THE STATE CAPITAL.

Consternation Over the Rumor of the Loss of the Supply Bill.

The Boss After the Election Laws Again.

ANOTHER BATCH OF VETOES.

Fight Between Assemblymen Irving and Weed.

The Red Books Destroyed by Fire.

ALBANY, April 7, 1871.

The fate of the red books was decided this morning in a way that was as sudden as it was unexpected. The fact is that they all went up in smoke before daybreak, when the printing house of Weed, Parsons & Co. went down into its cellars and vaults a huge heap of smouldering ashes. It will be remembered that the fight over the number of books which everybody in any way connected with the Senate or the Assembly considered himself entitled to was a fierce and a long one a few weeks back, and that it had, in the long run, to be decided by a conference committee, who came very near breaking each other's individual noses about

THE BONE OF CONTENTION

before all the members had become satisfied that a hundred copies apiece for each Senator and Assemblyman was just the thing that taxpayers could not grumble at. During the past few days many of the members, by dint of a great deal of noise and bluster when the printing folks were around, succeeded in getting their quota of the previous volumes, but the majority in both houses, I am sorry to say, are among the mourners to-day. The civil lists, which caused such a hubbub in the lower House yesterday, also went the ways of all ashes, along with the red books, and as the new country members had their hearts set upon them the lamentation upon all sides is very great indeed. However, many of the New York members are quite delighted over the sad fate of the books, for it generally costs every one of them $300 or $400 over and above the cost the State gives him credit for to get a sufficient number of the books every year to make one out of every hundred of his constituents happy and contented till the next election. The poorer members from the city, who can't afford to make such an outlay and at the same time keep their

WASHERWOMEN IN GOOD HUMOR,

especially during a session when "bones" cannot be picked up in the lobby at every step, are very jubilant over the disaster. Of course they sympathize deeply with the firm who lose so much by it; but then what an excellent excuse they now have to keep their red book seeking constituents at a distance, and that too without giving offence! Was there ever such luck known before at Albany! How Jacobs, who has of late waged such a terrific warfare against the resolutions for printing all sorts of books and pamphlets and reports which nine out of ten persons not in the old paper business throw into the waste basket as soon as they receive them, feels about the conflagration and its legislative consequences is more than anybody has as yet been able to find out. He managed, however, unintentionally probably, to create no small excitement when he was questioned upon the subject, by stating that he was sorry to say that

THE SUPPLY BILL

could not be called no before Tuesday next. The member who heard this rather indefinite remark repeated it to another member, and the latter whispered it to his next door neighbor, and the item went from mouth to mouth so fast that in a few minutes nearly all the members had got it into their heads that the manuscript of the Supply bill had met with the same fate as the poor dear red books. Every one who had a little "job" of his own in the bill unconsciously—in police lingo—"gave himself away" by his troubled looks and anxious seekings for Jacobs, who couldn't be found anywhere after the fate of woe had been set afloat. It is true that everybody knew that a new supply bill could be made up in a few days, but there was great danger that in the remaking of the thing a few of the original items might be accidentally left out, and that it might not be a very easy thing to get them inserted after the printed bill would have made its appearance. There was the rub. To the inexpressible relief of not a few, however, it was finally ascertained that the bill had not been burned at all, as no manuscript had been sent to a printing house which was not in the printing house where the red book had been sent. The members of "great expectations" now breathe more freely.

A SLY DODGE.

The "Boss" is an old hand at sharp practices, and the man who expects to get the better of him in a question of political strategy must needs get up long before sunrise. You know his influence, which was thrown against L. was the death blow of Hardenbergh's bill considered in caucus the other night, and which changed the time of holding the State election from November to October. The "Boss," doubtless, had a neater plan in his own mind, and one which the people can certainly find no fault with, on the ground that it places the State in a sort of antagonistic attitude to the general government. The effect of the bill will be that the Congressional ticket hereafter will be a separate one, and that if the government attempts to interfere with votes other than those deposited in that box it will have to show its hand in a way that good democrats will duly appreciate. As the bill will pass I herewith append it in full:—

SECTION 1. At each annual or special election at which a representative in Congress, Senators or members of Assembly are hereafter to be elected, the inspectors in the several election districts in this State shall provide and keep a separate box, in which all ballots, to be endorsed "Congress," shall be deposited; also a separate box in which all ballots for Senators, to be endorsed "Senate," shall be deposited, and also a separate box, in which all ballots for members of Assembly, to be endorsed "Assembly", shall be deposited and the ballots deposited in said respective boxes shall be estimated and canvassed, in the order named above, respectively and immediately following the estimate and canvass of the ballots marked State.

SEC. 2. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

SEC. 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

HASTY LEGISLATION.

