Miss Humphries, but it is not yet known who the other was. The body of one of Mr. Clark's children, a boy of ten years, was recovered from the debris of Chase's carriage factory yesterday.

LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY.

The entire loss of property by this appalling calamity is estimated at $100,000. The Stevens Brothers' property was damaged to the extent of $15,000; Lacy, Hoyt & Co. suffer in $1,475, and Frederick Starr in $1,000. It is known that thirteen persons have lost their lives by this fearful calamity. The bodies of those already recovered are fearfully mangled and torn. It is the opinion of a large number of citizens that most of the bodies are lying beneath the debris between North and White streets. Workmen are now engaged in removing the piles of lumber, stone and ice that block the streets through which the flood poured, and the town bells were rung yesterday for a general search for the bodies of the missing.

The following named persons perished in the flood:—Mrs. Huested, an old lady, mother-in-law of Charles E. Andrews, body recovered; Edward Clark, body recovered; Mrs. Edward Clark (a body supposed to be her's, badly disfigured), also recovered; three children of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Clark, bodies not recovered; Mrs. Brothwell, body recovered; Miss Fannie Humphries, body not identified.

THE INQUEST.

A coroner's inquest was called yesterday, at nine o'clock; but, in consequence of the absence of important witnesses, whose testimony concerning the condition of the dam at the time of the accident is considered essential, an adjournment until Friday was decided on. The following named persons constitute the jury:—Almon C. Hickok, Seely Harris, Charles T. Cornwall, William H. Clark, Samuel C. Holley, Henry Robinson, Daniel B. Menly, William H. Guthrie, Henry Fauton, William Mansfield and Benjamin Norris.

THE LYON ALLEGED MAL-PRACTICE CASE.

Inquest by Coroner Keenan—A Rap at the Board of Health.

An inquest was held yesterday by Coroner Keenan, at No. 4 Centre street, in the case of Phebe J. Lyon, the colored woman who died in the basement of the Shiloh church a few weeks ago, under circumstances of considerable mystery, as fully narrated at the time in the HERALD. The following is an abstract of the evidence presented yesterday:—

Sarah E. Green, of Rye, Westchester county, testified—Deceased was my sister and was employed as a cook in the family of Mr. Carr, in East Twenty-fourth street; about the middle of October last she came to my place and said she was pregnant by a colored man who lived in Philadelphia, and she remained with me; on the 15th of December she gave birth to a male child, of full size; the babe appeared strong and healthy; she left my house on January 16; she said she intended to take the child to the Poorhouse and then go back to Mr. Carr; she told me that neither Mr. nor Mrs. Carr knew of her condition; I got a letter from her some time afterwards, stating that she did not feel quite so well as when she left my house; about a week before she left me she complained of a pain in her side; she took no medicine of any kind, nor had she any operation performed to bring on the birth of the child, as far as I know.

Elizabeth Tripp, residing in the basement of Shiloh church, testified—I was acquainted with the deceased; I heard that she went to Rye from Mrs. Carr, who told me that she went to her sister's to be cured of a tumor in her side; the next I heard of her she was very sick at Mrs. Carr's house; I was requested to take her to my house, which I did on the 2d ult.; she did not complain of any pain, but only seemed weak and short of breath; the first I knew of her having a child was after the post mortem examination.

Amelia Barnett, of No. 142 East Thirty-fifth street, testified—I am a physician and a regular graduate of the Women's Medical College of this city; I was summoned on Thursday morning, the 21st ult., to see deceased at Mr. Carr's house; the respiration was short, abdomen distended, but no tenderness on pressure, and slight fever; I heard that she had had an operation for a tumor performed on her, but I saw no marks of it; I examined her with a speculum and discovered that she had given birth to a child, but found no evidence of recent delivery; I saw her twice after that and found no material change in her condition; I saw her last on Saturday, 23d ult., about eleven A. M., and she died the same afternoon; I supposed she died of ovarian dropsy, and I gave a certificate of death to that effect.

