WAR FOR THE BALLOT.

Grand Mass Meeting at the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

THE CITY OF CHURCHES AROUSED

Election Frauds Denounced in Tones of Thunder.

REPEATERS TO BE MADE REPENT.

The Citizens Pledged to Exterminate the Culprits.

WHAT BROOKLYN WILL DO ABOUT IT.

Speeches by Mayor Kalbfleisch, District Attorney B. F. Tracy, Captain Tenny, General Slocum, Rev. Theodore Cuyler and Others.

The citizens of Brooklyn turned out *en masse* last evening, despite the pelting rain and uninviting condition of the state of affairs, meteorologically speaking, to express their indignation against the alleged frauds perpetrated upon the ballot in the election of Tuesday last. The Academy of Music, the rendezvous of the denunciators of the outrage, was crowded to excess from pit to dome fully an hour before the "opening of the ball," which did not take place until eight o'clock. The stage was also crammed by the leading lights of the republican party of Kings county and the defeated candidates of both the "reform" republican factions. In the body of the house were hundreds of democratic politicians, and it was whispered on every side that the elements for a lively row were certainly on hand, whether they were developed in the course of the "big talk" or not. Subjoined is a copy of the call which was very extensively circulated throughout the city during the day:—

CITIZENS AROUSE!

Shall the elective franchise be defended or abandoned? Tammany tactics in Brooklyn. The elected candidates counted out. The voters of King's county, who are determined to overcome the enormous frauds which were perpetrated in this city on Tuesday last, and to bring the authors to justice, are invited to assemble *en masse* at the Academy of Music, this evening.

Prominent among those who occupied seats on the platform were noticeable Mr. Henry E. Bowen, ex-Mayor Booth, Colonel Robert Johnstone, Nelson G. Shaurman, James Weaver, Colonel Thorpe, Supervisor Harman, ex-Mayor Lambert, Joseph Reeves, Frank G. Kirby, Dwight Johnson, S. B. Chittenden, General Jourdan, Joseph J. Couch, Judge Tenny and A. E. Goodnow. When the full force of the gaslight was turned on and Mr. W. W. Goodrich came forward on the stage a loud and continued outburst of applause arose from the multitude assembled, and swelled again at the mention of Mayor Kalbfleisch's name as presiding officer of the meeting.

SPEECH OF MAYOR KALBFLEISCH.

Mayor Kalbfleisch on coming forward was received with tremendous cheering. When silence had been restored the speaker stepped to the front and in a very determined tone addressed the multitude. In the commencement of his observations he tendered his heartfelt thanks for the warm and generous reception accorded to him. This, he said, was a momentous occasion, but the elective franchise, which the citizens of the United States should hold dear, was being wrested from them by men who had violated the trust reposed in them. It had been alleged that frauds had been committed, and the returns from the different districts proved conclusively that something was wrong. That fact was apparent to all who cared to examine into the matter. The Mayor then dwelt severely upon the course the Inspectors of Election had pursued, remarking that many a man had been hung upon circumstantial evidence, and that the evidence in this case was so very strong that the rope should have been furnished to hang them. This observation was received with thundering cheers. The Mayor seemed to feel pretty good, and, advancing like Don Cæsar, toward the footlights, stated that there was a time when a citizen of the little republic of Rome boldly declared his citizenship; but could an American go abroad at the present time and gain respect in face of the statements presented in reference to the frauds perpetrated at the recent election? The counting business was not by any means a novel thing to him. He had had some experience in that line, and if he had not been wide awake they would have counted him out in the year 1867. He was then set up for the purpose of being knocked down. (Great laughter) The Mayor proceeded to comment upon the rascalities which characterized the recent election, and humorously adverted to a contest in which he was the opponent of Mr. Archy Bliss. The time had arrived when all such glaring evils must come to an end. Electioneering frauds would henceforth have but little support; for when the people were aroused to a sense of their duty it was pretty certain that the knaves must go to the wall. The speaker, with some humor and not a little sarcasm, adverted to the results as recently returned in some of the election districts, showing that in numerous instances illegal votes had been cast. He also enumerated several cases in the elections of years past wherein, so far as certain districts were concerned, the votes returned exceeded the number of residents in the wards mentioned. The Mayor wound up his oration by observing that it was time the Legislature changed the municipal government entirely. He advocated the abolishing of commissions, and after giving the members of the Water Board a piece of his mind, not forgetting the Fire Commissioners, Mr. Kalbfleisch retired amid enthusiastic cheers.

Mr. BENTON, the secretary of the meeting, then read a very lengthy list of names, prominent and influential citizens of Brooklyn, who acted as Vice Presidents upon the occasion. These names were accepted with applause by the audience.

SPEECH OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY BENJAMIN F. TRACY.

