WASHINGTON.

THE BUTLER DEMONSTRATION.

The Irrepressible Benjamin Nominated for the Presidency.

General Garfield's Report on the Gold Conspiracy.

THE POSTAL TELEGRAPH BILL.

Mr. Hubbard's Reply to the Monopoly's Agent.

The Butler Demonstration—The Essex Statesman Nominated for the Presidency—Butler Serenaded—A Disagreeable Hint for the Darkies.

In accordance with the published notice, a meeting of the friends of General B. F. Butler was held at Union League Hall to-night. Remarks were made, the orators speaking in eulogistic terms of that gentleman, and as having, by a company of Massachusetts troops, hitherto, at the beginning of the war, saved the government. One of them remarked that though but few persons were there present, this was only the beginning of a movement to elect Mr. Butler to the Presidency. Another said, while he admired Mr. Butler, he thought this movement premature, and would do him more harm than good. A few colored persons were present, and a band of the same race played during the intervals of the speaking. A resolution was adopted tendering thanks to Mr. Butler for his services in the army and out of the army, in Congress and out of Congress.

Later in the evening the colored band which supplied discordant music at the meeting left the hall, led by the chairman and the orators of the occasion, and marched through the streets until they arrived at the Butler palace, corner of Fifteenth and I streets. The main object was to furnish a serenade to the Essex statesman. The windows of the house were brilliantly lit up, as if a party was in progress. The serenaders took a favorable position in front of the stoop and commenced blowing their trumpets and beating drums in a style well calculated to waken the very dead. Rev. Dr. Dennison, Captain J. Ames, the man who nominated Butler for the Presidency, and Dr. Snodgrass, all white, went on the stoop and boldly rang the bell, but it was some time before the summons was responded to. Ladies looked out from the second story windows to see what was the matter, and a colored servant came out to light up the stoop lamps, which had been extinguished by the blowing trumpets, and another servant attended to the ringers. The three white men told the servant that they wanted to see General Butler. They were invited inside, and found the General in full evening dress and much astonished. He inquired the object of the visit, and was told by the stalwart Ames that his colored brethren desired to serenade him. General Butler professed his surprise and went out on the stoop with his visitors. The moment he appeared trumpets ceased, drums were silent, and the human voice alone was heard in a grand chorus of cheers. Ben bowed his thanks and prepared to speak. He said:—

GENTLEMEN—I know not to what cause I can attribute this visit from fellow citizens. (Hurrahs.) But I am much pleased to see you all. (More hurrahs.) I am informed that I have the honor of addressing gallant soldiers and sailors of the army of the Union who served with me so far back as 1862. I am always glad to see these soldiers and sailors who fought for their country. (Great cheers.) I am their friend. Gentlemen, I have to say that the crowning act for which you fought has been accomplished. The fifteenth amendment is practically ratified; the freedom of all has been secured without distinctions of race or color—(loud applause from the band and the other colored auditors)—and that grand spectacle which is the consummation of the work of the fifteenth amendment has been just witnessed in the admission of a negro as a Senator of the United States. Gentlemen, that is the crowning act of the great and noble work. If I may be allowed to say it, there is but one other thing left to be done, and that is to secure equal burdens for all. You have your equal rights, but all must have their share of the burden. The laborer must be protected in his rights—(cheers)—but the capitalist also must have his interest secured. To effect this all must be willing to bear a share of the burdens. Gentlemen, I am glad to see you all. I thank you again for the honor you have paid me by this visit, and now I have the honor, in conclusion, to bid you all a very good night.

The General then turned suddenly upon his heels, went into his house and the door was shut. "Why the deuce don't he ask 'em in?" said a wicked white man; but the darky serenaders made no answer to the query. The band resumed its music and soon after marched off.

General Garfield's Report on the Gold Conspiracy Investigation—A Minority Report in Readiness.

General Garfield finished the reading of his report on the gold panic investigation to-day before the Committee on Banking and Currency. A long discussion followed on the adoption of the report, which involved the question as to whether some blame should be cast upon the President and the members of his household. The minority took exceptions to many points in the report, and notified General Garfield of their intention to prepare a minority report. General Garfield's report is to undergo some modifications of the committee before it is reported to the House.

Cheap Newspaper Postage—The Postal Telegraph Scheme—Mr. Hubbard's Reply to Mr. Orton.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26, 1870.

The Senate Committee on post offices and post roads had an important meeting to-day. Mr. Brown, proprietor of a weekly newspaper in New York, took occasion to ventilate his views on the subject of cheap newspaper postage, advocating a general reduction on weeklies issued and published to ten cents per year, and on papers mailed by purchasers to the uniform rate of one cent per copy, and on circulars to one cent on each enclosure.

