THE STATE CAPITAL.

Reform Measures for the Metropolis Introduced in the Legislature.

Proposed Reconstruction of Municipal Departments.

"TO THE VICTORS BELONG THE SPOILS."

Commissioner Van Nort To Be Legislated Out of Office.

The Reform Aldermen to Go "Where the Woodbine Twineth."

CLEAN SWEEP OF THE NEW BROOM.

A Petition from the Friends of Erie—The Old Underground Railroad Project Revived—Probable Resuscitation of the Comptroller's Original Bill—Canal and Railroad Reforms—Public Printing.

ALBANY, Jan. 11, 1872.

The return of several of the Fenton-Greeley republicans from New York to this city was noticed in my letter of yesterday, but it was a puzzle to many to ascertain why they had returned so hastily. The mystery has been solved, however, and in a day or two, probably to-morrow, a little fight will take place which will show, to a certain extent, the deep-seated bitterness existing between the exponents of the factions in the republican party. Already they are so acrimonious that they will scarcely notice each other when they meet on the street. But, to explain why the Tammany republican lobbyists came up this week. It will be remembered that Twombly introduced a bill on the first day of the session providing for the removal of the Mayor, Chamberlain, Corporation Counsel, Corporation Attorney and T. C. Fields from the Park Commission. Previous to its introduction it contained, among other things, "President of Department of Public Works." The appointment of Mr. Van Nort to be the successor of Tweed occasioned a change and the title of his office was stricken out. The matter was referred to the Committee on Cities, and it soon became known that Colonel Hawkins, chairman of the committee, intended to have the bill reported as it was originally drawn up, and that in this regard he would be aided by Tilden and other representative reformers on the committee. This would never do. So word was sent to the metropolis, and along came the Greeley men—Hank Smith, Mike Farrell, Charley Folhamus and others. Van Nort came also, and is now very anxious lest his honorable position may prove to be Dead Sea fruit for him. The resignation of Bradley, it was supposed, would cause the striking out of the portion referring to the City Chamberlain, but it will not, as Hawkins claims that Palmer, while President of the Broadway Bank, knew as much about

THE WHOLESALE ROBBERIES

that were being perpetrated, as did Watson, Woodward or any member of the Ring. One fact is certain: there are persons here who remember that some few years ago a check for $17,500, purporting to be drawn by the officers of the then Board of Education, was presented and paid at the Broadway Bank. The transaction was without precedent; the heavy stealing was only beginning. A check for so large an amount had never before been presented. The paying teller, "a most reliable person," did not know the person to whom the money was paid; could not describe him, although he remarked at the time that it was an unusual amount. The check was declared a forgery the moment it came for examination to the Board of Education, but the bank would not allow it. The teller, who had been so reliable, but was so derelict as to pay so much money to a person he did not know, was dismissed the bank and could not be found to testify when the case came to trial. Mr. Boesé, who was then Clerk of the Board of Education, fought the matter in the courts, and the amount of the check was regularly charged against the school fund, until Boesé, who was objectionable to the Ring, was legislated out of office, when a "compromise" was agreed upon between the city and the bank. Mr. Palmer, as President of the bank, was a party to the compromise with the Chamberlain, and should such another case occur Mr. Palmer, the President, could compromise with Mr. Palmer, the Chamberlain. But Mr. Palmer is doomed as a city official, and

THE SCYTHE OF REFORM

is to mow him down with the other weeds in the municipal garden. The new city fathers, too, will be but short-lived and all their squabbles over pap and patronage will amount to little. The Committee on Cities—or some of the members—claim now that there can be little expected from the boards in the way of reform; that their composition shows only a change from Tammany Ring rule to Tammany republican rule, and that they too must die. The blooming Conover and the wily and wiry Wilder were obliged to go home to be present at the organization to-day; so their mission this week hither was productive of no good results.

THE COMMISSIONERS OF EMIGRATION,

as at present constituted, are to go by the board if the bill introduced by Mr. Mackay should become a law. The bill names Cyrus Curtis, Hugh Gardner, Andrew Carrigan, Cyrus H. Loutrel and Joseph Blumenthal as Commissioners to discharge all the duties devolving upon the Commission, to hold office five years, and their successors to be appointed by the Governor. This will create a stir around the Castle Garden, where small fry politicians have been running the minor offices and securing the patronage for themselves and their friends. It is supposed by many that this bill may be regarded only as a "blind," or a hint to the national government to hurry through the general United States emigration laws which have been so long threatened and by which the party in power in the nation can secure another means of bestowing patronage, making power and profit for the party and the politicians.