A good illustration of the way members vote during a rush of business without knowing exactly what they are voting upon was afforded this morning in the Assembly. A bill, one clause of which gives the Common Council of New York power to bond the city to the extent of millions of dollars for the construction of a bridge from New York to New Jersey, over the North river, was read a third time, put upon its final passage, and the Clerk had read nearly every name on the roll and not a single "nay" responded to his call until Goodrich got up and called the members' attention to the magnitude of the bill. There was considerable excitement when the thing was discovered, and the roll was at once gone over again. The members then, as their names were called, yelled out their "noes" in igorous style, so as to make up for their mistakes in voting "yes" by their silence a few minutes before. No wonder jobs creep through both houses during the closing weeks of the session.

THAT CATTLE BILL.

Mr. Irving gave the Rinderpest bill a hard slap to-day. The bill appropriates $10,000 to commissioners, who are given the right to stop cattle at Buffalo and other points for examination. Mr. Littlejohn said the bill was to prevent the spread of the cattle disease throughout the state. Irving could not see it in that light, and remarked that as far as he could judge from the way the bill was drawn up the only disease the commissioners would have anything to do with would be found in their pockets, where the $10,000 would go. Irving then made a motion, which was carried, to lay the bill on the table.

Both houses were treated to a

FRESH DISH OF VETO MESSAGES

to-day from the Governor. The Senators are not so used to the reading of the death warrants of shaky bills as their brethren of the other House; but the Governor made up for past neglect to-day and gave them a double dose. One of the vetoes was aimed at a class of claim bills. It is to be hoped that while he has his hand in the Governor will

KILL ALL THE OTHER CLAIM BILLS

in a similar way if they are not soon withdrawn. They are, in nine cases out of ten, swindles of the worst character, and not a few of the men who introduce them know them to be frauds when they take hold of them.

The bill for the better

PREVENTION OF FIRES

in New York city, which was published in full in the HERALD last Sunday, passed the Assembly to-day, after it had been so amended as to give the Fire Commissioners, instead of the Fire Marshal, the power to license kerosene oil dealers.

NEW YORK LEGISLATURE.

Senate.

ALBANY, April 7, 1871.

A large number of reports were made.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Mr. NORTON introduced a bill to incorporate the St. Patrick Hall Association.

Mr. TWEED introduced a bill to amend the Election law, providing for separate boxes to contain the tickets for Congressmen, Senators and Assemblymen, respectively.

VETO MESSAGE.

The Governor returned the bill to amend the charter of the Central Savings Bank of New York, with his objections. The bill grants unusual and unwarranted powers. The veto was sustained.

BILLS PASSED.

Authorizing the employment of stenographers in the Second and Third Judicial districts.

Authorizing the Brooklyn Children's Aid Society to hold real estate.

Incorporating the Bay Ridge Athenæum.

Incorporating the New York Stock Exchange.

Incorporating the People's Mutual Benefit Association.

To enlarge the boundaries of Auburn.

To incorporate the International Improvement and Trust Company.

To improve North Second street, Brooklyn.

To authorize judicial inquiry into the sanity of persons indicted for capital offences.

To incorporate the Expressman's Savings Bank.

To incorporate the American Mortgage and Trust Company.

To facilitate mortgage loans for land authorized to be sold from part of Prospect Park, Brooklyn.

To authorize the Syracuse and Northern Railroad Company to lease a portion of their property.

To provide for the appointment of an Auditor for Kings county.

Relative to the pay of the firemen of Brooklyn.

Relative to persons who abandon their families in Kings county.

To alter the Commissioners' map of the city of Brooklyn.

To incorporate the St. George's Brotherhood.

Relative to fees of Sheriffs, excepting New York, Kings and Westchester counties.

To provide for the improvement of Newtown creek.

Adjourned until Monday evening.

Assembly.

ALBANY, April 7, 1871.

BILLS REPORTED.

A large number of bills were reported, many of which were recommitted to be reported complete.

The bill providing for the appointment of commissioners to survey and make a map of Richmond county was reported complete, and ordered to a third reading.

A BATCH OF VETOES.

The Governor returned the following bills without his approval:—

To levy a tax on the town of Hopkinton to pay its indebtedness. The general law makes all necessary. Veto sustained.

To incorporate Island Insurance Association. Returned on the same reasons. Veto sustained.

To make new indices of deeds and mortgages in Queens county. The Board of Supervisors have full power in the matter. Veto sustained.

To incorporate the Glenside Savings Bank. It does not conform to the usual requirements of a charter for a savings bank. It authorizes loans on bonds and mortgages, but fixes no limits to the amount that may be so loaned. The bill is otherwise loosely drawn. Veto sustained.

Mr. LITTLEJOHN rose to thank the Governor for returning this bill. It was only a day or two since this House passed a bill to pay a salary to the President of one of these associations. He then warned the House against bills of that description, and he again raised a warning against the increase of these institutions, which was apparently for the purpose of making places for men to draw salaries from the surplus earnings of the money of the poor. He repeated, he thanked the Governor for his action on the bill.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Mr. D. B. HILL introduced a bill to amend the charter of Elmira, and had it referred to be complete.

