RELIGIOUS.

Divine Services in New York and Brooklyn Yesterday—Baptists, Presbyterians, Methodists and Adventists.

ELEVENTH STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

"The Darkness at the Crucifixion"—Sermon by the Rev. Charles B. Smyth.

There was a large congregation at this church yesterday morning. The preacher, as is much his habit, took advantage of the matter uppermost in the minds of the people to draw therefrom a moral lesson. His text was from Matthew, xxvii., 45:—"Now about the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour." The crowds who might have been seen Saturday peering into the sky through bits of colored glass; at what were they gazing? What fools they were, some might say. But was it a foolish thing to manifest an interest in such a phenomenon of nature as an eclipse. It is well to contemplate the operations of nature, and as it is done to have the mind led from nature up to nature's God. Thus by the eclipse of Saturday one may be reminded of the great obscuration that took place at the time of our Saviour's crucifixion. What a strange event was that! The Jewish sixth is our twelfth hour. At that time, when the sun usually shines in his meridian splendor, everything was wrapped in sable gloom. Darkness was spread over all the land. But how came this darkness? Can it be accounted for on natural principles? No; the obscuration of the sun lasted for three hours; an ordinary eclipse lasts but a few minutes. Besides, the moon was not at that time in the part of her orbit at which an eclipse could occur. The darkness, then, must have been preternatural. There are those who call that great event in question. Why, it is asked, do we not read of it in profane history. Tertullian, an eminent Christian writer of the latter part of the second century, in his defence of the Christian religion before the Roman Senate said that the obscuration of the sun at the crucifixion was spoken of in the annals of Rome. One of the objects of this darkness was to give evidence of the majesty of the being who suffered. Because of this event one of the bystanders said of Christ, "Truly, this was the Son of God." Dionysius, a convert to Christianity at Athens, under the preaching of Paul, witnessed the darkness while in Heliopolis, and he said—"Either the God of nature is suffering or the world is being dissolved." Another reason for the darkness was to show the foulness of the crime committed; and still another to vindicate the substitutionary character of the Saviour's sufferings. He died, but not for his own sins. The iniquities of one person could not have extinguished the light of day. Many persons had been crucified before, but the sun shone as bright as ever.

ST. JOHN'S METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH WILLIAMSBURG.

Sermon by Rev. Charles W. Bennett.

The usual morning services were conducted at the above named church yesterday, by Rev. Charles W. Bennett, formerly pastor of the American Protestant church, at Berlin, Prussia. The preacher took as his text the words found in John xvii., 21.

Christian unity, he said, must not be found in oneness nor in perfect unity of dogmatic statement, but in the prevalence of that love in the hearts of all Christians for one another, as characterized by the love our Lord bore towards His fellow man. Such unity has already found large place in the Church, and among other indications of its presence is the variety of Christian literature throughout the world at the present day, scattering broadcast in one form or another the divine truths of the promises of God. The reverend doctor then gave a vivid description of the state of the Protestant Church throughout Europe; the vast reaction which is convulsing the old Catholic States of the Continent. In Vienna, Austria, he observed the gradual tendency of the masses to conform to usages of the religion of the reformers. The Catholic Church gives to every library connected with their colleges and schools "Thomas à Kempis's Invitation of Christ" in Fenelon's Sermons; but the English Church presents the Bible to all who come within the pale of her teachings. The preacher in conclusion exhorted all within the hearing of his voice to give their love and labor toward the redemption of the fallen Magdalens and prodigal sons who infest Williamsburg and Brooklyn. Said he:—"The list of murders, robberies and various other crimes daily heralded to the world was enough to make the stoutest hearts tremble with fear for the welfare of our beloved country and the present unsettled state of society in general. Verily God in his wrath visited the cities of the plain' and destroyed their rebellious inhabitants. The day of reckoning was fast approaching, and it behooves each and every creature to prepare for the judgment seat."

LAFAYETTE AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

The pulpit of this fashionable Brooklyn church was occupied yesterday by the Rev. W. Baker, of Ohio, who chose for his text Third Corinthians, iv., 2—"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." He said that the great difference between one man and another was the culture and discipline of the moral spirit, as, for instance, the antithesis of characters existing between the Apostle Paul and the Emperor Nero. Character is that indefinable something which depicts the moral governance between the standard of minds of a high and low order. Referring to the text—there is nothing in a man's personal affliction which redounds to the glory of God. It is all part of the Divine scheme of man's earthly probation. The manner in which the blow is received is the criterion of its action on the mind. Heaven saves as it afflicts, according to our Maker's good will and pleasure. When Jesus told us that we should be inheritors of a heavenly mansion He gave mankind the promise of a glorious inheritance, far outstretching the realms of our earthly imagination. With reference to the sanctification alluded to by the Apostle, we are all beholden to do our utmost as frail and erring mortals to attain the standard he has laid down for our example, so that we may make our calling and election sure and be shining lights in the religion we profess as disciples of Christ. The honor and glory of such conduct is within ourselves. There is a sparkle and weight of solid worth in words which incite us to possess a larger and a nobler character. Every gleam of prosperity, every friend, every business transaction, every book aids, by the inscrutable designs of an all-ruling Providence, in the formation of our characters either to a noble or degenerate standard, which eventually becomes adamantine in its intensity. All God's great machinery works together in admirable union, like as it were, to adopt the homely simile of a potter, making vessels fit for use, and our proclivities are moulded at an early period of our lifetime for good or evil. Religion, instead of being regarded as the greatest cause of mundane happiness, is too often looked upon as a bugbear, and a coat necessary to be donned each Sunday. We are taught that man was not made for the Sabbath, but Sabbath for the man. As to the benefits of true religion, we are also taught by God Himself in the gospel of Jesus Christ, that its object is to make us worthy of salvation.

