THE FILTHY STREETS.

Disease and Dirt Deluging the Metropolis.

ABOMINABLE ABUSES

The Street Contractor To Be Indicted by the Grand Jury.

HORRORS IN HARLEM.

Eleven Hundred Citizens Petition the Board of Health To Abolish the Contractors' Pet Dumping Ground.

One day last week the HERALD called the attention of the public to the dangerous and filthy condition of the streets, and from the impression then made by the forcible article in the HERALD the Board of Health has taken the matter up, and there is now some probability that New York will soon enjoy the novelty of clean streets. Upon an order issued by the Board the Sanitary Inspector sent out a number of his assistants to examine the condition of the city's surface, and the result of these gentlemen's labors has been sent in to the Board. One especial and very noticeable feature of that paper is the constant reference to the cobble stones and the imperfect paving of the streets. This phase of the present difficulty was first pointed out by the HERALD, and its enormity and danger to the public health had never been dreamed of until it was described in the article alluded to above.

The contract under which the streets are now

ALLOWED TO FESTER WITH FILTH

only asks the holder of that instrument to clean the paved streets, and he most certainly translates the phraseology of the contract in the broadest sense. The disarrangement of a couple of cobble stones is sufficient excuse for the present Scavenging Brigade to forsake an entire block. A rut in the next row of houses will result in the same thing, and so on for the length of an entire street, until the thoroughfare

REEKS WITH ROTTING GARBAGE.

When the matter was started in the Board of Health yesterday Commissioner Barr, after a long speech upon the universal filth of the city, proposed that the Board request the Grand Jury to indict the street contractor or take some other definite means to protect the lives of the people. The Commissioner said in the course of his remarks:—"If something is not done, and soon too, we shall have an epidemic sweeping this city such as has been recently devastation Philadelphia. The subject is a most serious one and demands the instant attention of the Board. If the contractor will not perform the duty for which he is paid, then the proper authority should be found out and the law enforced. It is dreadful to think what the city may be subjected to by the greed of one man." President Bosworth informed the Commissioners that the Board of Health had no jurisdiction over the contractor whatever; an erroneous impression had gone forth, which gave the people to suppose the Board of Health had the power to order the cleaning of the streets at any moment. Such, the President explained, is not the case. The Board has no power to incur any outlay unless an appropriation has been made for that especial purpose. Commissioner Mullaly asked the President if the matter did not come under the control of the Street Cleaning Commission. To this the President answered:—"The only power the Street Cleaning Commission has over the present contractor is to

STOP THE PAYMENT OF HIS BILLS,

and that has been done recently, but it only retards the work and does not clean the city. Commissioner Manierre proposed that in the present deplorable condition of affairs the public be petitioned to subscribe sums of money, each citizen giving what he could afford, to clean the streets, and that the Board undertake to do the work. He said that if the plan were successful the city could be cleaned in thirty days. This absurd motion was voted down by President Bosworth, Commissioners Deccarini, Gross and Dr. Stephen Smith. Commissioners Mullaly, Manierre and Barr voted for the motion. After some further discussion of the subject it was dismissed, with a suggestion from President Bosworth to attach an order to the report of the City Sanitary Inspector compelling the contractor to

CLEAN THE PAVED STREETS,

lanes and alleys of the city according to the letter of the contract under which he holds the position. On the conclusion of the regular business of the Board a committee of citizens was received by the Board, who had gone there to present a petition signed by 1,100 cititizens in Harlem and the vicinity against the further of dumping of garbage and filth in that locality by the contractor. The HERALD called attention to the abominable nuisance in its recent article on the streets and showed very plainly the danger that existed from it to the public health. The street contractor bought the property some years ago at a merely nominal figure, and without any permit or privilege commenced to fling the filth of New York into the ground and manufacture profitable property for himself at the risk of thousands of lives. This, though directly in opposition to law, has been continued ever since, and the effect of it has gone on increasing until the people in the neighborhood now drew an epidemic from the stench coming from

THIS DECOMPOSING MASS OF FILTH.

