NEW YORK CITY.

THE COURTS.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT.

Informers' Shares.

Before Judge Blatchford.

This was a contest between Michener and Payne, two revenue officers, as to which was entitled to the informer's share of $21,000, the proceeds of the sale of certain cutting machines seized at Ross & Co.'s tobacco warehouse, Fulton street. The Court held that the contesting officers had simply done their duty as revenue officers in the matter, and are, therefore, not entitled to any share as informers.

SUPREME COURT—CHAMBERS.

The Union Pacific Railroad Case.

Before Judge Cardozo.

Charles W. Pollard vs. The Union Pacific Railroad Company et al.—This is a new action brought against the Union Pacific Railroad Company, similar in its character to the case of Fisk, Jr., and in which Judge Barnard granted an injunction, *ex parte*, on the 20th inst. The defendants that were served petitioned, under the law of Congress, for the removal of this cause to the Circuit Court of the United States, and filed a bond, as by law required, on the 24th of April, before Judge Cardozo, who made an order directing the petition and bond to be filed with the clerk, and an order to show cause, returnable yesterday, why the cause should not be declared transferred to the United States Courts, pursuant to the prayer of the petition.

Mr. Field asked that the Court hold the case under advisement until after the decision of Judge Nelson in the Fisk case, which was identical with this one in principle.

Judge Cardozo assented to this suggestion. Counsel for defendants submitted their papers to the Court, who proposes to hold the case until after the decision of Judge Nelson, and Judge Cardozo said that he should follow the decision of Mr. Justice Nelson, whatever it might be, without hearing argument of counsel, and that the plaintiff's proceedings by stayed in the meantime in the action.

D. D. Field for plaintiff; for defendants, Messrs. C. Tracy and Clark Bell.

The Chicago and Rock Island Railroad Case Again.

Tweed, Receiver, vs. The Chicago and Rock Island Railroad Company and John F. Tracy.—This action is brought by Tweed, Jr., receiver in the case of Fisk, Jr., against the defendants, and an injunction was granted *ex parte* by Judge Barnard against the defendants. The company was served but Mr. John F. Tracy was not served.

Defendants move to transfer the cause to the United States Court, on the ground that both defendants are residents of the State of Illinois, and the plaintiff of the State of New York.

Mr. Field asked that the decision be suspended until after the decision of Judge Nelson on removal in the Fisk case.

Defendant's counsel objected to delay, on the ground that this petition was on other grounds than that case and rested on the mere question of citizenship, which Judge Cardozo had decided in a former analogous case, in which the Rock Island Railroad case was a party.

After some discussion of counsel the Court ordered the motion to be placed on the Chambers calendar for the first Monday of May, and stay of plaintiff's proceedings in the meantime. Counsel for plaintiff, Dudley Field; for defendants, Charles Tracy and Clark Bell.

Important Decision in a False Pretence Case.

Judge Barnard yesterday rendered a decision releasing James K. Place, arrested on a charge of false pretences preferred by Brown Brothers, from bail. Mr. Place received a large amount of coffee from Brown Brothers last summer and subsequently failed. A part of the property was recovered, and Brown Brothers then began a criminal suit against Place for false pretences. Judge Barnard now decides that there were no grounds for this suit.

MARINE COURT—PART 1.

Action for Wages—Important to Salesmen.

Before Judge Curtis.

Benjamin R. Samson vs. Charles H. Griffin and Others.—This was an action brought to recover a balance of salary alleged to be due upon a contract made by one of the defendents on behalf of the firm with the plaintiff. The evidence showed that the contract was a verbal one, to take effect in future and to continue for the term of one year. Defendants moved to dismiss upon the ground that the case came within the statute of frauds, and that, therefore, plaintiff could not recover. It was contended on behalf of plaintiff that in order to avail themselves of that plea the defendants should have set it up in their answer. This objection, however, was overruled by the Court. The plaintiff then asked leave to amend his complaint, so as to sue for the recovery of the value of the services actually rendered by him, which amendment was allowed by the Court, and thereupon the plaintiff proceeded to give evidence upon the *quantum merait* of such services.

The defence set up that plaintiff's services were of no value to them, because his sales were small, his habits dissipated, and that he was in league with other parties to commit larcenies upon the premises of the defendants, and that for these reasons he was discharged. The plaintiff brought a great number of witnesses to testify to his character as a man of integrity and as a salesman of capability.

The case is still on. Counsel for plaintiff, Charles Dixon, and Birdseye and Crosby for defendants.

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS.

Before Judge Bedford and Recorder Hackett.

Assistant District Attorney Hutchings appeared for the prosecution.

Charles Surratt, who pleaded guilty to stealing a pocketbook containing forty dollars from Frederika Glattner, was sent to the State Prison for eighteen months.

The Grand Jury came into court with a number of bills, and the foreman having intimated that they had finished their business, Judge Bedford discharged them with the thanks of the Court. During the term they passed upon 110 cases, found ninety-five bills, and dismissed fifteen cases for want of sufficient evidence.