General Sheridan once remarked, "I tell you, sir, that the Federal forces were never defeated when they were in earnest; but I had under my command so many negative and so few positive men." So in like manner a Christian man or woman must regard life as a stern reality in which no hesitating course of religious views can be tolerated. The great God ordained that our Saviour should give Himself up a willing sacrifice for our sakes, so that we may be free from all blemish. He therefore was emphatically our Saviour, and let us do our part to save the world by our Christian deportment. With reference to this let us remember the prophecy of our Lord, who said He should see of the travail of his soul and should be satisfied. The object of our Heavenly Father with regard to ourselves is use, and this quality is to be found in our personal character, which may be likened to a trusty steel which is kept bright and trenchant for God's use. A man's face and body are an almost infallible index of his mind. Purity purifies. An open brow bespeaks the nobility of soul and makes a man look every inch a king.

There is something radically wrong in our existing state of society, so many centuries have sped their way and so few real Christians exist. More prayer and more effort is wanting in the glorious task of the regeneration of mankind. Science has given us electricity, nitro-glycerine, &c., but Christian work flags. Let us never forget that we are God's workmen on earth and into our hands have been committed the power of love and Christian charity. Jesus is the author and finisher of all that God's spirit and work develops, and he is King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

ALL SOULS' CHURCH.

Sermon by W. H. Brigham.

Rev. W. H. Brigham conducted the services in this church yesterday morning, and preached a brief sermon, taking his text from the sixth verse of the 139th Psalm, which bears relation to the impossibility of comprehending God and His workings perfectly. The preacher said that the expression contained in the text might be the utterance of a soul in deep contemplation or of a bewildered soul not satisfied with anything. From the simple fact which the words of the text contained none would maintain that a man can know all. No intelligent man would assert even that the words of inspiration gave a comprehensive description of all the knowledge of God. Infinity could not be brought into the compass of finity, and the spirit which was supreme and divine could not be brought into the limits of any space. One school of German painters defined this outward world, with all its wonders, as "a God coming to the knowledge of Himself." The fact was that unattainable knowledge was at once an abstract conviction and an experimental conviction. Even if we started with the hope that we could find out the future the very conception of the divine nature told us very clearly that it never could be known by human mind or intellect. For, if we could attain to that knowledge, we must be divine. It was not the purpose of his discourse to dwell upon the general fact of the unutterable greatness of God. He would take a narrower range than that. In general terms he might say that the impossibility of reaching the completeness of divine knowledge was no reason why we must not seek that knowledge, and that ought to have no influence in keeping us back. In the first place, then, there was a natural instinct which drew men towards heavenly wisdom. It was the soul's impulse and the soul's right to make these inquiries—that was the soul's natural desire. Every spirit longed to penetrate the secrets by which it was surrounded—to rise from facts to laws, from phenomena to causes. There was a longing in the soul of man to acquire more knowledge of the spiritual workings of its Creator. Why should the soul of man, then, be hindered from inquiry and searching into theology and heavenly things. There was no study which more exalted and inspired the human soul than that of theology. The pagan fable that "One morsel of ambrosia is worth more than a loaf of baked bread" would apply here with the greatest aptitude. There was positive good in the soul when it advanced a single step in its investigations. We found, after long groping and wandering through narrow and dark passages, that we knew but little more of the secrets of that darkness than before. Groping in the labyrinths of religious thought, however, left more joy in the soul than all the possible or conceivable joys of physical life. We really learned a great deal when we tried to know God and his works. These flights of the soul in thought were not empty beatings of the air. Every serious contemplation of divine things made us in some degree wiser. No science, after all, produced more positive results than sacred science. The study of divine things might now show us clearly what God is or where He is, but it made it more and more impossible for us to disbelieve his teachings and laws.

STANTON STREET BAPTIST CHURCH.

Sermon by Rev. John J. Owen, of London.