The committee next turned their attention to a further consideration of the postal telegraph bill. Mr. Orton completed his remarks in the interest of the monopoly, and was succeeded by Mr. Hubbard, one of the prime movers in the new scheme. Mr. Hubbard said:—

There are two telegraph systems in operation—the governmental and the corporate—the latter in America, the former in Europe. A comparison of the two exhibits the following results:—In twenty-one States of Europe 394,753 miles of wire have cost $41,500,537 gold, or $47,000,900 currency. In this country 104,584 miles of wire have cost the Western Union Telegraph Company $48,000,000. Four miles under the governmental system cost no more than one mile under the corporate. In twenty-one States in Europe 29,328,000 messages were transmitted at a cost of $11,506,000 gold, or $13,567,300 currency. In this country 8,400,770 messages were sent, for $5,738,627. Average rates abroad, forty-five cents; in this country, seventy-one cents per message. The business in Europe is done at a profit, where the rates are the lowest.

Mr. Orton says the rates in this country are cheaper by the mile than abroad. This may be true; but as distance is not one of the essential elements of the cost any comparison based on such an estimate is fallacious. The office expenses, the operators' and clerks' salaries and at least seventy-five per cent of the operating expenses are the same whether the message is transmitted fifty or 1,000 miles. The telegraph is used more to-day in England, France, Switzerland, Belgium and the Netherlands than in this country, while the telegraph is used less by the population living more than 250 miles from New York than by the inhabitants of the remaining European States. The rates in the Postal bill will effect an average reduction of fifty per cent in the rates. Mr. Orton contends that this reduction cannot be made without incurring a loss, to be borne by the company or the Post Office Department. The experience of Europe proves that, upon a like reduction in rates, the business has been increased over 100 per cent, while the expenses have increased only about twenty-five per cent; that the length of the telegram has been increased, and the receipts have therefor been increased to an amount nearly equal to the increased expenses. In Switzerland the rates were reduced from one franc to one-half franc on the 1st of January, 1868. The net profits were reduced from 74,000f. to 72,000f. The same result will undoubtedly take place in this country.

A great saving of expenses will also be made by uniting the telegraph with the Post Office, without any corresponding increase in the expense of that department. New kinds of business will be created by the reduction in rates that will not require to use the wires during banking hours, when the wires are crowded with business, and when the telegraph becomes the ordinary means of communication, with reduced night rates, the night business will be larger than the day business. The only question is, are the rates low enough to secure this business? If not a further reduction must be made.

The telegraph companies have all agreed to sell their lines to the government, at an appraised value. The government, by this bill, designates the postal company as their agents to make this purchase on the terms fixed in the act of 1866 and assented to by these companies. The postal system is in perfect harmony with the present postal service. The prepaid telegram and letter will each be received by the same clerk, handed to the operator or railroad employé to be transmitted under the contract to its place of destination, there to be delivered by the same Post Office clerk and messenger. It establishes no new bureau or department of government. It simply extends the operation of the Post Office, and authorizes the Postmaster General to contract for the transmission of letters by telegraph at fixed and low rates. Through the operations of the postal system the telegraph, now confined to the rich and to bankers, brokers and grain dealers, will be brought within the reach of all and made the ordinary means of communication.

The representatives of both sides of the question will have their remarks in full printed and submit them to the committee. The subject will be taken up at the regular meeting on Thursday next.

The Sale of Cadetships—More Carpet-Baggers in Trouble.

The House Military Committee was to-day after the carpet-baggers of the last Congress who are not members of the present Congress. They had witnesses before them who testified conclusively that Mr. Edwards, a member from Georgia in the last House, sold his West Point cadetship for $600, of which he received $250. Mr. Butler, of Tennessee, and his friends have been endeavoring to explain the circumstances involving his case. A majority of the committee, however, are of opinion that Butler's case is parallel with that of Whittemore, the only difference being that the latter gave his money for charitable purposes, while the former gave it for political purposes. As already stated, the committee will probably report a resolution for the expulsion of Butler.

The Alaska Seal Fisheries.

The House Committee on Commerce had a meeting to-day to discuss and, if possible, decide the question of the Alaska seal fisheries. After a deliberation of three hours the committee adjourned without coming to any conclusion. Two or three members of the committee were absent. Those present seemed to be equally divided between renting the fisheries to private companies and reserving them to the government.

The Mediterranean and Oriental Steamship Company.

The Select Committee on the revival of American commerce held a special meeting to-day for the purpose of hearing the representatives of the Mediterranean and Oriental Steamship Company. A full statement of the objects of the company was made, and was listened to with interest by the committee. Several members of the committee expressed themselves pleased with the carefully matured plans of the company. The persons who represented the interests of the company before the committee stated that with the legislation sought from Congress the company could command ample means sufficient to build twenty-one first class iron steamships, the proposed dry dock at Port Royal, emigrant depots at Norfolk and elsewhere. The committee has the bill of the company under consideration.

Fractional Currency Statement.

