SOCIAL SCIENCE.

Highly Interesting Session Yesterday—Reading of Papers on "Emigration," by Commissioner Kapp—"Vaccination as an Element of Public Health," by Professor Bacon—"Election of Presidents of the United States," by Charles F. Adams, Jr.—"Reform of the Civil Service," by George W. Curtis, and "The National Census of 1870," by James A. Garfield.

The Social Science Association met again yesterday afternoon and evening, at the Historical Society's rooms, Second avenue, corner of Eleventh street. There was a larger audience present during the afternoon and evening sessions than there was the previous day.

Mr. Frederick Kapp read a paper on "Immigration." After informing his hearers why, in his opinion, people emigrated from foreign countries he said that from 1776 to 1815 emigration was very slim on account of the American Revolution and the European wars. Not more than 3,000 to 4,000 per annum arrived during this period. When peace was established it took a fresh start. The famine of 1816 and 1817 gave the first powerful impetus to a larger German emigration. In 1827 there were 11,952 emigrants from the United Kingdom, against 7,709 in 1826, and in 1828 there were 17,840. In 1829 the number sank to 10,594 and in 1830 to 8,874. The increase was the same every year of great distress or revolution or national distrust. During the decade from 1846 to 1854, inclusive, Ireland sent 1,512,109 emigrants to this country, but after that her quota has fallen off to less than one-half the average of the last ten years. The failure of the revolution of 1849-51 drove immense numbers of Germans over, but the greatest number came in 1854.

From 1845 to 1854, inclusive, the number of German emigrants was 1,226,392. In like manner emigration falls off as the chances of success in the United States grow less. The worse the times in Europe the larger the emigration; the worse the times in America the smaller the emigration. Emigrants prefer the United States to other countries equally fertile, beautiful and easy of access, because the soil is cheap, labor is better remunerated, and the government does not interfere with them. A colonist must be his own master in order to fully develop his physical and mental resources and to help in building up a free commonwealth. The Teutonic race represent the successful principle of self-government, and the Latin nations the unsuccessful one of State dependence and protection.

It was from no whim that the emigrant avoided the Southern States while they were cursed with slavery; it was because they had no civil liberty. Their natural advantages are in many instances much superior to those of the Northern States, and henceforth a tide of emigration will flow into them.

In 1856 every emigrant was questioned as to the amount of money he had with him; and the average of 142,342 new comers was found to be $68 08. But this was abandoned, as it was found that the full amounts were not truly stated. It was shown, however, that on the average they possessed a larger sum than is held by the localized residents of any known community.

It is estimated that the German emigrants alone brought into this country annually an average of about $11,000,000. Each one has clothing, tools and valuables also, the value of which, with his cash capital, amounts to $150 (a low estimate); so, as 250,000 emigrants arrived in New York in 1869, the national wealth was augmented that year by $37,500,000. An emigrant is worth just as much to this country as it costs to produce a native born laborer of the same average ability, but the net product of his labor, by which the country of his adoption grows and flourishes, varies according to his intellectual capacity, hereditary disposition and national qualities. It is calculated that an American farmer or skilled laborer costs $1,500 for the first fifteen years of his life, or until he becomes self-supporting; and a female $750. One-fifth of the emigrants are less than fifteen years old; but then there are more men coming over than women, and very many are of the higher order of skilled labor, the education of whom costs here five times $1,500. Taking them, however, to be half male and half female, each one will be worth $1,125 to this country, which it gains free of expense.

The number of emigrants who from May 5, 1847, to January 1, 1869, arrived at the port of New York was 4,038,991, which number represents a capital value of $1,125 and a cash value of $150, being $1,275 in all per head, or a total increase to the national wealth of $5,149,713,525. Assuming the immigration into the whole Union to be 300,000 souls per year, the country gains $382,500,000 per year, or more than $1,000,000 per day.

Without emigration the yearly increase of the population by excess of births and deaths is about 1.35, while the actual increase from 1840 to 1850 was 35.87, and from 1850 to 1860, 35.59 per cent; and we must understand that a large proportion of the births are those of the children of former emigrants. Had emigration been stopped in 1825 there would have been very little numerical change in the population in 1865. Immigration, therefore, has pushed the country forward forty years in national progress, and the increase in all the departments of national progress has been in exact ratio to the increase of population.

Immigration is a matter of State concern alone. It is argued that Congress should take it in charge, and that the commutation money of $2 50 per head collected at the principal ports of entry should be distributed *pro rata* among the several States. New York, where five-sevenths of the immigrants are landed, is especially attacked; yet this State is the only one which has organized a proper system for the protection of immigration. It took a long time to perfect it, however. Formerly emigrants were treated like brutes and shamefully robbed; but at last the community saw that it suffered as much as the emigrants by this, and the Board of Commissioners of Emigration was appointed on the 5th of May, 1847. The Commissioners, who serve gratuitously, are the guardians of a fund credited by the commutation money of $2 50 per head, which the emigrant has a right to fall back upon. Last year the receipts amounted to a little more than $670,000, and the Commissioners now hold in trust on Ward's Island a property valued at $2,000,000, and are perfectly able to provide for emigrants in all cases of necessity. The expenses last year were:—For salaries, rent, repairs, &c., of Castle Garden, $120,000; to hospitals for care of emigrants, $100,000; and for 11,513 inmates of hospitals and refugees on Ward's Island, $230,000.