A large congregation assembled yesterday at the Stanton street Baptist church to listen to preaching by the Rev. John J. Owen, of London, who comes to this country to make it his home. The reverend gentlemen pronounced an eloquent and instructive discourse, securing the golden opinions of his hearers, who, at the close of the service, with a unanimous voice praised his zealous efforts. Steps will be taken to ordain him as the regular pastor. He selected his text from Second Thessalonians, i., 10. "When he shall come to be glorified in his saints and to be admired in all them that believe."

Jesus, who came in sorrow and a sufferer, who was persecuted and maligned, who was crucified and buried, and who ascended from a mountain in Galilee to sit at the right hand of the Father, will not come again to undergo another glorious martyrdom, to be the target of jeers and the subject of ridicule and hate; but, surrounded by His children, the commander of a victorious host of His believers, He will guide them in triumph to the Promised Land and lead them to the steps of the heavenly throne. It is to this majestic mission of the Redeemer that the text refers, and for its future completion all souls should prepare. They should be washed of sin, and compensate by repentance the vicarious atonement of Christ. He will be "glorified in his saints" under a variety of circumstances, which the words of the Gospel must suggest. First, in the forgiveness of sins, to effect which Christ came on earth and followed His unexampled career as the Holy Teacher. He wandered from land to land, from shore to shore, and planted the primitive Church by His weary pilgrimages, and sent His apostles to the distant ends of the earth to spread abroad the fruits of Christianity. And now how changed is the aspect of the world—how different from eighteen hundred years ago! In Europe, in Asia, in Africa and America, and soon among the savages of Australasia will the standard of Christ float universal. His wondrous example shall change the heart of the wicked and depraved, as Paul, the blasphemer and sinner, became the Apostle and advocate of God. But something more than forgiveness must be had; the renovation of the soul must be accomplished, and the bad must become the good, the sinful the pure; for without a change of heart and an acquiescence of mind we would not clasp the hand of our friend who has betrayed us, and whose devotion must be tried by infallible test. Then again will He be glorified in His saints. Another consideration is the vast number that will be found following in His army. Men will be endued with the new spirit, and in countless numbers will sing the praises of God. How often on this earth do we see goodness and genius lying neglected in obscurity, while vice and corruption stalk with giant strides through the avenues of society! John Bunyan in Bedford jail and Charles II. on the throne of England! What a picture! The Apostle Paul in the dungeons of Rome, guarded by the soldiers of Nero, who in crime and cruelty wore the imperial purple with a ruthless hand! What a contrast! These things, these anomalies, will not exist in the great future. The poor and humble, the oppressed and downtrodden, the suffering but noble, will be received in heaven, where God shall judge them according as they deserve.

THE SECOND ADVENT.

The End of the World Probable at Any Moment—Meeting of the Happy Lambs who Have a "Sure Thing" on Being Saved.

A baker's dozen of motley individuals assembled yesterday afternoon at No. 405 Grand street to interchange their ideas on the speedy dissolution of the earth and to hear the so-called Elder Burns read of the end of the age from St. Peter and on solar mutability.