The receipts of fractional currency for the week ending to-day amount to $524,700. The following shipments were made:—

To the depository at Baltimore	$50,000
To the depository at Pittsburg	25,000
To national banks	92,000
Total	$167,000

The Treasurer holds in trust as security for national bank circulation $342,398,350; for public deposits, $17,808,500; mutilated bank notes burned during the week, $196,747; total amount burned, $20,548,199; bank currency issued for bills destroyed during the week, $293,830; total amount issued therefor, $20,382,380; balance due for mutilated notes, $165,819; bank circulation outstanding at this date, $299,674,354; fractional currency redeemed and destroyed during the week, $326,969.

Personal.

Ben Wade arrived in the city last night, on a private visit, however, and will remain several days.

Senator Sprague, after a few days' appearance in the Senate, disappeared mysteriously on Monday last, no one here knowing whither he has gone. Hon. John Morrissey's seat has been vacant during the session, and the question is now asked whether if these gentlemen have more urgent business to attend to at home it would not be for the interests of their constituents that they resigned their seats in Congress?

Statuary for the Capitol.

Mr. Launt Thompson, the sculptor, has been invited to make a design and model a group for the south pediment of the Capitol to balance that by Crawford on the north.

MATRIMONIAL TROUBLES IN JERSEY.

A Vexed Question Settled at Last—The Recorder of Hudson City Decides that a Man is Not Bound to Support His Wife's Relatives—Spicy Developments in Court.

In Montgomery avenue, Hudson City, live a man named Frederick Hartwig and his wife. This pair have been in a state of perpetual discord for several weeks past. Yesterday morning officer Tahn was proceeding to his home about five o'clock, having made all his rounds for the night, when he happened to pass Hartwig's door. Mrs. Hartwig popped her head out of the window and called on the officer to go in and stay with her for protection, as she feared bodily injury at the hands of her husband. The first part of the proposition was regarded by the officer as a good joke, and for the rest he advised her of the proper course to pursue. She made an affidavit before Recorder Aldridge, who issued a warrant, and while the Recorder was sitting in court Fred was brought in. He took a seat beside the officer and awaited his turn. At length the Recorder, adjusting his spectacles, called up Fred and informed him that he was charged with refusing to support his wife. The following colloquy thereupon took place:—

"Shudge, must I support mine vife?"

"Why, certainly."

"Veil, I say so too. Now, Shudge, must I support mine vife's father and mother, and every tam dirty loafer of a brother what comes along?"

"Decidedly not. You are not called upon to do anything of the kind."

Here the wife, who had been a silent spectator, broke in and informed the Recorder that her husband threatened to put her out of the house, and that she was afraid he would take her life. Fred cut her statement short by giving this explanation:—"Now you stop; say no more. Shudge, dis woman what's mine vife says to me, 'Fred, you don't put my brother and sister out; if you do, I go too;' and I says, veil den go and pe tam; and I shays de door and keeps de key."

"Oh, Shudge," interrupted the wife, "he calls my brother a tam loafer; now shoost hear what Fred done last night," and she was relating the details of an affair in which a slop pail, scrubbing brush and other curious subjects occupied a prominent part, when she was reprimanded by Sergeant Sweeny, who told her she must avoid such indecent language. This reprimand she mistook for a doubt as to the truth of her statement, and she proposed to bring the slop pail before the court in order to prove the truth of her statements.

The Recorder finally disposed of the case by discharging Fred, who pledges himself to keep all his wife's relatives away from the house, now that the question is settled as to his obligations in that quarter.

PROBABLE HOMICIDE IN HUDSON CITY.

Affray Between Laborers in a Liquor Saloon—A Cripple Severely Beaten.

Yesterday morning a stalwart individual, named Thomas Kearns, was arrested and brought before Recorder Aldridge, of Hudson City, on the charge of inflicting such injuries on a cripple, named John Crosby, that it is feared the latter will not recover.

It appears that on Friday night a party of men who are employed as laborers in the sewer excavations of the city were indulging in drink at Magee's saloon, on Montgomery avenue, when a dispute arose between one of the party and a cripple, named John Crosby. The latter was leaning on a crutch, which his opponent snatched from him and struck him a stunning blow on the head, which felled him to the ground, and from which he may never recover, as the physicians pronounce his condition very serious. In justice to Kearns, who appears to be a quiet, inoffensive man, it should be stated that the party who made the affidavit, one Albert Willsen, refused to swear positively that Kearns was the man who struck the blow. There is, therefore, a possibility that the real culprit escaped. Kearns was held, however, till further inquiries be made in the matter.

INFANTICIDE IN NEWARK.

Infanticide is on the increase in this city, as shown by the records of the county physician. Eleven cases are reported since the 1st of January. It is asserted that a night soil remover the other night found two dead bodies of infants while plying his vocation. The authorities have not, however, been informed thereof.

THE STATE CAPITAL.

Animated Discussion on the Canal Question in the Assembly.

The Proposition Asking Congressional Aid Referred to the Committee on Canals.

The Assembly After the Erie Directors.

Information Wanted in Relation to the City Markets.

ALBANY, Feb. 26, 1870.