Wooster Beach, M. D., testified—I am a physician, and have made a post mortem examination of the body of deceased; the breasts were enlarged and the nipple surrounded with a dark areola; there were no other abnormal or unusual appearances externally; on opening the body evidence of severe acute peritonitis was observed; the uterus was enlarged and had the appearance of having recently contained a fœtus; death, in my opinion, resulted from peritonitis induced by the puerperal condition of deceased.

The jury rendered the following as their verdict in the case:—"That the deceased, Phebe J. Lyon, came to her death by peritonitis, superinduced by the birth of a child; but whether by violent means or not they are unable to determine. They recommend the board of Health to exercise greater vigilance in granting permits for burials, as they find that the management of said Board facilitates the burial of persons dying under suspicious circumstances and may even prevent a judicial examination in such cases."

GENERAL NOTES.

The Down East ice men are in good humor again.

Absinthe is said to be a more subtle poison than Prussic acid.

Rochester youths, to the number of 1,200, annually spend $57,000 on billiards.

What is the difference between watering railroad horses and watering railroad stock?

A benevolent citizen of Orange county, New York, has been giving a sleigh ride to 1,000 children.

Two men and a woman have been arrested at Altoona on a charge of stealing $17,000 in Indianapolis.

Josh Ward is getting up a crew to beat the St. John men next summer. Walter Brown is counted among the crew.

There is a great deal of sickness in Newburyport, Mass. Thirty seats were vacant in one public school on a single day.

A "girl of the period" was recently detected in Davenport, Iowa, "shoving" counterfeit money, and put a full stop to.

On the 19th ult., at his residence in Drew county, Ark., Thomas Brewster was murdered, it is supposed, by a colored man.

Quails are fast disappearing from the prairies even as far west as Kansas. The Legislature is called upon to pass a law against catching them by nets.

Pennsylvania radical politicians are strongly pushing Governor Curtin for Grant's Cabinet. But the conductor Grant has put the breaks down on that train.

The Boston *Traveller* intimates that the correspondence between the War Department and General Banks, relative to General Grant, will soon be published.

A Southern paper says there is a common aunt to all children born in New England—anti-Patsy. Baby-raising is a lost art among the descendants of the Puritans.

Hon. Joshua Hill, curiously termed by the Atlanta *New Era* (radical) "our Senator in Congress," is in Atlanta. According to the record Mr. Hill is neither a Senator nor a radical.

The Columbus (Ohio) *Journal* showers the following compliment upon the new Indiana Senator:—"Garrett Davis has a voice like a three-weeks' fall rain, but Pratt can wash him high and dry with one squirt."

Seven persons contend for the republican nomination to Congress in place of Mr. Pratt, elected Senator from Indiana. The convention is to be held on the 11th instant, and the election has been ordered on the 20th.

Colonel J. H. McMahon, widely known as at different times editor of the Memphis *Eagle and Enquirer*, *Bulletin* and *Appeal*, and throughout the war as an officer of the Confederate service, died in Memphis on the 25th ult.

San Francisco's latest invention in the way of a deadly weapon is a two edged dirk, with the handle at right angles with the blade, like a chopping knife. The blow is delivered straight from the shoulder, and goes clean through a man the first time.

A man named Woodland shot and killed two negroes near Lebanon, Tenn., a few days ago. He had threatened to kill the negroes if he caught them on his father's farm, and finding them on the premises against his orders he carried the threat into execution.

A country editor thinks the idea of getting a city editor's life insured for $100,000 and taking the cost of the policy (about $7,000 per annum) out in advertising about the same as a rural editor advertising the business of an undertaker and taking the pay out in trade.

In Zanesville, Ohio, a man who had been married thirty years without heirs woke up one morning and found a full lunged newborn infant in his room, gladdening the heart, &c. The Columbus *Journal* wants to know whether the man's wife was with him in this trying hour.