This ground which was complained of by the people of Yorkville and Harlem who petitioned the Board of Health yesterday, lies between Ninety-second and 106th streets on the East River, and, not content with making that district a plague ground, the contractors' officials have even gone so far as to fill in a bulkhead close to the Harlem Bridge with the same matter thrown into the marshy ground belonging to the contractor. The petition presented by the committee was signed by a number of prominent citizens and the directors and assistants of two large schools in Harlem, one of which was attended by over fourteen hundred children. These gentlemen, as well as the other signers of the document, state that

THE STENCH ARISING FROM THE DISTRICT

complained of is so great that they have frequently to shut up all the windows in their houses, even in the warmest weather, to avoid the dangerous effects of the miasma. In one office, a member of the committee said, three clerks had sickened one afternoon, and they had to be removed from the office to save their lives. On the conclusion of the committee's testimony before the Board, Commissioner Manierre moved that the Board of Police be requested to arrest all persons dumping garbage or street filth on this ground in future, and the City Sanitary Inspector was requested to have the locality thoroughly examined and to report its exact condition to the Board. At a subsequent meeting of the Board of Police an order was issued to the force in support of Commissioner Manierre's motion in the Board of Health, and thus, for the time being, the nuisance of dumping has been abated. The City Sanitary Inspector has been ordered to furnish his report supplemented with a sketch of the condition of

THE MANURE DUMPING GROUNDS

on both sides of the island, by Friday next, and there is no doubt the Board will then order a thorough disinfection of the objectionable ground at the expense of the contractor. The effect of the prompt action of the Board of Police in sustaining the Board of Health may be seen from the report of Street Superintendent Middleton, who says that the recent order issued to the police to arrest all parties flinging dirt into the streets has made a difference in the garbage carted out of the city in one week of 1,000 loads. This, in itself, is a stupendous result, and it is to be hoped the police captains of the several precincts will carry the order out in the interest of the public welfare.

The following is the report of the city Sanitary Inspector on the condition of the streets:—

In compliance with your resolution of the 6th inst. I have the honor to report that a complete tour of observation was made yesterday throughout the city with reference to the condition of the streets as regards cleanliness.

It was found that the streets and avenues lying east of Third avenue and the Bowery were in a terrible condition. The excessively filthy winter's accumulations had not been removed. East of Third avenue, from Sixty-first to Fourteenth streets, the streets were not well cleaned, and presented the usual appearance that is generally observed in the interval between the weekly sweeping, with the exception of some streets where the May day exodus seemed to have caused a general emptying out from the houses of all the accumulated household rubbish of the year.

The avenues east of Fourth were as follows:—

Lexington avenue.—Swept today; dirt in piles not yet removed; from Fifty-seventh to Forty-second streets; clean from Forty-second to Thirty-third streets; Thirty-third street to Gramercy Park not clean; dirt consisting of the dust.

Third avenue.—Whole length and portions of Fourth were not well cleaned, gutters obstructed nearly whole length. In these avenues, and some streets, the Mutual Gas Light Company have recently been laying pipes, and much refuse dirt has been left by them, which creates a fine dust and adds much to the unclean conditions.

Second avenue.—Not well cleaned. The cobble stone pavement of this avenue, from Forty-second street to Seventeenth street, presents a surface so broken and dilapidated and filled with sunken holes, that thorough cleaning is next to an impossibility.

First avenue, from Sixtieth to Thirty-sixth street, is paved with Belgian blocks, presenting an even surface, but needs cleaning, particularly between Fiftieth and Forty-fourth streets. From Thirty-sixth street, down this avenue, is in such a dilapidated condition as regards pavement, having the old cobble-stone, that no amount of ordinary cleaning can give it a decent appearance. Much loose refuse and street dirt was observed throughout its length.

Avenues A, B, C and D presented the usual filthy condition of a week's accumulations, added to by the May day's contributions, for extra appearances. The filthy and reprehensible practices of the tenement house population was here apparent in the unusual amount of garbage and house slop additions, which seem to be prevalent wherever such houses are located.

The streets intersecting these avenues were found far from clean, as a rule. In some the process of heaping up the dirt had been performed; but these heaps were still remaining and would evidently be soon scattered over the surface again by passing vehicles.

This delay—evidently in some instances for more than twenty-four hours—of removing the heaps of dirt and street manure from the streets defeats the object of securing clean streets most effectually.

This condition was observed from Thirty first to Twenty-fourth street, east of Third avenue. From Twenty-third to Seventeenth street inclusive, all east of Third avenue, were not clean, and had not been cleaned apparently for some days.

Gangs of sweepers were cleaning the streets and avenues of the Seventeenth ward below Fourteenth street, east of First avenue, which were in very bad condition.

It was remarked that, although the carts here followed the sweepers closely, considerable quantities were left of each pile by the cartmen, so that one could hardly be convinced that the work had just been done, so imperfectly were the heaps removed. Many of the streets of this and the Eleventh ward are paved with wornout cobblestone pavements, and as a consequence unclean gutters, deep mud holes or clouds of dust claimed the precedence.