REFORM IN REAL ESTATE VALUATION

was broached, in a memorial presented to-day by Mr. Jacobs, which will cause quite a flutter in every section of the State. The memorial asks that provision be made to compel the County Assessors to assess real estate at the full market value, report this to the State Assessors, and have the taxation equalized throughout the State. The poor rich men who own so much real estate that they cannot tell what it is worth, but who somehow manage to be assessed very lightly, will find themselves in a bad predicament should the measure asked for be adopted and be honestly enforced. Thus it will be seen that the work of reform is going along quite lively. But this is not all to be confined to the cities, for to-day a resolution was adopted directing the Committee on Insurance to examine into the

CHARGES AGAINST THE INSURANCE SUPERINTENDENT

and report on them to the House. Superintendent Miller has been making quite a splurge, and as serious complaints have been made against him and his department in certain journals the matters connected with his administration are to be rigidly investigated. But while the reformers look occasionally to other portions of the State they must needs come back to the great bad city of New York. They claim that it needs as thorough a cleansing as the Augean stables, and that the broom of Hercules wielded by the reformers will do the work. They are looking in every nook and corner, and find every time some foul thing to be swept away. Mr. Pell to-day introduced a measure to do a little of the sweeping, as it is to repeal the law giving the Mayor power to appoint poll clerks, and to change the election districts in the city. Then "Rapid Transit" Whitbeck cast his eyes around in his neighborhood, and he found

TOM FIELDS' GAS

provisions of last year, which made a number of Tammany men incorporators in a gas company and gave them power to lay gas pipes through the Central Park; gave them a monopoly of it and allowed them most unlimited freedom in their business. Mr. Whitbeck has spiked that company's guns by a bill to repeal their charter. Then Hawkins looked around again, and he found the Public Administrator's Office, lately under the direction of an emigrant from New Jersey, needed some regulating. Anybody who ever had any transactions with that office could endorse that finding. The Colonel has introduced a bill to compel the proper compilation of records of that office and enforce the rule of having notices of deaths filed there within twenty-four hours.

Then Niles, of Westchester, cast his eagle eye around and found that the Sheriffs in the State were doing too well as sole legal real estate auctioneers, so he proposed to repeal the law giving them the sole right to act as such auctioneers.

THE CANAL AND RAILROAD RINGS

have not yet commenced active operations, but early next week they will be hard at work. The canallers will try to fight off any unpleasant findings on the report called for this morning in relation to amounts paid for repairs on the canals, nature and extent of damages and repairs, and other inquisitive little soundings the reformers might make.

The railroad men will, of course, try to kill off Senator O'Brien's bill on the Erie Directory. Indeed, they have already commenced to put in the wedge by flooding both houses with petitions from residents along the line of Erie, begging that no special legislation may be taken in favor of the "Blarsted Britishers," who, it is said, are trying to get the road under a foreign monopoly, but leave them to the ordinary course of justice in the Courts.

"JUSTICE IN THE COURTS"

will sound peculiar to many, especially, perhaps, the English stockholders; but in this connection a bill introduced to-day by Tobey, of Essex, will be of moment, as it provides for actions against incorporations in such a way as to overcome many of the legal stumbling blocks now in the way of individuals endeavoring to get justice against corporations. It also provides that the Attorney General may place the venue in any part of the State he may feel disposed, and avoid the bringing of actions before pet judges of powerful individuals or corporations. Then again the

HARLEM RAILROAD PEOPLE

may be expected here to fight against a bill introduced by Mr. Niles, which seeks to compel that company to afford better accommodation to the people living on the line; also to sell commutation tickets from Harlem and Mott Haven to stations north, so that in summer time those who feel disposed may ride from Harlem on the East River boats; also to compel the company to sell commutation tickets in accordance with the original charter, which obliges them to carry passengers as far south as the City Hall. These provisions will be hailed with delight by the traveling public, but the railroad power may be too great here this session to give them any reason to hope for the happy reforms.

A LITTLE BREEZE

was created in the Assembly to-day on the passage of the Buffalo Charter. Jacobs opposed hurried legislation, as the worst feature connected with the worst legislation complained of during the past few years. Alvord said it was only returning the cup to the lips of Jacobs' party and re-enforcing a charter which was passed by "an honest republican Legislature."

"When was that?" queried Jacobs, with feigned surprise.

"At a time," replied the ready old Salt, "when the gentleman had the honor to be a member of the House; but was kept by the majority within the bounds of common sense."

The question and answer put the House in a good humor and caused quite a laugh at both. The bill was then passed by a vote of 83 to 17.

The Usury law was the subject of a bill introduced by Twombly, which makes the State law comply with the usury provisions under the National Banking act.

THE ASSEMBLY REPORTERS

have not been named by the Speaker, and there is some talk of making galleries to put the reporters in. This may be all very fine and will help to keep away from the press any measures of importance or any snug little jobs they may wish to put through. There is room enough for all the legitimate reporters, and the Speaker should carry out his idea of reform by refusing to recognize those miserable pettifoggers who pretend to be reporters, but do nothing except as lobbyists.

LOOK OUT FOR BREAKERS.