Mrs. Kelly, of Black Brook, N. Y., is thirty-eight years old, has been married twenty-one years, and is now the mother of nineteen children without ever having had twins, the youngest child being thirteen months old. There is but ten months' difference in the ages of her first born and second born child.

The New Haven *Register* says the democracy of Connecticut have opened the campaign with a better prospect of success than ever before. Their prospects are so glorious that a chicken convention has just been held in New Haven to make arrangements for a supply of roosters to crow for the democratic victory next April.

A Virginia gentleman was aroused from sleep one night last week and found a bouncing boy baby in a basket at his door, accompanied by a note asking him to be a mother to the little darling. He proposes to make an attempt to comply with the request by rearing it on the bottle, as most of the bouncing youths nowadays are reared.

A life-size wax figure of a living New Orleans belle has been set up in the New Orleans Museum. She is a member of the most fashionable society, and is justly distinguished for her beauty. It was manufactured in New York, from an ambrotype sent for the purpose. The young lady knew nothing of the liberty thus taken with her person.

SUBURBAN INTELLIGENCE.

NEW JERSEY.

Jersey City.

THE HORSE RAILROAD QUESTION.—The Common Council have passed an ordinance, which was duly approved by the Mayor, fixing the terms on which the dispute between the Bergen and the Hoboken Horse Railroads will be adjusted. The Hoboken company agree; but the Jersey City and Bergen monopoly now refuse to concur, and threaten to sue out an injunction. At present they monopolize every line of railroad running to the ferry, and have practically crushed out the Hoboken line altogether. A bill is in preparation and will be introduced at an early day by Mr. Besson, of Hoboken, which will break down the power of the monopoly.

GERMAN EDUCATION.—The question of employing German teachers in the public schools has so agitated the public mind within the past three weeks that the Board of Education has consented at length to refer the whole matter to a committee composed of some members of the Board and some prominent German citizens. The grounds on which several members of the Board oppose the proposition are that the German language should be considered like the French, Italian or Spanish, where parents pay extra, and that it is neither just nor expedient to tax everybody indiscriminately for the teaching of a language other than the language of the country. The committee are expected to report at the next meeting.

Hoboken.

PRECAUTION AGAINST FERRYBOAT ACCIDENTS.—The Hoboken Ferry Company have just introduced a contrivance on the ferryboat James Rumsey which will preclude any possibility of accident by jumping off the boat. When the boat is about to start a number of iron rails, constructed on the sliding principle, so as to form two sides of a gate, with spiked tops, are let down from two pillars set at each side of the boat. One of the deck hands immediately fastens both gates together by means of a clasp, and when the boat has reached the bridge he opens the clasp and pushes the gates upwards, when they fall back to the pillars by means of weights, which descend into the hold. The contrivance is simple, and yet it appears the most effectual safeguard against accidents.

DESPERATE AFFRAY ON THE MEADOWS.—Several boatmen congregated in the liquor saloon corner of Fourth and Clinton streets on Monday night and commenced playing cards, when a dispute arose between two of the party and a severe fight ensued. A large crowd collected and the men walloped each other like professional bruisers till the police arrived. The following persons were arrested and conveyed to the police station:—Michael Mullen, Joseph Jacket, Martin McNamara, Daniel Carroll and William Stanard. Several other persons were brought up as witnesses. McNamara was so badly beaten that he appeared to be dying and Coroner White was sent for. When the fellow recovered, however, he positively declined to implicate anybody, but said he was quite willing to assume his share of the consequences. Carroll hails from Pottsville and Stanard from Port Carbon, Pa. Anthony McGowan, who was going along First street, got into the *melee*, and said he was a policeman from Washington village; but when he went to the police station he denied this. John Bogart, of Meadow street, and Melvin Cortland (supposed to be an assumed name), a boatman, from Phœnix, N. Y., also got mixed up in the affray, and the latter was held as a witness. Jacket, who comes from Syracuse, was fined ten dollars, as well as all the others, except McNamara, who was allowed to go in search of plasters for his wounds.