Both branches of the Legislature were in session to-day, and, although little of importance was transacted, a great deal of business was gone through with that may have some important results. Being Saturday, it seemed at first to be supposed that there would not be a quorum in either Senate or Assembly; but—*mirabile dictu*—there was an unusually large attendance in both chambers. Among the measures which occupied the Assembly to-day was a series of resolutions, proposed by Mr. Alvord, in relation to

THE SHIP CANAL

which has been broached in Congress. Mr. Alvord, in offering his resolutions, made an able and exhaustive speech, in which he showed that he had figures and statistics at his fingers' ends—on a sheet of foolscap. Mr. Alvord looks very much like the pictures of Mr. Time (who is represented with an hour glass in one hand and a scythe in the other). His venerable appearance, together with his quiet, yet forcible and entertaining address, commands the respect and attention of all present, and, when he shows as much earnestness as he did on this subject, his views are received with much consideration. He was decidedly earnest, but

"STATESMAN" LITTLEJOHN

was much more so. Mr. Littlejohn is accorded, to a certain extent, the reputation of being the most earnest and forcible speaker in the Assembly. He was forcible beyond a doubt to-day, and if any of the opposition members' heads had been where his desk was he would have had his ideas pounded into them or have "heads" on much swelled. But Mr. Littlejohn was not allowed to carry off the honors of the day as

FIELD'S "FEEBLE VOICE"

was raised in opposition to the measure, and with some good effect. Both Messrs. Alvord and Littlejohn spoke pathetically of the necessity of increased Canal facilities, and the fact that the grain and produce of the West were being carried off by the way of the St. Lawrence and the Mississippi from the Empire State, Mr. Field's "feeble voice," as he styles it, was devoted to warning the members of his party to be careful, as this measure might be considered a part of the programme of centralization or absorption of the State rights by the national government. Mr. Littlejohn asserted that in this matter he wanted to be a statesman and not a politician. Mr. Field's was both, and thought that being a statesman implied the being a politician. The matter was finally referred, on motion of Mr. Fields, to the Committee on Canals without instructions.

MORE SHIP

was introduced to-day by Mr. Mitchell, of New York, who presented a bill repealing the law passed last session, which prohibited the directors or stockholders of the Central, Hudson or Harlem roads becoming directors in the Erie, or vice versa, and which allowed the directors of each road to classify by lot or otherwise the members of the board that as nearly as may be one-fifth of their number shall go out of office at each annual election. This bill is evidently aimed, not so much at the Erie road particularly, as at Messrs. Tweed, Smith (Mr. Sweeny's deputy), Fisk and company, who, being in the board of direction of Erie, may classify the board under the liberal phrase "or otherwise" so that they will be continued in office whoever goes out. Mr. Mitchell, in offering the bill, said nothing, but grinned quite good naturedly towards Mr. Winans, of Chatauqua, who sat stroking his full blonde mustache, and who grinned towards the natty little Peter in return.

THE GREENPOINT FERRY COMPANY

was attended to in a bill reported favorably by Mr. Bergen, from the Committee on Commerce and Navigation. The bill provides that not more than three cents fare shall be charged for adults, and two cents for children between three and twelve years of age, and that the company must keep for sale packages of twenty tickets for fifty cents. Mr. Bergen in offering the bill said, *sotto voce*, "We'll help the workingmen to get across that river to cheap homes as reasonably as possible if we have to take a crack at all these fellows."

The workings of

FOREIGN INSURANCE COMPANIES

in this State have been occupying the attention of the Committee on Insurance for some time. A bill was reported favorably from the committee to-day, which provides, first, to restrain foreign fire insurance companies from taking on any one risk an amount exceeding ten per cent of the amount deposited in this country for the general security of policy holders—our own State companies being similarly restricted; and, secondly, to compel them to pay the same tax on their property in this state that our own companies and citizens are compelled to pay. It appears, from the report of the Superintendent of Insurance for 1869, that one of those foreign insurance companies had received in premiums in this country in 1868 $1,739,618 86, and had assets to the extent of $2,286,082, and that the only tax ever paid by a foreign insurance company was paid by this company—$831 76—paid in 1869, and that no other foreign company has ever paid one cent into the treasury of either the city or the State.

THE CITY MARKET REVENUE

is ordered by a resolution introduced to-day directing the Comptroller of the city of New York to report to the House the amount of money received from the markets during the years 1869, 1868, 1869 and 1870, together with the expenditures, cost of stalls and other requisite information. So many complaints have been made in regard to the method pursued by the Superintendent of Markets in cutting up stalls and stands and levying extra fees or rentals that the marketmen of New York will look for the report in answer to this order with some interest. The Hon. Mr. Carroll, who holds the lucrative position of Market Superintendent, will, no doubt, be on hand here in a week or two, with his glossy, jetty beard, to use his influence in quieting the matter.