The New York Senators have apparently a good deal to learn yet. They came here backed, as it were, by the entire reform party of the metropolis, and, under the impression that that fact alone entitled them to more consideration than is ordinarily given to ordinary men in their positions, went to work the very first week of the session by taking the wrong side of the very first question that they had to deal with. It is almost unnecessary for me to state that I refer to the bill which was destined to make Mr. Green, your estimable Comptroller, the supreme ruler of the city. One would think that the repulse they met with would be sufficient to make them look before they made a leap the next time. Indeed, when Mr. Benedict yesterday introduced that financial bill, and it was passed so quickly by both houses and signed by the Governor within half an hour of its passage, many were led to believe that he and his co-workers had seen the error of their ways, or, rather, the misstep they had made last week, and had at last determined to give up all idea of the other measure, the leading features of which resulted, as is well known, in postponing action on the bond question, which everybody felt and knew was almost a matter of life and death to the future credit of the metropolis. But the action of Mr. Benedict in to-day making a motion to have the original bill referred back to the New Yorkers points to quite another conclusion. The motion, as

A MATTER OF COURTESY,

was carried, but for all that it took the republicans, who had made such an outcry against the measure, completely by surprise. Had Mr. Benedict moved to disinter the corpse of some pauper with a view to resuscitation on the latest scientific principles they could not have been more astonished, for I venture to say that nine out of ten of the members had considered the bill dead and buried beyond all question. It is true that the bill never succeeded in reaching a third reading, and that Mr. Benedict's motion may have been made simply with the view of allowing himself and his fellow townsmen the exclusive right of putting it out of sight forever, but there are circumstances which do not sustain this theory. The general idea seems to be that in a day or two the original bill will be brought up again after certain changes will have been made in it, so as the more easily to pull the wool over the eyes of those who have eyes to see and yet refuse to see, provided they are afforded a good excuse to turn their heads in the wrong direction. It may not be in every respect as "peculiar" a measure as it was originally intended it should be; but it is strongly suspected that if it ever does come up again it will be just as objectionable as ever, although it may not appear so to those who are not posted as to the plausible disguises which Albany tricksters know so well.

HOW TO CLOTHE A LAW

that cannot stand on its own merits. If it should so happen that the New Yorkers bring the bill in again in such a shape as to give Mr. Green, in a roundabout way, the power it directly gave him in its first form, Mr. Benedict will owe it to himself to explain the why and the wherefore, since he openly stated last week that all he and his colleagues desired when they asked for the passage of the bill last week was that the Comptroller should be able to meet the demands for payment of the bonds due on the 15th inst. It is true that he made this statement when he found that the bill could not get through with the other features intact; but it now remains to be seen whether he meant what he said. If the bill is again dragged in to make the Comptroller dictator—and that is what Mr. Benedict claimed was its real import—has already been granted, his sincerity in advocating it solely on the ground that "the credit of New York" would be ruined unless the bill was passed will be open to grave doubt. But we shall see what we shall see.

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD PROJECTS

are already beginning to show their heads. The Pneumatic put in its usual annual appearance yesterday, and to-day another bill, incorporating another underground railway company, was presented in both Houses. The incorporators mentioned in the bill are Andrew Gilsey, Augustus Schell, Henry Bergh, Grosvenor P. Lowery, Charles Treacy, W. R. Martin, Origen Vandenburgh, N. B. Labau, John A. Livingston, James Monroe Taylor and J. C. Buckhart. The leading features of the bill are that the capital stock is set down at $10,000,000, the term of the charter asked for to last 100 years. The proposed route is from Bowling Green, under Broadway, to Union square; thence through Fourteenth street and Union square, and up Broadway to Sixth avenue. The bill contains very many extremely objectionable features. Among the most noticeable is one which gives the road power to make connections with any other railroad in this city and Brooklyn (provided in the latter case a tunnel is made under the East River), and, if necessary to do this the company can occupy private property and do pretty much as they like about their "openings" or where they are to locate them. The bill provides that the motive power is to be "steam, or otherwise." The "otherwise" doubtless means very little. Besides allowing the company to take thirty-one feet in breadth of Broadway the bill authorizes it to take possession, underground, of Fourth avenue to a point not above Forty-second street. One of the clauses puts the screws down thus:—"So much of the line may be on the surface as is necessary to make connections" with other roads. The engineer who has charge of the bill here has very little standing as an engineer, and it is said he put the names of the alleged incorporators into the bill without ever having asked their consent, with, I believe one exception. What will they do about it?

THE CHARGES AGAINST SENATOR WOOD.

On motion of Senator Ames the committee to investigate the charges against Senator James Wood was appointed this forenoon. When he made the motion Ames suggested as the names of the committee Robertson, Lord and Allen. Robertson declined to serve, and suggested that Mr. Ames himself should take his place. Why Mr. Robertson was so emphatic in declining he did not see fit to state, but he did look rather put out when Ames sarcastically remarked that he could not see why any Senator should "shirk" service on the committee. He also stated that he understood that the old Senators, that is, those who were members of the Senate last year, were loath to serve on the committee. Here again was plenty of room for an explanation as to the why and wherefore of the general unwillingness of certain Senators to do what they should toward making a thorough investigation into the charges against one of their own members, but Ames, like Robertson, took good care not to avail himself of the opportunity. Finally, Mr. Robertson was excused and Mr. Ames took his place on the committee. Lord, the only democratic member on it, in order to save the general look of things as far as he was concerned, tried to make a point by saying that if old members were not to serve he certainly ought to be counted out. However, when asked by the Lieutenant Governor if he wanted to be excused Lord pretended not to hear him, and thus prevented his excuse being passed upon by the Senate. Why is all this thus? Could the "Boss" explain if he wanted to?