It is true that only ten to fifteen per cent of the whole number of emigrants apply for support, but the free landing of their baggage, the protection against fraud or imposition, facility of procuring passage tickets and correct weighing of baggage are worth more than two dollars and fifty cents. Besides, the emigrant, in case of sickness, when he remains five years after his arrival, has the right of admission to the hospitals on Ward's Island, and he is taken care of when destitute. Congress has only the right to protect the emigrant on the high seas; after he lands his case is purely a police regulation, in which the State alone is interested.

If Congress should take hold of him his case would soon become the subject of political chicanery, and the result may be imagined. About fifty per cent of all new comers go to the country, and of these again about seventy-five per cent go to the West, so that in proportion to its size and population New York derives less benefit from immigration than the Western States. The healthy, industrious and wealthy emigrant generally goes West or South, and the worthless one remains behind. The Board of Emigration prevents disease from spreading all over the country. It is specially important that the emigrant should not be imposed upon, as he then loses his elasticity of mind and trust in his new relations, and becomes more of a burden than a source of profit.

The emigrant is still shamefully abused in his transit to this country and Congress should endeavor to effect some international treaties for his protection. It has a fine opportunity now in the offer of the North German Confederation. Let it be done as soon as possible.

The next paper read was by Professor Francis Bacon, of Yale College, on the subject of "Vaccination as an Element of Public Health."

The Professor began with some historical account of the great destructiveness of smallpox. The ravages of this disease, he said, have been so far restrained by the use of vaccination that they have become a matter of history rather than of present interest. If the smallpox were as fatal now as in former times we should have from 3,000 to 6,000 deaths from it in the city of New York as an ordinary matter. The speaker here gave some account of what was done in the process of inoculating the smallpox, which preceded the introduction of vaccination, and pointed out the fact that, although the disease was usually mitigated by this means, yet the general mortality from smallpox was increased by inoculation, every inoculated case acting as a focus of infection; so that in several countries inoculation by the smallpox has been prohibited by law. A historical sketch of the introduction of vaccination was next given by the speaker, and a description of the phenomena of vaccination, showing how complete the protection against smallpox is when vaccination has been thoroughly performed; also that vaccination may be used even after smallpox has been contracted and before that disease has had time to develop, with the result of greatly mitigating its effects. He showed at length, by an immense array of statistics, that the degree of security against smallpox is in exact ratio to the thoroughness of the vaccination. He stated that in England, at the close of the last century, there died from smallpox annually three thousand to every million of population, while from 1841 to 1853 the average was only 394, and from 1854 to 1863 inclusive, 174. In many European continental countries and cities, where vaccination has been even more thoroughly performed than in England, the results have been still more striking. In England the improved legislation on the subject and the more thorough enforcement of vaccination have shown their effects from year to year in the steadily decreased death rate. The utility of revaccination after a certain period was next shown by a variety of statistics.

The supposed evil consequences of vaccination were next alluded to, and the groundless character shown of the charge, loosely and popularly made, that other diseases are propagated thereby. Dr. Marson, of England, who has performed over 50,000 vaccinations, declared that he has never seen other diseases communicated with the vaccine disease, nor does he believe in the popular reports that they are so communicated. No doubt ignorance and recklessness have made vaccination a pest; but these are cases of malpractice and do not detract from the credit or advantages of vaccination. Professor Bacon then took up the question how far the vaccine virus loses its efficacy by transmission through many series of human subjects. He believed that the ideas entertained by some of the profession to this effect were founded on carelessness and inefficiency in the performance of vaccination rather than on any real decrease of power through transmission. The importance was shown of increasing the facilities with which vaccination can be given to the public; and while it seemed impracticable in this country to attempt to enforce vaccination upon everybody, under legal penalties, yet the government may in various ways facilitate this process. 1. The establishment of a bureau of vaccination by the general government was proposed, with a sufficient corps of officers. The duties of said bureau to consist in supplying vaccine matter of unimpeachable character to all proper persons making application for the same; in accumulating, studying and diffusing evidence relating to vaccination, and in conferring with such commissioners from the several States as might desire information or aid. 2. Commissions of inquiry to be appointed by the several States. 3. Provisions for free public vaccination by individual States should be established upon the most liberal scale. The advantage of having vaccination performed by public officers, specially qualified and instructed for the purpose and supplied with the best material, was strongly insisted upon. Professor Bacon concluded his paper by an exposition of the English laws relating to vaccination and their practical working.