Mr. BELLEY introduced a bill similar to Mr. Creamer's, in the Senate, putting religious societies on the same footing with other incorporations.

BILLS PASSED.

To abolish the Yonkers Hospital Association.

Authorizing the Commissioners of Public Charities and Correction in New York to commit vagrants.

For better prevention of fires in New York.

For the protection of private grounds and parks.

Incorporating the People's Gaslight Company of West Farms.

Providing for the care of female drunkards in the House of the Good Shepherd in Kings county.

Incorporating the New York Maennerchor.

Relative to paying claims in the City of Brooklyn by the late Metropolitan Board of Health.

Incorporating the Island City Trust Company.

Amending the charter of Buffalo.

Extending the time for the operation of the Staten Island and Elizabeth ferry.

To prevent the spread of disease in animals transported on railroads. Lost—50 to 40.

On motion of Mr. Littlejohn a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Incorporating the Rockland County Savings Bank.

Incorporating the National Security and Trust Company

Mr. BURNS moved reconsideration, in order to have the section allowing the corporate authorities of New York to subscribe to the capital stock stricken out.

The motion to reconsider was carried, and the bill was recommitted to the Judiciary Committee.

Authorizing the construction of a street railroad in Auburn to Owasco Lake.

BILL LOST.

Incorporating the New York and New Jersey Railroad Company.

Recess to seven o'clock P. M.

Evening Session.

BILLS PASSED.

To incorporate the University Railway of Syracuse.

Incorporating the Phenix Trust Company of New York.

To provide a further supply of water for Buffalo.

To amend the charter of Binghamton and Fort Dickinson Railroad Company.

To authorize the Fulton Bank of Brooklyn to increase its capital stock.

Providing regulations for the government of the American Geographical and Statistical Society.

Fixing the fees of the Clerk of Kings county.

THE DELAWARE AND HUDSON CANAL COMPANY.

To authorize the employment of stenographers in the Second and Third Judicial districts.

The Senate bill to incorporate the Capital City Medical College.

Mr. FLAGG moved that the Railroad Committee be discharged from the further consideration of the bill to repeal the section of the charter of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company authorizing the lease of railroads. Objected to.

Mr. FLAGG then moved to lay this order of business on the table, with a view to make his motion. Lost—41 to 66.

DISGRACEFUL SCENE—WEED ASSAULTED BY IRVING.

While this vote was taking Messrs. Weed and Irving and a number of other members stood beside the Clerk watching the recording of the vote. Mr. Irving, who had for some time entertained an ill feeling towards Mr. Weed, pushed up against him. Mr. Weed resisted the pressure and requested him to keep away.

Mr. Irving then applied to him an epithet which Mr. Weed coolly responded to, saying he desired no difficulty. The conversation becoming so loud the speaker (Mr. Fields in the chair) directed all standing by the Clerk to take their seats, and especially Messrs. Irving and Weed. All moved away, some to their seats and others elsewhere. Messrs. Irving and Weed passed to the Clerk's room in the rear of the desk. There Mr. Irving again assaulted Mr. Weed, applying epithets and challenging him to go out of the House.

Mr. Weed responded "Irving, I am no fighting man, and want nothing to do with a fighting man."

Some one was standing partly in front of Weed at this moment, when Irving reached over, ere Weed knew of his intention, and struck him a blow in the face, inflicting a severe gash under one of his eyes. He then made another lunge at Weed, who simply raised his hand and checked the force of Irving's second blow. The bystanders then interfered and stopped further violence.

Speaker FIELDS then took the chair and called the attention of the House to the matter.

Mr. FIELDS moved a committee of investigation to report to-morrow morning, which was unanimously carried.

Messrs. Fields, Frear, Nicholas, Littlejohn and Alvord were named as the committee.

Much feeling was exhibited in the House, among the members, at the outrage, and at first there was a disposition to dispose of the case at once, but the Speaker urged that further time be taken in the matter.

PASSAGE OF BILLS RESUMED.

To incorporate the Mutual Trust and Savings Institution of New York.

Amending the Insurers' Indemnity Company of New York.

For the better protection of the consumers of coal. Lost, and the bill recommitted for amendment.

CENTRAL BRIDGE.

Alarming Insecurity of the Structure Over Harlem River—Communication from Judge Hilton.

So alarming is the condition of the Central or Macomb's Dam Bridge overthe Harlem river that many persons have been impelled to complain to the Department of Public Parks, in the belief that the Department has charge of all bridges over that river. Judge Hilton, in the subjoined letter, corrects the impression of these people by denying that the department has control of any of the bridges, and at the same time transmits the report of Mr. W. H. Grant, an engineer attached to his bureau, who examined the bridge. This report fully confirms the statements made of its insecurity. In view of the great strain that will be imposed upon it, should it remain standing during the coming season, this bridge should be removed, and one of iron or stone substituted. Those having authority should see that this recommendation, backed as it is with the statements of those compelled to pass over this bridge, and the report of the engineer who examined it, should be carried out before some terrible accident shall have occurred, and brought upon them popular ill will.