Senator O'Brien's bill in relation to local improvements simply authorizes the Comptroller to settle claims on account of contracts for street pavements, &c., only when proper evidence is given that the contracts were made according to law. The idea is that many existing contracts were illegally made, and this bill, the Senator thinks, will reach them sharply.

THE WARRANT DRAWERS OF 1871.

Mr. Lowery's resolution calling upon the State Comptroller to send to the Senate all the warrants for moneys paid out to attaches of the Senate during the last session, what they were paid for, the names of those who were paid, &c., has created quite a sensation in certain circles. When the Comptroller's reply comes along there will be plenty of fun ahead.

LIFE INSURANCE DIVIDENDS.

Mr. Perry introduced the following bill, which will explain itself. How it will take among certain companies remains for the future to tell:—

It shall be lawful for any life insurance company organized under laws of this State to ascertain at any given time and from time to time the proportion of surplus accruing to each policy from the date of the last to the date of the next succeeding premium payment, and to distribute the proportion found to be equitable either in cash in reduction of premium, or in reversionary insurance payable with the policy, and upon the same conditions as therein expressed at the next succeeding date of such payment, anything in the charter of any such company to the contrary notwithstanding.

PROPOSED CHANGE IN THE LAW IN RELATION TO PORT WARDENS.

Senator Benedict presented a memorial, with a bill to change the law of 1857 in relation to Port Wardens. The memorial is signed by officers of many insurance companies. The bill gives the Port Wardens a regular per diem allowance, instead of a commission, and prevents their interference in directing property adversely to the wishes of owners, when they are present at sales thereof.

NEW YORK LEGISLATURE.

Senate.

ALBANY, Jan. 11, 1872.

Messrs. Ames, Allen and Lord were appointed a committee to investigate and report upon the charges against Senator James Wood, with power to send for persons and papers.

On motion of Mr. Lowery the Comptroller was called upon to report in detail the amount paid to all officers of the Senate last year.

On motion of Mr. Benedict the act conferring powers upon the Comptroller of New York city was recommitted for amendment to the Senators from that city.

RELATIVE TO RAILROADS.

Senator MADDEN introduced a bill providing for the repeal of chapter 907 of the Laws of 1869, relative to permitting municipal corporations aiding in the construction of railroads, nothing in the proposed act to conflict with any corporation which has already commenced the construction of their road.

Mr. O'BRIEN introduced a bill regulating contracts for local improvements in the city of New York, and assessments for the same. It authorizes the Comptroller to settle claims for work done when he is satisfied, by proper and legal certificates, that the work has been faithfully done.

NEW YORK PORT WARDENS.

Mr. BENEDICT presented a memorial, accompanied by a bill, amending the act organizing wardens of the port of New York. It provides against interference in the direction of property adversely to the wishes of the owners or their representatives, where present, and that wardens shall only exercise their duties in respect to such property so represented upon the application of the parties in interest.

DIVIDENDS OF LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES.

Senator PERRY introduced a bill providing that any life insurance company may ascertain from time to time the proportion of any surplus accruing to each policy from the date of the last to the date of the next succeeding payment, and to distribute the proportion found to be equitable either in cash or a reduction of premium, or in a reversionary insurance payable with the policy.

Mr. TIEMANN introduced a bill to limit and define the powers of Corporation Attorney of the city of New York.

Mr. BENEDICT introduced a bill to incorporate the Underground Railway Company, and to authorize the said company to construct sub-ways for a railway in the city of New York, and for other purposes.

It incorporates Andrew Gilsey, Augustus Schell, Henry Bergh, G. P. Lowry, Charles Creary, William R. Martin, O. Vandenburgh, N. B. La Bau, John A. Livingston, James M. Taylor and J. C. Benedict, with a capital stock of $10,000,000. The road starts at the Battery and connects with the Hudson River Railway and Harlem Railway by branch. The bill then makes the usual provision for construction. Adjourned.

Assembly.

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 11, 1872.

A large number of remonstrances were presented against placing the Erie Railway under the control of British monopoly.

Mr. JACOBS presented resolutions of the Brooklyn Reform Association relative to assessment and taxation in that city.

REPORTS.

By Mr. PRINCE—Amending the law concerning limited partnerships; also confirming the orders of the General Sessions of the Peace, New York, and continuing the terms thereof.