On a small platform at the upper end of the room under a sign board bearing the name "Neptune" was a short man with bushy gray whiskers around his jaws and gray hair scattered across his head. He wore an air of penetrating philosophy and a pair of gold spectacles. The latter he kept resting alternately on his forehead and on the bridge of his nose. This individual was Elder Burns. On the benches at the left were:—A man who looked somewhat like an animated corpse, with forehead which, if continued upward about two inches, would form an isosceles triangle; another man with bushy gray hair, a linen coat and a hump on his right shoulder; a third with cadaverous looking jaws, sandy whiskers and blonde hair, well soaped down; a thin young female in a purple and white striped dress, shabby genteel jockey hat and a loud, shrill voice, as was evidenced by her in the charming choruses with which the performances were varied; then there was what looked to be a married couple, the lady dressed in black and with a long nose, while the man, an exquisite (?) singer, was partially bald, and looked as if he ought to have better sense than be found in such company as a believer. Then there were a couple of young men, or half grown boys, who made tubes of long cards and gazed at the elder as if through a telescope; a woman with rather masculine cut of countenance, and a black fan, which she kept in motion either fanning herself or poking a young man, who sat near her and would go to sleep, and stay asleep until a poke from the fan would rouse him. On the other side was a short man, with a square head, covered with bushy gray hair, a thick body, covered with a greasy looking coat; a small woman, with a flat small forehead, a nose that looked as if made for a portion of a headline in a child's first writing book, and wearing a bonnet which seemed as if it had been originally a genuine coal scuttle, but had been chopped off at the front and at the cape, until it left her little weazened face and dirty neck in bold relief. There were a few others of no particular class, who came to look on, or who might possibly have been believers. To this remarkably intelligent audience the Elder Burns read the third chapter of the Second Epistle of St. Peter. After he had squirmed through the epistle he went on in a rambling, disconnected discourse to assure his nearers that they might expect the coming of the end at any moment. The prophecies had all been fulfilled in regard to the things which should immediately precede the coming, but there was no prophecy that stated when the second coming of the Lord would be. There was a sort of interregnum or intermediate time between the fulfilment of the prophecies and the destruction of the earth, and we are in that time now. The elder then went on to state that he had a paper which was sent him by a friend in England. It was a "regular paper, you see (here he held it up to let them see), and not a religious paper." From this he read an article on some solar "dinonemee" which was observed some ten years ago. This was the article on "Solar Mutability," but from his style of reading it very little could be understood. The elder went on to rebut the idea of spirits. He had never heard of any spirits going up to heaven. He read of a man going up to heaven in a chariot, and he read of another ascending into heaven, but they went there bodily. He thought we heard a great deal too much about spirits; he heard of spirits that could eat, and all that sort of thing. After struggling through an hour and a quarter, during which time the sacrilegious telescope makers had gone to sleep, and three or four others of the audience had followed their example, the elder closed by praying that the day of the second advent may come quickly. The little man with the bushy head and greasy coat announced that they wanted a little more money to pay the rent this month, whereupon the animated corpse made a bee line for one corner of the platform, and thence, again on a bee line, toward the seats, and moving as if he were a stiff automaton presented a tin plate under the nose of each person in the room, and obtained, perhaps, seventeen cents. On invitation of the aforementioned little man, one of the brethren got up to "say something." An idea had struck him, not that it was new, but he had often used it in argument, and had but just learned that Peter used the same idea. He never knew before that he and Peter had expressed the same opinion on that point. He said:—Here you see he says go on down, down to the—where, he says—yes, down, right along down here at the tenth verse (reading)—n—n—n—n—n—n—"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the—n—n—heavens pass away, great noise—n—n—n—and so on—melt, fervent heat, earth—n—n—n—shall be burned up." The speaking friends had asked him where he and his people would be when the burning time came. Why that was the easiest thing in the world to answer. Christ was agoin' to come down and take them up with him until the burning was passed away. Paul had said there would be a new earth, but he knew better, and Adam Baker had said that that meant a renewed earth. The little woman with the chopped-off coal scuttle then got up and rattled off a rigmarole she read in the Sermon on the Mount, "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." She never could find anybody to explain that to her. The poor were the meek, it wasn't the rich, and the poor didn't inherit the land. She thought "the Sermon on the Mount was the best sermon ever preached, she did; and thought it was well worth reading." As she spoke she accompanied each syllable with a nervous, Candle lecture bob of the head, and reminded one of a dog biting at a bone. She made a vigorous affirmation of the idea that there would be spiritual bodies after the burning up; the bodies would be formed just like those we have now, but they would be spiritual. "If anybody wants to know where we will be when the fire comes why just tell 'em we'll be right up there, 'longside o' Christ, until the purifyin' is done; that's where we'll be. We've got a sure thing on being saved; an' what I say is, fly swiftly round ye wheels of time an' bring the day—that's all."

The speeches were interlarded with hymns, sung in execrable time and tune by the "entire congregation" (!), and interrupted occasionally by pious grunts and noises resembling that of a small drum fish; by cries of "Amen!" "Jes so!" "Ya—as!" "Yea—is!" and so forth. The entire performances passed off, no doubt, to the satisfaction of Elder Burns and his enlightened congregation, and were closed by the short man in the greasy coat asking all present to come again.

KINGS COUNTY POLITICS.

The Campaign and Its Issues—Opposition to Commissions—Restoration of Power to the Mayor and Common Council—Political Organizations at Work—A Few of the Candidates—The Offices to be Filled.

It is only now that the politicians, and those who have an eye on them, are beginning to awake to the fact that the time for action is drawing close to hand; that the plans for the fall campaign should be looked well to; that the hordes and cliques should be drilled, disciplined and marshalled in their respective divisions, and, in brief, the clarion note of preparation should be sounded without delay, if, indeed, they would be in readiness for the approaching contest. It is true that this is the season of vacation and rest, that the courts are closed, and but little is being done in the several departments of the municipal government; that the leading lights of both the democratic and republican parties are rusticating and recuperating for the trying time. But nevertheless there are subtle agencies at work for either weal or woe on both sides, which are agitating a very large and influential portion of the community. The questions at issue in Kings county upon which argument will be based in the political canvass are of the utmost importance to the taxpayers of Brooklyn, involving the principle of right between the administration of the offices of municipal government by the Mayor, Common Council and other department officials, chosen by ballot, and an ill-advised and extravagant expenditure of funds by commissions corruptly appointed, in opposition to and without consulting the will of the people. The commission system in Brooklyn, most sweeping in the exercise of the privileges accorded it by the Legislature, is popular only where actual and direct benefit is received from it, and its merits are too slight in proportion to the lavishness of the outlay of public moneys entailed to elicit in this city anything akin to commendation of the experiments. The latest and most sweeping thrust at the pockets of the taxpayers is the Water and Sewerage Commission, the boundless powers of which in all matters of sewerage, street cleaning, repairing, repaving, grading, cutting and filling streets have been fully explained in these columns on a previous occasion. While the Commissioners are all reputable and intelligent men, whose characters are believed to be unimpeachable, the restraint upon their official transactions is too slight to satisfy many as to the infallibility of their judgment and the propriety of the mode of procedure. Already the warning of the economical Mayor, Martin Kalbfleisch, given utterance to two years ago in his message, against the likelihood of the sobriquet "City of Bonds" being given to the city if more precaution was not taken in the outlay of public money, is beginning to assert a meaning. It can no longer be denied that the high rate of taxation here drove many millions of capital from Brooklyn to Westchester county, New Jersey and elsewhere in the vicinity of New York, which would have found its way to the City of Churches, were it not for the rapidly rising rate of taxation, and the prospect of still further increase.