From Houston, in the Eleventh ward, to Division, in the Tenth ward, the streets and cross streets were far from being clean, some of them, the most travelled and from sprinkling, being quite muddy. The gutters in nearly all were filled with a very offensive deposit.

In the Seventh ward Division street, East Broadway, portions of Henry, Madison, Monroe, Cherry and Water streets and all of South street were found in the usual dirty condition of a week or more absence of the sweepers. In those portions of these streets occupied by the tenement houses the usual accumulations of filthy ashes, garbage and house slops were everywhere evident to at least three senses.

In the Fourth ward Catharine, Oliver, James and Roosevelt streets maintained their pre-eminence for uncleanliness, although not so bad as has frequently been seen. A gang of cleaners were at work through them with good effect, temporarily, at least.

Through the Second ward clouds of dust obscured the vision, which the throng of business pursuits would not let rest. Beekman, Ann, Fulton and John streets and Maiden lane need cleaning. In the First ward, Pearl, Water, Front, Beaver, Bridge, Stone and Marketfield streets were very dirty, with at least a week's accumulation, while crossing Broadway and passing up through Greenwich and Washington streets they found fearfully filthy below Chambers street, the gutters reeking with the abominations cast out of tenement and boarding houses. The cross streets intersecting them, from Broadway to North River, were without exception excessively filthy. Evidently there had been an attempt within a few days to remove some of this filth, but the condition of the cobble-stone pavement renders it utterly impossible to clean thoroughly or keep clean these two streets below Chambers street. No words can adequately describe them, and only a compulsory ride through them can give a proper expression of their true condition. Throughout the Third ward, west of Broadway, the streets are very dirty.

In the Sixth ward—usually the worst of any—evidently much effort has been made for the better, and, with the exception of Baxter, below Canal, and some portions of Mott, Elizabeth and Mulberry, the streets were tolerably clean.

The Eighth and Ninth wards west of Broadway, from Canal to West Fourteenth street, with the exception of streets running westerly, particularly West Twelfth and Little Twelfth street, from Hudson to the North River, were in a tolerably fair condition. Those lying west of Hudson street need cleaning very much, but it may be said the dirt consists principally of the loose kind which becomes pulverized, and is more objectionable on account of its dust than from any offensiveness. The Fourteenth ward presents a tolerably clean surface. The Thirteenth needs cleaning, many streets being dirty, particularly Rivington and Delancey and those intersecting them—Lewis, Cannon, Columbia, Sheriff, Willett, Pitt, Ridge, Attorney, Clinton and Suffolk. The Fifteenth ward, from Bowery and Fourth avenue to Sixth avenue, West Houston to West Fourteenth street, with its intersecting streets, is in a tolerably fair condition, except South Fifth avenue, unpaved.

Passing up Ninth avenue, through the Sixteenth ward, from West Fourteenth street to Twenty-sixth street, the streets are tolerably clean, with some few exceptions, as Sixteenth street, west of Eighth avenue, dirty, seventeen heaps of dirt to be removed; Twenty-second street, between Eighth and Ninth avenues, bad; Twenty-fifth and Twenty-sixth streets, bad cobblestone pavement in very bad condition; Twenty-eighth street, between Ninth and Tenth avenues, bad; Thirty-fifth, Thirty-sixth, Thirty-seventh and Thirty-ninth streets, dirty and bad, cobblestone pavements; Ninth avenue, from Thirty-fourth to Forty-eighth street, is paved with the old cobblestone, all in bad condition, and as a consequence unclean.

Forty-eighth street, Ninth to Tenth avenue, no pavement; heaps of filth.

Forty-ninth street, Eighth to Ninth avenue, cobblestone; dirty.

Fiftieth street, Eighth to Ninth avenue, Belgian pavement; dirty.

Fifty-second street, Eighth to Ninth avenue, Belgian pavement; dirty.

Fifty-third street, Eighth to Ninth avenue, cobblestone; dirty.

Fifty-fifth street, Ninth to Tenth avenue, cobblestone; dirty.