On motion of Mr. LOUGHRAN the bill legalizing the acts of Robert Hill, Justice of the Peace of Kingston, Ulster county, was read and passed.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

By Mr. LEWIS—Repealing a portion of the act to preserve moose, deer and other game.

By Mr. TOBEY—Regulating the proceedings in acts against corporations.

By Mr. KNAPP—Increasing the duties of the clerks of Boards of Supervisors.

By Mr. BENNETT—Making a free bridge between Brooklyn and Newtown.

By Mr. COOK—To prevent frauds in the sale of gold and silver ware.

By Mr. TWOMBLY—Amending the Revised Statutes relative to interest on money.

Also incorporating the Underground Railroad Company of New York.

By Mr. PELL—To repeal chapter 572 of the laws of 1871, passed April 19, 1871, and to take the power from the Mayor of New York to redistrict election districts of that city. It also takes the power from that official to appoint election inspectors and commissioners and poll clerks, and places it in the hands of the Police Commissioners.

A NEW BOARD OF EMIGRATION.

By Mr. MACKAY—Creating a Board of Commissioners of Emigration, and conferring certain powers and duties.

The bill names Cyrus Curtis, Hugh Gardner, Andrew Corrigan, Cyrus H. Loutrel and Joseph Blumenthal a Board of Commissioners of Emigration, with powers and duties exactly similar to those already passed by the present Commissioners.

By Mr. HAWKINS—Amending the Revised Statutes relative to reporting deaths to mortuary officials.

By Mr. WHITBECK—To release the interest of the State in lands belonging to aliens.

By Mr. PRINCE—Amending the charter of the Institution for Colored Orphans in New York.

By Mr. NILES—Regulating the running of trains on the New York and Harlem Railroad; also repealing the act of 1869 fixing Sheriffs' fees.

THE INSURANCE DEPARTMENT.

Mr. MOULTON offered the following resolution:—

Whereas His Excellency the Governor in his recent Message to the Legislature has made the following recommendation:—"The people cannot be too fully awakened to the dangers inseparable from the growth of moneyed powers in this country, whether wielded by individuals or corporations. It makes itself felt everywhere in our politics and aims to control, and too often does control, legislation in the federal and State capitals. We can not directly strike at it in other States or at Washington, but we can begin at the capital of our own State and set an example to others. There is a popular belief that much of the important legislation in past years has been influenced by the direct use of money. This belief is so general and widespread that it is due to the people that there should be a prompt and thorough legislative inquiry to ascertain whether it is well founded. If it be so guilty men should be brought to justice under existing laws, if that is possible; if not, then proper laws should be passed to meet those cases which may hereafter arise. The people will be slow to obey laws which they believe are enacted by a corrupt Legislature. Their demand to-day is not for municipal reform only, but for reform in every department of government, State and federal, in which abuses may be shown to exist. Authority, whether executive or legislative, to be cheerfully obeyed, must be respected and honored."

CHARGES AGAINST THE SUPERINTENDENT.

And whereas various charges have been made in the daily and insurance press and otherwise that the Superintendent of the Insurance Department has been, during his official term, and still is receiving fees and perquisites for his own personal use and emolument which should by law be paid into the State Treasury, particularly the one-fifth of one per cent chargeable to insurance companies in the transfer or withdrawal of securities under the supply bill of 1870, chapter —, and it has been chargeable that inordinate and illegal fees have been collected by the Superintendent for making special and other examinations of insurance companies in this and other States, and that money has been raised in large amounts in order to pass alterations of the insurance laws, conferring additional powers upon the Superintendent in the appointment and selection of receivers and otherwise; and that other

IRREGULARITIES HAVE OCCURRED

and still exist in the administration of said Insurance Department; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the standing Committee on Insurance be, and is hereby authorized, empowered and required to inquire into, investigate and report upon the truth or falsity of said charges, and any others relating to the Insurance Department in any respect; that the said committee be and is hereby authorized to send for persons and papers.

Mr. JACOBS moved to amend the resolution so that the committee shall incur no expense to the State except for the service of legal process. Agreed to. The resolution was then adopted.

By Mr. FORT—That the Canal Appraisers report within ten days the full list of all claims received by them since January 1, 1870, together with detailed information regarding the same.

THE BUFFALO CHARTER.

The bill repealing the charter of Buffalo, passed last session, coming from the Senate, Mr. ALBERGER moved a suspension of the rules and that the bill be referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. CHAMBERS said unless there were good reasons for this motion he was opposed to such hasty legislation.

Mr. ALBERGER explained that the bill passed last year had been pronounced unconstitutional, as well as an outrage on the citizens of Buffalo.

The motion to refer to the Committee of the Whole prevailed.

The House then went into committee on the bill, reported progress, and then the bill was ordered to a third reading, and on further motion put on its final passage and passed.

Adjourned.

KANSAS.

The Message of the Governor—National Politics Eschewed.

TOPEKA, Jan. 11, 1872.

