THANKSGIVING.

The Origin and Celebration of the Festival.

A DAY BRIGHT WITH HAPPY MEMORIES.

Grand Rejoicings Among the Poor, the Unfortunate and the Criminal.

TO-DAY'S PROGRAMME.

General Review of the Pleasures and Duties of the Occasion.

Of all our national holidays the one that is ushered in with the dawn of this happy winter morning is, perhaps, endeared to every American by the most pleasant and delightful associations. With the Fourth of July and Washington's Birthday, it completes the list of our distinctively American holidays. But how different it is both in origin and character from the other two! The Fourth, glorious as are the memories it celebrates, has only a patriotic significance, and the boisterous exuberance and enthusiasm with which it is kept, though, of course, very natural and highly proper, certainly detracts from its general popularity. At least two-thirds of our people—all who have passed their third lustre of life—have an unconquerable objection to firecrackers and bonfires, and very frequently throw a damper upon the excitement of the more youthful members of the household at the breakfast table by gloomy predictions of the possible mischief and loss and ruin that may make this Fourth, like so many other past Fourths, and notably that one which was commemorated by the burning up of the entire city of Portland, sadly memorable. The day is too noisy, too obstreperously gay to have any deep hold upon our hearts, though we should justly count it infamous treason to propose its abolition. Then, again, Washington's Birthday is too late an institution to be enshrined in the affections of the people. Only a few years ago it was still a work day, and the only honors paid it were an occasional salvo of guns and a generous and general exhibition of bunting. But Thanksgiving! Nowhere can you find an American to whom this solemn celebration of a nation's gratitude to Him who directs and orders all things for the good of His children does not revive reminiscences and stir up emotions that are interwoven with His very heart strings. For two hundred years and more it has been freighted with a burden of universal hope for the future and thankfulness for the past, while its celebration has assumed a shape that makes it especially beloved. The reunion of dispersed families around the paternal board, the reconciliation of old family foes, the voluntary casting away—as though at the dictate of a sacred obligation—of every wrathful passion and unchristian hate that could mar the peaceful happiness of the day—all these things have deservedly erected Thanksgiving into the most solemnly earnest, the most deeply cherished, the most eagerly expected and the most tenderly remembered of all our national gala days.

The story of its origin is known to all. It dates back to those sad but grand times when the Puritan fathers, fleeing from the persecution of a State Church, sought liberty of conscience on the sterile shores of New England. We all remember what awful days of privation and suffering and death filled up the first few years of their life in their new-found Land of Promise. Fighting with grim earnestness and an ever steadfast faith in God, against famine and disease at home in the mean little log cabins with which with painful labor they had dotted the bleak Massachusetts coast, and menaced from without by the dusky savages, who had already begun that war of life and death which was to end in their extermination, these glorious founders of a new State were at last threatened with absolute starvation. The barns were empty; disease had slain their flocks and blight had withered their scanty crops. There was only one hope left to them—the mercy of that kind Father whose hand, according to their simple faith, guided all earthly events, and who did not even fail to note the stricken sparrow as it fell to the earth. A day of fast was ordered. Perhaps some secret sin had brought upon them these chastening affections, and prayer for forgiveness and self-abasement might yet turn away the Almighty's wrath. But the fast day was never held. Suddenly a faint blur rises on the verge of the pitiless sea that stood between them and Christendom and to the straining eyes of the Pilgrims it grows at last into the sails of the long expected supply ship. It is easy to picture the joy that now brightened every face in the infant colony, and with little effort we can follow the grave pastor as he led the people to the meeting house and returned thanks for the "great benefits they had received at his hand." And with what bright faces was the announcement received that in place of a day of fast and humiliation there should be a day of feasting and thanksgiving! Thus came about the celebration of the first Thanksgiving Day; and it is well that so sad and solemn a crisis in our national history should be forever commemorated. No doubt a single great Chicago granary of the days we live in would have supplied the needs of that little settlement for a generation; and if all the Pilgrims and their families had perished for want of food there would have been scarcely as serious a loss as now occurs in one of those railroad accidents that give us three or four "sensations" a year, and certainly far less than distinguishes a reasonably fatal mine disaster. But we must not measure things merely by number and weight. We are now populous enough to afford the luxury of an occasional hecatomb of two or three hundred lives. Had the Pilgrim Fathers starved, however, by how many millions would the last census have been shrunk? At least half our Congressmen are of New England birth or origin—probably more. Not only, therefore, would two or three hundred Puritans have vanished from the earth, but "the germ of future life," as though under the "iron tread" of a Tamerlane or a Napoleon, would have died out also.

Until the Revolution, however, Thanksgiving was mainly a local institution in the New England States. Of course, wherever the ubiquitous Yankee travelled he carried it with him among the rest of his "chares" and observed it with Puritan heartiness. But the custom was not very rapidly acclimated throughout the length and breadth of our land by this tedious process. After the defeat of the legions of King George, however, the need of a special Thanksgiving Day was universally recognized, and by general consent through the North, East and infant West—Ohio was then far West and scarcely a frontiersman's country—the old New England Thanksgiving Day was accepted. Since the War, however, this day has also been adopted by the South.