Mr. TRACY then arose and spoke as follows:—

Mr. CHAIRMAN AND FELLOW CITIZENS—Having been appointed chairman of a committee at the meeting held at Commonwealth Hall yesterday morning to investigate the alleged frauds that have been perpetrated at the recent election, and having an almost continuous session of that committee from the time of its appointment until the present, Mr. Chairman, I shall confine myself in the few remarks which I shall submit to this meeting to a report of the evidence or the facts which have come to the knowledge of that committee showing how frauds have been perpetrated at the ballot box during the recent election. On the evening of election, Mr. Chairman and fellow citizens, those of us who were scanning the returns of the election as the reports came in from the Third, Twentieth, Seventh, Eleventh, Thirteenth, Fifteenth, Tenth and Ninth wards, and, in fact, all the wards where we had a guarantee of an honest and fair election, those returns indicated that the feeling and sentiment of an aroused people, which had swept over the city of New York and over the State of New York, had been felt also in Brooklyn—(applause)—and we beheld in the increased vote against the democratic party evidence pending to satisfy us all that the county of Kings had been swept by an aroused people determined to place the government of its city in the hands of honest and upright officials. (Applause.) By ten o'clock these returns had been received from so many various quarters as we thought fairly indicated the result of the election. There remained substantially only the Fifth, Second, Sixth and the Twelfth wards to be heard from. There was a silence from those wards, it is true, that was ominous; but we thought we had heard returns from those wards before, and as they had not increased in population we thought they had done their worst in 1870. Giving them the utmost that they could possibly claim, the highest majorities that those wards had ever been known to give before, we could count as certain the election of every man upon our city ticket, except, possibly, one, and the majority on the county ticket. But at last we had news from the Second ward indicating a vote, a democratic vote of 2,200. We knew what that meant. In a few moments came tidings from the Fifth ward indicating a democratic majority of over three thousand. We knew then what influence had been at work in those wards, and we were feeling their result. Soon after came tidings from a single district in the Sixth ward indicating a majority on the democratic vote of 1,000 in a single district in that ward. Soon came tidings from the Twelfth ward, and when we got them in late that night we found that in every one of those wards just about one thousand democratic votes had been added to the highest majorities that those wards had ever been known to give. The uniformity of that increase from nine to ten hundred in each ward was very suggestive that somebody had made a careful calculation as to the precise number of votes needed to swamp the county and city tickets, and those returns have been made to order. (A voice—"That's so.") Before the next morning the evidence of fraud in the election had become overwhelming, and it was determined that the candidates who had been counted out in this election should meet to devise means, not only of redressing the wrong that had been done to them as representatives of the citizens of this county, but the wrong that had been done to the entire city of Brooklyn and the entire State of New York, and to every one who is interested in the perpetuity of free institutions. (Applause.) That meeting was held and a committee was appointed first to call this meeting to-night, and another committee was appointed, of which I had the honor to be named chairman, to gather up the multitudinous evidence of the frauds and the violence that had been committed at the ballot box on Tuesday last. (At this point ex-Mayor Booth entered on the stage and was received with tumultous applause.) I will briefly recapitulate, Mr. Chairman and fellow citizens, all these frauds, and I begin first by calling your attention to the increased vote of this county as evidence to prove the assertion which your chairman has made, and the assertion which I repeat and am prepared to prove in any Court of law, that repeaters walked about the streets of this city on Tuesday last in gangs of from ten to fifteen, and voted at every poll in certain wards of this city, wherever they pleased—voted with the knowledge and consent in most instances and by the actual connivance of your police in many instances. (Hisses.) I assert, without fear of successful contradiction, that there have been 10,000 illegal votes polled at the recent election in the city of Brooklyn. (Applause.) Last year was a gubernatorial election. Everybody is familiar with the fierce contest that ran through this city at that election. Not only did the democracy have upon their ticket the name of John T. Hoffman, the most popular democrat who ever ran in the State of New York—(applause)—but we had a severe contest over the election of Congressman, and every one knows that when we elect a Governor and Congressmen the people come out and vote as they come at no other election except that of President. We had a full vote. In the wards to which I have alluded we had an enormous vote, and, as I said before, we thought those wards had done their worst against the republican party. Well, sir, at that election, fiercely contested as it was, great as was the vote polled at that election, there were but about fifty-nine thousand votes polled in the county of Kings. At this election there are nearly seventy thousand votes polled, an increase of 10,000 votes over the last election, whereas, judging by the rules that ordinarily prevail at elections, there would have been a less number of votes polled this year than were polled last year. Now, I say that the majority of these 10,000 additional votes are the work of repeating done on Tuesday last in this city, and as an evidence how it was done, I propose to call your attention to nine election districts in four different wards in this city. In election district No. 2, in the Second ward, there were polled last year, 355 democratic votes. This year there were polled 775 democratic votes (if we are to believe those canvassers), an increase of about 118 per cent. Does any man in his common sense believe that this is a truthful record of the increase of the votes of that ward? And yet there was no decrease of the republican vote. In the Eighth district of the Fifth ward there were polled last