The Governor sent his message to the Legislature yesterday. He shows that the total bonded indebtedness is $1,400,000; other indebtedness, $66,000; reduction of the debt during the year, $190,000; resources of the State, $682,000. The public school system is represented as in a very flourishing condition. The Governor recommends the passage of a law compelling the attendance of children at school. Under the head of "Mercenary Politics" the Governor says it is notorious that bribery in elections is a common practice, and recommends that a law be enacted exempting one of the parties from prosecution if he should appear as a witness and give testimony against the other. The Governor also recommends that laws be enacted to secure the neutrality of corporations in political contests, and if proved that money is expended by them their charters should be forfeited and their officers disfranchised. No reference is made to national politics.

VIRGINIA.

Passage of a New Pilot Law—A Constitutional Amendment to Fix the Maximum Rate of Interest.

RICHMOND, Jan. 11, 1872.

The House of Delegates to-day passed a new pilot law, containing provisions for which the commercial men of the city have been battling for over thirty years. It abolishes compulsory pilotage on James River and the pilot tax on all coasting vessels, leaving it optional with them to employ pilots or not. Foreign vessels, as before, are compelled to employ pilots in Hampton Roads, whose fees are increased fifty cents on the foot over former charges. The bill goes to the Senate, where the friends of the pilots will make a strenuous effort to defeat it. The bill was recommended by the Richmond Chamber of Commerce. The trade of this city has been greatly injured by the former pilot law, and shipbrokers have not been able on account of it to obtain, at any time, the number of coasting vessels they required. The Norfolk and other eastern delegates are opposed to this essential reform.

Both branches of the Legislature have adopted a resolution submitting the clause of the constitution fixing

THE MAXIMUM RATE OF INTEREST

at twelve per cent to the people for abolition or retention. The entire representation from the country favor six per cent as the maximum rate, while city representatives claim that money is more plentiful and cheaper than ever before under the twelve per cent clause. This proposed amendment to the constitution was submitted at the last session of the Legislature, and under the amendatory provision of that instrument had to lay over to this session. It will now be submitted to and voted on by the people at the spring election. It is beyond a doubt that the twelve per cent clause will be stricken out and the six per cent clause substituted in its stead. The commercial men hope the next Legislature will make some provision in regard to commercial paper more favorable to them.

GEORGIA.

The Acting Governor Resigns His Seat to Smith Because He Can't Help It—His Outrageous Pardons to the Foster Blodgett Gang.

ATLANTA, Ga., Jan. 11, 1872.

Acting Governor Conley sent a message to the Legislature to-day, reaffirming his right to the office of Governor, but declaring his intention to surrender his position to Mr. Smith, the Governor elect, because he has no means of appeal from the decision of the Legislature. Smith will, accordingly, be installed to-morrow.

Yesterday Conley issued pardons to Foster Blodgett and several others charged with robbing the State Railroad of a large sum of money. They have been indicted but never tried. The pardons cover the offences charged against them already, and all offences with which they may hereafter be charged. Conley's action has excited intense indignation, and the pardons are regarded as being the most outrageous ever issued by an executive officer.

The feeling is intensified by the fact that while he pardoned the alleged leaders of the railroad ring he positively refused to pardon their tools. It is stated that the authorities will contest the validity of the pardons, and continue the prosecution of Blodgett and his party.

BROOKLYN REFORM.

The Registry Law and Other Matters.

The Committee of Seventy-five, or Citizens' Reform Association, met last evening at their usual place of meeting, No. 185 Montague street, Mr. Woodruff in the chair. Among those who were present were Henry E. Pierrepont, E. J. Whitlock, Harvey Farrington, William Marshal, A. A. Low, John W. Hunter, Daniel M. Chauncey and Colonel R. Johnstone.

A draft of a registry law, which had been prepared by a sub-committee of the legislative committee, was read. The act provides that a Board of Election shall be created, which shall consist of the Mayor, Comptroller, Auditor and the Judges of the City Court. This Board shall have the power to appoint the canvassers, registers and inspectors of election. The rules providing for the meetings of the Boards of Registry and their duties are similar to the old Registry law. The revised registry lists are to be filed with the City Clerk and the head of the Police Department. The compensation for clerks, canvassers, registers and inspectors is not to exceed $10 per day. No person shall be eligible for either of these positions who holds any public office, except that of notary public and commissioner of deeds. Persons who shall be appointed to the various positions and who shall neglect or refuse to serve shall—unless excused by a judge of the City Court—be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and be punished by fine and imprisonment. Offenders against the provisions of the law to be also deemed guilty of misdemeanor; and repeaters to be sent to State Prison for terms of one or two years, according to the grade of the offence.

On motion of Mr. A. C. DAVIS the document was laid on the table, ordered to be printed, and made the special order of business for the next meeting.

It was also resolved that the Mayor shall have an absolute veto of all ordinances and resolutions of the Board of Aldermen authorizing the payment of moneys out of the treasury.