It is scarcely necessary to recall to the mind of the reader the many blessings in the past year for which we ought to be especially thankful on this day. Eighteen hundred and seventy-one seems marked out by every fond of ruin and loss and death all over the world as all *annus mirabilis*—a year of wonderful disasters. Persia and Hungary have been visited with terrible famines, and wars and earthquakes and shipwrecks have almost everywhere made unprecedented havoc. We ourselves have not utterly escaped, as the great fire of Chicago, the loss of our North Pacific whaling fleet and scores of other terrible calamities sadly remind us. But we can certainly remember with thankfulness that we have not been chastened beyond our strength; unbroken peace has sat within our borders, and we have rarely had a year that rose above the present in generally diffused prosperity. If we have been visited with signal disasters we have quickly recovered from their effects, and the loss of life involved has been comparatively light. Our people have not been led away by a madness such as that which has slain Frenchmen by scores of thousands; nor has a wicked government plundered them of even the means of bare existence, as has happened to the miserable Persians. We are still a great and free nation, and we have perceptibly advanced in wealth, in population, in refinement and in knowledge. And as we thus see clearer than ever before the fast ripening glory of our coming greatness, let us bow down in reverend gratitude to Him who casteth down and raiseth up and who is the Giver of all good things.

Even as these lines are being written thousands of hopeful holiday makers are hastening behind the iron horse to the homes of their early youth. This bringing together of kindred is, after all, though not the original purpose for which the day was instituted, certainly its choicest and most affecting charm. In no other country, indeed, is a day of family reunion so necessary. Scattered by immense distances, and still more by the enterprising, wandering spirit that marks us as a people, we need a special season in which the duty of visiting our kindred should be pressed upon our attention. Even where poverty or untoward circumstance prevents the long journey that lies between him and the paternal rooftree, the day is brightened to an American with tender memories of the days past that have fled, and in spirit, if not in body, there is a coming together of the separated kinsmen. Every one has at least enjoyed some festive, happy Thanksgivings in the past, to which he looks back with a stirring of the pulse and a beating heart; and even the memory of happiness is a priceless treasure.

Thanksgiving is celebrated with a wonderful unanimity of ritual. As becomes a feast day, generous cheer and free indulgence in all manner of harmless mirth are its chief features. Pious people, and many people also without being pious, like like the sensation of going to church three or four times a year spend the morning in the temple. Few services are so well attended as those of Thanksgiving. The ordinary utterances of gratitude seem to gain a fresh and vivid meaning, the feeling among the audience corresponds with and reflects the feelings of the preacher, and the congregation is lit up into a state of altogether unusual and extraordinary enthusiasm. No preacher, unless utterly stupid, could help preaching an able and effective sermon under such exceptionally favorable circumstances. Looking on the bright faces of his flock, that reflect as in a mirror the sentiments of gladness and gratitude that possess their souls, he must indeed be dead to all the sympathetic forces that ought to constitute his fitness for his vocation if on such an occasion he does not move the hearts of his hearers and rouse them to a greater degree of earnest thankfulness than that which they bring with them to the house of prayer.

But though church-going is only a common feature of the Thanksgiving celebration, the eating of the Thanksgiving dinner is a universal one. Of course there is only one staple feature of the feast. This is the turkey. Without turkey, indeed, it is scarcely possible to imagine such a thing as a genuine Thanksgiving feast. It is the foundation of the pyramid; it is the necessary and not-to-be-done-without element of the repast. A Thanksgiving dinner, of which the main course is simply beef or mutton, or even goose or duck, is only a delusion and a snare. Holding the words of promise to the ear it breaks them to the hope. And why is it, we wonder, that turkeys seem naturally to arrive at perfection at this happy season? At no other do they have the same taste and flavor; good at all times, their chief merit is always that they inevitably remind one of Thanksgiving. Even if you devour them at Christmas you can fancy without difficulty that it is the earlier festival you are celebrating by that time-honored and laborious, though pleasant, process of mastication. It is to be doubted, indeed, whether in this wide world there is such a beautiful object as a well cooked turkey on a Thanksgiving Day table. With its plinthoned limbs, its flat of delicate brown, its fragrant savor and its mouth-watering *tout ensemble*, it seems to embody within its unfortunate carcass a world of beauty and sentiment and pleasure. It is a sight that is in itself alone sufficient to make existence worth living to see it being dissected by paterfamilias and distributed among the plates of the waiting family *convives*. Though it is hard to say why, it seems to be a sort of sacred essential to the full carrying out of the ritual of Thanksgiving. The white, juicy meat contrasts so gracefully with the dark red of the cranberries that by universal custom are its unfailing companion, and the remaining and scanty clad bones of the almost used-up bird form such a suggestive centrepiece for the table that when one has once seen it it lives in his memory forever, and he is never happy on the third or fourth Thursday of November ever after, whichever it may happen to be, unless he sees it again.