A SAFE BLOWN OPEN—THE SUPPOSED BURGLAR CAPTURED.—About four o'clock yesterday morning the safe in the office of John Kamena, in Bloomfield street, was blown open. Among those who were startled by the explosion was a lady who resided on the opposite side of the street, and who, on looking out, saw a man run out of the office and start off towards Fifth street. He had just turned towards Washington street when he encountered officer Murphy, who struck at him, but missed. An exciting chase ensued, the stranger turning down Fourth street till he came to Hudson, where he was confronted by officer Ring, who, after calling on him in vain to stand, dealt him a stinging blow on the head, which brought him to terms. On arriving at the police station he said his name was John Bell, a resident of Canada, iron-moulder by trade, and wandered over from New York while he was tight. He is about twenty-eight years of age, of respectable appearance, well dressed and sports a sandy mustache. The safe contained about $300, which the operator had not time to carry off, as the noise was louder than he expected. A full set of burglar's tools, a new stone cutter's mallet and two diamond cut drills were secured as the scene of the explosion. The prisoner was recognized at the police station by three officers, who had seen him prowling around during the night. Recorder Pope committed him to the county jail for trial.

Weehawken.

DOCK IMPROVEMENTS.—The Erie Railway Company have ordered the construction of several piers on the water front purchased by them from the Venango Oil Dock Company. Two of the bulkheads have been commenced, and piles will be laid for a third about the 15th inst. These piers are intended for the exclusive use of vessels trading with the Erie Railway. A floating bridge for the purpose of transporting freight cars to the New York side is also contemplated.

Hudson City.

POLICE REPORT.—The number of persons arrested during the month of January by the Hudson City police was 143. The number of lodgers accommodated at the police station was 335.

OYER AND TERMINER.—John Nell, a conductor on the Morris and Essex Railroad, was arraigned yesterday on an indictment charging him with shooting Patrick Devery, of Hoboken, with intent to kill. The prisoner pleaded not guilty and the trial was set down for to-morrow.

ALLEGED ASSAULT ON A WOMAN.—A warrant was issued by Recorder Aldridge yesterday for the arrest of a man named George Kraus, who is charged with wielding an axe over the head of Mrs. Lewis and threatening to take her life. The accused was soon after arrested and committed for trial.

Newark.

CONVICTED.—In the Court of Quarter Sessions yesterday two hackmen, named Mark Corbell and John Kelly, well known hangers-on at the Market street depot, were found guilty of having robbed an insurance agent named Eberts some time ago of $250. The Jehus were remanded for sentence.

SENSIBLE.—Late on Monday night Constable Cosgrove wanted to arrest Charles Denning, of No. 30 Belleville avenue, to answer a charge of assault and battery preferred by the latter's wife. Charles showed a bold front and Cosgrove cleared out and got official assistance. The accused was committed for trial yesterday forenoon.

VERDICT AGAINST A RAILROAD.—The case of Patrick Dugan vs. The Newark and New York Railroad, in which the plaintiff sued for a larger price than the commission allowed for his property, was decided in his favor in the Circuit Court yesterday. The jury reported a verdict for $1,300, being $125 more than the sum allowed.

ARREST OF AN ALLEGED BURGLAR.—Yesterday Constable Leek, of Morristown, and detective Haggert, of this city, effected the arrest of Charles Egbert, near his residence in New street, and removed him to Morristown to answer a charge of having broken into the residence of Mr. William L. King, at that place, a few weeks ago. The prisoner is said to have served one term in the State prison, and the officers say they have abundance of evidence against him on the present charge.

PECULIAR CASE OF ALLEGED FORGERY.—An examination in the case of Mr. Thompson, the Roseville builder, against whom has been preferred a charge of forgery by detective George M. Williams, of this city, took place before Justice Mills yesterday afternoon and resulted in the holding of the accused to appear before the Grand Jury for trial. It appears from the affidavit of the detective that the accused did some house building work for him. There was some dispute about the time it ought to have been finished, and a note was given for eighty dollars, the residue of the stipulated price. A few days ago, on going to take up the note, Mr. Williams found it to be for eighty-five dollars. He now charges that the word "five" has been added and the figure 0 altered to a 5. The case excites no little interest in view of the fact that Thompson is worth over $10,000.