Charles Francis Adams, Jr., next read a carefully prepared paper on the "Election of Presidents of the United States," in which he advocated the election by popular vote instead of by electors. He said:—

Reform is essential to political health. All who have considered the subject arrive at one conclusion—that a change in the constitution is imperative. The necessary modification will be found reduced to form in the report of Mr. Lawrence, of Ohio, on the New York election frauds.

After dilating upon the present mode of electing the President and reading the article of the constitution which provides the mode, he said:—

Here is a tangible measure of vital reform which seems to be unexceptionable. What can be done to make it a practical question? How can its adoption be forwarded? Politicians, caucuses and conventions cannot be relied on in this matter. This measure seeks to dry up, not to create a fountain of corruption. It carries with it no political patronage, no spirit of victory. If there is, then, any public field in which the labors of this association can be made useful, if there is any function it can fulfil, it is on putting its shoulder to the wheel to forward such measures as that proposed by Mr. Lawrence. It should adopt such deserving political orphans. Political organizations will not do this, yet somebody must. To this work the American Social Science Association proposes more especially to devote itself, and it has already begun by adopting, so far as it may, that most deserving and most neglected of political orphans, the civil service reform. That it may efficiently prosecute this labor it asks support and encouragement from the large class who, while wishing well to their country, are yet conscious that, immersed in other pursuits, they do not do their full duty as citizens towards it. With this end in view I would now respectfully suggest that this association do memorialize Congress on the subject of the immediate passage by it, and submission to the Legislatures of the several States, with a view to its adoption into the federal constitution, of the amendment to that instrument recommended at the close of report No. 31, House documents, Fortieth Congress, third session.

At the evening session a highly elaborate and entertaining paper on "Reform of the Civil Service" was read by George William Curtis.

Mr. Curtis sought rather to call attention to the necessity of the reform by exposing the present condition of the service and the inevitable result of the existing system than by considering the details of a method. He began by relating an anecdote of President Lincoln's humorous impatience of the importunity of politicians seeking to control appointments. The present qualification for the civil service of the United States is unscrupulous party zeal. Our system is, therefore the most ignorant, wasteful and destructive possible. It not only fosters political corruption, but it poisons the springs of moral action in the nation itself, and so endangers its permanence. Violating the fundamental principles of thrift and economy, we furnish the internal condition that an enemy most loves to see. The same simple virtues that founded the nation can alone preserve it. These are the plainest of truths, but we despise them. It is claimed that ours is a government of parties, and that parties can be effectually managed only by patronage. But actually this is a government of the people through parties, and when it is urged that the dominant party must be supported by the public treasury it is really asserted that frugality, efficiency and honesty are incompatible with popular government. The practice of a strict party disposition of the public service was not that of the first administrations; but even then the evils of a want of proper organization were apparent. Office was held at the will of the appointing power, not by any tenure of fidelity or industry. Continuance in office was the practice, but it was not the law. The practice, however, founded on reason, was so respected that the Congressional Committee upon Retrenchment state that they have not learned of the removal of a single subordinate officer, except for cause, from the beginning of Washington's administration to that of Jackson. Vacancies, which were not made, but "happened," were filled, however, from the dominant party. President Jackson introduced the present system, which makes the emoluments of the whole civil service the spoils of the successful party. Its motto is "*Vae victis*"—woe to the conquered—and whichever party is the victor the country is always the victim. Every four years the whole machinery of the government is pulled to pieces, and the great officers of the United States become mere office-holders. The subordinate officers are not appointed for fitness, and the country is, therefore, served more wretchedly and at a more extravagant rate than any citizen. The officer, taught by the system to consider his office an insecure prize, seeks to make the most of it in the shortest time. He is judged by the appointing power not by the manner in which he does his duty, but by the zeal with which he serves his party. He must do the "hard work" of the campaign, and so sophisticated has the public mind become that an office-holder writes that office-holders ought to take the active part of the business into their own hands. The public yields and the consequence, and the result is that we are obliged to vote for candidates nominated by those who are selfishly interested in their success. Of course the reputation of the service is long since ruined. There are, indeed, men of the highest honor, industry and ability in the civil service of the United States; but those qualities do not make them any surer of their positions. They know better than any of us that a position procured without qualification and lost without fault—a post without honor or promotion—cannot appeal to the ambition of worthy men. But the system is not only absurd and wasteful, but by exasperating party spirit it makes the food of thousands of families dependent upon the result of an election, and so embitters the election to a perilous degree. Nor are its evils limited to the service. The bad example visits every department of activity and industry. If fitness is disregarded in public office it will become less valuable in private employment. Moreover the moral standard of the country must inevitably decline, and we shall see conspicuous citizens publicly professing respect for those whom they could not welcome to their homes. These facts must at last force home the question whether a nation becoming morally rotten can long endure. The Civil Service reform, therefore, begins with the assertion that there is no reason in the nature of things, nor of our form of government, why the United States should not manage its affairs with the same economy, ability and honesty that private business is managed, and that to do this the most obvious means must be used. The basis of any good system must be some kind of competitive examination, for which the bill introduced by Mr. Jenckes provides, and the value of which has been tested in other countries. The objections to the reform show rather a desire to oppose than reason in opposition. It is asserted that the proposed reform is not agreeable to the spirit of popular institutions; that it would create a privileged class and a circumlocution office, that an examination proves nothing but literary ability; that it is borrowed from monarchical governments. These objections were considered in order, and the paper closed with an appeal to the public conscience and common sense to grapple with the trading politicians. The rings of every kind will resist. Let them resist. Our duty is to rout them.