Ah, that happy Thanksgiving dinner! Joke about it as we may, what a glorious fact it is!—for it means so much. Just think of the hundreds of thousands of happy families that to-day have been charmed by its magic spell into an annual intercommunion, and after that sneer, if you dare, at the highly democratic and unfashionable character of the festival. Very rich men, to whom space and time are scarcely aught, and to whom expense is nothing at all, might, indeed, afford to dispense with the holiday. But the passably rich, and, still more, the poor and the unfortunate, would be robbed of one of the few opportunities that are left to them to remind them of the brightness and happiness of which life is capable.

These are the ordinary methods of celebrating Thanksgiving. There is, however, another feature of its ceremonies, which, thank Heaven, is never missed by kindly, genial American hearts. This is the lightening up for the day of the lot of the poverty-stricken, the miserable, and even the criminal. Not a charitable institution, not a jail even, but will to-day resound with the echoes of an unusual gayety. Grim prison walls will ring with laughter, such as their inmates have not indulged in since the long-passed and almost forgotten days when peace and purity gilded their lives with a happy light that they have never known since. Who can say how many a reformed man dates back his return to the path of honor and self-respect from this blessed festival? The poor wretch had been perhaps brooding for long months in his dim, dark cell over the necessity that made him a thief; the iron had indeed entered his soul as he felt himself cut off from all companionship except that of men as bad or worse than himself. How often has he said to himself, "I am not as bad as they think me; if they would only give me a chance I would show them that I am only more unfortunate, not more criminal than my fellows." But separated from all communion with the outer world, he has settled down into the blank despair of an inevitable fate, and has relinquished every hope out that of being able to sin and suffer as he had already begun, and having "made his bed," to "lie upon it" without needless and unavailing complaining. To such a one, the cheery festivities of to-day must open up a new career of usefulness and honest industry. Encouraged by the consciousness with which the substantial and material comforts provided by a Christian liberality inspire him, he takes new heart, and determines when at length the doors of his sombre abiding place are thrown apart to lead a new life and begin the world afresh. Many a blessing is showered upon the unknown hands that have thus given proof of the brotherhood of mankind by decreeing the universal enjoyment of this happy day.

So, too, in the dreary dwelling houses of want and misery and misfortune. Whenever the victims of a pitiless fate—foundlings, bereaved children and helpless age—have been garnered in by the loving instrumentality of Christian hearts, this day is marked out with a white stone. The destitute and the unfortunate are again forced to taste the joys and pleasures to which they have long been strangers or which perhaps they have never known. There is something singularly delightful in the spectacle which these rejoicing paupers present. Indeed it is hard to say whether it is not the best way of spending Thanksgiving to pass it among the newsboys or the *protégés* of the Howard Mission or of the Five Points House of Industry. Roast turkey is good, but to see others eat it with such wonderful zest is even better than eating it oneself. The contrast between the outward surroundings of the feast—the dirty streets and the wretched dwellings—and the brilliant light and comfortable warmth and beaming faces of those within, is peculiarly striking. At no other season—not even at Christmas do kind hearts and open hands reap a more generous reward than at this. Then, too, should be mentioned the efforts of the charitable among the poor who are not thus visibly mapped out from the rest of their unfortunate companions. Liberal donations find their way into the gloom and the misery of squalid tenement houses, and the efforts of visiting ladies make the "widow's heart sing for joy." The unselfish pleasures of those who thus minister to the wants of their brethren and sisters—the children of the same all-wise Father—may indeed be envied, and the more they are copied the better will be the world we live in. "Lay not up for yourselves treasures on earth," and "the Lord loveth a cheerful giver," and "he that giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord," are precepts which may be profitably remembered at this happy season.

Among the better classes of the poor—those who, by pinching and economy, can manage to lay by a slender purse for a Thanksgiving celebration—the day is also one of wonderful and unusual enjoyment. Debarred by late hours, perhaps, from every form of pleasure, they invest a few dimes in a visit to a matinée. Most of us have seen them as they rain down applause from the gallery upon the actors. It is to them comparatively a new sight; it is possibly a year since they last ventured into the fairyland of the footlights. Well may the players do their best to draw down such a house as this! Long will the hours thus whiled away in enthusiastic mirth be remembered, aye, even when, perhaps, successful industry may have brought abundance, and leisure and the privations of the past are but a melancholy dream to be spelled out over a sumptuous dinner to the younger branches of the family.

But with the readers of the HERALD Thanksgiving Day has already begun. Having told them how it has been enjoyed in the past and what have been its customary features, the writer makes his bow of adieu by hoping that they will find to-day the brightest, gayest, happiest and most memorable celebration they have ever known.

SPECIAL FESTIVITIES.