During the past week a movement was put on foot by several leading and influential gentlemen to organize and combine against the further continuance of commissions and to urge the advocacy of the centralization of the municipal powers by restoring the Mayor and Common Council to all the powers formerly possessed by them. Among the more prominent citizens who are pledged to further the interests of the objects of the meeting are ex-Judge Morse, Messrs. Garrison, J. E. Cammeyer, J. J. Studwell, James M. Seabury, Stephen Crowell, William E. Sprague, ex-Alderman Sharkey, G. I. Bennett, M. D., Alderman Fisher and E. Cleave. The new organization, which bids fair to grow in popularity as the questions at issue are more thoroughly ventilated, is to be known as the Citizens' Association, and will take an active part in the coming campaign, the members pledging themselves to vote against corruption on all sides and support the best candidates only, irrespective of party. They will not, of course, place any ticket in the field, but will defeat, as far as in their power lies, all attempts to foist dishonest or corrupt officials upon them. They can no longer stand the high rates of taxation, and, therefore, bestir themselves for a remedy, discarding party ties in doing so.

The People's Democratic General Committee of Kings county, the remnant of the Montague Hall Committee of 1867-8, is still in existence, and working slowly and surely in the furtherance of its design—the overthrow of the "old ring," which has grown so obnoxious to the more respectable though unorganized portion of the democracy. S. M. Ostrander, the chairman of the committee named, backed by Joe Winters, the secretary, and a few steadfast opponents of the "mighty combination, or mystic circle," have been working assiduously in the promulgation of their doctrine and political creed, urging the same to be free of access to the primaries, no ballot box stuffing, and that no one man shall think and act for all. Rotation in office being democratic in principle, is also desirable to the new committee, who are clamorous against the continuity of official relationship with the public pap which so many pets of the "powers that be" have so long enjoyed to the exclusion of better citizens and fairer dealing men. There is one great drawback which has been felt in the endeavors of the workers of this committee, namely—paucity of finances, wherewith to keep the wheels of the machine free from clogging. Another and perhaps the sorest obstacle is the failure of certain prominent and wealthy individuals in the political arena, yet opposed to corruption in every form, to coalesce with them and lend the weight of their influence to the movement. At the present time a little game of "fast and loose" is in progress, which will finally be settled, however, and with it the prospects of the new committee, for good or bad.

In the meantime the "regular" Democratic General Committee are "getting things down to a point" after their own peculiar and well experienced way, relying again, as in former years, upon the credulity of the democracy and faith (not reposed) in the integrity of their intentions. The "slate" has not yet been made out, but the pencil is sharpened, and outlines can be traced upon the surface, which assume a shape, though indefinite. The "end men," while they are not indifferent altogether to the "breakers ahead" in the opposition, both organized and otherwise, with which they will have to contend in the November scramble for office, are nevertheless as confident of ultimate success as ever, and no doubt will make a compromise in one or two instances in the selection of an "outsider" for a place on the ticket, as a blind, as it were, to the unwitting of the electors.

The offices to be voted for in Kings county are as follows:—A Justice of the Supreme Court for the Second Judicial district, in place of John A. Lott; a Senator for the Second and Third districts; nine members of Assembly; a School Commissioner for that part of the county not included in the city of Brooklyn, in place of Voorhies Dorbaugh; a Sheriff, in place of Patrick Campbell; two Superintendents of the Poor, in place of John Delaney and Henry Cook; two Justices of Sessions, in place of Stephen Voorhies and William H. Hoyt; a Mayor, in place of Martin Kalbfleisch, and a Street Commissioner; eleven Aldermen for the odd numbered wards, and a like number of Supervisors for the even wards. Thus it will be seen that the loaves and fishes to be divided are sufficient to excite the cupidity of a large host of place seekers.