On motion of Mr. BENNETT, the legislative committee was instructed to prepare an act for the removal of the present members of the Water Board immediately. The same committee were also directed to draft an act so that all searches made in the office of the Collector of Taxes be directed to that officer, so as to make him responsible as the Register and County Clerk are now.

MUNICIPAL REFORM IN JERSEY.

A Citizens' Association in Jersey City—Meeting Last Evening—The Bumsted Charter Overhauled.

The plundered taxpayers of Jersey City are not so completely subjugated by the Bumsted "Ring" that they hug their chains in silence. An association was recently formed comprising many of the wealthy property owners without regard to party. The organization originated with republicans, who have become disgusted with the corruption which flourishes under the auspices of their party now in control of the city.

A meeting was held in Washington Hall last evening, Dr. Quimby in the chair. Among those present were Jacob Weart, late United States Collector of the Fifth district; S. B. Ransom, William Harney, Æneas Fitzpatrick, A. W. Garrison, W. Fleming, James S. Bradley, M. H. Curtis, Patrick Farrelly, John Miller and A. Burlew. Mr. Fleming, on behalf of the Committee on Charter Revision, reported amendments to several sections of the charter with the view of restoring power to the people. The operations of the irresponsible body known as the Board of Public Works are to be brought to a close unless the Legislature sustain corruption and extravagance so patent that they need no proof. Mr. Fleming stated that the "ring" will oppose any change with all its power because the men now in possession fear the consequences of their acts if a new government should succeed.

Mr. Weart submitted a scheme of municipal government which should lodge the power to order public improvements and designate the cost in the Board of Aldermen, the work to be carried out by the executive department, comprising the Mayor and heads of departments. He also advocated a liberal remuneration to office-holders, so that men of high character and standing who cannot now afford to give their services, might be enlisted. A discussion of the two schemes submitted occupied the attention of the association till the meeting adjourned.

A CARRIAGE OF THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON III.

BREWSTER OF TWENTY-FIFTH STREET,
NEW YORK, Jan. 9, 1872.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

SIR—We have at our warerooms as above a carriage of the Emperor Napoleon III., imported by Mr. Strakosch. As it is somewhat different from those manufactured in this country and interesting from association, it becomes an object of curiosity which we should be happy to show you. Yours, &c.,

J. B. BREWSTER & CO.

THE HOBOKEN SUICIDE.

Mr. Charles G. Perry, who shot himself on Tuesday, succumbed to his wound last evening, surrounded by a circle of mourning friends. In him Hoboken loses an esteemed citizen, whose career, both public and private, was unblemished. He was a warm friend to the poor and was noted especially for his modest and unassuming manner. His convictions were of such a nature as to preclude the possibility of ending his existence while in a sound state of mind. The funeral will take place on Saturday from St. Paul's church.

A CASE OF HYDROPHOBIA.

Coroner Keenan yesterday received a notice from the Board of Health requesting him to hold an inquest in 116th street, between Third and Fourth avenues, on the body of Honora O'Connell, who died of hydrophobia. No further particulars were given.

LECTURES LAST NIGHT.

THE HARBOR IMPROVEMENTS.

Lecture Before the Xavier Union by General John Newton, United States Army.

General John Newton, United States Army, lectured last evening before the members of the Xavier Union, No. 59 West Fifteenth street, on the improvement of the harbor approaches of New York. He said:—The work which the government is now doing in the East River and at Hell Gate consists in the removal of rocks. The East River is an arm of the sea, the bed of which is caused by a convulsion of nature, and hence the rocks are hard and difficult of removal. The importance of the work is understood when it is remembered that the East River connects two important arms of the sea—the Bay of New York and Long Island Sound. Hitherto the rocks have formed

AN IMPASSABLE BARRIER TO COMMERCE.

At an early date they were the subject of wishes for improvement; but there was no hope entertained then that they could be entirely removed. The inconveniences from these obstructions was felt during our wars. We are prosperous now; but who can foresee that the time shall never come when political commotion in the land shall not require the harbor of New York to be easily passable? Though the contingency may be remote, yet we should guard against surprise. The commercial inconveniences arising from these obstructions are apparent. Most people are not aware that previous to 1848 one vessel out of every fifty coming through Hell Gate was either seriously injured or entirely lost. About that time the Coast Survey surveyed Hell Gate, and the dangers and difficulties of the passage were clearly explained. The currents exercise serious embarrassment to removing the rocks. Besides the smaller rocks, such as Way's reef and Primeland, &c., there are the larger ones, Hallet's Rock and the Gridiron. In 1861 merchants of the city subscribed $13,000 in order to reduce the size of Pot Rock (so called on account of the boiling waters around it) and this was done by means of a French process, which blasted from the surface. This attempt did much service, even slight as it was. Subsequently

CONGRESS APPROPRIATED $20,000

for the same purpose, with but poor results. But people do not look at the work as it was done, but simply know that the water has been made deeper. At the beginning of the present attempt to clear the harbor the grossest ignorance existed as to the condition of the river, and it was impossible to gain any information to start with. Hence, we had to begin with first principles. Surface blasting, it should be said, is by no means to be condemned. The inconvenience from it is that it leaves the broken pieces of rock still on the surface. The city some time ago set about removing the obstructions in Coenties' slip by means of the diving bell, but so great loss of life was caused to the divers that the attempt was abandoned. The mode pursued now at Hell Gate is hard drilling. The larger rocks are penetrated by a shaft, excavated and then blown up. The work is slow, as too many holes cannot be bored, and only one blast can occur at one time on account of the vibration.