THE NEW ELECTION LAW,

offered by Mr. Kiernan will probably be reached tomorrow. A few amendments have been made. One in the portion pledging a fair representation to the party in opposition to the party in the majority will be amended so as to read "the party in opposition on State issues;" and further, in regard to filling vacancies, it is amended so as to provide that the impartial division of political distinction in the boards of inspectors shall be preserved in making the appointments. Mr. White, of New York, it was thought would offer to amend by having the appointive officers appointed by the Court of Common Pleas. This would not be accepted either by Mr. Kiernan or by leading gentlemen on the other side, and the bill will undoubtedly pass, as no democrat can dare to place himself on the record in opposition to it since the party is pledged to retrenchment and reform.

THE EXCISE BILL

having ran the gauntlet in the Senate, not, however, without being somewhat scratched, was made a special order for next Wednesday evening. There will undoubtedly be as much debating, cross-firing and amending in the Assembly as there was in the Senate, but it is almost safe to predict that the bill will be passed as speedily as possible.

THE SECTARIAN SCHOOL QUESTION

will be debated again on Thursday evening next in the Committee on Education. Mr. Kiernan, who is balking against the repeal of the bill, has stated that he will oppose its repeal by all means in his power. Year after year republican legislatures have been making appropriations to the individual schools which amounted in the aggregate to more than was inserted in the tax levy of last year by a republican Legislature; that the republicans having had all the *éclat* of passing that law and making the provision, now wish to throw upon the democratic party the disfavor of the dominies and others interested in these schools, by compelling, if possible, a democratic Legislature to repeal the law. Mr. Kiernan claims, however, that the republicans favored and passed the appropriations, hoping to catch the votes of the Catholic portion of the community; that they failed to do this to any extent, and that now they are raising this hue and cry to try and force the democrats into repealing the law. The petitions which have been flowing into the Legislature during the past few days will have little or no force with the committee, as they come from people who are not called upon to pay a cent toward the so-called "sectarian" fund.

THE EIGHT HOUR LAW

was to-day favorably reported by the Judiciary Committee. This bill when first introduced was noticed at length in the HERALD, and has not been materially altered by the committee. The republicans on the committee dissented from the report.

THE CANAL APPRAISER.

Mr. Jesse Gay, of Prattsburg, was to-day confirmed by the Senate in executive session as Canal Appraiser, in place of Mr. E. P. Brooks. The latter gentleman, to make sure of the matter, brought his resignation to the Governor.

A BUSY TIME

is expected during the coming week. What with the regular meetings on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, the excise order in the Assembly on Wednesday evening, the school question in the Assembly on Thursday evening, the consideration of the promised new charter and other matters, the Solons will have their hands full.

The Committees at Work—Contested Elections—Literary Absentees—Demosthenic Display on the Canal Question.

ALBANY, Feb. 26, 1870.

THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEES

is going on steadily. For the past few days quite a number of reports were presented by them. The Committee on Ways and Means (John C. Jacobs, chairman), have long since reported and had passed the Appropriation bill. The Committee on Commerce and Navigation, which has all our harbor and water front interests in their hands, will take up on Wednesday next the important bill of Mr. James Irving, prohibiting Sound steamers to land at any pier on the North river or at any pier south of Tenth street on the East river. Notice has been given to Admiral Fisk, of the Fall River line, and the agents of the other Sound lines of this fact, and they are expected to appear before the committee to state their objections to the bill; for no doubt, they have many.

The Committee on Privileges and Elections have now three cases of contested seats before them, upon which they are taking testimony as fast as they can get witnesses together. A mass of evidence has already been taken by the Mayor of Brooklyn in the disputed case of Goodrich against Jones, the sitting member, and the committee are progressing in the matter with judgment and discretion; but it appears that the contestant is not satisfied with the rate of speed, and wants to be rushed into Jones' seat with a full head of steam on, while the chair is hot. Jones, however, is a pretty big fellow to dislodge. He is the largest man in the House, and it may require a derrick to move him out of the chair, which is barely large enough to hold him. The Judiciary Committee of the Senate, with Henry C. Murphy at its head, has done good work, as you already know, by perfecting the bill to put a stop to the abuse of issuing hasty injunctions by our judges, and many other measures for the better administration of justice.

OF A LITERARY TURN.

While the discussion was going on yesterday on Major Mosely's bill to abolish the office of Superintendent of Salt Springs, it is said that some of the members who did not want to vote against the interests of the venerable ex-Lieutenant Governor and ex-Speaker, Thomas G. Alvord, of Syracuse, were found deeply engaged over the literature of the Assembly library when the vote was about to be taken. But so intent were they on their studies that, fearing interruption, they actually locked themselves in. Jacobs' threat of a call of the House and a charge of contempt to be answered at the bar, however, proved an "open sesame," and the assiduous students left the repose of the library for the storms and battles of "the floor."

NEW YORK LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

ALBANY, Feb. 26, 1870.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

By Mr. CHAPMAN—To provide for the completion of the State Inebriate Asylum.

By Mr. LORD—Providing for the enlargement and finishing of the State Armory at Rochester.

INTEREST PAID ON THE CANAL DEBT.