The office of Sheriff, the most remunerative in any county, is also one of the greatest independence, that official being responsible only to the Governor for dereliction of duty. It is, therefore, highly essential that the incumbent be selected for his intelligence, character and strict integrity. The term of office expires for Sheriff Campbell on the last day of the present year, and being ineligible for re-election twice in immediate succession, under constitutional restriction, he will not, of course, be in the coming race for the snug office. The names brought forward for the custodian of the halter, or Sheriff, are Frank McNeely, Ninth ward (keeper of the Penitentiary); James McCauley, Tenth ward (Deputy Street Commissioner); Timothy Desmond, Twentieth ward, and Luke O'Rielly, Nineteenth ward (clerk in Justice Voorhies' court). The prospects of the aspirant is named rate in order of favor with the appointing powers in rotation given. If the Mayor is chosen from the Eastern District the Sheriff will be taken from the Western District. This little circumstance forms a strong link in the chain which binds the fate of the candidates for Mayor with the success of the aspirants for the nomination of Sheriff.

For Mayor Martin Kalbfleisch, the present incumbent, will be again in the field for the renomination of the democratic party. He is popular with the taxpayers for his strict adherence to what he conceives to be the best interests of his city in providing against all expenditures not deemed absolutely necessary for the welfare of the people. In adhering to this course of policy he has made enemies of the "ring," whose nefarious ends he has so often refused to stoop to; but if the latter can do no better they will let "bygones be bygones," put Mr. Kalbfleisch on their slate, just as a matter of policy, to run in on. Supervisor Howell, of the Eleventh ward, is the choice of the Committee for the Mayoralty at present, however. The record of the democratic majority of the Board of Supervisors during the past year is not of a character to recommend its members to favoritism with the electors in November next. Increasing salaries and *ad libitum* and perfecting extravagant so-called needed improvements has added greatly to the burden under which the county now labors.

The republicans will nominate Alderman Fisher, of the Nineteenth ward, who is personally popular and is a lawyer of considerable experience. Robert Furey will be a candidate for renomination as Street Commissioner. The emoluments of this position, though very much curtailed by the Water Commission, are sufficiently large to recommend the place as a snug one to its present incumbent, Mr. Furey. In the Second Senatorial district James F. Pierce will urge his interests for renomination before the Senatorial Convention, and in the Third district Henry C. Murphy will doubtless be returned to his seat in the State Legislature, as he desires to look after the interests of the East River Bridge Corporation, which will require an experienced person. The name of Supervisor Osborn, chairman of that Board, has also been spoken of in connection with the Senatorship of the Third district.

As for the Assembly seats and their candidates, speculation at this early period would be useless, where so many declare intention of going in for Assemblymen this year. It is safe to assert, however, that Mr. John C. Jacobs, Ninth district, will probably go to Albany as a representative, with a view to attaining the Speakership of the House. Aldermen of the odd wards are all up for re-election, and are supported by those who "wish they may get it." The Republican General Committee are not exciting themselves as yet about the prospects, but will exert every influence to assist in the division of opinion on local issues in the ranks of the democracy, and, if possible, run in a few of their own party through the breach which they will widen, unless an acceptable ticket be presented by the majority party this year.

MILITARY NOTES.

To-morrow (Tuesday) the "Old Fifth" company of the Seventh regiment will celebrate the anniversary of the company by an excursion to the "Richmond Club" grounds, New Dorp, S. I., which was the camping ground of the Seventh in 1860. The command will leave the armory at a quarter past seven o'clock A. M., in full fatigue (white pants), and embark on board the steamer Wm. Fletcher, which will land at the club grounds. In the afternoon the company will go by special train to Tottenville, where they will be entertained by the Manhatta Club, who have extended an invitation to the company to visit them. The command will arrive at the foot of West Twenty-third street about eight P. M., where it will be received by the First company, Captain Allison, and the Fourth company, Captain Kipp, and escorted to the armory. The "Old Fifth" will doubtless have a big time, for they are as jolly a set of fellows in a social way as there is in the regiment. Ryder couldn't command any other kind of a company.

The Veteran Association of the Seventy-first regiment held its second quarterly meeting on the 21st ult., at Major Walcott's, in Fourth avenue. After certain changes were made in the constitution of the association ex-Captain Seymour A. Bunce was elected permanent secretary, and ex-Captain O. P. Smith treasurer. The badge to be worn by each member, which was adopted at the meeting, will be a very pretty one. The design is a wreath of oak leaves surrounding a Greek cross, with acorn points. The upper portion of the cross bears the figures "71," the sides the letters "N." and "G." and the centre the letter "V." The clasp or fastening pin is in the shape of a Roman bundle of fasces, with its axe. The badges will be of gold and enamel, the wreath green, the cross white, outlined with black; the figures, letters and mountings blue, all handsomely enamelled, the whole forming a very neat, elegant and appropriate badge.

The annual picnic of the Irish Brigade Officers' Club will take place on Thursday, 12th inst., at Dudley's Grove. A first class steamboat and mammoth barge will take up the guests and members of the association at Hamilton avenue ferry, Brooklyn, and at several piers along the North river. It is expected that a numerous and pleasant company will assemble under the green flags, as of old, and that many happy reunions will result.

Companies A, B and E, Forty-seventh regiment, will soon go on an excursion to Bay Ridge. Company E has inaugurated a system of target practice which the other companies of the regiment are following up, and it may be that the whole regiment will next season go out of town to practice. This is as it should be, and if every regiment of the National Guard would adopt the target practice as part of its drill it would be all the more efficient for active service if it ever should be called upon to test the value of a steady hand and a certain aim.