CITY OF NEW YORK,
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS,
265 BROADWAY, April 7, 1871.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

SIR—From the many requests made and the information given me respecting the condition of Central Bridge, across Harlem river, at the end of Eighth avenue, I am satisfied that some people are under the impression that this Department has charge of it, and that the duty devolves upon us to keep it in repair and safe and secure for the immense travel constantly passing over it.

Permit me to say, through you, that this is a mistake. Our Department has at present no control over the Harlem river bridges. Its duties at that place relate to the improvements proposed for laying out the docks and wharves on the river and constructing tunnels and bridges under and over it, for which surveys and examinations are being daily made by our engineers in charge of that work.

However, to satisfy myself of the condition of Central bridge, and to ascertain whether it was in such a dangerous condition as reported, I directed the chief officer in charge of our civil and topographical engineering bureau to make a personal investigation and report the result.

His report is attach. It is such as seems to demand that the public should be warned respecting the use of this bridge, and informed that too much care cannot be exercised in travelling over it. Very respectfully yours,

HENRY HILTON,
Vice President and Treasurer Department Public Parks.

CITY OF NEW YORK, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PARKS,
BUREAU OF CIVIL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL
ENGINEERING, 265 BROADWAY, April 6, 1871.

Hon. HENRY HILTON, Acting President Department of Public Parks:—

DEAR SIR—I have examined yesterday and to-day Central Avenue Bridge. I have received no answer from Mr. Tracy about the plan, and from what I hear I think the bridge is still in the hands of the Commissioners—Mr. Gifford, Morrisania, on the part of Westchester county, and Mr. Long, Harlem, on the part of the city of New York. I purpose to communicate with them about plan, &c. My examination shows that the structure is in a precarious condition, unsafe for anything but the most cautious and moderate use. I was unable to examine the floor stringers and flooring for want of ladders, but sufficient examination was made of the accessible works below to the foundation to determine the insecurity of the bridge. The timbers are generally rotten at their intersections and bearings, except where a few replacements have been made. The Westchester end is in the most dangerous condition. This is owing in a great measure to the raising of that stretch of the bridge in order to pass the Spuyten Duyvil and Port Morris Railroad under it. The work of raising has been badly done. For the safety of the public something should be immediately done to this part. To determine the full extent of deterioration of the work and the best mode of remedying it will require an examination by a carpenter and assistants for which I enclose a requisition. I would suggest, in the meantime, that instructions be given to the keeper in charge and to the policemen stationed there to permit no unusual loads to pass nor to permit carriages to cross abreast of each other or crowded close to each other in single file, or to pass each other in opposite directions, except at intervals apart on each line of at least fifty feet, and all to move for a slow walk, more than usual caution to be observed during a high wind. Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. H. GRANT,
Engineer in Charge Civil and Topographical Bureau.

GOOD FRIDAY.

Observance of the Festival in This City—Services, Ceremonies and Sermons in the Catholic Churches.

To-day (Holy Saturday) is the last day of the Lenten season, and yesterday being Good Friday was universally observed in all of the Catholic churches and in many of the Episcopal ones.

On Good Friday is commemorated the death of Jesus Christ upon the cross, and upon that day special services are performed, which are calculated to keep alive in the hearts of the faithful the memory of the great sacrifice offered up on Mount Calvary to the end that all men might be saved. An office is performed in place of the mass, no sacrifice being offered, nor is there any consecration of the eucharist, the celebrant using the host which was consecrated the day before.

When the office first began the priest, clad in black vestments, came to the altar, which was without lights or incense, and prostrated himself before it while the acolytes covered it with a white cloth, after which he ascended the altar steps and several lessons were read. Then was recited the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John, chapter 18, wherein is described all of our Lord's tribulations and sufferings from the time He is betrayed by Judas, crowned with thorns, scourged and clad in a purple garment, until He finally yielded up the ghost upon the cross and His side pierced with a spear, that the Scripture might be fulfilled:—"You shall not break a bone of Him;" and again—"They shall look on Him whom they pierced."

At the conclusion of the passion several prayers followed, and then, after the priest had divested himself of his vestments, he took the cross from the altar, and, uncovering the top of it, showed it to the people, at the same time singing the antiphon, *Ecce Lignum Crucis*, the choir singing *Venite Adoremus*. Then he uncovered the right arm again, singing *Ecce Lignum*. Finally he uncovered the whole cross, singing *Ecce Lignum* for the third time.

After the priest had kissed the cross it was carried to the altar rails and there presented to the lips of many of the faithful. While this adoration or rather veneration of the cross was taking place the choir sang the versicle *Crux Fidelis* and *Pange Lingua Gloriosi*.

After all the congregation had approached the altar a procession was formed, as on Maunday-Thursday, and they proceeded to the repository and brought back the sacrament to the main altar. While the procession was moving the hymn *Vexilla Regis Prodeunt* was sung.