As a general rule the nearer one approaches to the North and East Rivers are found the most neglected streets, both as to cleanliness and faulty pavements. The central portions of the city are in very good condition between Third and Eighth avenues. Another reason for the dirty appearance of many streets lies in the fact of an apparently unusual and extraordinary amount of house repairing, rebuilding and the construction of new buildings, pipe laying and sewer constructions. All these add not only to the local conditions in almost every street, but the dirt and refuse which are carted to and fro from these operations keep the streets littered with dirt dropping therefrom, and the immediate places blocked up with the same materials, not only obstructing the street travel but preventing their proper cleaning. Clouds of dust from buildings being demolished or repaired, with that caused by heaps of sand, add greatly to our discomfort, particularly at this time, when for want of rain earthy matters become reduced to powder.

Although the streets and avenues of the city generally do not present anything like the dangerously filthy conditions that they did some three or four weeks since, yet it is perfectly evident that a weekly going over, removing but a portion of the accumulations each time, will not and cannot keep the city in such a sanitary condition as the season or the public health demand.

Without its being in any way an apology for neglect or want of well organized system, it may with justice be said, that the unclean condition of the streets is owing in a great measure to the defective terms of the street cleaning contract, requiring but a weekly cleaning. Those sections of the city where there is great density of population in tenement houses, require, as a sanitary necessity, at least three cleanings per week, these including all those wards lying easterly of the second avenue, from Thirty-fourth street to Fourteenth street, and all of the city south of Fourteenth street, and portions of the wards lying west of Eighth avenue, from Fourteenth street to Fifty-fourth street.

Another fact was markedly apparent in this hasty examination, and has been frequently dwelt upon by the Health Inspectors, that of the family and, in many places, really dangerous condition of the old cobble stone pavements. It is but too evident that the worn out, displaced old cobble stone and rotten wooden pavement have very much to do with this unsanitary and unhealthy condition, for the rule was almost without an exception that streets and avenues so paved were those most filthy. From the fact of the irregular system of collecting ashes and garbage by the contractor, has followed the almost universal neglect and violation of civil and sanitary laws in the throwing into the public streets of every kind of refuse and house filth, thus causing a seeming indifference to the public health.

With decomposing animal and vegetable refuse constantly present in the gutters, giving off poisonous gases, or with impalpable clouds of street dust penetrating our lungs, what better means can be employed, it may be asked, to invite epidemics and endemics or cause pestilences to flourish. As sanitarians and guardians of public health these conditions cannot but cause anxiety and stimulate us to renewed exertions to place the city in a better sanitary condition.

SMALLPOX.

The following is the comparative statement of contagious diseases reported at the Bureau of Sanitary Inspection for the two weeks ending May 4, 1872:—

Week Ending	Typhus.	Typhoid.	Fevers. Scarlet.	Measles.	Diphtheria.	Small-pox.
April 27	5	11	90	38	8	68
May 4	1	12	106	56	18	91

Among the smallpox cases occurring during the past week twenty-four were found who had never been vaccinated and whose ages ranged from twenty-four days to thirty-one years.

METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The Bishop's Report—Addresses by Drs. Wiseman, Punshon, Crosby and McKay.

The Conference met yesterday, Bishop Ames presiding. After reading the journal, Dr. Lanahan complained that his report had not been published in the *Daily Advocate*, and Dr. Slicer joined issue with him in an assertion that the journal in question had designedly omitted several important matters that should have been printed. The Special Committee on the Bible Society Anniversary reported the names of a deputation appointed to attend the society's meeting in New York. The Bishop's quadrennial report was then read. It was very voluminous, and in regard to the rapid progress which Christianity had been making during the last century and a half. The membership of the Church during the last four years was 275,242, while its corporate wealth had increased wonderfully. The statistics of the value of Church property were interesting. The annual collections for the relief of aged and needy ministers, or their widows and orphans, since 1871, amounted to $5,255,287, being an increase of $137,127. The report referred to the visits of missionaries to foreign climes, applauded the munificence of laymen who had made handsome endowments for educational purposes, decried the action of the Roman Catholic priests to destroy the fundamental principle of our free school system, and stated that it would become the Methodist Church to celebrate in a proper manner the centennial anniversary of the nativity of the nation, four years' hence.

On the motion of Dr. NUTTS 2,000 copies of the report were ordered to be printed.

After the announcement of the special committees had been made DRS. LUKE H. WISEMAN and W. M. PUNSHON delivered eloquent addresses, and the address of the British Conference was read by the Secretary. Dr. Wiseman spoke in enthusiastic terms of the cordial welcome which himself and colleague had received from the Wesleyan Methodists in England, and gave some interesting statistics in regard to the rapid growth of Methodism in that country. He said that sect were no longer looked upon with disfavor by the wealthy and noble, many of whom were liberal supporters of the Church. The Sunday schools in England did not occupy the same position that they do in this country, but the educational question has lately been much agitated among the higher classes, the American system was meeting with approval, and, owing to the disestablishment of the Church of England, the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge were now open to the children of Methodists and other denominations. Missionary work was rapidly progressing all over the Continent of Europe, nearly every country in which sent out servants of the Lord to diffuse Christianity among heathen nations.