year 250 votes; this year 403 democratic votes, or an increase in the democratic vote of sixty per cent. In the First district of the Sixth ward there were polled last year 728 democratic votes, and this year it is alleged there were polled 1,152 democratic votes. In the First district of the Eighth ward last year there were 246 democratic votes polled; this year 424 democratic votes. In the Second district of the Ninth ward there were 290 last year and this year they pretend to have polled 458 democratic votes. In the Fifth district of the Twelfth ward there were polled 233 democratic votes last year, and this year there is claimed to have been polled 501, or an increase of 114 per cent. In the Sixth district of the Twelfth ward there were 482 democratic votes last year, and this year it is alleged there were polled 840 democratic votes. Does anybody believe that this is not the work of fraud and perjury and corruption? The evidence is too palpable, and here is an increase in nine election districts out of 127, I believe, in the city of Brooklyn—an increase to the democratic vote of 2,720, or an average increase of seventy-eight per cent. It was this enormous increase, Mr. Chairman, that first attracted the attention of those who were scanning these returns. On investigation what do we find? I call your attention to the First district of the Sixth ward. There professes to have been polled 1,152 democratic votes and 167 republican votes on the day of election. The impossibility of polling that number of votes has already been alluded to, but there is an additional fact that has come to the knowledge of the committee. We heard that the poll lists of that district had been returned to the County Clerk's office yesterday, and in company with other of my fellow citizens I repaired to the Clerk's office and examined that poll list. On examination we found that it took two books to contain it. One book was not large enough. (Laughter.) On looking into the first book we found five hundred and odd names on that poll list, written in a clean, uniform handwriting, with the eight ballots which each citizen is supposed to have voted at the election, and every one of them marked as having voted solid for every Ring candidate. After that the handwriting on that poll list changed, and the balance is in a different handwriting. That was very suggestive; for it is supposed that one poll clerk keeps the tally of his own book. But the handwriting in that poll list changes, and then from that on it bears the evidence of being a poll list kept at an election. The writing is such as you would expect, and every now and then you find citizens only voting a portion of the ballots. We took the names of gentlemen who purported to vote at the change of handwriting and asked them, "Did you vote at that poll on election day?" "I did." "What time did you vote?" "We voted just as the polls opened and before seven o'clock." We have the affidavit in our possession of a voter who swears that he voted at that poll before seven o'clock on that morning and a very few moments after the poll opened, and yet his name stands the 528th on the list, thus demonstrating, fellow citizens, that the poll clerks of that district deliberately wrote down five hundred and odd names on that poll list before the voting began, and then stuffed the ballot boxes to make the ballots correspond with the names on the list. (Hisses.) Another instance of fraud occurring in that ward in another district is this:—At one election district your honored candidate for County Judge, Mr. Coit—(applause)—having been elected an inspector of election last year, declined serving this year because he was a candidate, made an arrangement with the democratic authorities that a vacancy which had occurred in their inspectors and the vacancy which was to occur by his resignation should be filled, each naming a candidate of their political party, so that the political status of the inspectors should not be changed, being two democrats and one republican. On the morning of the election he repaired to the polls with his friend whom he wanted to have appointed inspector, and when he came there he found that they refused to carry out the agreement and had named a democrat, making the inspectors three democrats and no republicans. Then the three democratic inspectors and the two democratic poll clerks proceeded to business. I will not stop to tell what transpired during the day; but at the close of the polls everybody was ordered out of the room, and they were shut up with those ballot boxes for forty-two minutes, when the doors were opened and the public was again admitted. Judge Coit, on going into the room, found the poll clerks busily engaged in checking on the poll list opposite names that had been written upon it. He asked how in the world they could tell how people voted so long after they had voted—how they fill those blanks; but they paid no attention, and kept filling up the blanks opposite those names, clearly indicating that names had been added to the poll list in a hurry, and they had not time to fill them up and were then filling at random. Two hundred additional democratic majority in that district over its usual democratic majority is the result of that fraud. Mr. Tracy asked if the men who committed the frauds should not be punished. Would the people be content in merely driving these democratic canvassers to give the certificate of election to Colonel Morton, who was counted out in the Seventh Assembly district? or would they insist that the Grand Jury, the District Attorney and a petit jury should do their duty? In charging the police with having connived at fraud, Mr. Tracy stated that the Alderman of the Twenty-first ward had asserted yesterday that a certain police officer in that ward had voted in two different precincts, and that his captain was aware of it and did not arrest him. He charged that an inspector in the Second ward had been approached by the Alderman of that ward with a bribe to betray the trust reposed in him, and having declined to do so, he was attacked when he went to the polls by a gang of ruffians, who knocked him down, and then the police arrested him for being knocked down. When the republicans protested the captain released him. He returned to the polls and found them swearing in another man in his place. Mr. Tracy, in referring to the charge that the republicans had repeated at the election, said if this was so they would prosecute them as well as democrats. In closing he said that the committee had other evidence in their possession which he did not think it prudent to disclose just now.