Recorder Hackett sentenced the following prisoners, who had been remanded:—

James Martin, who pleaded guilty to an attempt at burglary, was sent to the State Prison for two years and six months.

Adolph Phillips, who pleaded guilty to stealing $150 worth of books from the Mercantile Library Association on the 23d of March, was sentenced to the State Prison for three years. The Recorder stated he had been informed that Phillips was an adept in stealing books.

Mathias J. Rosenbock, who was charged with burglariously entering the apartment of Karl Hausting, 144 Clinton street, on the 11th of March and stealing a quantity of mink and ermine fur skins, was acquitted, the officer in the case having so mismanaged it as to render a legal conviction impossible. The jury were directed to acquit the prisoner.

ALLEGED FALSE PRETENCES.

Mannette Sperry was placed on trial charged with obtaining $300 from Teresa Messo on the 8th of September, for which she received as collateral security eighty shares in the capital stock of the "Ladies' Consolidated Gold and Silver Mining Company." As Mr. Hutchings was unable to prove anything about the certificates the City Judge directed the jury, as matter of law, to render a verdict of not guilty. As there was some dispute in reference to a chattel mortgage, which the complainant's husband obtained from the defendant, Mr. Hutchings intimated that the case was one which could be ventilated in the Marine Court—the highest court in the building.

ALLEGED FRAUD UPON THE CENTRAL COAL COMPANY—MESSRS. DETMOLD AND M'CORD DISCHARGED.

The Recorder delivered the subjoined opinion on the complaint against these parties for conspiring to obtain money by false pretences from the Central Coal Company:—

The People vs. Christian E. Detmold and Charles O. McCord.—Motion by the defendant Detmold to be discharged on his own recognizance. That the counsel for the prosecution regard the matters of alleged fact in this case as complex and the law questions as somewhat intricate is apparent from the printed brief of more than 100 pages which he has filed. The testimony is voluminous, and counsel for the defence has been equally industrious with the magistrate's clerk and the legal adversary in his preparation of argument. I have read all the evidence and arguments with great care, and as they are filed herewith refrain from recapitulating any portion of either. I have no doubt of the entire innocence of the defendant Detmold, that he is guiltless of any offence. That he may be amenable to the charge of having been deceived, and, perhaps, of having been too confiding in an agent, is only to say what often happens to the best business man conducting large operations. The motion to discharge the defendant on his own verbal recognizance is granted. I cannot, of course, control the action of the District Attorney, who may, if so disposed, send the case to the Grand Jury, but I even now treat this case as if I was about to charge a jury on the allegations before me, which are conceded to be all that can be stated. I cannot resist the conviction that if the defendant Detmold had not commenced a civil suit against the company, this complaint, initiated eleven days afterward, would not have been preferred. I have always been as a judge averse to criminal tribunals being made instruments either to further or delay pecuniary settlements. Let an order be entered by the clerk in conformity with the above. JOHN K. HACKETT, Recorder.

NEW YORK, April 26, 1869.

The jury were then discharged for the term. During the present month there have been a large number of cases disposed of by the court and the efficient prosecuting officers.

The May term will commence next Monday, his Honor Judge Bedford presiding.

THE NEW UNITED STATES MARSHAL.

Major General Francis C. Barlow (appointed by President Grant to be Marshal for this district) appeared yesterday morning before Judge Blatchford, accompanied by his two sureties, and gave bonds in $20,000. His sureties were Messrs. Jackson S. Schultz and William T. Blodgett. General Barlow will be sworn into office as soon as his bond is approved at Washington.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

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

	1868.	1869.		1868.	1869.
3 A. M.	46	63	3 P. M.	57	74
6 A. M.	46	61	6 P. M.	54	73
9 A. M.	55	67	9 P. M.	60	71
12 M.	57	71	12 P. M.	59	74

Average temperature yesterday 69¼
Average temperature corresponding day last y'r. 54⅜
Average temperature on Tuesday 68¼
Average temperature corresponding day last y'r. 54½

FATAL SCALDING CASUALTY.—Wm. John Brogan, the lad eleven years of age, who fell into a vat of hot swill, foot of Thirty-third street, North river, and was terribly scalded, as already reported in the HERALD, has since died from the effects of the scalds received. Deceased lived with his parents at No. 550 Tenth avenue, where Coroner Keenan was notified to hold an inquest.

DEATH FROM INJURIES.—On Friday last a woman, then living at No. 528 Tenth avenue, while engaged in washing down stairs, lost her balance and fell over the banisters to the floor below and was terribly injured. She lingered till yesterday and expired from the effects of the injuries received. Coroner Keenan was notified to hold an inquest on the body. The name of deceased was not ascertained.