The following are among the principal charitable dinners that will be given:—

The Newsboys' home.—Several hundred of the useful and active little venders of literature, whose energy has been of service to all of us, will be regaled at their quarters in Park place. All who wish to reward these deserving and industrious members of society by a timely gift should send their donations to Mr. O'Connor, 49 Park place.

The Howard Mission.—Fifteen hundred persons will be feted.

The Five Point's House of Industry.—Open house to all who have not got money enough to purchase a Thanksgiving dinner.

The Five Points Mission House in Park place.—Eight hundred persons are expected, and there will be a post-prandial entertainment, consisting of singing, recitations, &c.

The Home of the Friendless, at 32 East Thirtieth street.—Five hundred children will sit round the festive board.

The Wilson Mission, avenue A and Eighth street.—Dinner will be spread for 500 children.

The Juvenile Asylum.—Six hundred youthful merrymakers are to be "put through."

The Sixteenth Ward Boys' Lodging House.—Mr. Theodore Roosevelt has provided for the tenants of this worthy institution.

The Home for Fallen Women, Water street.—Without regard to character or costume, every daughter of Eve who needs it will meet with a welcome and be liberally dined."

The Children's Aid Society.—At the five lodging houses of this deserving charity free tables will be set.

The Protestant Half Orphan Asylum, West Tenth street.—Mrs. C. L. Spencer has arranged to furnish dinner to 200 children.

The Soldiers and Sailors' Orphans' Home, Eleventh avenue and 151st street.—A good dinner will be served at the nominal price of ten cents.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

As is the custom, all our prisons and public institutions will have a Thanksgiving dinner. The following are among the dinners best worth visiting:—

The Tombs.
Ludlow Street Jail.
Bellevue Hospital.
The Lunatic Asylum and the other institutions on Randall's and Ward's islands.

Thanksgiving in Brooklyn.

Last evening the citizens of Brooklyn were very busy in their preparations for a proper observance of Thanksgiving Day. The stores upon the principal streets were thronged, and it appeared to everybody like a Saturday evening. Many people upon the streets were encumbered with huge baskets and bundles, all hurrying homeward with their minds engrossed with the great social festival.

Services will be held at eleven o'clock A. M. in nearly all the churches, and collections will be taken up for the poor.

The Ormond place and Clinton avenue Congregational churches, in conjunction with the Lafayette avenue Presbyterian church, will hold a Union service at the Congregational church, corner of Clinton and Lafayette avenues, in which the pastors of the several churches named will all share, the sermon being preached by Rev. Dr. T. L. Cuyler. This is in observance of an annual custom these churches have indulged for several years, the pastors alternating in the delivery of the discourse.

There will be a grand time to-night at the Newsboys' Homes, No. 61 Poplar street and 139 Van Brunt street. A good dinner is to be provided for the boys at both places, and the youngsters, for the time being, will shake off the cares of business and enter upon the discussion of the turkeys with keen appetites.

Thanksgiving in New Jersey.

Not in New England, the birthplace of Thanksgiving Day, will to-day be more joyously, generously and generally observed than in New Jersey. Throughout the prosperous little Commonwealth business will be entirely suspended, and the people unite in giving thanks after the most orthodox fashion. Governor Randolph's proclamation is as follows:—

While great trials and afflictions have come to the people of sister States, we, of this Commonwealth, not more deserving of the mercies of God than they, have, in a peculiar manner, been the recipients of His Almighty care and goodness during the past year.

That we may, as one people, laying aside all differences of creed or faith, join together in grateful acknowledgment to Almighty God for His mercies and blessings, I, Theodore F. Randolph, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby appoint Thursday, the 30th day of November, as a day of Thanksgiving and prayer, recommending its observance as such by all our people.

Given at the Executive Chamber, in Trenton, this seventh day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-one, and of the independence of the United States of America the ninety-sixth.

THEODORE F. RANDOLPH.

Attest—SAMUEL C. BROWN, Private Secretary.

IN NEWARK.

Yesterday presented the appearance of a Christmas or New Year's Eve in Newark. Most of the workshops closed an hour earlier than usual, and the streets were alive with thrifty housewives and others, bent on looking well to the commissariat department for to-day. The day will be observed with scrupulous unanimity as one of jubilation. There will be divine service in all the churches in the forenoon, and after giving thanks in the sanctuaries the citizens will abandon themselves to the pleasures of "our own fireside" and to the discussion of fatted turkeys and other Thanksgiving Day table surroundings. In the evening the citizens will have ample opportunity to listen to lectures and indulge in theatrical and other public amusements as well as those of a strictly private character.

Thanksgiving in Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 29, 1871.

Thanksgiving will be observed here by religious services being performed at all the churches, both Protestant and Catholic. There will be the accustomed military reviews, inspections and parades. A stand of colors will be presented to the Lincoln Institute battalion of soldiers' orphans by Company D, First regiment infantry, National Guard of Pennsylvania. The Sixth, Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth regiments will parade during the day. There will be target excursions by independent companies and all business will cease for the day.