The Senate went into executive session, and on the opening of the doors, on motion of Mr. Woot, the Auditor of the Canal Department was called upon to report the amount of interest paid on the canal debt each quarter since February 25, 1862; the amount of canal debt matured since then; the amount of canal stock purchased as investments for the sinking funds since then; the amount of premiums actually paid for coin to pay interest on the canal debt, and other information of a similar nature.

CANAL APPROPRIATIONS.

Mr. HARDENBURG introduced a bill to appropriate moneys for the construction of new work on and extraordinary repair of the canals, and for the payment of the award made by the canal appraisers. Also making appropriations for the payment of the principal and interest of the canal debt commencing October 1, 1870, and to provide for the payment of the debt contracted under section 12 article 7 of the constitution.

Adjourned till Tuesday morning.

ASSEMBLY.

ALBANY, Feb. 26, 1870.

THE EXCISE BILL.

The excise law being received from the Senate Mr. MITCHELL moved to refer the bill to the Committee of the Whole, and moved that it be made a special order for next Wednesday evening.

Mr. BAMBER moved its reference to the Committee of Internal Affairs, Cities and Villages, which was lost. Mr. Mitchell's motion was carried.

THE CUBAN RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. MITCHELL stated that the chairman of the Federal Relations Committee was still absent, and the committee could not report on the Cuban resolutions.

Mr. FIELDS moved to extend the time for the report to Wednesday next.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

By Mr. CULLEN—Chartering the Brooklyn Library Association.

By Mr. MITCHELL—Repealing the Railroad Consolidation Act of 1869.

DEAF AND DUMB EXHIBITION.

On motion of Mr. LA MORE the managers of the Deaf and Dumb Institution were invited to give an exhibition of their pupils on the 4th of March next in the Assembly Chamber.

THE CANAL QUESTION—CONGRESSIONAL AID TO PAY THE CANAL DEBT.

Mr. ALVORD called up the concurrent resolution in favor of the Bennett bill in Congress, making appropriation by the general government to pay the canal debt in this State, so that tolls may be reduced. Mr. Alvord spoke at length in favor of the resolution, suggesting a joint committee on the subject.

Mr. FIELDS thought the proper course to pursue in this matter was to refer it to the Canal Committee, and get their opinion upon it.

Mr. LITTLEJOHN was in favor of Mr. Alvord's suggestion, and proceeded to show how slack this State has been and is in the matter of controlling the great traffic between the West and the seaboard. He pointed to the large number of lines established and being established to divert this transportation from our State, and urged this Legislature to act promptly and efficiently in this matter. He suggested that the resolution should not be confined to favoring the Bennett bill, but rather in favor of some move by which the canals can be enlarged through aid from the general government.

Mr. FIELDS strenuously objected to sending the resolution to any other than the Canal Committee. He intimated that both the gentleman from Onondaga (Mr. Alvord) and the gentleman from Oswego (Mr. Littlejohn) had sprung this question upon the House with a view to secure political capital.

Mr. LITTLEJOHN repudiated any political motives in the matter. He regarded the matter as one of the greatest public interest, and his position on it was the position of a statesman and not of a politician. He urged it because he regarded it as of the greatest importance and of vast benefit to the State.

Mr. ALVORD denied that there was any political significance whatever in this matter. The proposition was not to hand over the canals to the general government. He would never consent to that. The canals will be held just where they are, and will always be under the control of the political party in power, whichever that party was. The object was to put the canals in a position to command the trade of the West.

After further debate Mr. ALVORD amended the resolution so as to simply ask Congress to make a donation, and omitting all reference to the Bennett bill.

Mr. MOSELY moved the previous question, which was ordered.

Mr. FIELDS' motion, to refer to the Canal Committee was then carried—59 to 34.

PROPOSED ADJOURNMENT.

Mr. BURNS moved that the House adjourn *sine die* on the 2d of April. Tabled.

STATE RENTS IN NEW YORK CITY.

A bill was introduced by Mr. NACHTMAN calling on the Comptroller of New York city to report the amounts received from rents, &c., since 1865. Laid over.

Adjourned.

A NEW DODGE.

A few days ago an old man about seventy years of age, gray hair and beard, about five feet ten inches in height, called at McDonald's pianoforte establishment, 26 Fourth avenue, to purchase a pianoforte, representing himself as from Charleston, S. C. The gentleman selected a piano valued at $400, and ordered the same to be boxed and delivered at pier 37 North river, giving his name as W. H. Hall, and stating that he would pay on delivery. The old man gave as payment a check drawn by J. H. Hall for the amount on the Bank of New York. The person who received the check noticed that the purchaser had several other checks in his wallet on the same bank, and as his suspicion was aroused he started for the bank and there he found it was worthless. A carriage was procured, and in great haste the pier was reached in time to save the property. The old man and his confederate seeing the carriage coming on the pier decamped and left their spoils behind them. It was afterwards ascertained that their intention was to remove the piano, under the pretence of storage, until the steamer sailed, which would have been in a few days, during which time it would either be shipped elsewhere or disposed of. The bank next day was notified that several checks of the same kind were likely to be presented; and the teller was requested to send such person to a certain address in order to effect an arrest; but no one has appeared up to the present time. Most likely he will use the name of some other bank in his future operations. This old gentleman could easily obtain goods in this manner, inasmuch as his age and appearance are in his favor; and perhaps the publication of this may be the means of leading to his arrest, or at least stopping his rascality in future.