FOUND IN THE WATER.—Coroner Keenan was yesterday notified to hold an inquest on the body of an unknown man forty-five years of age, which was found floating in the dock at pier No. 42 North river. Deceased had long black hair and mustaches, and was dressed in black overcoat, woollen jacket, black vest, brown pants, black necktie and white muslin shirt. The body apparently had been in the water for several weeks.

CORRECTION.—In the report of the "Tragic Affair in Amity Street" in yesterday's HERALD the sentence occurred, that the pistol balls were passing "into the room above the *bar* without doing any serious damage." The manuscript read, "into the room above, *but* without doing," &c., which was the fact. The house where the tragedy occurred is a quiet, orderly boarding house, and there is no "bar" anywhere in the premises.

AN OLD SHOOTING CASE.—On the 4th of July, 1867, Rosa Berger, a child then three years of age, while at play in the yard of her parents, residing at No. 515 Fifth street, was accidentally shot by the premature discharge of firearms. She never recovered from the effects of the wound, and, subsequently attacked by disease, she lingered till yesterday and expired. Coroner Keenan was notified, and will hold an inquest on the body.

SUDDEN DEATH.—Mr. Stephen L. Cook, who lived at No. 341 West Twenty-sixth street, took breakfast as usual yesterday morning and appeared to be in good health. Soon afterwards some boys annoyed Mr. Cook and he chased them away. In doing so he became excited, and, falling to the floor, died in a few minutes afterward. Coroner Schirmer was notified to hold an inquest on the body. Some years ago deceased was a member of the Police Department.

THE MORGUE.—Warden Brennan reports that the body of an unknown man was brought to the morgue yesterday from the Thirty-first precinct station house. Deceased was aged about forty-three years, five feet nine inches high, had brown hair, sandy mustache, and was attired in black frock coat and vest, dark pants, striped calico shirt, white undershirt, blue cotton drawers, socks and heavy shoes. Body too much decomposed to be placed in the morgue to await identification.

VITAL STATISTICS.—The report of Sanitary Superintendent Harris to the Board of Health, for the week ending Saturday last, shows that there were 420 deaths in this city and 144 in Brooklyn. The variation from the death rate of the corresponding week in the years 1866, 1867 and 1868 varied slightly from these figures. Measles and scarlatina were the cause of 68 deaths in the two cities. In New York 252 of these deaths occurred in tenement houses, 64 in public institutions and 104 in other dwellings. The number of births was 228 and of marriages 310.

PETITION TO COLLECTOR GRINNELL.—A number of merchants have petitioned Collector Grinnell to stop an abuse of official authority of which they complain. They say that unless they employ certain cartmen well known at the Appraiser's Department, the delivery orders for their goods are not issued till twenty-four hours after the goods had been appraised and passed, while if they employ these men instead of their own the orders are issued immediately. The petitioners ask for an investigation into this alleged practice, and hope that such orders will be issued as may place all cartmen on an equal footing.

REUNION AT GRAMMAR SCHOOL No. 16.—The members of the "Ninth Class" from the year 1820 to 1860 of the old Public School No. 3, corner of Grove and Hudson streets, met last evening at Grammar School No. 16, to effect an organization for the purpose of future social intercourse. As the period since the first graduate left the school, and who was present last evening, covers forty years, as might have been expected, men who were near their climacteric and beardless youths appeared, the one to testify to the antiquity of the early associations and the other to repeat anew many of their schoolboy pranks. Among those graduates who have become famous are the Hon. Schuyler Colfax, the Vice President of the United States; John E. Develin, late City Chamberlain and ex-Governor Price, of New Jersey. After the adoption of a constitution and by-laws Mr. B. D. L. Southerland was elected president and Abram D. Brower, secretary for the ensuing year. It is proposed to give an annual dinner, the first to take place in June next, at which Vice President Colfax is expected to be a guest.

POLICE INTELLIGENCE.

COMMITMENT OF A PICKPOCKET.—Wash. Kerns, alias Edward Kane, was committed for trial yesterday at Jefferson Market for stealing a watch from the pocket of Charles Flammer, 34 Wall street.

ALLEGED ABANDONMENT.—Dr. Henry Wheaton, boarding health officer of the port, was yesterday put under $300 bonds, by Justice Dodge, to pay his wife, who has filed a complaint of abandonment, ten dollars per week.

CHARGE OF VIOLATING THE HOTEL LAW.—A very respectable looking gentleman, giving his name as Maurice J. Hedges, was yesterday arraigned at the Tombs Police Court on a charge of eating a dinner at the Astor House and then refusing to pay for it. Judge Dowling committed him to answer the charge in default of $200 bail.

ALLEGED LARCENY OF MONEY.—Joseph Driscoll was yesterday taken before Justice Dowling, at the Tombs, on a charge of stealing fifty dollars, the property Michael Donohue. The latter states in his affidavit that he had $900 in fifty dollar bills, and that while in the saloon No. 13 Park row he gave the money to the accused to count, who stole one of the bills. On corroboration of this allegation of larceny by James McGowan, who stated that he saw Driscoll take the money, the prisoner was committed in default of $1,000 bail to answer the charge.