THE RESOLUTIONS.

The following resolutions were then read and adopted by acclamation:—

Resolved, That we, the citizens of Kings county here assembled, representing all shades of political belief, abandoning for the moment all those questions on which we have been accustomed to differ, have come together for the purpose of asserting our manhood and of proclaiming before God, and with a deep sense of our responsibility as members of the Commonwealth, our inexorable determination to regain, secure and defend our rights.

Resolved, That the election held in this county on Tuesday last fairly reeked with infamy, and every appliance with which rogues are familiar was used, with very general success, to stifle the voice of the people, and aliens were permitted to vote. Large numbers of names of persons who did not vote at all were added to the poll lists. Ballots were exchanged by inspectors and against the candidates for whom they were given. Challengers and peaceable citizens were driven from the polls by ruffians, who were in many cases assisted in their devilish work by the sworn officers of the law.

Resolved, That, comprehending at once the nature and extent of the wrong done to us and to all the good people of the State, we apply ourselves here and now to the work of redress and redistribution; and as one means to these ends we hereby appoint A. A. Low, S. B. Chittenden, H. B. Claflin, J. W. Hunter, S. L. Halsted, T. Carroll, Franklin Woodruff, A. C. Bowen, George Kinkel, J. T. Martins, S. B. Dutcher, F. A. Schroeder, G. W. Benson, Chauncy Perry, Loren Palmer, B. F. Tracy, James Murphy, A. Cunningham, W. W. Goodrich, R. M. Whitney, James Eschweige, E. J. Whitlock, R. W. Potter, S. McLean, R. Cornell White, G. H. Roberts, A. D. Wheelock, H. G. Reave, R. Johnstone, E. Driggs, W. Marshall, G. L. Fox, Alson C. Davis, W. Kontruff, F. Stein, J. R. Jurgins, F. Eggers, Augustus Snow, A. H. Darley, James Jordan, and a committee, with power to add to their numbers, whose duty it shall be

First—To accumulate such evidence of the frauds we allege as may be conveniently used in our County Courts.

Second—To prosecute promptly and to convict every detected offender against the interests of the ballot.

Third—To take measures to prevent any candidate not fairly elected from profiting by these frauds.

Fourth—To appeal to the Legislature about to assemble for such speedy relief as it may be in their power to grant.

Fifth—To take such other and further measures for ensuring the ends of justice as may be deemed needful. And we hereby pledge to said committee, from the beginning to the end of their labors, our moral, pecuniary and, if need be, our physical support.

Resolved, That with a full knowledge of the wrongs we have suffered, with a determination which will never falter to bring the criminals to justice; with confidence in the justice of our cause and a reliance on Divine Providence we turn now upon the pampered public robbers who, having first despoiled us of our property, have plundered us of our political rights, and hurl at them our indignant defiance. We hereby notify them that the battle to which we challenge them shall be fought to the bitter end, and that no consideration shall shield them from the retribution which is about to overtake them at the hands of an insulted and outraged people.

SPEECH OF GENERAL HENRY W. SLOCUM.

General HENRY W. SLOCUM, on being introduced, spoke as follows:—

FELLOW CITIZENS—I have been absent from home most of the time since the polls closed, and have known but little of what was going on. I have heard more this morning than I expected of the alleged frauds. I was invited to attend this meeting late this evening, and I came here with no intention of making a speech, but with an earnest desire to place myself among those who desire not only to correct those frauds, but to punish their perpetrators. (Applause.) I was a little sorry to hear my friend, Mr. Tracy, speak of them as democratic frauds. They may have been perpetrated by democrats, but I speak the truth when I say to you that I believe the great mass of the democratic party will condemn them as strongly as any man in this house. (Applause). He pledges his District Attorney to prosecute them I pledge him that I will secure as much money to prosecute these frauds from democratic sources as he will from his own political friends. (Applause). I say this because I believe that every sensible democrat, every man who has any ambition, every man who has any property must see that it is to his interest to condemn them. It is to his interest to preserve the purity of the ballot box. (Applause.) Whenever it comes to the point that four or five men can elect our officers in a back room by themselves character is worth nothing, and property becomes of little value. You have no hold on it. I believe that every sensible democrat will unite most heartily and cordially with the people who are here assembled, in prosecuting to the bitter end every man who has been engaged in these frauds. The Legislature which is about to assemble is in sympathy with the mass of this meeting. I believe that it is composed in the main of honest and good men. Let us ask that Legislature to give us laws which will preserve the purity of the ballot-box. (Applause.) For one, I say now, as I have always said, that you cannot make too stringent a registry law to suit me. (Applause.) I don't care how stringent the law is made. It would be better to put every man in the city to the trouble of going to some place to register his name a dozen times over than to have our rights stolen from us through the stuffing of the ballot box. (Applause.) I will join in a petition, I will lift up my voice in favor of the most stringent registry law that can be enacted. (Applause.) Having once secured a pure ballot, then let us make every man who handles our money come before the people. ("That's so!" "Good!") Let us have none of those boards where a man can slip behind somebody else. Let them all like your representatives in Congress and in the State Legislature be compelled to come before you where you can say "Well done, good and faithful servant," or else the reverse. Let the man who paves your streets or the man who constructs your sewers come before you and submit to the same thing. Give us a chance to step up to the ballot box and say by our votes "We find that you have been an honest man." Give us that and give us a pure ballot, and then Brooklyn will be a place worth living in, and it won't be without. (Applause).