Company A, Sixth regiment, had a target practice at Karl Park on Tuesday last. Captain Max Zenn after the firing distributed prizes in the shape of watches, ten-dollar gold pieces, orders for furniture, &c. Dancing wound up the festivities of the day.

Company C, Thirteenth regiment, Captain A. W. Powell, will go on an excursion to Hillside Grove, on the Hudson, to-morrow.

Adjutant Frederick J. Kauber, of the battalion of the Thirty-second regiment, has received from the commander-in-chief a brevet as captain for service in the late rebellion.

The drum corps of the Fifth regiment went to Funk's Union Park on Monday last on a target practice excursion. Drum Major Charles Berabert won the first prize and the gold medal.

The following named officers have been commissioned by the Commander-in Chief in the National Guard, S. N. Y., from July 10, 1869, to July 31, 1869:—

First Regiment of Cavalry.—John H. Timmerman, adjutant, with rank from July 10, vice W. H. Middendorf, resigned.

Third Regiment of Cavalry.—Augustus Funk, captain, with rank from May 26, vice Henry Clauson, Jr., resigned. John W. Haaren, captain, with rank from May 31, vice Henry Wholman, deceased. Henry Schiakendick, second lieutenant, with rank from May 31, vice John W. Haaren, promoted.

First Regiment of Infantry.—Alexander D. Bailey, first lieutenant, with rank from July 11, vice F. M. Clark, resigned. William H. Hoffman, second lieutenant, with rank from July 11, vice S. Carson, Jr., removed from district.

Fifth Regiment of Infantry.—Henry Engel, first lieutenant, with rank from June 25, vice John M. Hein, resigned.

Sixth Regiment of Infantry.—Edward B. Kinney, adjutant, with rank from June 1, vice William Bartman, declined.

Eleventh Regiment of Infantry.—George J. Dambman, first lieutenant, with rank from May 27, vice Frederick Bauman, resigned. John Hoffman, second lieutenant, with rank from May 27, vice George J. Dambman, promoted.

Twenty-third Regiment of Infantry.—Charles S. West, second lieutenant, with rank from June 7, vice Henry S. Manning, promoted.

Seventy-ninth Regiment of Infantry.—Joseph Ross, captain, with rank from June 17, vice John McInness, resigned. William S. Montgomery, captain, with rank from June 9, vice Robert Campbell, resigned.

Ninety-sixth Regiment of Infantry.—Frederick Snyder, first lieutenant, with rank from June 7, original. Antonio O. Jones, second lieutenant, with rank from June 7, vice Frederick Snyder, promoted.

The following resignations of officers have been accepted during the same period:—

Battery of Artillery, Fifth Brigade.—Second Lieutenant David Donald, July 16.

Fifth Regiment of Infantry.—Captain Henry Scharch, July 31.

Seventh Regiment of Infantry.—Surgeon E. B. Dalton, July 16.

Eleventh Regiment of Infantry.—Second Lieutenant Charles Ihle, July 31.

Fourteenth Regiment of Infantry.—Colonel E. B. Fowler, July 16.

Twenty-third Regiment of Infantry.—Second Lieutenant Franklyn Colt, July 17.

Sixty-ninth Regiment of Infantry.—Captain Thomas Stanley, July 31.

Seventy-first Regiment of Infantry.—First Lieutenant H. H. Parkin, July 19.

On the 6th of next month Company I, Fifty-fifth regiment, Captain Ingehand, will celebrate the anniversary of the regiment at the East River Park.

All the officers of the Seventh regiment were sent to Blackwell's Island on Friday last by the Commissioners of Charities and Correction. They were not kept there over the day, however, but were treated in the most gracious manner by the Commissioners. A collation was, of course, a part of the treatment. It may be said that the officers were sent to the island by no fault of their own. The Commissioners were at the bottom of the thing and will be held responsible.

THE EDGEFIELD (GA.) TRAGEDY.

The Cresswell Brothers Ambuscaded.

(From the Augusta (Ga.) Chronicle and Sentinel August 6.)

On yesterday evening we were informed, by a gentleman just from Edgefield Court House, that the Cresswell difficulty had culminated in a fearful tragedy. On last Wednesday afternoon Mr. D. Cresswell and an older brother, Mr. Charles Cresswell, left this city in a buggy to return to their homes, near Ninety-six, S. C. Late on the evening of that day the two brothers reached Edgfield Court House and stopped for the night at the village tavern. On yesterday morning, between eight and nine o'clock, the Cresswells again started on their journey, taking in the buggy with them a sixteen shooting Winchester rifle, as if anticipating trouble. They had not been gone long when some one came into town and said the two men had been murdered. A party immediately went out to ascertain if the rumor was correct. A mile and a half from Edgefield, on the road to Ninety-six, the bodies of the Cresswells were found. The older, Charles Cresswell, was perfectly dead—the body being almost riddled with buckshot. D. Cresswell was seriously if not fatally wounded. One hand was pierced by two balls; the other hand by one; the chin was also struck; one ball entered the side, another the stomach. The latter is reported to have said that two men concealed by the wayside fired simultaneously as they saw the buggy, afterward making their escape. He identified one of the party as George Addison, Jr., a brother of a young lady concerned in a previous affair. The wounded Cresswell is now an inmate of a private house in Edgefield.