Bloomfield.

PROPOSED TOWN HALL.—A bill has just been introduced in the Senate looking to the erection of a town hall and library at an early day, the cost of which is not to exceed $50,000. The measure is quite popular hereabouts.

Trenton.

REAL ESTATE.—Yesterday a house and lot, fifty feet by 100, situated in the Fourth ward, were sold by Mayor Napton for $3,500.

MAYOR'S REPORT.—According to the report of the Mayor eighty-four arrests have been made in this city during the past month. They are classified as follows:—Disorderly, twenty-five; drunk, thirty-seven; assault and battery, eight; larceny, three; murder, one; violation of city ordinance, two; suspicion, six; vagrancy, one; grand larceny, one.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT.—Quite a large number of witnesses were examined by the Grand Jury yesterday, among the number being Colonel Treadwell, of Newark, and James T. Hough, of Jersey City. Treadwell, who has been confined in the Hudson county jail, is now the guest of Sheriff Cox, of this city. The jury is not expected to report before Thursday. It is believed that some one will be indicted for the alleged election frauds.

MERCER COUNTY COURT.—In this court yesterday, before Chief Justice Beasley, a colored man, named William Smyth, was convicted on a charge of manslaughter by assaulting a colored woman, named Ann Rice, so violently that an infant which she bore in her arms fell on a stoop and was killed. The particulars of the case appeared in the HERALD at the time of the occurrence. A man named James Mungan pleaded guilty to an assault and battery on officer Thomas Brown. In consequence of so many offenders having retracted their former pleas of not guilty the criminal calendar is expected to be cleared this week. The trial of an old man, named Joseph Betchel, indicted for taking indecent liberties with his pupils, was postponed till the next term of the court.

WESTCHESTER COUNTY.

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS OF SING SING.—The Board of Village Trustees having ordered a warrant to be drawn for the amount of damages to be awarded in the Bowers suit, instructed the Corporation Counsel to commence an action against the party who placed the obstruction on Croton avenue. Counsel was also ordered to take immediate measures for the suppression of the many disorderly houses known to exist in the village.

BURGLARY IN MOUNT PLEASANT.—Last Sunday morning, while the family of Mr. Henry Yerks, residing near Unionville, were at church, the house was broken into and property, consisting of silverware, clothing, &c., to the value of $200 carried away. Suspicion strongly attaches itself to a stranger of Teutonic origin who was seen prowling about the neighborhood a few hours before the burglary was discovered. The fellow has succeeded, however, in obliterating his tracks up to the present.

INTERESTING CEREMONY AT YONKERS.—On Monday evening the new Village Hall was formally opened by the officers of the Corporation, in presence of many of the citizens. Besides a highly appropriate address delivered by Justice Lawrence, President of the village, suitable speeches were made by trustees Getty, Flagg and Thayer. The new hall is commodious and neat in appearance. Its furniture, which is of a handsome pattern, has mainly been fashioned out of beams used in the old manor building.

ALLEGED VIOLATION OF THE HEALTH LAW.—A pedler named John Clark, who gave Morrisania as his place of residence, was arrested in Yonkers on Monday by Officer Weston, while in the act of selling mutton, which it is alleged was almost in a putrid state. The accused, with palpable reluctance, accompanied the officer to the station house, where he persisted in the protest that his arrest was "unconstitutional." After securing the meat and sending Clark below, the police authorities yesterday notified the attorney for the city Board of Health, who has signified his intention of prosecuting the case to-day.