Thanksgiving at Chicago.

CHICAGO, Nov. 29, 1871.

Business will be generally suspended here to-morrow, and Thanksgiving observed.

Thanksgiving in Washington.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 29, 1871.

The Departments were closed at noon to-day in anticipation of Thanksgiving Day.

Mormons and Gentiles Will Observe It.

SALT LAKE CITY, Nov. 23, 1871.

It is understood that both Mormons and Gentiles will suspend business on Thursday next for the observance of Thanksgiving. The customary party on the evening of that day will probably be the most brilliant ever witnessed in Utah.

ANOTHER ROBBERY AT TIFFANY'S.

A Clerk in Their Employ Pleads Guilty to Stealing Nearly $2,000 Worth of Jewelry.

Charles H. Wallace has been in the employ of Tiffany & Co., Union square, for the last two years. During the past year the firm have from time to time missed articles of value from their store. Mr. Stockwell, one of the firm, surmising that Wallace was the guilty party, on Tuesday morning placed $20 in marked bills in the money drawer, and a short time afterwards, upon making an investigation, found the money missing. He immediately sought Wallace, whom he desired to accompany him to their private office, where he desired him to show what money he had on his person.

The young man readily complied with the request, and produced the $20 in marked bills which Mr. Stockwell had placed in the drawer but a short time previous. He accused him of having taken the missing property, to which he pleaded guilty and acknowledged to have taken the following property, valued at $1,639 50, during the past year:—Three gold watches, valued at $700; three gold chains, $240; one pair bracelets, $100; one intaglio ring, $250; one amethyst ring, $75; one pair diamond earrings, $175 and $99 50 in money. The prisoner, upon being arraigned before Justice Shandley at Jefferson Market Police Court yesterday morning, stated he was nineteen years of age, a native of Utica, N. Y., resides at No. 122 Waverley place, a clerk by occupation, and is guilty of the charge preferred against him. Detective Rockwell, detailed at the store, escorted him to prison, where he was fully committed for trial. A large portion of the stolen property has been recovered from pawnbrokers and loan offices, where Wallace had pawned and disposed of it. The intaglio ring was found concealed in his trunk in the store.

HORSE NOTES.

J. D. Walton purchased, a day or two since, of Mr. Burke, of Syracuse, the black gelding James H. Burke, by Tippoo, dam a thoroughbred mare. James H. Burke is seven years old, stands about sixteen hands and trotted at the Buffalo meeting last August in 2:27¼. Price paid, $15,000.

Mr. Samuel Truesdell has been jogging his gray gelding Lottery on the road since his return from the track. Lottery has a record of 2:27.

Mr. William Lovell will jog his mare American Girl on the road this winter, in preference to the old-time method of "turning out," believing it to be the better plan.

Veterinarians and horsemen generally seem to agree upon the point that horses used for fast work are better in every way for being clipped. It is well known that clipping assists very much in "conditioning" a horse that has been "running out."

M. W. Olcott is wintering at his place, near Washington Heights, the bay stallion Young Hambletonian, Lady Taggert, Yankee Dan, Jenny Clark, the black gelding Contraband, and a pair of very fast sixteen hand brown horses.

Mr. Frederick Reynolds has brought his fast brown mare in town and is driving her on the road on days with his gallant gray. Both are very fast and hard to beat.

Mr. Thomas P. Wallace's fine stable of horses, comprising Henry, Triumph, Heather Bloom, James H. Coleman and others—have gone into winter quarters at their owner's stable, Sixty-first street, near the Boulevard.

Judge Fullerton, the magnificent chestnut belonging to Mr. William Humphreys, has gone to his winter stable, on the East side. His future is full of extraordinary promise.

Billy Barr, the chestnut gelding belonging to Mr. Edward Jones, who has a very fast record and has shown admirable bottom in his races, has nearly recovered from his lameness, for which he has been invalided the past year; and Jim Lawler, who has charge of him, says he will, "barring accidents, be a good horse in the spring." His progenitor was Ethan Allen.

FURTHER CONSOLIDATION IN JERSEY.

At the latest meeting of the Hoboken Common Council deputations arrived from several of the neighboring townships to solicit assistance in endeavoring to bring about the consolidation of Union Township, West Hoboken, &c., with the city of Hoboken. A committee of three Councilmen was appointed to confer with the deputies, and it is probable that active measures will be taken to effect said purpose. The project, however, is almost needless, inasmuch as it is highly probable that those very towns will be consolidated with Jersey City within two years. It will therefore matter little what course the Hoboken officials pursue in the matter.

A CONFESSED THIEF.

A stable in 163d street, belonging to John Parker, of Third avenue and 104th street, was entered a few nights since and a horse and other traps stolen therefrom by Michael O'Hearn, of Ninety-third street. O'Hearn confessed his guilt, and Justice Bixby, before whom he was arraigned, committed him in default of $3,000 bail.