ALLEGED EMBEZZLEMENT AT A. T. STEWART'S.—On Monday detective Corkey arrested William Livingston, a clerk in the carpet department of A. T. Stewart's house, on the charge of embezzling money passing through his hands to the amount of $4,500. He was remanded to the station house by Justice Dodge to enable the officer to obtain further evidence. Yesterday, a few moments before the court closed, the accused was brought into court, as well as one of the bookkeepers, who was suspected of a complicity in the alleged embezzlement. As the case is by no means a clear one against the young men, they were remanded until to-morrow, when an affidavit will be filed detailing the particulars.

ALLEGED LARCENIES BY A COLORED COACHMAN.—For some months past Mr. Thomas Price, of No. 22 West Ninth street, had in his employ as coachman John Mitchell, a yellow man, aged about twenty-four years, who recently took service with C. Bainbridge Smith, of the Fifth Avenue Hotel, but by consent of the family was allowed to remain in possession of his room at Mr. Price's. For nearly a year money and articles have been missed from drawers and closets; but John being a favorite was not suspected of the larceny. About two months ago $160 and a gold ring were stolen from a drawer, and no trace of the thief discovered. Detective Tully, of the Fifteenth precinct, was instructed to work up the case, and has for some time watched the movements of the servants. He learned that the negro had conceived a passionate affection for a pretty white waitress in the house, named Mary Ann Calligan, who reciprocated John's feelings and was the recipient of many presents which he lavished upon her. On Tuesday he presented a ring to Mary Ann, which proved to be the identical one stolen with the $160. Detective Tully was called in and arrested the negro on the information of the girl, who stated that she received the ring from Mitchell. The accused was arraigned before Justice Dodge yesterday afternoon, when Mr. Price filed a complaint and the accused was committed to the General Sessions for trial. The total amount of money and jewelry stolen at various times since Mitchell's admission to the house is from $500 to $600. In explanation of how he came possessed of the ring he stated that he found it on the floor about Christmas.

MAYOR'S OFFICE.

At the Marshal's bureau yesterday the business was very light, and was confined almost entirely to the reprimanding and fining of speculative truckmen and cartmen. It appears that a number of the cartmen who have licenses for stands down town have been in the habit of posting themselves in conspicuous places up town for the purpose of catching parties who are engaged in the delectable employment of moving. Marshal Tooker seems to be determined to put a stop to that style of doing business, and the draymen who were brought before him were severely reprimanded, heavily fined and ordered to stand no place but where their licenses stated under penalty of having their licenses revoked.

SPIRIT PHOTOGRAPHY.

Shadows Avaunt!—The Woolly Horse Showman on the Stand—Joyce Heth and the Mermaid—The Tombs Closed Upon the Spirits—Exeunt Omnes.

After vigorous hammering the last coffin nail has been driven into this apparently everlasting case. The funeral services were read yesterday at the Tombs and the dejointed bones of the mysterious visitor quietly deposited in the grave which has now closed forever. It was a bright morning and a most auspicious one for the joyful event. It was not quite certain whether the last rites would take place yesterday, but, *mirabile dictu*, the spirits quietly disappeared, their departure being unaccompanied by either the clanking of chains or sulphurous vapor. Briefly, the testimony is over, and nothing now remains but the summing up of counsel. Considerable merriment was caused by certain "woolly horse" developments, at which the loungers perched at the further end of the court grinned broadly. Mr. Elbridge Gerry and Mr. Blunt appeared on the part of the prosecution, Mumler being defended by Messrs. John T. Townsend and Baker.

Mr. Abraham Bogardus was the first witness examined. He gave a lucid explanation as to the manner in which the so called spirit potographs could be taken by mechanical means, which were exceedingly varied; photographers could take a man with an angel on his head or a pair of horns, just as desired, without being detected. Mr. Bogardus produced several photographs with the so called spirit forms which he himself had photographed by mechanical means. He further testided that he had known many persons to mistake pictures in his gallery as representations of their friends; had known one person to mistake the portrait of Henry Clay for that of General Jackson.

The witness was cross-examined at length by Mr. Townsend, and in reply stated that he did not believe spirits could be photographed. Counsel then proceeded to read from the twenty-eighth chapter of First Samuel, and having asked the witness in regard to his belief in the Bible, whether the spirit referred to had language and form, and if so whether it was impossible for the spirits to appear for the purpose of being photographed.

Mr. Gerry objected to the question. He did not object to the Bible being read in court for the reason that no one was injured by listening to the words of Scripture, but he was opposed to the Bible being produced for the purpose of confusing the witness. It was without a precedent for a theological examination of a witness in a criminal case. The witness was present as an expert, not as a theological student.

Mr. Townsend read several other texts from the Bible, detailing the appearance of spiritual beings upon earth and was about to question the witness, but objections having been offered the examination in that respect was not proceeded with.