Loud calls were then made for "Woodford, Woodford;" but Mayor Kalbfleisch announced that that gentleman was not present. He introduced instead

CAPTAIN A. W. TENNY,

who arose and addressed the assemblage as follows:—

Mr. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN—I am not on your list of speakers here to-night. I am here simply because I am an American citizen and in full sympathy with this meeting. (Applause.) But as you have drafted me into the service by pulling me over the bannister I will briefly respond to the call. In the first place, I congratulate you, the citizens of Brooklyn, for this magnificent outpouring of our people, who have come here this inclement night to put into shape and form their righteous indignation against the frauds of last Tuesday. (Applause.) I furthermore congratulate the good citizens of this city that we are here, not as partisans, but as American citizens. (Applause.) I furthermore congratulate them that there are men here who voted for Powell for Mayor, that there are men who voted for our respected Mayor Kalbfleisch—(a voice, "Good!")—and there are those here who voted for Booth for Mayor—each and all demanding the same thing and with the same purpose, and that is that the men who have stuffed our ballot boxes, the men who have written their names over and over again on the poll list shall be driven to the wall and punished for this fraud. (Applause.) When the city of Chicago was on fire and the forked flames were leaping from block to block and from square to square the people of that city did not stop to ask which building it was, or whether it belonged to a democrat or a republican; but they fought the flames inch by inch and foot by foot until God in His infinite mercy poured out the vials of heaven and put out the flame. (Applause.) So, when we are writhing in the coils of political vipers, when American institutions are on trial in this city as they never were before, it is time that we came as citizens to fight this thing inch by inch, and square by square, and foot by foot. (Applause.) And, what is more, we find that little Irishman who drew the sword at Chicago and his gallant cohorts did more. When maranders there were plundering and getting rich out of the exigencies and necessities of that city, what did they do? They hung them to the lamp posts. (Applause.) And so, when we cannot get justice in our Courts, when we cannot get justice in the Legislature, hang them! (Applause.) There is a power greater than Legislatures and that power is in the majesty of the omnipotence of the people. (Applause.) Think of it. Six months ago the Ring of New York city was omnipotent. Then the will of one man was the law of that city. (Hisses.) Councils and Legislatures were awed by the *ipse dixit* of one man. But to-day the Ring is broken and its supporters powerless as an infant in the cradle. (Applause.) You have all heard, I suppose, of Tom Ledwith. (Laughter and applause.) There was such a man. Little in stature, little in soul, little in principle and small in manhood—(laughter)—this Ledwith, where is he? He is gone to that bourne from which no traveller like him ever returns. (Laughter and applause.) Where is the whole Ring that robbed the city? They have gone down beneath the green pool of their own corruption, to rise never again—(applause)—put down there by the people and not by partisans. (Applause.) There is a lesson which the good men of the city should gather from the recent election. It is this: we should take an example from the earnest men in New York city. We ought to have gone into this canvass with two tickets instead of three. (Applause.) We ought to have united, no matter what name headed the ticket, taking the old starry flag of the republic, and on it "retrenchment and reform"—on that we should have gone into the canvass. (Applause.) I care not who the man should be, whether our present honored Mayor, who, I say here as a republican, has been the faithful guardian of the interests of the city and of this people ever since he has been Mayor—(applause)—or whether Samuel Booth—(applause)—I care not. Had we made a reform ticket, as we ought to have done—had we put our best men upon that ticket and gone into the fight you would not have been here. There could have been no frauds, for I tell you we would have carried the city by from ten to twenty thousand majority. (A voice, "That's so.") But, gentlemen, I find I am making a speech, and I will bid you good night. (Voices, "Go on, go on.")

SPEECH OF MR. EDMUND DRIGGS.

Mr. Edmund Driggs followed and remarked that he had heard a hiss in the audience, and he had not known that there were any geese among them until that moment. He was in favor of adopting the principle enunciated at the meeting for the war on Fort Greene, in 1861, when it was advocated that party be ignored, and that all unite in prosecuting the frauds on our last election. The democrats, he was confident, would vie with the republicans in furnishing the means to ferret out and punish the ballot box stuffers. He held in his hand a letter from a gentleman in one of the Fifth ward districts certifying that he had the names of sixteen citizens who voted in said district for Mr. Kalbfleisch, whereas the inspectors had returned only one vote for him. If you guard not the sanctity of the ballot what rights have you? You have none; and the man who stuffs the ballot box is worse than an assassin, a robber, or any other criminal, for he strikes at the heart of our contitutional liberty. He concluded by assuring them of his support in the contest.

REMARKS OF REV. DR. CUYLER.