CARGO OF FRUIT FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN.

PORTLAND, Me., Nov. 29, 1871.

The English bark Deodar, with a cargo of raisins and other Mediterranean fruit, consigned to J. W. Doane & Co., of Chicago, has arrived after a rough voyage of seventy five days. This cargo will go forward in bond, and is the first cargo arriving at this port and consigned direct to any inland port of entry.

THE COURTS.

A Heavy Verdict for the Government—Business of the Circuit Court—The Telegraph Patent Suit—Violation of the Internal Revenue Law—Alleged Smuggling—The Black Friday Suit—The Alexander—The McCahill Will Case.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT.

The Barnes Sugar Case—Heavy Verdict for the Government.

Before Judge Blatchford.

The United States vs. Harvey Barnes.—This case has been already reported in the HERALD. It is an action, as previously stated, by the government against the defendant to recover a large amount of money, the value of an importation of sugar and molasses from Demerara, in the month of November, 1869. The government alleged and produced witnesses to prove that the goods so imported had been fraudulently invoiced at the Custom House. The defence, on the other hand, claimed that the invoice as entered at the Custom House was fair and honest, and that the transaction had been properly conducted. Yesterday, at the sitting of the Court, counsel for the government summed up the evidence, after which Judge Blatchford charged the jury, who retired to consider their verdict. After a short consultation they returned with a verdict, but, owing to the absence of counsel representing the defendant, the verdict was not immediately stated by the jury. Defendant's counsel, after the lapse of about ten minutes, made his appearance, when the jury announced that their verdict was for the government for the sum of $54,537.

The Court then adjourned until Friday morning, at eleven o'clock.

UNITED STATES CIRCUIT COURT.

The hearing of causes on the equity calendar of the October Term will be resumed on Monday, December 4, at eleven o'clock A. M., in the United States District Court room, and continue, if necessary, for two weeks.

From this notice it is apparent that Judge Blatchford is determined to do all he can in removing the deadlock that has hitherto existed in clearing the calendar of the United States Circuit Court. Judge Woodruff must leave immediately for Connecticut to discharge circuit business there, and Judge Benedict is to hold a criminal term, commencing on the 6th of December, when it is to be hoped the criminal calendar will be expurgated, by trials or otherwise, of those old indictments that have so steadily kept their place thereon.

The Telegraph Patent Suit.

Before Judge Woodruff.

Hameston vs. The American Telegraph Company.—This case was resumed at the sitting of the Court. The arguments of counsel lasted all day. In the evening the jury rendered a verdict of $7,500 for the plaintiff.

UNITED STATES COMMISSIONERS' COURT.

A Revenue Officer Locked Up—Seizure of Illicit Whiskey.

Before Commissioner Shields.

The United States vs. Joseph Smith.—On Tuesday night revenue officers Mack, of the Third district, and Flood, of the Second district, saw at Catharine ferry, on a cart, five barrels of whiskey, which they believed to have been removed in fraud of the internal revenue. They made an attempt to seize the whiskey, but the man who was driving the cart jumped off it and ran away as fast as he could. The coast being thus clear the officers put a boy in charge of the cart and followed after it for some distance, when a detective of the city police put in an appearance, and, though the revenue officials, as they allege, informed the detective that they were acting under the authority of the United States, he ignored this statement, arrested Mack and the boy, and locked them up for the night in the Seventh ward station house. Yesterday morning Mack was discharged from prison, and subsequently one Joseph Smith was taken before Commissioner Shields and charged with having had in his possession the five barrels of whiskey without being properly stamped. There is some conflict of evidence in this case between the statement of the police officer and that of the revenue officials who claim to have effected the seizure. The former says that the defendant was driving the cart at the time he seized the whiskey upon it, and that Mack did not come up for some minutes afterwards. The Commissioner held Smith in $1,000 bail for examination.

Alleged Smuggling.

The United States vs. Krome.—The defendant, who had been charged with having aided and abetted in the smuggling of a quantity of cigars, rum and bitters, was yesterday further examined on that accusation. The Commissioner discharged the defendant, but refused to accede to the application of counsel to order the surrender of the goods to Krome, on the ground that they must await the order of the District Attorney.

Adjournment of the Court—Thanksgiving Day.

This being Thanksgiving Day the federal Courts will not be in session. Business will be resumed to-morrow.

SUPREME COURT—CHAMBERS.

Special Notice.

Before Judge Brady.

All notes of issue for the first Monday of December motion calendar must be filed on Friday, December 1, 1871, at three P. M.

Decision.

Elizabeth J. Van Ecton vs. Louis M. Van Ecton.—Report of referee confirmed and judgment of divorce granted.

SUPERIOR COURT—TRIAL TERM—PART I.

That Black Friday Suit.

Before Judge McCunn.