After the priest had received communion—none upon this day being received by any save the celebrant, unless the person is at the point of death—the mass or office concluded.

SERVICES AT ST. PETER'S CHURCH.

The Passion and Death of Christ—Discourse by Father Nugent.

At the ten o'clock mass yesterday at St. Peter's Roman Catholic church, in Barclay street, the Rev. Father Nugent, of Liverpool, preached the sermon of the day. On opening his discourse the reverend gentleman said:—The Church on this day, like a grief-stricken spouse, sits at the foot of the cross and calls upon her children to witness the sorrow which transfixes her heart. Her sacred rites and ceremonies are broken and interrupted, the altar is stripped of its ornaments, the sanctuary is laid bare, the mournful chant and every word of the sacred office bespeak the abyss of suffering and sorrow of the crucifixion. While the outward world moves in its ordinary groove, unmindful or despising the anniversary of Christ's death, while men are just as intent on business, politics or pleasure, the Church, clothed in the garb of mourning, with tears upon her cheeks, reveals to the world from Calvary's heights the mystery of the passion and death of Jesus. I need not dwell upon the touching incidents of the Last Supper or the incomprehensible gift—the New and Eternal Testament, which was then given to the Apostles. Rather let us follow Jesus with His turee chosen ones beyond the brook of Cedron into that garden where the second Adam makes reparation for the sin of the first in the Garden of Eden. He retired a little from His Apostles and began to pray, when there fell to the ground, as it were, a stream flowing from His sacred head. It is the first outpouring of His blood which will be shed in full measure.

THE DARK CLOUD OF SIN

with its punishment is cast upon Him, and like a robe covers Him. Sin upon the Son of God? Sin could not touch His divinity, but it entered through His humanity. There He lies, motionless and still, while the moral leprosy of man's guilt spreads and circulates through His frame. It is this struggle that forced the blood to rain down upon the ground. Drop by drop it trickles down, as in the depths of His agony He lies prostrate and prays that if it be possible this chalice may pass from Him, the very thought of which made His soul sad and sorrowful even unto death.

WHAT WAS THIS CHALICE,

the bitterness of which so saddened the soul of Jesus Christ? It was the twofold thought of the infinite multitude and magnitude of the sins of mankind, and the thought of the number of souls who rejected and still would reject the proffered mercy.

After vividly describing the sufferings of Christ Father Nugent went on:—Jesus has passed along the way of sorrow. The moment for which He so intensely longed has come at last. The soldiers form a circle; one eagerly prepares the nails; another digs the hole to plant the cross in; while others tear off His garments and fling Him down upon the cross. Then the boldest of the number, seizing the Divine right hand, and, oh God! with what an agonizing torture, pierces it with a large, sharp-pointed nail, and, with repeated blows of the hammer, fastens it to the cross. Who can relate it without horror? Oh, who would not pity a mother standing

AT THE FOOT OF THE GIBBET

on which her son is expiring! Now the last words of Jesus trembling on His agonizing lips pierce the mother's soul; bowing His head, He dies, and man's redemption is consummated.

Draw close to the foot of the cross and consider well what our Lord has suffered. If the vilest of human beings had suffered for us what Jesus Christ has gone through, would anything ever induce us to cause Him the same agony over again? This should be our constant thought, and our only desire or aspiration should be to return to Him who was lacerated on the crucifix for our sins, our never dying Lord. Give us the crucifix, that emblem of

THE AGONY OF OUR LORD,

and take all the rest. Deprive us of all else, but do not touch the sacred cross.

O Lord, Thou nearest in Thy hands the remembrance of us—as a spouse retains the pledge of her beloved one in some precious jewel and clasps it close to her heart, so we keep the memory of the wounds in our hearts O Christ. After a long exhortation to his hearers to remember the great lesson of the day the reverend gentleman concluded with the words, "Into Thy hands I commend my spirit; Lord Jesus receive my soul."

PLYMOUTH LECTURE ROOM.

Rev. Henry Ward Beecher on the Sufferings of Christ.

A very large congregation listened last night to Mr. Beecher's Good-Friday evening talk. The Plymouth pastor was in a tender, reflective mood, and gave to his people his idea of the interpretation to be given to the sufferings of the Saviour. I suppose, said he, that the thoughts of all devout persons are being borne to the great event that the universal Church celebrates to-day. The method of realizing the passion of the Saviour will be different in different persons. Some will merely follow the footsteps of history, and review the physical events of Christ's life. For myself I neither love nor think it profitable to dwell on the

MORBID ANATOMY OF CHRIST'S SUFFERINGS.