Dr. CUYLER then spoke and said he understood that this meeting was not in the interest of any party. He would address them as a citizen and taxpayer of Brooklyn. Of the great political reform victory in New York they were cognizant, and of the fact that the northwest wind of Tuesday last swept up everything there except one rank weed—that was Tweed. It behooved us now to look to our own dwelling place. We have erred quite too long in bringing national partisan feeling into our local government. It was a matter of no importance what a man's politics were as regards the custodians of our city's affairs, provided he be but honest and just. We meet the noble democrats—Charles O'Conor and Mr. Tilden—with open hands, and congratulate them for their self-sacrifice and the talents they are bestowing upon the prosecution of the frauds. The evil lies at the root—the primaries, which respectable men pass by unnoticed. They are suffering now for their sins of omission. What avails it us for an honest man to go to the polls and vote once if a rogue can go there and vote three times? He demanded that the charges of fraud so rife on last Tuesday be most searchingly investigated, as our neighbors ferreted out the frauds in New York. They sneered, "What are you going to do about it?" We have shown them what would be done about it, and this harlequin sneer will never be cast in the teeth of freemen again. If these charges are proved let us demand that every man who is convicted, just as soon as he can make a change of raiment, put on a striped dress in the Penitentiary, and Lay your lash heaviest on the leaders, and not on the poor, besotted dupes. Too long have the poor tools been hauled up and punished for petty offences. They have plundered the treasure house in New York; but what is that to the plunder of the ballot? The crime was the assassination of the ballot. For crimes less than that Charles the First went to the scaffold. Let us join hands to-night, then, determined to protect the purity of the ballot box, and not let a single offender go unpunished. Then Brooklyn will not be ashamed to wear the name of the City of the Sanctuary, but, as becomes a City of Churches, will give evidence of truth in the selection of honest officials.

Messrs. S. B. Chittenden, A. A. Low and Henry B. Davis also spoke, endorsing the object of the meeting and denouncing the City Hall Ring, the Water Board and the ballot-box stuffers. Subscriptions were started to defray the expenses of the prosecution, and about $2,000 was realized. The meeting then dispersed.

INDIGNATION MEETING IN WILLIAMSBURG.

A large meeting of the German citizens of Williamsburg was held last evening, at Union Hall, for the purpose of protesting against the alleged election frauds in the city. The meeting was called to order by Coroner Petterson, of the Eighteenth ward, and J. M. Petry was elected permanent chairman. Addresses were delivered by Louis Froenlich, George Ghiel, Solomon Spitzer and other prominent citizens, who denounced the alleged frauds in the most unmeasured terms and demanded instant redress.

BROOKLYN ELECTION FRAUDS

How the Republican Ticket Was Defeated in the City of Churches.

HONEST MEN AROUSED.

How the Ballot Boxes Were Stuffed Before the Polls Opened.

REPEATERS RAKED FORE AND AFT.

What Ex-Mayor Booth, General Jourdan, District Attorney Tracy and Ex-Assemblyman Goodrich Have to Say on the Situation.

THE ELECTION LAWS DEFECTIVE.

Facts and Figures for Honest Men and Repeaters Alike to Contemplate.

What the People Propose Doing About It.

For the purpose of ascertaining what the leading republican politicians of the usually quiet "City of Churches" think of the late election in their "village," or, in other words, for the purpose of feeling the republican pulse of that city, a HERALD reporter called on several of the parties—leading lights—yesterday afternoon, and had a few minutes' conversation with each, the substance of which is given below.

A TALK WITH EX-MAYOR BOOTH.

A reporter of the HERALD found Postmaster Samuel Booth, the republican candidate for Mayor, at Assessor Jourdan's office, in Court street, and proceeded to interview him with reference to the alleged frauds. Mr. Booth did not feel like being interviewed, but said he would not object to making a statement of facts for publication. In response to the reporter's question Mr. Booth said:—"We charge enormous frauds and claim the election of our entire ticket. Take, for instance, the First district of the Sixth ward, where 1,319 votes are reported, 1,159 of which are for Powell. Now, that of itself is *prima facie* evidence of fraud. Our Committee of Five went to the County Clerk's Office yesterday and got the poll lists of the Sixth ward, from which they found that the inspectors in the First district returned 500 bogus votes. The names represented are fictitious. The committee have been waited upon by crowds of men who have given testimony in proof of fraud. The committee sit each day until five o'clock."

Mr. Booth referred to the Fifth ward, and asserted that for every three inhabitants of the ward (men, women and children) there had been one vote cast. The vote for Governor in the Fifth ward last year, continued Mr. Booth, was 2,900 in round numbers. This year they reported 4,200 votes, and so on to the end of the chapter. "I tell you, sir, the people are fully aroused here. We will endeavor to get the Board of Canvassers to throw the bogus votes out. Good men, irrespective of party, are anxious to ferret out these frauds, and I understand that in the Ninth and Twenty-first wards the excitement is intense."

REPORTER—What form will the prosecution take, Mr. Booth?