IMPORTANT AND SINGULAR ARREST AT WHITE PLAINS.—The circumstances of a rather singular burglary at Harrison and of the more singular arrest on Saturday last of two of the suspected parties were made public yesterday. It seems that at some time during the first part of last December a Mr. Coggswell, residing at Harrison, went to visit some friends living in New Jersey. His family accompanied him, and his residence, left vacant, was locked up and barred to guard it against unwelcome intrusions. During his absence, and as is supposed during the time intervening between Christmas and New Year's, the premises were entered by burglars and many articles of household furniture and of wearing apparel removed from them. There were no indications discernible pointing to the manner in which an entrance had been effected. Mr. Adams, a farmer residing not far from the residence robbed, was the one who first discovered the condition in which the burglars had left it. According to the testimony given by him yesterday at the examination of the parties charged with the commission of the crime, he went to the premises on the 6th of January last with some stock to feed, and observing while there that the back door of the house was open went into it. He found the doors all through the house open, bureau drawers ransacked, beds thrown from their proper places upon the floor and the house in other respects in the greatest confusion. There were all the indications of a recent visit by thieves, but an examination of the windows and doors disclosed no trace of the manner of their entrance. Information of its condition was sent without delay to the tenants of the house, who immediately returned to it. From that time diligent effort was made to get some clue to the perpetrators of the crime, but up to Saturday without successful result. Nor would any result have yet been reached but for a series of the most fortuitous circumstances. The circumstances of the arrest of suspected parties (against one of whom at least the evidence of guilt is clear and conclusive) make up a story little less incredible than romance. On Saturday last a man named John Leary, somewhat under the influence of liquor, engaged in one of the saloons at White Plains in the very enjoyable pastime of flourishing a valuable revolver about his head and of declaring that no man in the country could arrest him. So boisterous were his demonstrations that the proprietor of the saloon was obliged to send for an officer to remove him. By the time the officer arrived the noisy drunkard had relapsed into silence, and the officer did not consequently touch him. His silence was of but short duration, however, and the services of the officer were again called into requisition. Accordingly constable Hartman, accompanied by another officer, repaired to the saloon and took the man into custody. They led him out upon the street, relieved him of the revolver with which he had made himself so obnoxious and then attempted to handcuff him. This they succeeded in doing after much difficulty and after the constable's assistant had received one or two heavy blows. As good fortune would have it, one of the witnesses of this effort to handcuff the arrested man was the daughter of the gentleman whose house had been robbed. While standing by she observed that the boots which he wore were very much like a pair which her father had owned before the burglary. She told the officer of this, and that she would not scruple to swear to their identity if, upon examination, it was discovered that they were lined with fur. The leg of one of the boots was turned down, a fur lining revealed and the articles fully identified. She afterwards recognized the pistol which Leary had so freely flourished as having also belonged to her father. The man was carried to the station house and Mr. Coggswell notified. He immediately proceeded to White Plains, had a search warrant issued and the premises occupied by Leary and his wife searched. The result was that many of the articles stolen from Mr. Coggswell's house, besides many other valuables, evidently stolen, were found concealed about the premises. A formal charge of burglary and grand larceny was then preferred against Leary and his wife, who, it was thought, might have been implicated, by the robbed man, and the two were on Saturday last committed for examination.

The examination of the parties commenced on Monday evening, before Justice Paulding, in the Court House at White Plains, and after the testimony of Mr. Coggswell and his daughter, which revealed nothing new, had been taken the case was adjourned to yesterday morning. The examination elicited no new facts. It resulted in the discharge of Mrs. Leary (who had been so blind and otherwise so enfeebled during the last six weeks as to preclude any doubt of her innocence) and in the commitment of her husband to await the action of the Grand Jury. It is understood that Mr. Coggswell is not the only party whom this Leary has robbed. There are others in the county who identify him as the party whose crimes have worked loss to them also. It was ascertained before going to press yesterday that John Leary, while pleading "not guilty" in open court, does not in private deny his guilt. So far from doing this, he charges two other parties with complicity in this and other robberies in which he has been concerned. The officers are now in quest of these participants and hope soon to be able to secure them.

POUGHKEEPSIE.