The lecturer here gave an interesting description of how the work of blasting is done and the preparations necessary for it, the employment of machinery necessary for the strong currents and the manner in which the embankments were constructed. He also gave a description of how the Blossom Rock at San Francisco was successfully removed. Many questions arising during

THE PROGRESS OF THE IMPROVEMENTS

should be left unsettled until there was actual need to combat them, and among these was the serious one whether it be better to erect new supports or trust to the natural pillars as the excavation was increasing. That the obstructions should, however, be removed was a certainty. The uptown march of the city necessitated that. By and by we should have the shipping up around Hell Gate. There was no relief for the city except by the one way—viz., to blast away the rocks. The theory advanced some time ago that a canal might be run through Astoria was impracticable. The water of the canal should necessarily flow over to the low water beyond. The lecturer gave quite an elaborate explanation of the action of the strong currents, which, he said, were caused solely by the many rocks at and around Hell Gate.

DEATH TO QUACKERY.

Important Action of the Medico-Legal Society.

A stated meeting of the Medico-Legal Society of the city of New York was held last evening at the College of Physicians and Surgeons. At the last meeting of the society a committee had been appointed to prepare a report on the revision of existing laws relative to the medical profession, and also to prepare a draft of a law for the prevention of unlicensed practice in the State of New York. Before calling upon the chairman of the committee for his report Mr. Rogers, President of the society, briefly explained the reasons that necessitated the proposed action to improve and regulate the practice of medicine. He said that it had long been apparent to the members of the medical profession that some amendment was necessary in the statutes of the State that regulate and govern the incorporated medical societies, which are becoming so numerous. It is a cause of great difficulty to the members of such societies to know what powers the law as it at present stands confers upon them, and to remedy this evil is the chief reason why the committee was appointed. Furthermore, the alarming increase of what he would call dangerous and criminal practice, imperatively called for some decided action by all respectable surgeons and physicians. With this brief explanation he would call upon Mr. Delany, the chairman of the committee, to read the proposed draft of the bill which is to be submitted to the Legislature. The bill is a lengthy one, and recites in the preamble that the great increase of unlicensed practice by ignorant and fraudulent practitioners had made it apparent that some action must be taken to put a stop to, or, at least, regulate, such practice. Thousands of lives are sacrificed yearly through the agency of this dangerous class, both in surgery and midwifery, and, as the law stands at present, it is powerless to reach the parties guilty of the practices, though there are laws on the statute book which expressly provide for their punishment. The bill proposes to create a medical society in each county of the State, which is to be incorporated under certain laws usual in such cases. To this society all those in the county who profess to practice medicine must belong, and be regularly enrolled, after an examination as to their qualifications and attainments by a board of experienced practitioners. All who fail to comply with the law after a lapse of sixty days will be subject to the usual penalties provided for in the laws of the State for such persons as obtain money under false pretences. In each district the society is to be empowered to appoint a board of five censors, who shall ascertain whether any person or persons are practising in said district without having complied with the requirements of the statute. All such persons are to be given an opportunity of setting themselves right by proving their capability in medicine, but if they fail to do so, and continue their business by card or advertisement, the censors are required to take such legal proceedings against them as may be deemed necessary.

The report of the committee was unanimously adopted by the Medico-Legal Society last evening, after an interesting discussion as to its provisions and merits.

L'INTERNATIONALE.

Individual and Associated Effort—Self-Interest the Truest Social and Political Motor.

Mr. Charles Moran lectured last evening to the class of Political Economy of the Evening High School, in Thirteenth street, on the "Internationals."

He dwelt principally upon the theory of government of the International Society. They accepted the Communist idea that we must look to ourselves for government. But the best of political philosophers say that it is only through individual enterprise and effort that the science of government is carried out. In reality the progress of science is due almost entirely to

INDIVIDUAL EFFORT.

Those men who have been hampered by governments have accomplished little or nothing in discovery or invention. The Internationals commit, therefore, the great mistake that, instead of decrying some of the evils, they call upon them to compel men to do, not what they think themselves is right, but what is the will of an association. They wish to make

THE MAN TO FIT THE BED

upon which he is to lie, instead of making the bed to fit him. They believe in the doctrine that the middlemen oppress the laboring classes.

THE TRUE THEORY

is that no middlemen, except, indeed, the employes of a government, can exist a single day without benefiting both the classes above and those below. They have urged upon this city that it should assume the furnishing of gas, the establishing of cheap modes of transit and to erect comfortable