James A. Garfield, Member of Congress from Ohio, read an elaborate article on "The American Census of 1870." The speaker contended that the taking of the census should not be in charge of United States marshals, as they are not chosen with a view to fitness for any statistical inquiry, and even if qualified, have other important and onerous duties to perform; besides which they are unpopular from their official character. The varied duties devolving on marshals in collecting census returns were plainly shown as being not only unequally divided, but too large for any one man to perform thoroughly. Too much time is allowed for taking the census and publishing the results. The plan adopted in England of taking the census in one day, which, being confined to facts of population only, and the fact of great density of the inhabitants to a small extent of territory could not be carried out in this country. But our census could be taken in one contest. The present method also leads to great inaccuracies from a disposition on the part of the people to avoid answering so many questions, the importance of which they fail to appreciate. The facts given by families also should be held secret in the Census Bureau. The compensation for taking the census is of doubtful wisdom, three different plans of payment being followed. The rules of compensation also offer temptations to exaggerate some of the returns and to make constructive charges. The law should be amended so that the supervision and enumeration should be made by persons specially chosen for fitness for the work and in no way connected with the national constabulary or with the assessment or collection of taxes. The districts should be small enough for one man to arrange the work by designating census takers. Congressional districts would be the most convenient. Separate schedules, at least for the household, the farm and the manufacturing and commercial establishments, should be distributed a month or a fortnight before the day to which the enumeration relates, so that the people may be familiarized with the inquiries made, and that, as far as possible without the aid of census takers, the blanks may be filled up. This will insure greater correctness and will greatly reduce the time required for the enumeration. By the use of these schedules and an organization such as has been suggested it is believed that the enumeration may actually be completed in one month from the 1st of June. It should be put into the law and into the official oath of all officers and employés of the Bureau that the returns are confidential; that the business of no citizen shall be made public; that the returns of money values shall not in any way be made the basis of taxation nor be used as evidence in the court. These provisions of the law should be printed on the schedules, and the President should be requested to issue his proclamation calling upon all the people to aid in making the returns as full and accurate as possible. A liberal compensation in the simple form of salary or per diem, with no mileage or constructive charges, should be provided so as to command and insure the best talent of the nation for the execution of the work. Small pay in the matter would be wastefulness. The ninth census of the United States will be far more interesting and important than any of its eight predecessors. Since 1850, in spite of its losses, the nation has doubtless greatly increased in population and in wealth. It has taken a new position among the nations. It has passed through one of the most bloody and exhaustive wars of history. The time for reviewing its condition is most opportune. Questions of the profoundest interest demand answers. Has the loss of nearly half a million young and middle aged men who fell on the field of battle or died in hospitals or prisons diminished the ratio of increase of population? Have the relative numbers of the sexes been sensibly changed? Has the relative number of orphans and widows perceptibly increased? Has the war affected the distribution of wealth or changed the character of our industries, and, if so, in what manner and to what extent? What have been the effects of the struggle on the educational, benevolent and religious institutions of the country? These questions, and many more of the most absorbing interest, the census of 1870 should answer. If it do not, the failure will reflect deep disgrace on the American people.

OUR CITY SEWERAGE.

Two Hundred Miles of Sewers in New York—Grave Errors in Their Construction and the Remedies to Be Applied—Effects of Insufficient Drainage and Stagnant Water in Vacant Lots on the Public Health—What the Board of Health and the Croton Board are Doing.

In the administration of civic affairs there is no subject of more importance to the welfare of a city or the health and comfort of its population than that of drainage and sewerage. In the large cities of the Old World the history of their progress demonstrates the truth of this assertion, and the vast sums which have been and are still being expended to remedy the errors of the past show the alarming condition to which, through years of neglect, they had at length arrived.

In this great city, with its densely populated wards, the unsystematic manner in which the sewerage has been managed has already resulted in the outlay of hundreds of thousands of dollars, with no perceptible result, as well as being a deep-seated agent of disease. The mortality list of New York has been greater in proportion to its population than even the older cities of Europe, and the numerous contagious diseases that have swept over the island in years past may be attributed in part to the dilapidated and illy constructed drainage channels. There are already more than two hundred miles of sewers under our streets, nearly all of which have been built without any regard to system. To correct or even lessen the evils resulting from so many years of mismanagement is a task which will require much study and time, as well as an enormous outlay of the money of the people.

SEWERS ABOUT THE PARK.