ICE BOATING.—The ice boatmen are in high glee over the splendid ice boating, and another race is to come off soon for a silver cup.

INTERNAL REVENUE APPOINTMENT.—Theron D. Stark, of Pawling, has been appointed Assistant Assessor of the Sixth division, Twelfth district, in place of James Craft, deceased.

THREE CARD MONTE.—The three card monte men are in active business on the cars of the Hudson River Railroad. The conductors on the trains go through the cars notifying the passengers of their presence but the show goes on.

THE WEATHER ALONG THE HUDSON.—Intense cold prevailed at all points along the Hudson yesterday. The ferryboat at Newburg pursues her regular trips with much difficulty. The ice men are all hard at work and nearly all of the ice crop is harvested. Last evening's clouded sky gave token of an approaching snowstorm.

A CASE OF FORGERY.—A well-to-do farmer of Dutchess county, hitherto occupying a good position, has been arrested in Putnam county, and lodged in jail at Carmel, on a charge of forgery. His name is Erastus Smalley. He sold a pair of cattle to a man for $220, receiving from the purchaser a check for the amount on a New York bank. Smalley presented the check at the Croton River Bank, after having made it read $3,020. The alteration was so badly executed as to attract the attention of the cashier, who immediately telegraphed to Mr. Holcomb, the purchaser of the cattle, that gentleman sending a reply which convinced the cashier that the deck was a fraud, whereupon Smalley was arrestid, as stated above. He has an interesting family and is in comfortable circumstances.

THE NEW JERSEY LEGISLATURE.

This week's legislative proceedings commenced on Monday night. Both houses met at eight o'clock.

In the Senate Senator Cobb introduced a bill to incorporate the Boonton Iron Company, with a capital stock of $1,000,000, to be increased to $3,000,000. Some bills of little import were acted on and the Senate adjourned.

In the Assembly on Monday night the bill empowering the Water Commissioners of Hoboken to introduce water into that city was reconsidered and afterwards laid on the table. The bill creating East Orange, Essex county, into a new ward, to be known as the Fourteenth ward of the city of Newark, was withdrawn. The following bills were introduced:—To incorporate the Frankiin Horse Car Railroad Company; to incorporate the Road Board of the city of Newark, for the purpose of constructing, improving and maintaining public carriage roads in that city, the expense incurred in so doing to be levied on the county of Essex. A bill was also introduced to incorporate the Ferromonte Railroad Company, with a capital stock of $20,000, to be increased if desirable to $100,000. The new road is to extend from the Dickinson iron mines, in Morris county, to some convenient place on the Morris canal, with the privilege of extending it to other mines in the county. A great many unimportant bills were acted upon and the House adjourned.

In the Senate yesterday morning the following bills were introduced:—To incorporate the Board of Trade of Newark, with a capital stock of $25,000; to establish a fund in Morristown for the benefit of disabled firemen and their families; to incorporate the National Stock Yard Company, with a capital stock of $1,000,000. This bill provides for the maintenance of yards and buildings for the accommodation of live stock and for the buying, selling and slaughtering of the same, as well as the manufacturing of some portions of them into articles of commerce. This bill also empowers the company to hold real estate in any other State in which it may be necessary for such a purpose. A bill was also introduced for the laying out of a public park in the city of Paterson. Bills were passed to enable lodges of Free and Accepted Masons to hold and convey real estate, and for the relief of creditors from absconding debtors. The testimony elicited in the contested election case between Thomas Hooper and John Torrey, Jr., the present Senator from Ocean county, was received in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Elections. The calender being then exhausted the Senate adjourned to this morning.