Mr. BOOTH—Well, we cannot tell at present. This is our first day for taking the testimony. We will present the testimony to the Boards of Canvassers next week. The County Canvassers meet on Tuesday next. The Common Council will canvass the city ticket and the Board of Supervisors the county ticket.

REPORTER—If Mayor Kalbfleisch had not run, do you not think, Mr. Booth, that you would have been elected?

Mr. BOOTH—Several of the democratic leaders concede that I would have beaten Mr. Powell. There is Mr. Earll (pointing to a gentleman sitting in the room), who can probably tell you as much about the election as I can.

STATEMENT OF AN INSPECTOR.

The reporter then accosted Mr. M. C. Earll, who was an inspector of Election in the Fifth district of the Twenty-first ward, and had a brief conversation with him. Mr. Earll said:—I know the workings of the canvass pretty well, and I do say that, though I have heard men question the honesty of Mr. Powell and Mr. Kalbfleisch during this canvass, I have never heard anything reflecting upon Mr. Booth. In my district Powell received 185, Kalbfleisch 301 and Booth 457 votes, and this in a district slightly republican in majority. We polled in one district 607 votes last year and 927 votes this year. I never before saw such earnestness manifested in an election. I saw church members actually come out to the polls and peddle tickets all day—men who were never seen at such places before. Democrats as well as republicans say that the people will take this matter in hand, and if they cannot get redress in any other way they will organize vigilance committees and take the law into their own hands. I believe that our whole city and county ticket is elected by 4,500 majority.

EX-ASSEMBLYMAN W. W. GOODRICH.

A representative of the HERALD yesterday met ex-Assemblyman W. W. Goodrich, the "lone star" of the republican party of the Kings county delegation in the House last year, and asked him what he knew concerning the alleged election frauds in Brooklyn on Tuesday last. He replied, saying, "Well, sir, I will be most happy to tell you. We believe that entire republican tickets of city and county officers have been elected here, and the certificate of election has been detained from them through an organized system of repeating and frauds carried on throughout all the river wards of the city of Brooklyn. By the river wards I mean the wards bordering on the river front. Fraudulent votes have been cast against the republican candidates, and a system of ballot box stuffing has been resorted to to the extent of about five thousand votes."

REPORTER—From which you argue——

Mr. GOODRICH—That every one of the republican candidates is elected. For instance, the majority of Seller, democrat, for Commissioner of Charities, is given at 1,655; C. M. Felt, republican, for County Auditor, is beaten by only 788; Powell's majority for Mayor, as against Booth, is given at 4,291. The majority against Burrows, republican candidate for Collector of Taxes, was 899. The majority of O'Brien over Shaurman, for City Auditor, is given at 3,692. If we can show that 4,300 fraudulent votes have been cast it will insure the election of all the republican candidates now reported as beaten. The Committee of Five are at work, actively engaged in securing testimony upon this matter. Why, my dear sir, in the First district of the Sixth ward, for instance, not only were repeaters at work voting all day, but the ballot box was stuffed actually before the voting commenced, before sunrise. An examination of the poll list, now on file in the County Clerk's office, shows that, first, 500 names were written in a clear, round, clerkly hand, and not in the running way usual to an election. The rest of the names are in an entirely different handwriting. The parties whose names are written on the list, between 500 and 600, are ready to testify that they did not vote within half an hour after the opening of the polls, giving proof positive that their names were written before the polls were open. During the day 1,328 votes were received in this district. Now, we charge that it is a physical impossibility to cast that number of votes during that time, even if voting was continuous, which it was not. There are persons who were present during the entire day at this polling place who state that there were lengthy intervals when no voting was going on there. Then, again, a resident of the Eleventh ward district, who was at a polling place on Myrtle avenue, near Hudson, was standing in the line awaiting his turn to vote when he observed some half a dozen repeaters standing in the same line. Knowing these men to be residents of New York he asked them what business they had there. They replied by saying, "What the hell business have you here?" "I reside in this district, and have a legal right to vote here," was the answer. "We live here too," said the gang; and with that they hustled the honest voter up to the poll and told him "to get his vote in and clear out." He voted and the line was again formed, and the crowd got around him, so that it was impossible to interfere with the repeaters. This shows a regular system of repeating, to keep people from seeing what was going on. It shows an organization to protect repeaters and to prevent honest voters from interfering to stop fraudulent voting.

At another district the police were requested by citizens to arrest repeaters, and they refused to do it. In the case of Dennis McFall it was only after much difficulty that Luke Ryder succeeded in effecting the arrest of that repeater. He gave his residence as in a house in the vicinity of the polls, under the assumed name of Dennis Calahan. In many districts of the Fifth and Second wards the polling places were inside of a small dark room, where those outside could not see the ballot boxes. The ballots were handed in through a pane of glass, where the burly form of a rough obscured the vision of the boxes in which the votes were to be deposited.

At this juncture the interview was interrupted by the appearance of Judge Pratt, who saluted Mr. Goodrich, and, after the exchange of a few commonplacisms, remarked, "There is considerable of a funeral going on here, I observe."