I do not think it profitable to listen to the blows of the hammer that drove the nails or to look at the blood that flowed from beneath the crown of thorns. Yet there is great profit in the thought of the Saviour bowed in suffering, when we get the right conception of what the suffering meant. If Jesus was a simple man, a moral genius, seeking to reform His people, persecuted and put to death by them, His heroism was like that which we see in every age. If we see only this we come short of all the glory of the cross of Christ. The glory of the cross is that the incarnated God lives on earth and suffers in death to bring within the reach of the lowest the real divine nature; to teach us that God is not an unsuffering, unlaboring ruler, governing the universe by the sublime machinery of law, but that He rules in tender love, with the fidelity of love, the patience of love, the service of love, the sacrifice of love, love that death itself does not quench, or change. Jesus came to tell us that God thus loves us from eternity to eternity; and he tells us this, not by

THE TEACHING OF THE LIPS,

but by the sublime teaching of action. Looked at thus the cross means an interpretation of the divine nature that is sublime beyond compass of words. Men have never been willing to believe this interpretation. The Jew could not endure this God of weakness. The Greek scorned such an idea of God. But when the majesty of heaven is interpreted through Christ to be the grand power of suffering cheerfully and willingly for inferiors, nay, for enemies, the secret of the universe is divulged. Nothing in nature teaches this; it is slightly hinted at in the love of the household. Following this moral interpretation we shall do well to dwell upon Christ's sufferings. In this connection the question as to how far we accept and follow the Lord Jesus Christ is personal to ourselves. We believe in his name, and in the statement that

HE IS VERY GOD.

This is well, but it is the mere alphabet of our faith in Christ. They receive Christ who understand the secret of divine love; they follow him who understand the service of self-sacrifice. To know the patience of love, even unto death, that it is to know Christ. How solemn, how rebuking a test is this!

The work of the Church is to keep the thought of Christ before the world; but, if the Church is full of

SELFISHNESS, PRIDE, AVARICE AND VANITY,

it ceases to represent Christ. The Church wants humility and self-denial, and the love that knows the secret of sacrifice. When all business, all civil procedures shall conform to the Christian ideal; when the highest shall make themselves the servants of all men; when we are happy in the ratio that we diffuse happiness then shall we see the latter day glory. When I consider these two great cities, with all their injustice and cruelty and crime, I realize how much the Church needs Divine power to interpret to the world the true meaning of the sufferings and death of Christ.

CONFIRMATION IN ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH.

Yesterday a comparatively large congregation assembled in St. George's Protestant Episcopal church, to whom the Rev. Dr. Tyng preached an earnest discourse on the "Motives which constrain Christians to serve God; the fact upon which they are based and the results." His remarks were based upon II. Corinthians, v., 14-15. After elaborating those thoughts and making an earnest appeal to the unconverted in the audience to repent and accept the Saviour, and giving a word of encouragement to the candidates for confirmation, a collection was taken up, in accordance with their custom, for missions among the Jews, for whom special prayers are offered on Good Friday. Thirty-one candidates for confirmation then ascended to the altar, where the Bishop, Potter, administered the rite to twenty-two females and nine males, children and adults. The Bishop subsequently addressed the young people upon the importance of the position and church relation which they had assumed, and urged them to be faithful to their vows. He congratulated the church upon the success of its missions among the poor and its imitation of the Saviour in this regard, and said he received more real pleasure in St. George's church on this account than on any other. He therefore encouraged the young disciples to be faithful to their Lord and to his poor, and after a short prayer the congregation received the Episcopal benediction and were dismissed.

HORSE NOTES.

Length of Trotting Tracks.

The trotting meetings throughout the country begin next month, and it will be a matter of much interest to the owners of horses to know the precise length of each track on which their trotters will be engaged. For the information of horse owners and the public generally who take an interest in the trotting horse and who keep records of time made over the various tracks in the country, we would suggest to the National Association that a competent civil engineer be appointed to visit all the tracks that are governed by the rules of the Association and take their measure three feet from the pole. All associations not having tracks that are a full mile or a full half mile should either be ruled out of the National Association or be compelled to make their tracks the right lengths. Many horses have made fictitious reputations by trotting on tracks that are not a full mile. Some of the associations in the country engage their own engineers and get certificates to suit themselves; but it should be the duty of the National Association to attend to this important matter and have the lengths of all the tracks published for the enlightenment of all parties interested. Were all trotting tracks of the same length the associations having the fastest would receive the greatest patronage, as all men owning clippers would enter them where the greatest chance would be to beat 2:17¼. We call the attention of Mr. Amasa Sprague, the President of the National Trotting Association, to the above suggestions, with the hope that he may at once see the necessity of getting national engineers to do national work, and not receive as authentic the measurements made by proprietors or agents of the several tracks. In this way only can we obtain the correct record of a horse's performance and protect the public.

Prospect Park Fair Grounds.