In the upper portion of the city where sewers have been laid the engineers or those to whom this business has been entrusted, have sadly neglected to study the lessons of the past, as the sequel will attest. Numerous small streams fed by underground springs have their source near the Park and empty into the North and East rivers after meandering in different directions. Since the limits of the city have extended up so far, these streams have been filled up with the garbage and refuse of the streets and the new made ground bought up, divided up into lots and sold to speculators. The subject of sewers was the last thought of, but in time they were built, but in a manner that should call the attention of the taxpayers. In the first place they were not deep enough; secondly, they were built of inferior material, and lastly the sewers in several streets will have to be taken out entirely, which will involve an expenditure to the city of between $75,000 and $100,000, when, if they had been properly constructed in the first place, all of this expense and trouble would have been obviated.

STAGNANT WATER IN VACANT LOTS.

The people are indebted to the indefatigable efforts of the Board of Health for ferreting out these cesspools of disease. It is estimated that there are at present 100,000,000 gallons of stagnant water in lots between Sixty-fifth street and the Park, which the sewers are incapable of draining by reason of their inferior construction and limited capacity. These lots are always filthy in summer, and frequently blocked up with snow in winter, and the very material which is used to fill in will form a nucleus for disease as soon as the warm weather comes again.

DOCTOR VIELE'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF HEALTH.

During the month of April of the present year the attention of the Board of Health was called to this condition of affairs by Dr. Viele, whose efforts, as a member of this Board, deserve the gratitude of all. The following is his report of the condition of the grounds and sewers:—"Throughout the sanitary district under my charge there is a great accumulation of standing water. In many places this water has become stagnant and very offensive in consequence of the refuse matter which is thrown into it. I have on several occasions called your attention to the subject in reference to particular localities where the pressure of decomposing animal and vegetable matter called for prompt action to avoid serious injury to the public health. Since the cause of the evil is so widespread in its nature as to demand the application of a remedy, both permanent and general in its character, I refer to the subject now in order to bring to the notice of this Board the condition of the property immediately adjoining the Park and lying between Fifty-eighth and Sixty-fifth streets and Fifth and Lexington avenues. These lots are filled with water ranging from three to fifteen feet in depth. These blocks lie in the course of one of the original drainage streams which, rising near the anti-final axis of the island, flow through devious courses into the North and East rivers, originating from perennial springs, these streams receive in their course an accumulated supply from numerous other springs, and when, as in every case under my observations of street construction, their course becomes obstructed, the consequence is that a large area becomes flooded and the ground permanently saturated. Within the last five months additional obstructions in the free flow of water have been suffered to be made, and ground which has never been wet before is now overflowed with water. This has been a serious neglect which will be felt for years to come. Yet there is a remedy."

REMEDY SUGGESTED AND HOW ACTED ON.

The doctor suggested the building of deep drains beneath the old sewers and the base of the filled-in streams, which would drain this accumulation of stagnant water. His suggestion was immediately acted upon, and a resolution was introduced by the Superintendent of the Board of Health requesting that the Croton Board, if they valued the lives of thousands residing in the upper part of the city, to remedy in some manner the evils. To this resolution the Croton Board replied that the sewers erected were ample for all that was required of them, and that they should do no more—exhibiting at the same time an utter disregard for the health and welfare of the city. Not to be thwarted, the Board of Health consulted with Mr. Eaton, their counsel, and after satisfying themselves that they had the power to go ahead in the matter, instructed their engineer, W. A. Wortmen, to draw up plans of the grounds and the requirements. This gentleman reported that large and deep drains, built of substantial masonry, were necessary to be built at least five feet below the bed of the old sewers, extending through Sixtieth, Sixty-first, Sixty-second, Sixty-third, Sixty-fourth, across Madison avenue, and from Fifth avenue, at the junction of Sixty-fourth street, to the sewer at the junction of Sixty-ninth street and Fourth avenue, which report was accepted and men set immediately to work. At this stage of proceedings the members opened their eyes to the true state of affairs and generously came forward and extended the right hand of fellowship to their brethren of the Health Department.

The work is now in rapid progression, and the contractor expects that the work will be finished some time during the coming summer. At present there are about 250 men employed both day and night at an average salary of $2 50 per day, and it is estimated that it will cost the city fully $100,000, if not a larger sum, before the work is finished. The Board of Health carry off the laurels in this contest; but the taxpayers will doubtless have their patience as well as pockets severely taxed by the expenditure of this money, when it could have been saved by a little foresight of those to whom such matters are entrusted.

BRIGHTENING PROSPECTS.

The Board of Health have a grand scheme in contemplation in regard to the regeneration of all the sewers running through important thoroughfares, as well as those in localities where disease mostly predominates.

HEAVY BAIL BONDS.—At the Tioga County Court yesterday Judge Murray decided to favorably entertain the question of bail in the case of Frederick Strader and Mary Dell Thetge, indicted for murder, the alleged offence being the killing of an infant. The Judge fixed the amount of surety in the case of Mr. Strader at $50,000, the girl being held in the sum of $20,000. No difficulty was experienced in securing the amount, his neighbors and friends on East Hill freely coming forward, it is said, and assuming bonds for his appearance for trial.—*Elmira (N. Y.) Gazette, Oct. 26.*

SUBURBAN INTELLIGENCE.