THE TAMMANY FEUD.

THE FACTIONS STILL IN COUNCIL.

Concessions to the People, but No Compromise on Individuals—Strategic Plans for the Week's Campaign—Review and Developments of the Situation.

Yesterday was a busy day among the leaders of the rival democratic factions in this city. The understanding that the new charter was to be presented to the Legislature on Tuesday made it necessary for both parties to hasten their conclusions as to their course in the matter, and most of the principal chieftains were consulting together to the neglect of all other subjects. Some of the latter did not visit their offices at all during the day. Inquiries for them at their respective places of business were fruitless, and not a few persons, determined to unearth the object of their search, explored the official quarters of the city from one end to the other without success. No one except participants in the consultations knew where they were held, and only when the hour of dinner had summoned the leaders to their homes could the persistent searchers find their men.

The consultations were of the same character as the previous ones referred to in yesterday's HERALD, and related principally to the terms of the new charter in process of construction. A great part of the charter offered on the 2d of February is exempt from discussion and will be adopted, word for word, in the new programme, the contest, although involving all the departments of the city government, being narrowed down to a few points bearing decisively on the whole. These are, first, as to whether a portion of the departments of the city government shall be filled by election, and if so, which ones; and second, whether the appointing power to be created by the new charter shall be exercised by the present Mayor and City Council, or be first made operative after the election of a Mayor. As already stated in the HERALD, it is understood to be decided that the police commissioners and inspectors of elections shall be elected. Possibly one or two other of the commissions will be made elective, but no final arrangement has yet been made respecting them by the individuals engaged in drafting the new charter. The work is to be resumed to-day in those circles where it is an article of faith that labor for the good of one's country is not desecration of the Sabbath, and by to-morrow the programme is expected to be completed. It will provide for the election of a Mayor before the charter becomes operative, so as to enable the people to commit their candidate to a list of appointments expected to be made; but a fierce contest on this point will of course spring up immediately in the Legislature, as this point is really the keystone of the structure.

THE CHARACTER OF THE COMPROMISE

under consideration is a subject that taxes the ingenuity of all connected with it to explain. The coalition party vehemently declares that it has acceded to no compromise, that it is maintaining all that it has ever demanded, and that the regency is endeavoring to arrange for retaining certain powers in the expected change of affairs. Senator Creamer, who as ambassador of the coalition at Albany, is busily occupied in this city in preparing a draft of a charter that shall accord with the views of his faction, expresses the utmost confidence in the success of their efforts and represents to outside parties that he is arranging a programme that will utterly annihilate the regency. On the other hand, the latter faction as earnestly insists that no consultation whatever has been had respecting the retention of individuals in office, but that all the conferences have solely had for their object the consideration of the question as to what concessions may be made to the enemy on the mode of creating the city departments, in order to restore peace to the family.

Whatever interviews, if any, have been had between the leaders in relation to changes in office, nothing has yet transpired to indicate any results, nor is it probable that anything definite on this point will escape the secrecy of the managers until the fight in the Legislature over the new programme to be offered drags it out. The charter will in all probability be presented in the Senate on Tuesday, and undergo the usual course of pruning by the committee, and not until the bill comes up for final action will the secret movements of the past week be brought to light. The indications are that the coalition is at present occupied principally in consulting its own members respecting what can be made acceptable to all of them and at the same time insure success in the contest with the regency. Interviews have occurred between them and the regency leaders for the purpose of effecting an agreement on some issues and narrowing down the differences to a few vital points, but most of their operations have been conducted among themselves. A similar course is being pursued by the regency, who are carefully watching the movements of the enemy, and preparing to meet and resist his unacceptable propositions in the Legislature. Strategy is now the study of both parties, and, while a few concessions will be made before the charter comes up for consideration in the Senate, each one is girding himself for a renewal of the fray.

In the meantime the rivals are not sparing of their denunciations of each other. The charges of corruption made against the regency are met by the declaration that Messrs. Creamer, Norton, Genet and those associated with them care nothing at heart for the interests of the people, but have made themselves champions of justice, honesty, &c., for the sole purpose of riding into power on a popular cry, and obtaining for themselves fat offices in the city departments. The latter retaliate by asserting that the regency has lost confidence, and is now seeking to compromise with them in order to retain a good share of power, which they represent the regency is fearful of losing altogether if brought before the people for their decision at an election. The real strength of the contestants will probably be developed by Wednesday or Thursday, and by the end of the week it is expected that the whole question will be decided.