The association having control of this capital track has issued its programme of purses for the spring meeting, which will close at the Hoffman House on the 2d of May. Fifteen thousand dollars will be given for eight races during the four days of the meeting. The opening day will be the 6th of June, and the sports will begin with a trot for a purse of $750, for horses that have never beaten three minutes. This purse will be divided into three parts. The second trot will be between horses that have never trotted better than 2:26, and this will be for a purse of $2,000. On the second day a purse of $850, divided into four parts, will be given for four year old trotters that have never previously trotted for money, to be followed by a trot for a purse of $2,000 for horses that have never scored 2:29, and a trot by horses that never beat 2:34 for $1,000—$550 to the first, $300 to the second, $100 to the third and $50 to the fourth horse. On the third day $4,000 will be given for all horses, the first, second, third and fourth horses each getting a purse, and $700 for horses that have never beaten 2:40. On the last day $2,000 will be given to teams and $1,700 for horses that have never beaten 2:31. The programme will be highly popular with trotting men, and the purses will, undoubtedly, close with large entries. There are a great many new horses of speed to be put in training this season, and the three minute purse will be contested for by some that, if report is not much exaggerated, will trot low in the thirties. The 2:26, 2:29, 2:35, 2:40 and 2:31 ought to have numerous entries, as there will be many new candidates for fame, besides those that distinguished themselves last year. Team races are always popular, and there are many now in the land that are said to be capable of beating 2:30. No better place than the Prospect Park Fair Grounds could be selected to show them off, as the track is one of the best in the country for fast time, and the prizes offered for the winners are very liberal. We anticipate a successful spring meeting at this popular track.

Fleetwood Park.

The Fleetwood Park Association offer $13,900 in purses, which close on the 4th of May at the Hoffman House, the races to come off on the 16th, 17th, 18th and 20th days of that month. There will be two trots on the first, second and fourth days, the purses being divided into three parts. Purse No. 1 is $700 for horses that never beat three minutes; No. 2 for horses that never beat 2:29, for which $1,000 will be given; No. 3, on the second day, is a purse of $2,000 for horses that never trotted better than 2:23, and No. 4, on the same day, is a purse of $1,000 for horses that never trotted better than 2:30. On the third day three purses are offered, the first being $1,500 for horses that never trotted better than 2:26; one of $700 for horses that never beat 2:50, and one of $1,000 for horses that never trotted better than 2:34. On the last day of the meeting $4,000 is offered for all horses and $1,500 for horses that never beat 2:31. The above schedule of purses will accommodate all grades of trotters, and we expect to see the entries unusually large. The track has undergone considerable alteration for the better since last season, and the club house and grand stand will be very much improved.

"HAVE THE WHOLE OR NONE."

JAMES GORDON BENNETT, Esq.:—

SIR—Will you kindly insert the following? I was painfully surprised in reading the short article in the HERALD yesterday on "Wills"—to reflect upon the childishness and wrong spirit manifested by the respective societies for the "Relief of Indigent Women." It being a question to which society the bequest of $25,000 was made, both claim it and "will make no compromise. Each is bound to have the whole or none. It is a pretty hard fight." These good people are forgetting the teachings of Christ and the spirit of the Gospel. "Variance" is one of the works of the flesh, an outgrowth from the devil within (Gal. v., 20). "If any man sue thee at the law and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also" (Matt. v., 40). The money was bequeathed to "Relieve Indigent Women"—let it be mutually and equally divided between these two benevolent claimants, and thus the devil will be defeated and the spirit of the kingdom of Christ, peace, be spread abroad. E. B.

EAGLESWOOD INSTITUTE ALUMNI.

During the late war there flourished in Eaglewood, Perth Amboy, N. J., an institution modelled somewhat after West Point, in which the principle of "*mens sana in corpore sano*" was carried out to the fullest extent. The academy has since been given up, but the old members still live. About thirty of them assembled at the Hotel Brunswick, corner of Twenty-sixth street and Fifth avenue, Thursday evening, to hold their first grand reunion. They were all fine, athletic looking young fellows, in whom the military training which they had been subject to in their younger days has evidently not been lost. The banquet, which was served up in the most *recherché* style, was done full justice to by men who had not yet dreamed of such a thing as dyspepsia. After the cloth was removed speeches, songs and humorous reminiscences of old boyish days filled up the time till the faint gray streaks of early morn came peeping in the windows. Among the gentlemen present were Major Ewen, of Spuyten Duyvil; Majors Vose, Campbell, Prawl and Furroy, of New York; Adjutants Gray and Bass, Captain Knevals, Lieutenants Sheldon, Kingsland, Apthorp and Speers, and Commodore Edge, of the "Long Branch Yacht Club."

TERRIBLE CONFLAGRATION IN ALBANY.

TWENTY BUILDINGS CONSUMED.

Weed, Parson & Co.'s Mammoth Printing House Destroyed—Loss Over Half a Million Dollars—A Fireman Burned to a Cinder.

[From the Albany Evening Journal, April 7.]