A DANGEROUS PAVEMENT.

A complaint is made of the shockingly neglected pavement on Bleecker street, between Broadway and Crosby street, where a lady sustained serious injuries by stepping into a hole or breach. This dangerous place has been in the same condition, it is stated, for twenty years. The police from the Central Office stumble and hobble over it daily in squads. The Street Commissioner has been appealed to, and yet nothing is done.

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

Earthquakes, Volcanic Eruptions, Political Agitations and Military Executions.

Nicaraguan Revolution and the Isthmus Canal.

The steamship Henry Chauncey, Captain Seabury, from Aspinwall on the 31st ult., arrived at this port yesterday, bringing our files and correspondence from Central America, Colombia and the Pacific States of South America.

CENTRAL AMERICA.

Mexican Indians on the Guatemalan Frontier—Finance and Agriculture.

PANAMA, July 31, 1869.

The steamship Costa Rico arrived here yesterday from San José de Guatemala and intermediate ports.

GUATEMALA.

Through Guatemala there is late news from the Mexican frontier. The Indians of the State of Chapas had revolted and were committing serious depredations. Those of a town called Chamula, seconded by two or three other towns of considerable population, had raised an insurrection against the whites and murdered the curate, the school teacher and other residents. Afterwards about 10,000 of them marched on San Cristobal, in the neighborhood of which several engagements have taken place with the government forces, in which the Indians were defeated; but they still continued to threaten the city and receive reinforcements from other points.

The republic of Guatemala is perfectly tranquil and affords no news of importance.

The government has already redeemed $126,404 of the debts bearing the heaviest interest, with money recently coined from the gold lately received from California.

NICARAGUA.

The official bulletin of the Jerez-Martinez provisional government, dated Leon, July 8, and also some documents from Managua, the seat of the legitimate government, to July 12, have been received.

Francisco Baca, Provisional President of the revolutionary government, has issued a decree annulling that of the 10th of March regarding coffee planting. Another decree prohibits travelling in the interior or leaving the country without passports signed by the Minister General or the General-in-Chief. A decree has been issued facilitating the entry of merchandise at the port of Corinto in cases where the invoices have not been received.

The government forces are daily increasing and hopes were entertained that the rebellion would soon be quelled.

Colonel Hagarathy, a well known and old Californian, is supposed to have been recently drowned in Nicaragua while bathing.

COSTA RICA.

Congress was convened to meet July 29.

The country is represented as being very unsettled.

The work on the road from San Jose to the Atlantic progresses. Its successful completion depends a good deal on whether Señor Figueroa succeeds in obtaining the $2,000,000 loan he has gone to negotiate for in Europe on behalf of the government.

COLOMBIA.

Trade Very Dull on the Isthmus—French Canal Projects—Clerics for Rome.

PANAMA, July 31, 1869.

The dreary dulness and stale stupidity of Panama life during the absence of steamers in port has no equal. Business on the Isthmus is extremely dull; in fact, dead. Comment is unnecessary, in a business point of view, as to affairs over the Isthmus.

There seems to be no doubt that the French Company formed for the express purpose of constructing an interoceanic canal through Nicaragua will be successful in their efforts. The authorities of that republic appear to be more alive to the great commercial necessities of the age than are those of Colombia. If the French make the enterprise a success foreign Powers will have gained a powerful foothold on the American Continent. What the final result of foreign monopolies on American soil must end in is only a matter of time.

On the subject of the Isthmus Canal, the Panama *Star* of the 27th inst. has the following in an editorial:—

It seems that owing to the interest held in the river by Costa Rica Nicaragua could not conclude the contract ceding the use of the river without the consent of the former, and this Mr. Montealegre was sent to obtain. Not only was he most cordially received, but a treaty was at once entered into with him by the President of Costa Rica granting all the privileges Nicaragua required for the fulfilment of the contract with Mons. Chevalier, and this treaty now merely awaits the confirmation of the Congresses of the two republics, which will no doubt be granted at their next session. This may be looked upon as the settling of the question as to where the canal is to be built, and seemingly gives the death blow to any such work being undertaken during this century, if ever, on the isthmus of Panama. The United States government did all in its power to induce Colombia to grant it permission to build the canal here, but this solicitation, we have never satisfactorily ascertained why, was rejected at the very moment when the world at large expected it to be accepted with enthusiasm, and Congress was so obstinately opposed to the canal scheme that it actually