NEW JERSEY.

Jersey City.

NATURALIZATION.—Judge Randolph will sit from twelve to one o'clock and from four to five o'clock to-day, to-morrow and Monday in the County Court for the purpose of naturalizing foreigners. Court will be held on election day (Tuesday) as on ordinary days.

ACCIDENT ON THE NEW JERSEY RAILROAD.—When the Washington train, due in Jersey City at twenty minutes past five o'clock yesterday afternoon, was passing through the Bergen cut, a handcart used by the workmen was on the track and was shattered to pieces by the collision. The fireman on the locomotive was thrown off and severely injured. It is believed that his wounds are fatal.

THE INDICTMENTS AGAINST JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.—Thirty-six justices of the peace in Hudson county were indicted by the Grand Jury before that body was discharged on Tuesday afternoon. Every time a justice receives a fee for issuing a warrant he violates the law unless the fee be tendered spontaneously by the applicant, a case which hardly ever occurs. It was certainly a bold step on the part of the justices to continue their infringement of the law after the decision of Chief Justice Beasley a year ago, and they cannot complain that the law, so tardy and patient, has at length clutched them. The statute looks somewhat oppressive, inasmuch as it is a hardship that a man should give his services and furnish legal documents without any compensation. But it was framed for the purpose of correcting abuses which were bringing the name of law into contempt. Litigants had been fleeced by certain magistrates without remorse, so that many poor persons had to submit to wrong through fear of the expense of going to law. It is rumored that the indictments against two of the magistrates were reconsidered and quashed. There are many of the justices against each of whom several indictments were found. The enforcement of the law will have one good effect, namely, the exclusion of persons from the office who aspire to it not for the honor attached to it, but for the purpose of making money.

Newark.

SINGULAR CASE OF INSANITY.—Margaret Hart, forty years of age, a resident of No. 10 Boston street, is now confined in the City Prison on account of a sudden and violent attack of insanity. Through attending about a week incessantly on a sick person her nervous system became prostrated, and she became perfectly wild, compelling everybody to leave the house, in consequence of her piercing and unceasing screams. She only subsided through sheer exhaustion last evening.

THE SOLDIERS' MONUMENT, now being placed in position in Fairmount Cemetery, is to be unveiled on the 5th of November. Alderman Orson Wilson, chairman of the committee having charge of the arrangements, has received a communication from Secretary of the Navy Robeson, expressive of his regret at not being able to be present and deliver the address. General Stuart L. Woodford, of New York, has now accepted the invitation and will deliver the address. Everything is being done to make the unveiling in every way worthy of the occasion.

Paterson.

POLITICAL.—Henry Hobbs, late superintendent of the Erie Railway, Eastern division, on Tuesday evening received the democratic nomination for Assembly from the Second district of Passaic county.

BURNED TO DEATH.—On Monday evening a little three year old girl, named Nellie Keating, residing with her parents at 90 Oliver street, had her clothes set on fire from some matches in the hands of a little boy with whom she was playing. A neighbor succeeded in extinguishing the flames, but not until the child's clothing had been nearly all burned off and the upper part of her person horribly crisped. The little sufferer soon sank into unconsciousness, in which state she continued until Tuesday evening, when death ensued. Although the occurrence was accidental, it nevertheless evinces a criminal negligence on the part of parents in leaving matches within the reach of children.

Trenton.

POLITICAL.—William H. Barton, of this city, received the republican nomination for the Assembly. The democrats renominated John P. Nelson. One of the wards refused to vote for Nelson, and a diversion in favor of Barton is threatened.

COURT OF BANKRUPTCY.—In this court yesterday, in the case of Titus vs. Barton, of this city, which occupied nearly two days in the hearing, the jury returned a verdict of $1,178 44 for the plaintiff. The question involved was, when a conveyance is made by a party in good faith without any knowledge of debts on the part of the grantor, whether such a sale is void under the provisions of the Bankrupt act.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT.—In this court yesterday a young man named Albert A. Finkle retracted his former plea and pleaded guilty to having cleansed and sold defaced revenue stamps in Elizabeth. The government authorities say it was through his instrumentality that Dr. Petrie was arrested and indicted for a like offence. Counsel for the prisoner, Mr. Green, of Trenton, urged the Court to be merciful in his case, as he is only eighteen years of age, of respectable connections, previous good character and the sole support of his mother. The District Attorney did not desire to urge the imprisonment of Finkle; but he hoped the Court would not be satisfied with inflicting a nominal sentence, as such offences are growing alarmingly numerous, and are punishable by a fine not exceeding $1,000 and imprisonment not exceeding five years. The Court, in pronouncing sentence, observed that it had reason to believe the statements of his counsel, and, in the hope that he would become a better young man, he would only sentence him to pay a fine of $200 and costs and to stand committed till the fine and costs are paid. The District Attorney moved for sentence on two New Yorkers, named James Henderson and Martin Devine, who pleaded guilty to having passed counterfeit ten dollar bills. In consequence of the promises made to Devine by detective Nettleship, whereby he was induced to communicate to the latter such information as led to the arrest and conviction of other parties, the Court only sentenced the prisoner to six months in the Essex county jail. Henderson was sentenced to the State Prison at hard labor for five years.