J. O. Davis et al. vs. James Fisk, Jr., et al.—This case, known as the Black Friday suit, the full particulars of which were published in the HERALD at the commencement of the trial, several days ago, was yesterday brought to a termination. Mr. Beach and Mr. David Dudley Field summed up at great length, when they were succeeded by ex-Judge Emott in an argument almost equally lengthy. The whole testimony was gone over by both sides, Mr. Fisk's legal advocates making him out as having nothing to do with the terrible financial revolution of Black Friday, and that there was no basis for bringing the present suit against him, and the other side insisting that he and Jay Gould, a co-defendant, were the head and front of that great offending. After a clear and able charge by the Judge, the jury were directed to bring in a sealed verdict on Friday morning, to which time the Court adjourned.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS—CHAMBERS.

The Alexander-Gardner Case—Motion for a Commission—A Lady Left in an Embarrassing Position by Her Counsel.

The case of Virginia C. Burke, as executrix of John Alexander, deceased, versus Ira C. Gardner and others, which attracted so much attention about eighteen months ago, was to have been up for hearing on an interlocutory motion yesterday at the Common Pleas, Chambers. It will be remembered that John Alexander, a wealthy New Orleans merchant, died in this city about three years ago, and had in his possession bonds and money amounting to about $50,000. He was boarding in the Gardner family, and Mrs. Burke, daughter of the decedent, came to this city after his death to attend to the winding up of his affairs. She found, however, that the funds of her father had been absorbed in some mysterious way, and it was at first denied that he had left any.

Proceedings were instituted and about fifteen thousand dollars traced to the possession of the Gardner family. Over thirteen thousand dollars of that sum have been placed in the trust fund to await the result of the suit.

The plaintiff's motion yesterday was to have been for the appointment of a commission for the examination of witnesses living in New Jersey. Mr. Andrew Jackson Rogers, Public Administrator, &c., was retained as counsel for Mrs. Burke, but when the case should have been proceeded with Mr. Rogers was not present. Mrs. Burke was placed in a decidedly embarrassing position, as the motion would, beyond a doubt, go against her by default. She, however, explained the case to a legal gentleman present, and he kindly interposed his good services and procured the consent of the defendant's counsel for a postponement.

COMMON PLEAS—TRIAL TERM—PART 2.

Damages for Seduction.

Before Judge Larremore and a Jury.

Edward J. Shaw vs. Jacob Thies.—This was a suit by the father to recover $7,000 damages for the seduction of his daughter. The father testified to his daughter's moral habits up to the time of the seduction. As to the seduction, the daughter testified that the defendant, under pretence of bringing her to see his cousin, brought her to a house of assignation in Thompson street, where, locking the door, he, by threats, succeeded in his purpose. When the cause had been partially tried it was adjourned to the next term, owing to the absence of material witnesses on the part of defendant.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS—SPECIAL TERM.

Decisions.

By Judge Loew.

Manhattan Savings Bank vs. Trimble.—Motion denied, with leave to renew upon additional affidavits.

Lockwood as Administratrix vs. Loomis.—Motion for the discovery of books and papers denied.

Powert et al. vs. Godefroy et al.—Case settled.

By Judge Larremore.

Roger vs. Ogden.—Judgment for plaintiff for $1,043 52, five per cent allowance.

SURROGATE'S COURT.

The Bryan McCahill Will Case—The Will Admitted to Probate.

Before Surrogate Hutchings.

In the Matter of Proving the Last Will and Testament of the Late Bryan McCahill.—This persistently contested case, the proceedings in which before the Surrogate were fully reported in the HERALD during its progress in the Court, has been decided as far as the admission of the will to probate goes. Surrogate Hutchings, in an exhaustive review of all the testimony and decision thereon, concludes as follows:—"My conclusion, upon the whole case, is that the allegations of the contestants against the instruments in question have not been sustained, and that the proponents are entitled to a decree admitting to probate the propounded will of the 30th of November, and codicil thereto of the 17th of December, 1870, as to both real and personal estate."

BROOKLYN COURTS.

SUPREME COURT—CIRCUIT.

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Court.

Before Judge Pratt.

Philip Coyle vs. The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.—This action was brought to recover the value of a horse which was killed by order of Officers Watson and Young, of this society. The defence was that the plaintiff was driving the horse in violation of the law, and that the animal was suffering from farcy and glanders. The following questions were submitted to the jury, who gave the answers stated:—

Q. Did the defendant authorize Watson & Young to take the horse in question? A. Yes.

Q. Was the plaintiff at the time the horse was taken engaged in overdriving or torturing or tormenting or needlessly mutilating said horse? A. Yes.

Q. Was the horse at the time he was taken in a condition that rendered it dangerous to human life to be driven through the public streets? A. No.

Q. And what was the value of the horse in question at the time he was taken? A. $100.

Counsel for defence and counsel for plaintiff respectively thereupon moved for judgment. Judge Pratt reserved his decision.

A Promissory Note Case.