Mr. Mason was recalled, and in answer to Mr. Blunt stated that with regard to the photographs shown him they could not have been produced by being in front of the camera, the shadows on the figures falling differently on each, which was impossible; witness did not believe in the alleged supernatural production of Mumler's pictures.

Mr. P. T. Barnum was then produced from the crowd and put into the witness box and examined by Mr. Gerry regarding humbugs generally. He said he had devoted some time to the detection of humbugs, at which answer many winked significantly. In the course of business he had heard of Mumler about seven years ago, and knew him by reputation as the original taker of what was known as spirit photographs. The witness corresponded with him; made a search for the letters, but could not find them; thought they were demolished with his museum; Mumler sent him photographs, for which he paid; those photographs represented "Colorado" Jewett, Henry Clay and the ghost of Napoleon; they were labelled "Spiritual Humbugs;" he had seen a great many "spooks," and he thought it was only necessary to see them to believe in them; he went to the gallery of Mr. Bogardus and asked for a photograph with a spirit on it; detected no deception; he accompanied Mr. Bogardus into the dark room; saw him take the plate and develop on it the shrouded figure of Abraham Lincoln; during the process he was not conscious of any spiritual presence.

Mr. Townsend severely catechised the witness relative to his being engaged in the humbug business. The witness said he always gave people value for their money, or, in other words, that "they paid their money and they had their choice." He thought his "woolly horse" was just what it was represented to be; it was actually woolly and a curiosity, and it was for that reason he purchased it, and he was glad to enlighten people upon the subject; he had the horse just as it was born and created. Being questioned as to his mermaid he continued:—The mermaid was represented to me to be what I represented it to be to the public, and I have never been disabused of the idea; the mermaid was presented to the public as I believed it to be; I never owned it; I hired it; I have never taken money for things that I had misrepresented.

Q. Have you as a public entertainer ever presented matters to the public, falsifying the facts, and taken money therefor? A. I may have given it a little drapery sometimes. (Laughter.) The witness then proceeded to testify in regard to "Washington's Nurse," in which he said he believed, but yet he never endeavored to have a profound belief regarding her; but he nevertheless believed in her and paid $1,000 for her. He was further interrogated concerning his correspondence with Mumler, whose employer told him (witness) that Mumler was a sharp fellow, and advised him to negotiate with him for an addition to his stock of humbugs; when he visited Bogardus' gallery he asked him to bring down the spirit of Joyce Heth; he said he could not do so, as the old lady's vitality was so much exhausted.

Mr. Charles P. Boyle was next examined and said—I have been in the photographic business twenty years and am connected with the American Institute; I am familiar with the so-called spirit photographs, and have known it for seven years, when Mumler first commenced it; I saw Mumler in Boston in Mrs. Stewart's photographic gallery; I can identify Mumler as the person I saw there; when I saw him he seemed to be attending to business there; I have here some photographs taken at Rockwood's gallery under my supervision; I instructed Mr. Rockwood and his men how to do the thing. The balance of the testimony of this witness was technical, and although it might prove absorbingly interesting to experts, would be literally incomprehensible. He continued:—I proposed the screen test to expose this spirit photograph affair, and a committee of the Institute was appointed to investigate the affair; I was not on that committee, and can only say by hearsay what they did or discovered.

In cross-examination he said he was not a Spiritualist, but had examined the subject of Spiritualism closely. Counsel then produced the Bible and interrogated him as to the passage stating that Christ with some of His apostles went upon the mountain and saw Moses and Elias upon it. The witness replied that anything he could not comprehend he suspended his belief regarding it. He never took the picture of a deceased person who, during life, had not had a portrait taken.

Re-direct—Q. Is there anything whatever in the passage which has been read or connected with it stating that those spirits shine from their own light? A. No.

Mr. D. C. Chapman substantially corroborated the testimony of the previous witness, who had described the various mechanical means of taking the so-called spirit photographs.

Charles D. Fredricks, a photographer, in answer to Mr. Gerry, deposed—I have made a few experiments in spiritual photography (three pictures produced); these were taken by making a negative to represent a ghost, making a positive from this, then took the picture, and on developing the photograph, I found an indistinct spirit form (so-called); it is impossible to take a picture from an article which one cannot see; no one can photograph a spirit; I am a practical photographer, although for some years I have done but little practical work; a reflected light could not be thrown on an object in sunlight; it would not make a double shadow.

Mr. John Jones, a mathematical instrument maker, gave testimony relative to photographic appliances and stated that he could construct a camera that would deceive an expert unless he took it to pieces.

Mr. Gerry said he desired to call Dr. Parsons, one of the physicians of the Blackwell's Island Insane Asylum, to prove some points relative to insanity. He desired to rebut the testimony of Judge Edmonds and Mr. Paul Bremont concerning hallucination.

Mr. Townsend objected.