In the House yesterday a petition was presented from the manufacturing, commercial and agricultural people of the State praying for a reduction of the freight on the Camden and Amboy Railroad. A similar petition was presented by the Speaker from the Grand Jurors of Hudson county. The bill relative to transit duties, introduced yesterday forenoon, provides that the annual transit duty payable to the State by the Camden and Amboy and New Jersey railroad companies on passengers or goods transported across the State by way of Trenton, New Brunswick and Jersey City, shall not exceed the transit duty payable on similar passengers or goods by way of Bordentown, Camden and Amboy. The bill also provides that on and after the 1st January, 1869, the transit duties by either of these routes shall be as follows:—For all high priced articles of merchandise worth not less than $150 per ton, ten cents per ton; agricultural products, heavy groceries and provisions, cider, ale, beer, vinigar, low priced liquors, iron, rails, spikes, &c., valued at not more than $150 nor less than $50 per ton, five cents per ton; for all other coarse and low priced articles two cents per ton. The bill likewise provides that the companies shall be entitled to the same immunities and privileges with regard to taxation (and none other) as if this act were not passed. The act is not to take effect unless accepted by the directors of the united companies within three months after its passage. The bill was referred to the Committee on Corporations. A bill was introduced to incorporate the Perth Amboy and Elizabethport Railroad Company, with a capital stock of $200,000. The following bills were passed:—To enable the Board of Chosen Freeholders of Mercer county (Trenton) to borrow money and issue bonds, the sum not to exceed $75,000; further supplement to an act incorporating the Board of Education of Camden. This bill limits the amount of tax to be raised for educational purposes to six mills to the dollar.

It was clearly ventilated in the House yesterday that "snakes" abound in the insurance bills, of which there are many now awaiting action. After some deliberation it was proven that the bills in question were framed so as to make it appear to the public that the capital was immense while permission was wanted to be allowed to issue policies with a capital stock of only $10,000. It is the decision of the Legislature to provide for the accumulation of the entire stock before a single policy be issued. To effect this object a bill is in the hands of a committee regulating all future insurance corporations, and all bills of that nature have been laid over till this bill is definitely acted on. In the afternoon a bill was introduced supplementary to the one incorporating the Newark Road Board. It provides that the Board of Chosen Freeholders of Essex county shall appoint a commission of five from different townships to assess the value of the lands taken for improvement, the amount expended for such improvement to be levied on the property benefited. A bill was introduced providing that for three years no more game shall be killed in this State. The bill to enable a husband or wife to be witnesses for or against each other or in matters concerning each other was passed and the House adjourned at five o'clock in the afternoon.

THE PRINTERS' STRIKE.

The strike of the book printers still continues. Several of the smaller offices have agreed to the terms of the journeymen, so that now but a few of the heavier employers continue to resist. The journeymen appear to be quite confident of ultimate success. Almost all the trade societies have proffered pecuniary assistance to the strikers; but these latter think that they will not be obliged to have recourse to the proffered aid, as they think they have funds enough of their own to pay the men as long as the strike continues.

Pseudo "Justice."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

Your correspondent "Justice" this morning bewails the number of "botches" among the compositors, and adds that "no good system of management can ever be produced until the 'Union' controls the apprenticeship to the business;" and, after proposing a most absurd and impracticable plan of his own, closes with an earnest appeal to "fellow typos" to join the "Union." That is the very thing typos should not do. The thing each typo should do, is, whatever job he has, to do as well as he can and as much of it as he can. That is the very way those who are honestly succeeding in this, as in other business, have come up. The experience of compositors who take the work as it comes and make themselves as valuable and as indispensable as they, can will show that employers—with an occasional mean exception—are as ready to advance their wages as they are to ask. But what can employers do with men who rely on the "Union" to guarantee them $18 or $20, while they don't try to earn but $10 or $12; who can't do any better work than a smart girl with three months' practice and five out of six of whom get "sick" with the first take of lean copy? The "Printers' Union" can't reverse the course of nature; they can't make the better workmen accept the $20 when they are profitable hands to an employer at $22, $25 or $30, otherwise they immediately become themselves employers, as they ought; and they cannot keep the work where they enforce the claim of unprofitable men to any definite sum. No, Mr. Editor; let every tub stand on its own bottom. Mechanics do not need "boosting" from unions more than clergymen,