One of the most disastrous fires that ever visited our city broke out this morning, a little before five o'clock, in the upper story—the electrotype room—of Weed, Parson & Co.'s large printing establishment on Columbia street. The flames spread with fearful rapidity, and before they could be stayed the great building and its entire contents, and all the adjacent stores and dwellings on Broadway and Van Tromp street, were reduced to a mass of burning ruins. From five to eight o'clock the different steamers fought their relentless opponent with all possible energy and determination. In Broadway, Van Tromp and Columbia streets steady and powerful streams were shot into the masses of flames, and after three hours' hard work a limit was put to the devastation. As soon as it became evident that there was no further danger of the spread of the fire, those living in the neighborhood of the burned district, thankful for their own escape, turned with ready sympathetic hearts and willing hands to do what they could to help those turned out of house and home, and whose property, rescued from the fire, was scattered here and there over the sidewalks.

The burned district presents a most forlorn and pitiful look. Walls standing here and there, in ragged and begrimmed state, loom out from amid the dingy smoke of burning embers, while the lofty chimney stack of the ruined printing establishment—all that is left intact—seems to stand as a monument erected to commemorate the desolation of which it is the centre and survivor.

ORIGIN OF THE FIRE.

Shortly before five o'clock this morning a policeman going his rounds discovered flames bursting out of one of the windows of the fifth (or top) story of the printing house. He at once made the fact known to the night watchman of the establishment, who was in the counting room, and then sounded a general alarm. The watchman proceeded to the fifth story, and found that the fire was to work at the electrotype room. In this room there was a small stove, and it is supposed the fire originated from it. The alarm was immediately communicated over the city, and the various steamers, firemen and a vast concourse of citizens were at once assembled ready to work with might and main to suppress the flames and save the great building from serious damage. But their best efforts were in vain. In spite of superhuman efforts the fire

SPREAD WITH FEARFUL RAPIDITY,

and in course of a quarter of an hour after the first alarm was sounded the roof fell in on top of the burning building, the flames every moment gathering volume and communicating to the various stories beneath. The fifth story contained, in addition to the electrotype room, the stereotype room, lithographers' room, and designers and engravers' room. The fourth story was devoted to the book-bindery; the third story was the paper and cutting room, composing room, proof room and book room; the second story, the packing room, railroad ticket room and job room in rear; the first story contained the several offices, counting room, shipping room with press room in rear, containing over thirty presses, and engine room. All these stories, with their varied and valuable contents, were

MADE SHORT WORK

of by the billows of flame that rolled through the building from one end to the other with a terrible and magnificent violence. So irresistible was the fury of the fire, so impetuous was its force, that in less than an hour after the first alarm was sounded the vast building was reduced to a mass of burning, smoking walls that fell from time to time with the noise of thunder. The books of the concern, valuables from the safe, and most of the law, medical, legislative and miscellaneous volumes issued by the house were removed in safety from the first floor to the Delavan House and other places in the neighborhood, but with these exceptions it was found impossible to save anything else from the sudden ruin.

THE FIREMEN WORKED WITH A WILL;

everything that brain could plan and nerve execute was put into requisition. The entire department was on hand and did their whole duty, and did it nobly; but do what they might the great building could not be saved. By its loss over three hundred people are thrown out of employment, while the firm of Weed, Parsons & Co. sustain a loss of $250,000 above their insurance, which amounts to $150,000.

LOSSES OF WEED, PARSONS & CO.

It is impossible to state the loss of Weed, Parsons & Co. with any degree of accuracy, there was such a large quantity of unfinished work in progress, but it will approximate $400,000, upon which there is an insurance of $150,000—$40,000 on the building and $110,000 on machinery, stock and material.

The boilers may not be greatly injured, and the engine may be restored. One of the hydraulic presses stands erect, but the others are all toppled over.

It is hoped that the stereotype vault has not been penetrated by the fire. It contains a large quantity of plates and other valuables. The rubbish prevents access to it.

The following are the insurances:—

On building—Imperial, London, $5,000; Firemen's, $5,000; Capital City, $5,000; Albany City, $5,000; North American, $10,000; Western, Buffalo, $5,000; Commerce, Albany, $5,000. On other buildings, $2,000 in Republic and $400 in Springfield. Total, $42,400.

On Stock.—Commerce, $5,000; Corn Exchange, New York, $5,000; Ætna, Hartford, $5,000; Imperial, London, $5,000; Phœnix, New York, $3,000; Atlantic, Providence, $2,500; Putnam, Hartford, $2,500; Fireman's, New York, $5,000; Albany City, $5,000; Albany, $2,500; North American, New York, $2,500; Royal, Liverpool, $12,000; Springfield, $2,500; Yonkers and New York, $2,500; Glens Falls, $2,500; International, New York, $2,500; North American, Hartford, $5,000; Astor, New York, $3,000; People's, Worcester, $5,000; Atlantic, Brooklyn, $3,000; Long Island, $3,500; Howard, New York, $3,500; Irving, New York, $2,000; Manufacturers', Boston, $2,000; Star, $2,500; Manhattan, $1,000; Norwich, Conn., $2,500; Sun, Cleveland, $2,000.

On Engine and Machinery.—Ætna,