After considerable discussion Judge Dowling suggested the propriety of allowing the case to rest where it stood, and the summary of counsel was set down for Monday morning.

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS.

The Board of Metropolitan Fire Commissioners held their regular weekly meeting yesterday morning at Firemen's Hall, General Alexander Shaler in the chair.

A petition was received from A. J. Martin, foreman of Engine Company No. 2, asking the loan of a steamer for two weeks until their own apparatus could be repaired. Referred to the Committee on Apparatus, with power to act.

James Gordon Bennett, Jr., wrote to the Commissioners stating that his father was desirous of adding an additional impetus to competition among the members of the department, in the discipline, courage and honesty with which their duties are performed, and that he had been directed to forward to the Commissioners the sum of $1,500, requesting they would pay Tiffany & Co. $500 for the die of a medal they are preparing, and to use the income of the balance for the purpose of procuring a gold medal annually, to be given to such member of the department as the Board may deem deserving of a reward of merit.

The reply of the Commissioners is as follows:—

Although it will be difficult to make the selection from so much individual merit as the department is developing, we accept the trust with a full appreciation of the compliment conferred in our selection as trustees of your father's generous endowment, and will cause to be prepared a formal acceptance insuring its perpetuity.

The offer of S. Cohen to dispose of an apparatus to rescue persons from burning buildings was referred to the Committee on Apparatus.

The Board then adjourned.

BOLD HOTEL ROBBERIES BY A WOMAN.

Curious Chapter of Female Audacity and Crime—Catalogue of Late Robberies at Leading Hotels and Arrest and Confession of the Woman Robber—Alleged Receiver in Custody.

Skilful audacity of crime, coupled with crowning glory of unparalleled success, have characterized some late robberies at a number of the leading hotels in this city. The robberies were perpetrated in the day time. Diamonds, valuable jewelry, gold watches and the costliest grades of feminine apparel, such as camel hair shawls and the finest fabrics of rare and expensive laces, comprised the catalogue of missing property. Hotel guests, the victims of the robberies, were amazed at the sudden and mysterious disappearance of their valuables. Hotel proprietors, the reputation of whose houses was being damaged by the frightful frequency of these extended peculations, were in a wild maze of bewilderment. Detectives confessed themselves sadly perplexed. Persons deemed in the slightest degree suspicious stopping at the hotels, the hotel attachés and servants and private servants and visitors have been under the most careful and unrelaxing espionage. And yet the robberies continued, with no clue to their perpetrator. The late robberies to which we have referred began several months ago. First in the list of victims, as will be remembered, was Assistant District Attorney Hutchings. Shortly after New Year's his rooms at the Everett House were entered during the day time, during the temporary absence of his wife, and a valuable cluster diamond pin and other jewelry stolen, of the value of $2,645. Shortly afterwards the rooms of Mrs. A. B. Salter, at the Coleman, were entered, and a coral necklace and diamond pin and earrings and other articles of the aggregate value of $3,000 stolen. Mrs. Sherman, stopping at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, close on the heels of the last robbery, had two camel hair shawls, valued at $800 each, stolen from her rooms. A lady at the Albemarle was robbed of $2,600 worth of jewelry, and another lady at the Union Place Hotel was victimized to nearly the same amount. As stated above, the robberies in each case were perpetrated in the day time, revealing alike most marvellous shrewdness and daring in their execution.

To detect the bold robber has been the work of time, extreme caution and sharp strategy. Assistant District Attorney Hutchings, occupying a position at the very side of justice, was determined to leave no stone unturned whereby he might trace out the guilty party. A desire to recover his stolen property as well as visit merited punishment upon the culprit was his strong impelling motive. He employed detective officers McGowan and McCarty, of the Twenty-ninth precinct, to assist him. These officers went to work with a will and with their customary adroitness. They soon satisfied themselves that the boldly successful culprit was a woman. To find this woman was the next thing. After a sedulous process of research and inquiry they found at various times stopping at the hotels where the robberies had been committed was a middle aged lady of pleasing and polished address, and uniformly dressed in plain black, and that she went under a different name at each hotel. At the Everett House she gave the name of Mrs. Amelia B. Miller, at the Fifth Avenue Hotel that of Mrs. Conner, at the Albemarle Mrs. Brown, at the Coleman House Mrs. Brown, and so on, assuming a new alias at each stopping place. Having lately given up stopping at the hotels and frequenting public places and thoroughfares, and when she did go out taking the precaution to hide her face from the public gaze by wearing a heavy veil, it was no easy matter to trace her whereabouts. To tell how the officers "piped" and danced—that is to say, danced attendance here and there and at all hours of the day and night—would be to tell a long story. Finally they arrested her. The arrest took place day before yesterday. She was brought before Justice Dowling at the Tombs the same day.

"Are you the one who has been perpetrating these astonishing hotel robberies?" the Judge asked her in a quiet tone of assumed indifference, as though he did not believe for a moment that she was the guilty party.