THE COURT OF SPECIAL SESSIONS.

An Estoppel of Justice—A Crowded Court and Not Enough of Judges—Judge Dowling to be a Rural Justice.

The Court of Special Sessions has ceased to exist, or, more properly speaking, there is an interregnum in its constitution that rendered it requisite that there should be a suspension of its functions as far as yesterday's court was concerned.

On Friday afternoon the last stroke was appended to the act of the Legislature by the signature of Governor Hoffman, and the new act altering the constitution of the Special Sessions Court became law. This act requires that three justices, selected from the police justices of the city, shall constitute the court, and it will be as well not only for the justices but also for the public to remember that all future convictions without the presence, at the conviction, of three parties, are null and void.

Yesterday morning Justices Dowling and Bixby were present in the office of the court, but as no third justice arrived at quarter past ten o'clock Mr. Johnson, the clerk, went into a crowded court and told the audience, made up of complainants, defendants, prisoners, police, lawyers and auditors, that in consequence of the reorganization of the court it would be adjourned until further notice. Considerable astonishment and a little indignation was shown at this summary disposal of the business of the day. The calendar contained twenty-nine cases, and there is no doubt that among the prisoners there are several who would have been acquitted had the court sat.

It is expected that there will be a meeting of the Board of Justices on Monday, when the rate will be agreed upon, and in all probability the court will meet again on Tuesday under its new constitution.

There was a universally expressed feeling among the groups that gathered themselves together to talk the incident over that justice could always be found at the Court of Special Sessions, and everywhere there was an openly expressed hope that Judge Dowling would remain on the bench. There was a rumor—murmured, but scarcely spoken—that Judge Dowling is to be removed to the Harlem Police district.

THE SITUATION IN ALBANY.

Peace Not Yet Proclaimed—The Tomahawk Still Sticking on the Door-Sill.

ALBANY, Feb. 26, 1870.

The rumors here to-day in regard to the "little unpleasantness" are few and those few rather vague. Some assert that there has been a comparative agreement. This is superlatively indefinite, as it would be much better and more proper to have first a positive agreement. Some say that the subject is to be quietly "dropped" and matters allowed to settle down into the regular rut, and all be harmony and peace. This idea was broached to "Bluff Prince Hal," as Genet is termed, and to the ponderous Norton. Well, as the New York boys would say, they "gave it a laugh," and declare that on their side there will be no surrender. "Gentlemen may cry peace, peace; but there is no peace." The bill introduced by Senator Norton yesterday morning, providing for the consolidation of the city and county government, does not look like peace. The bill introduced to-day in the Assembly to repeal the Railroad Directors' act of 1869 and the resolution worrying Comptroller Connolly on the market management do not look like peace. The resolution introduced some time since, asking the Comptroller to report the amount of money expended on the Fisk concrete pavement, does not look like peace. The "new coalitionists" claim that the tax levy as it was originally passed devoted "$250,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary," to improving the streets and avenues of the city with the concrete pavement, and that when it was printed and became a law it was found that the word "thereof" had been omitted. They claim that the "ring" was in the job of dropping that little word. How much truth there is in this, of course, cannot be said, but the "young democracy" are "giving it out" quite freely. They say that they will not recede on the path they have taken. They have avowed their platform and must conquer on it or fall with it. The planks are certainly strong looking, but whether there are any dangerous knots or veins of sap that may give way time alone will tell. They claim that, if they get their way, there will be first a new deal in the judiciary, and that none will be nominated for a judgeship except men bearing the very best characters and reputations socially and professionally. That the system of leeching on the city and country treasury will be stopped, and much more to the same effect. Just such promises as these have been made before. The people are accustomed to hear them and take them always for what they may be worth. However, it may safely be said that at present there are no evidences here of any reconciliation or adjustment, and no positive information to be gained on the subject, as the full force of the management on either side is not present.

THE PROPOSED MASONIC TEMPLE.

A Splendid Building to be Erected Opposite Booth's Theatre—The Aim and Object of the Fraternity—A Home for the Indigent to be Built.

The Masons, of whom the outside world hear and see so little, have lately been bestirring themselves to some purpose, and bid fair, in the erection of their proposed hall, to produce an edifice which will be a credit to themselves and an ornament to the metropolis. The site, which has been already purchased, is located on the southwest corner of Twenty-third street and Sixth avenue, directly opposite Booth's theatre. It embraces ninety-eight feet eight inches on the avenue and runs back 141 feet on Twenty-third street. The cost of this property was $240,000, the whole of which sum was paid by the Masons upon the transfer of the deed, with the exception of $87,500, which amount has been since cleared off. The site is therefore the sole and unencumbered property of the craft, thus literally verifying their boast that "no profane hand should hold one dollar of claim against it."

It was originally intended to build the hall further down town, and with that view the old church property on the corner of Grand and Crosby streets was purchased for $120,000. The march of improvement, however, and the exodus upward led to a change of location, and the lat