Sidney Cornell vs. Theodore E. Perkins and Robert Spence.—Plaintiff brings suit to recover $2,500, the amount of a promissory note at six months made by Perkins June 10, 1870, and endorsed by Spence. It is claimed by Perkins that he made the note and got Spence's endorsement to accommodate one William Beers, and received no consideration for so doing. It was argued that the note should be discounted and the proceeds used by Beers and Stanford in the lumber seasoning business in Chicago. Stafford gave Perkins 350 shares of a cigar machine company as collateral, which stock was represented to be worth $50 a share, but which proved to be worthless. The defence alege that the note never was discounted, but was misappropriated by Stanford with plaintiff's knowledge. The defence also deny that Cornell holds or owns the note. Case on.

CITY COURT.

Decision by Judge McCue.

Margaret Shenkel vs. Isaac Larrson.—Motion to vacate judgment and set aside execution, and to enter discontinuance of action granted on payment to plaintiff's attorney as follows:—Referee's fees, $20; other disbursements, $4 04; costs before notice, $25; costs of this motion, $10; besides the Sheriff's fees on execution. So far as the plaintiff is concerned I am satisfied that the settlement made with her husband was with her authority. Order to be entered accordingly.

COURT OF APPEALS.

ALBANY, Nov. 29, 1871.

The Court of Appeals has adjourned till Monday, December 4. The following is the day calendar for December 4:—Nos. 415, 358, 179, 428, 443, 445, 446, 447.

ANOTHER SEWING MACHINE DODGE.

How Poor Girls are Swindled by Slop-shop Tailors.

One of the latest schemes for acquiring a fortune on small capital was unearthed yesterday at Essex Market. A little English girl, named Anna Barrett, with long, light hair flowing over her shoulders and an intelligent and pleasing countenance, appeared before His Honor Judge Ledwith, to ask him to use his influence to get back $5, which had been obtained from her under false pretences.

"What is the trouble?" said the Judge.

ANNA—I saw an advertisement in the paper the other day wanting girls to learn how to sew on the machine. I went there, it was at 23 Essex street, and after some talk I paid $5 for the privilege of learning. I sat down and I was immediately set to work sewing buttons and making button holes on pantaloons, for which I discoverad I was

TO RECEIVE NO PAY.

There were ten other girls in the room all working at the same thing. Then I demanded my money; he first refused to give it to me and then offered me $2 50 if I would go away and say no more.

JUDGE—Where did you say it was?

ANNA—23 Essex street, sir.

JUDGE—Officer Anderson, go down there with this girl and see what is the matter.

The officer and the young girl departed. In a few minutes they came back, bringing a short, stumpy-looking man with

PEERING CAT-LIKE EYES

and bushy red whiskers. Also came along with the accused six other young girls whom he had swindled in the same manner, some of whom had been working for him for six weeks and had never received a cent for their services. There were but two machines in the place, they stated, and they waited for their turn to be instructed, in the meantime plying their industrious needles for the benefit of their mercenary teacher.

PRISONER—Vot is dot vot you vant of me, Shudge?

JUDGE—I want you to give this girl back her five dollars.

PRISONER—I cand do dot; how I gond to bay de advertise?

JUDGE—Well, Peter, make out a complaint against this man.

PRISONER (turning to Officer Anderson)—Vat dey gone do, en?

OFFICER—Lock you up.

PRISONER—Loock me oop. Oh, no. I tink it better dot I bay dot vife tolar, and it?

OFFICER (sarcastically)—I wouldn't if I was you; better stand your trial.

PRISONER—Oh, Shudge, yust vait a minute; I geef de money right away.

The accused pulled out a worn and soiled dark leather wallet plethoric with greenbacks and handed the poor girl her money. She bowed her thanks to Officer Anderson and Judge Ledwith and went her way rejoicing.

ADLER'S TRIBULATIONS.

What He Did and What Became of Him.

Samuel Adler is an adventurer, and lives by his wits. He has been representing himself lately as an attorney and counsellor at law, obtaining money from different persons on pretence of conducting their suits. He was arraigned before Judge Ledwith yesterday on this charge, on complaint of Abraham Feuchtwanger, another attorney and counsellor at law. Also as a complainant against the aforesaid Adler appeared Mr. Kalinski, proprietor of Concordia Hall, in Rivington street. Kalinski is "a mild-mannered man." He smiled and he bowed, and smiled again, as he assured the Judge that he had no prejudices. Putting his hand on his heart, he said, "I have nothing against this man, but he belonged to the same lodge as I do, and I was at a meeting when he was expelled."

"Who made the motion for his expulsion," inquired His Honor.

"Oh, I preferred the charge of conduct unbecoming a member of that lodge," and again Kalinski smiled; he also bowed. At this moment Adler and Frechtwanger launched forth as to each other's credibility; it was crimination and recrimination, solemn asseverations and indignant denials, in which Adler was accused of crimes enough

TO HANG TEN MEN,

and Feuchtwanger's countenance was going through all the motions known to