"By no means," she responded, blandly smiling. "It's a mistake, and though I feel temporarily chagrined at the error I am happy I am entirely innocent."

"You don't know me, I see," spoke up the Judge in a tone the reverse of his first remark.

"First time I have ever had the honor of seeing you."

"Sure of that?"

"Quite sure."

"Well, madame, this is not the first time you have seen me and it is not the first time you have been before me. I am good at remembering faces."

"But surely you are mistaken this time."

"I am not mistaken. There are two judgments now suspended over you for robbing hotels."

It is unnecessary to give this conversation entire. The woman saw the Judge knew her. She saw that to make a clean breast of it was the best course she could take. She confessed herself the culprit. She told how she effected the robberies, which was by knowing the habits of the ladies robbed, and under pretext of calling to visit them got into their rooms in their absence. She gave the names of the persons to whom she had sold part of the proceeds of the robberies. The case was not ripe for publication until these alleged receivers were arrested, which did not take place till yesterday. The names of the alleged receivers as thus far revealed appears in the subjoined affidavit, which is the only one that so far has been made, and upon which the parties named therein, with one exception, were arrested:—

City and County of New York, ss.—Robert C. Hutchings, of the Everett House, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith that on the ——day of ——, 1869, at the Eighteenth ward of the city of New York, in the county of New York, was feloniously taken, stolen and carried away from the premises of deponent the following property, viz.:—One cluster diamond pin of the value of $1,800, one diamond stud of the value of $500, one gold watch of the value of $100, one chain of the value of $100, two bracelets of the value of $100, one medal of the value of $30, one lace handkerchief of the value of $15, all of the value of $2,645, the property of deponent, and that this deponent has a probable cause to suspect and does suspect that the said property was feloniously taken, stolen and carried away by Mary C. Miller, here present, who confesses to deponent that she took the said property from the drawer of a bureau in his apartments in the Everett House on the day above mentioned, and that she took the said property from the said Everett House and sold it to various parties; that she took the said above mentioned diamond pin to one Mrs. Teresa Lynch, doing business as jeweller under the New York Hotel, and the centre stone taken therefrom and sold to the said Mrs. Lynch by the said Mary C. Miller for the sum of $80, and that the said Mrs. Lynch weighed the balance of the said stones; that she sold to one Wm. G. Keys, of the firm of Keys & Judd, No. 609 Broadway, a number of diamonds belonging to said pin for the sum of $112; that the balance of the diamonds belonging to said pin she sold to one Cingman, No. 66 Nassau street, near John, for $130; that she informed deponent that she pawned the bracelets, and chain with the said Keys aforementioned; that she confesses that she has now in her possession the said medal and watch.

ROBERT C. HUTCHINGS.

Sworn before me, this 27th day of April, 1869. J. DOWLING, Police Justice.

At three P. M., Mrs. Lynch, who, with her husband, keeps the jewelry store under the New York Hotel formerly kept by Louis Aurich, and Messrs. Keys & Judd, of No. 609 Broadway, were brought before the magistrate for preliminary examination. They were represented by counsel. The above affidavit was first read to them. Mrs. Lynch waived an examination and elected to be tried in the Court of General Sessions. Offers of bail were then made for her, but the Judge refused to accept bail, except from parties he personally knew to be responsible. On behalf of Messrs Keys & Judd bail was offered, but the Judge refused bail except by parties he also personally knew. An immediate examination was demanded, but this the Judge declined to give on account of the absence of Mr. Hutchings. The latter, therefore, likewise elected to be tried in the General Sessions. It was very grievous to be inducted into prison cells, but there was no help for it. Meantime John Lynch, the husband of Mrs. Lynch, was also committed to prison without bail to answer a charge of being the receiver of a portion of the proceeds of the Lord bond robbery.

From what we have written it will be seen that no more important arrests have been made in this city for some time. The confession of Mrs. Miller, alias Conners, Brown, &c., is corroborated in recovery of part of the stolen property. Other affidavits of other victims of these hotel robberies will be made within a day or two, and the names of further receivers will shortly be made public. There seems little doubt now that most of the stolen property will be recovered, and that deserved punishment will be meted out to all the guilty parties, to the receivers as well as the confessed original culprit.

THE FATAL AFFRAY ON BOARD THE LADONA.

On the evening of the 27th ult. an affray occurred on board the steamship Ladona, then lying at the foot of Burling slip, East river, between Stephen Jones, the assistant steward, and Thomas Nissen, a seaman, which resulted in the stabbing of Nissen in the abdomen. Jones was arrested at the time, and a day or two afterwards the injured man died at the New York Hospital. Owing to the sailing of the Ladona for New Orleans and Galveston with the witnesses it was found necessary to postpone the inquisition till the attendance of the witnesses could be secured. Yesterday the Ladona returned to this port, when officer Farrell and detective Hayes, of the Second precinct, by order of Coroner Keenan, arrested Otto Ruiger, Charles Scott and Lester A. Schofield, sailors, they having been witnesses to the affray between Nissen and Jones. Coroner Keenan will make an investigation in the case to-day. On the night of the fatal affray Nissen went aboard the ship in a partial state of intoxication and demanded that Jones should prepare supper for him. This he declined doing, and hence a dispute and the use of the knife. Jones is still confined in the Tombs.