Mr. GOODRICH—Well, yes; there has been a great deal of cheating and ballot box stuffing in this election.

Judge PRATT—Why, it does appear that there has been cheating, and it has been on both sides, evidently.

Mr. GOODRICH—Well, I am for smoking it out, no matter what side it is on. I say, down with repeating.

Judge PRATT—Just so; of course. Smoke it out. In the Thirteenth ward is not the republican majority unusually large—in excess of the average?

Mr. GOODRICH—It is within one hundred or two hundred in excess of last election, I believe. Jake Bergen will not accept his election, I feel satisfied, if he finds he has been counted in. The Judge here withdrew.

REPORTER—Mr. Goodrich, were there not republican canvassers as well as democrats?

Mr. GOODRICH—Oh, yes; but those frauds occurred at district polls where there was no republican inspector, or, if there was one, he proved false to his party and his duty.

But what I have told you only a sample of what frauds have been committed, and enough is known to establish the fact of the election of many of the above republican candidates for office. Urgent attempts will be made to secure an honest canvass hereafter by the next Legislature. In 1870 there was a compact between Tweed and the republican party in the Legislature which was well understood and endorsed by Tweed in a speech delivered in the Senate in 1871, by which, as a condition of passing the New York charter, the election law should remain unchanged, and this compact was broken by the democrats in 1871 and the registry law amended so as to prevent any person desiring to procure an honest vote to become familiar with the names on the registry list. The meeting which will be held to-night was not considered until yesterday, and the success which will attend it will prove the earnestness of purpose animating the community in this matter. As Mr. Goodrich had nothing further to communicate upon this subject at present the representative of the HERALD wished him good day and withdrew.

UNITED STATES ASSESSOR JOURDAN.

General Jourdan, the United States Assessor, was called upon by a HERALD reporter yesterday and asked to give his views on the situation.

"I believe you republicans charge the democrats of this city with having 'stuffed' the ballot-boxes in nearly every district during the election on Tuesday last. Have you proof positive that they did so, or is it merely heresay?"

"We have the most undeniable proof that they not only 'stuffed' the ballot boxes, but that they perpetrated frauds of almost every kind. They kept gangs of roughs about the polling places, who made it their business to intimidate republican voters in every way possible, and when they could not do this, to forcibly eject them from the booths when they persisted in carrying out their right to cast their ballots; they gave up the boxes to this same gang to deposit as many votes as they saw fit; they refused to canvass the ballots as required by law, and in some cases did not canvass them at all until the morning after election; and—well, in fact, they did just as they pleased. And we not only make these charges against them, but we will prove them in the courts, as you will soon see."

"Where do you get your proof of these things having been done?"

"From respectable citizens all over the city. There is a committee in this very building now taking testimony from persons who saw these things of which I have told you perpetrated, and every word of this testimony is being sworn to. Besides what citizens come here voluntarily and swear to, we have other proof equally as strong and as undeniable. For instance:—The Fifth ward, which is and has been for years solidly built up, and therefore allows no chance for a marked increase in population, returns 1,800 more votes at this election than it did at the last, while the Twentieth ward, which contains a large number of vacant lots, which are constantly being built on, shows an increase of but 140 votes. In a district of the Twelfth ward, where there were three democratic inspectors, the ballot boxes were placed on a stand as high as a man's head, and when a ballot was handed in there was no chance for the person depositing it to see what was done with it—whether it was put in the boxes or not. In the lower portion of the Twenty-second ward Alderman Richardson challenged a gang of seven men whom he knew to be repeaters, and forthwith the gang of roughs in attendance, assisted by the police, hustled him out of the building."

"I believe you said that in some cases the inspectors abandoned the boxes?"

"Yes, sir, I did. In the Sixth district of the Fourteenth ward the inspectors, all of whom were democrats, abandoned their boxes for nearly two hours. The police on duty reported the fact to Police Headquarters and asked for instructions, and they were directed to take charge of them; but just as they got back and were about to do so the inspectors returned. On their return they commenced canvassing the ballots, without first counting them to see if they corresponded with the number of names on the poll books."

"Have you proof that there was any violence used towards republican voters in any of the wards, or that any of them were prevented depositing their votes by intimidation of any kind?"

"Most assuredly we have. We can and will prove by several witnesses that at the poll, situated at the corner of Baltic and Nevins streets a colored man who persisted in depositing a straight republican ticket had a handful of flour thrown in his face, after which he was struck in the face by one of the attendant roughs; and that three colored men who attended him, seeing the treatment he had received, hurriedly left without voting."

"I have heard it said, General, that in some of the wards the polling places were situated in such positions that a respectable man could not very well reach them. Is this true?"

"It is. In the Sixth ward, for instance, which is bounded by Atlantic avenue, Hamilton avenue, Court and Degraw streets, and the upper portion of which claims as respectable people as any other ward in the city, the polling places were all situated in Columbia street—one of the most disreputable localities in the city. Why could not some of these pol