The case of the United States against Henry Martin and his sureties (John Heinnlein and Henry Rockinly, of Hudson county) was next moved. District Attorney Keasbey, in opening the case, observed that it was an action for debt on a bond of $3,000 given by Martin and his sureties for a faithful compliance with the laws controlling the manufacture of tobacco and the payment of taxes. The government claimed that Martin manufactured more tobacco than he returned in his monthly statements, and as a consequence the assessment was increased, but the defendant disappeared without paying the additional tax ($11,635), and the government accordingly maintain that he forfeited his bonds. The Court in charging the jury maintained that the judgment of the Assessor or his deputy is as conclusive and final as the decree of any court of justice. The jury rendered a verdict for the amount, including interest for two years. The jurors were then discharged till next Wednesday.

LONG ISLAND.

HORSE AND WAGON STOLEN.—A horse and wagon belonging to Rev. J. O. Worth, of Good Ground, was stolen a few evenings since.

PETITION FOR THE REPRIEVE OF BURKE.—The friends of David Burke, the condemned murderer of Thomas Kane, who was last week sentenced to be hanged, by Judge Barnard, have allied themselves with the opponents of capital punishment in Queens county, in the hope of obtaining a reprieve from Governor Hoffman.

UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT AT SPOLIATION.—On Saturday evening last an assault was made on the person of Miss Ada Street, while passing through Main street, in the village of Sag Harbor. The scoundrel seized her by the neck and attempted to ram his hand down her throat to prevent her giving an alarm. A carriage happening to pass at the moment the villain became alarmed and made his escape.

WESTCHESTER COUNTY.

RETRIBUTION.—A lank, ungainly German, named Charles Morgen, was yesterday received into Sing Sing Prison, having been sentenced at the Court of Sessions, Brooklyn, to twenty years' imprisonment for the highest crime but one known to the law.

DROWNING CASUALTY.—The dead body of a boy eight years old, named George Purdy, whose parents live near Scarboro, on the Hudson, was found in a pond at that place last Tuesday. It is believed that deceased, who disappeared on the previous evening, accidentally fell into the water.

ACCIDENT TO A CONVICT.—Charles Mayflower, a convict employed in the quarries at Sing Sing Prison, narrowly escaped instant death on Tuesday afternoon. He was in the act of "tamping" a blast, when the charge of powder exploded, burning his face so severely that at one time it was thought his sight had been entirely destroyed. One of the man's hands was also mutilated by the explosion.

ARREST OF A BURGLAR.—While Constable Orville Dingee, of Katonah, was patrolling in that village a night or two ago he found the door of Lyon Brothers' store open, and, entering, captured a stranger, in whose possession was discovered a quantity of burglars' tools. The fellow pleaded as an excuse that having seen the store open he went in for the purpose of sleeping. When caught the burglar had removed his shoes, and had also hung blankets before the windows, the better to conceal his designs. He refused to give his name, and was subsequently lodged in the county jail for safe keeping.

POUGHKEEPSIE.

THE EARTHQUAKE IN DUTCHESS COUNTY.—Farmers from the interior report having distinctly felt the recent shock of an earthquake in the eastern part of Dutchess county.

BROOKLYN CITY.

THE COURTS.

KINGS COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT.

Heavy Damages for a Sidewalk Accident.

Before Judge Gilbert.

Marcus Ormsbee brings suit against Montgomery Queen and claims damages in the sum of $20,000 for injury caused by plaintiff falling through a hole in the sidewalk in front of the defendant's premises. The circumstances as alleged by plaintiff, are that he was passing in front of Mr. Queen's stables on Washington street, in company with his wife and children. He passed on and saw the hole in the sidewalk left open for pitching out manure. On returning it was rainy and windy and he had his umbrella down and not seeing the hole fell into it, sustaining a compound fracture of his foot, whereby he has been maimed for life.

The defendant claims that the plaintiff was familiar with the premises, having resided there, and at the time of the accident was looking up to the weather vane on the stable to see the direction of the wind, a measure he habitually resorted to when he wanted to prospectus in regard to the weather, and that if he had been using common care he would not have met with this accident. Verdict for plaintiff; damages $1,000.

KINGS COUNTY COURT OF SESSIONS.

Sworn to "Be the Death of Him."

Before Judge Troy and Associate.