THE STEAMSHIP AMERICA.

The trial trip of the large and magnificent new steamship America, of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company's line, took place yesterday morning, the vessel leaving her wharf at about eight o'clock. A numerous company, embracing the officers of the company and a party of invited guests, among whom were several ladies and a number of prominent gentlemen in the mercantile and shipping business, were on board. The steamer went down the lower bay and out beyond Sandy Hook, returning to her dock last evening. The steamer America was built exclusively for the China service of the company, and, with the exception of the Great Eastern, is the largest vessel afloat in the world. She will depart upon her voyage around the world between the 20th of May and the 1st of June.

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

At the New York Navy Yard the Board of Naval Officers now in session, of which Admiral Goldsborough is President, slowly progresses with the sea elephant business of striving to make something out of the four pipe abortions fostered upon the United States Navy by Chief Engineer Isherwood.

In the varied propositions presented for taking out boilers, altering engines, moving masts, building spar decks, &c., the one proposition collides with the other, and in despair naval officers seem to think that these beautiful vessels, save but upon the entire removal of their engines, will at the best, under the several heads of changes proposed, prove still the fostering of a continuous blunder upon the navy.

It is rumored that the Madawaska alone will be retained in the service. The others—to wit, the Wampanoag, Ammonoosuc, Pompanoosuc, Minnetonka and Neshaming—will be sold, provided, of course, purchasers can be found who will buy them—a very doubtful matter.

With the Moshula class something may be done, and even this remains to be seen. Of her class there are the Alaska, Algoma, Contoocook, Guerriere, Manitou, Omaha, Ontario, Piscataqua, Pushmataha and Java.

It is rumored that the Naval Board will recommend the removal of two of the Moshula's boilers and the proper placing of her masts; also the building of a spar deck. Then it is to be hoped that she will both steam and sail to the advantage of the government to which she belongs.

NAVAL PERSONALS.

The resignation of Rear Admiral Joseph Smith, as Chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, is accepted, to take effect on the 1st of May next, and he will then assume the duties of president of the permanent court now in session in the Navy Department.

Captain Daniel Ammen, by direction of the President, has been appointed Chief of the Bureau of Docks and Yards, to take effect on the 1st of May.

Fleet Surgeon J. M. Foltz has been detached from the European squadron and ordered home. Surgeon Charles Eversfield is detached from rendezvous duty at the Philadelphia Navy Yard (on the 15th of May) and ordered to the Franklin as Fleet Surgeon of the European squadron.

Lieutenant Commander Wm. C. Wise is detached from the Saugus, with directions to hold himself in readiness for duty on board the Miantonomo.

Surgeon John C. Sper is ordered to the Naval Rendezvous at the Philadelphia Navy Yard on the 15th of May next.

Passed Assistant Paymaster R. B. Rodney and Assistant Paymaster Frank Bissell are ordered to the Philadelphia Navy Yard for examination for promotion.

S. B. Chittenden, of Brooklyn, has been appointed a member of the Board of Visitors to the Naval Academy, vice Cornelius Vanderbilt, declined.

Operations at the Washington Navy Yard—Increase of Working Force—Monitors Saugus and Mahopac Fitting Out—Casting of Heavy Ordnance to Begin—Proposed Voyage of the President and Party.

WASHINGTON, April 25, 1869.

At the present juncture of our national affairs the movements recently inaugurated at the Navy Department possess an unusual interest to those desirous of keeping themselves well informed of passing events. At the close of the great rebellion the immense number of vessels in our navy which were suddenly bereft of active duty became a source of great anxiety to the venerable head of the Navy Department. How to get rid of them was a question which formed the constant theme of his thoughts during the day, and which took the shape of nightmares through the still hours of the night. By dint of incessant cogitation on this momentous subject the worthy Secretary at last evolved a scheme of selling them off. The plan was put into operation, and the rap of the auctioneer's hammer was heard in most of the maritime cities of the Eastern seaboard, until merchants found themselves amply supplied with cheap vessels, steamboat companies felicitated themselves on profitable bargains, foreign Powers rejoiced in the possession of first rate American iron-clads, and the United States Navy was left with the shattered odds and ends, comparatively few of the vessels that were retained being in good seagoing condition. Our magnificent iron-clad fleet was distributed among the several navy yards in the country, and there permitted to lay exposed to the ravages of time and weather, without sufficient care being taken to keep them in good repair.

When Admiral Porter was appointed an assistant to the present Secretary of the Navy, he resolved to do something towards restoring order amid this general ch