Thomas Shehan, Patrick Shenan, M. Healy and Henry Healy were yesterday tried for assault, with intent to kill, upon James Hanley, in Fifth street, on the 19th of September last. The complaining witness showed cuts and scars on his head and face as results of the assault, and testified to their knocking him down and kicking him and beating him with stones until he was rescued, swearing they would be the death of him. Verdict of guilty, and the four men were sentenced to three months in the Penitentiary.

A "Fagin."

Yesterday morning John Howe, who kept a second hand clothing store at the corner of New Bowery and Madison street, and who has the reputation of being the New York "Fagin," was tried in the Court of Sessions for receiving stolen goods. He is alleged to have purchased all the goods stolen by a gang of young burglars, who were tried and sent up at the last term of the court by Judge Troy.

The principal witness for the prosecution was Edward Kane, one of the gang of burglars, who had turned State's evidence and given to the police information of the robberies which had been committed by the gang. It appeared from his testimony that the gang to which he belonged were in the habit of robbing houses in the summer when their occupants were absent in the country, and last summer had broken into some half a dozen houses, stolen several thousand dollars' worth of property, nearly all of which was sold to the prisoner. The prisoner was convicted of the offence and sent to the Penitentiary for four years, eleven months and twenty-nine days.

A Burglar Convicted.

Samuel W. Pau, a youth some twenty years of age, was placed on trial, charged with burglary in the third degree. The testimony showed that in September last he came to the store of Mr. James Cushing, No. 110 William street, with a box of gold pens and offered them for sale. Mr. Cushing asked time to examine them, and on looking at the pens recognized them as his own manufacture and the property of a Mr. Foster, doing business on Fulton street, Brooklyn. He sent for Mr. Foster and found that his store had been broken into the night previous and a considerable quantity of goods stolen. When the prisoner came back for the pens he was arrested, and on searching him nearly all the stolen property was found on him, as well as a bottle of snuff, a store key and other articles belonging to the general stock of a burglar and thief, in his possession. He was convicted of the offence and remanded for sentence.

BROOKLYN INTELLIGENCE.

A BOLD THEFT.—Some audacious thief walked into the hallway of No. 279 Gold street yesterday and stole the mahogany hatstand.

BURGLARY.—Frederick Pavier's residence, No. 217 Atlantic street, was burglariously entered yesterday morning and robbed of seventy dollars' worth of property.

A BOY KILLED IN PROSPECT PARK.—Michael Kennedy, a boy about eleven years of age, was run over and killed by one of the dirt carts in Prospect Park at half-past one o'clock yesterday afternoon. The body was taken in charge by Coroner Jones.

THE WATER BOARD AND PLUMBERS.—A number of the licensed plumbers of Brooklyn appeared at the office of the Water Board yesterday and complained that the rule of the Board requiring them to replace their boilers where they collapse in dwelling houses was harsh and unjust, and should not be enforced. Where these men put inferior boilers into houses the Water Board intend to hold them responsible for the damage done, and gave them so to understand.

THE SHOOTING OF JOHN DOUGHERTY BY OFFICER BURKE.—Officer John Burke, of the Forty-second precinct, was arraigned before Justice Walsh yesterday on a charge of having shot John Dougherty, on the night of the 9th inst., while the latter was attempting to escape from the officer in Front street. A surgeon's certificate was produced showing that the wounded man was now out of danger, though the ball had not been extracted. The prisoner was held to await the action of the Grand Jury.

THE PROSPECT PARK BOULEVARD.—It has been decided by the Prospect Park Commissioners to widen the Coney Island road to 100 feet, the present width of which is only sixty feet. This will afford a splendid drive, and will obviate the previous trouble so generally experienced from the overcrowding of that road. It is also proposed to make a boulevard from Franklin avenue, the eastern boundary of Prospect Park, a distance of 1,400 feet westward across the Coney Island road, terminating at the Fair grounds. The width of this road is to be 210 feet. The cost will be about $565,000.

A FIGHT FOR WHISKEY.

Recapture of a Quantity from Revenue Officers—Private Watchman Throttled.

A private watchman placed in charge of a rectifying establishment owned by Goodenough & Frankel, at No. 12 Nevins street, Brooklyn, and which has been under seizure since Saturday last, was taken by surprise about eleven o'clock yesterday morning. A truck was driven leisurely up to the place and four stalwart men entered. Before the aforesaid watchman had time to inquire their business two of the fellows seized him by the throat and held him while the others rolled out a load of whiskey and drove off.

The outrage was accomplished in so bold and quiet a manner that even persons passing along the sidewalk was not aware of what was going on. A policeman who was standing at the corner about 100 feet distant, knew nothing of the affair until some time after the fellows had made good their escape. The unfortunate watchman was nearly strangled.

HORSE NOTES.

At the Union Course, on Friday last, Simeon Hoagland gave out some challenges to horsemen. He offered four matches of $1,000 each as follows:—To trot either or all of his three gray horses against any three horses that had never trotted for money; mile heats, best three in five, to wagons, wagon and driver weighing 320 pounds; and two of his grays he would trot double against any team that never trotted for money, carrying Mr. Hoagland's weight. The matches will be open to the end