The Rev. Mr. Punshon was received with much applause. He spoke in glowing terms of the state of the American Church, and showered encomiums upon the people who so ably supported it. Four years ago, when here, he witnessed the admission of colored delegates to the General Conference and now laymen were admitted—this was progress. He spoke of the increased respect with which the Methodist Church in England had gained lately—it was no longer regarded as a species of fanaticism, but was accorded its true place. The speaker then referred to orphan home schools, and said his codelegate, Rev. Mr. Stevenson, and himself, were about to found an orphanage in Canada. After reading a letter from Bishop Ashbury, dated March 31, 1808, he said he fully endorsed the doctrines therein expounded. After referring to the loss the Church had sustained by the Chicago fire, the learned gentleman concluded.

Chancellor HOWARD CROSBY was the next speaker. He said that the Church of Christ now needed an overflow of social and Christian feeling, rather than business. The aspect of affairs is far more glorious to-day than fifty years ago for Christian unity. The Methodist Church had instilled life and energy into the Presbyterian Church.

The Rev. W. MCKAY spoke of the condition and progress of Methodism in Ireland. Since 1830 his church had lost 28,000 members, most of whom had come to swell the ranks of the Methodist Episcopal Church in this country. He considered Romanism the bane of any people, but Methodism was the antidote to it.

The hour of adjournment being passed the committee on reception merely introduced the remaining fraternal delegates—G. R. Sanderson and A. Sutherland, of the Wesleyan Church in Canada; J. Wild and M. Benson, of the Methodist Episcopal Church in that country; Mr. Pope, President of the Methodist Conference in Eastern British America, and R. Dobbs, from the German Evangelical Association. These delegates will have an opportunity at a future day to address the Conference. Dr. Cooper, of Philadelphia, was appointed to read the devotions to-day, after which the Conference adjourned to the sidewalk to have their photographs taken.

THE MAY ANNIVERSARIES.

The Reports of Societies from All Parts of the Union.

The American Tract Society on the Suppression of Obscene Literature—The Methodist General Conference—The Universal Peace Union Denounce Indirect Damages—The New York Association of Universalists—The American Home Missionary Society.

AMERICAN TRACT SOCIETY.

Forty-seventh Anniversary Meeting Yesterday at Association Hall—The Question of Suppressing Obscene Literature—Important Action Decided Upon.

The forty-seventh anniversary meeting of the American Tract Society was held yesterday at Association Hall. In the morning, at nine o'clock, a number of gentlemen assembled and at once proceeded—after prayer had been offered and a dozen or more of letters had been read from friends who had found it impossible to attend—to receive the reports of the various committees, of which the following is a summary:—

The work of the society has been vigorously prosecuted for the year past under great disadvantages, arising from the enlargement and remodelling of the tract house. A new story, in the Mansard style, has been erected over the whole building, and the manufacturing operations raised into the three upper stories, leaving most of the lower part of the building to be remodelled and rented in stores and offices. The committee found this measure pressed upon them by all sound financial considerations, as custodians of a building occupying so central and eligible a site as the tract house.

The following are the new publications of the society during the past year:—

Dr. Barrows' fine "Compend of Sacred Geography and Biblical Antiquities;" Dr. Everts' "House of God," with models for church building; Bacon's "Inside View of the Vatican Council," Dr. Jeter's "Seal of Heaven," Dr. Burr's "Facts in Aid of Faith and About Spiritualism;" "Modern Skepticism," by Dr. Mark Hopkins; half a dozen books of practical Christianity, by Drs. Crosby, Cuyler and Mrs. Parker, Mrs. Knight and Mrs. Brandegee; a new series of thirty-two very popular illustrated tracts on a large scale; fifteen excellent volumes for the young of all ages, well illustrated; ten new and choice pocket tracts; in German, eight new volumes, five tracts and two packages of illustrated cards; in Portuguese, volume 1 of D'Aubignee's "History of the Reformation;" in Spanish and French, several new works; for foreign missions, two large volumes in Hawaiian, one a translation of our "Illustrated Bible Dictionary;" three volumes in the Bengali language, West Africa, and others in Zulu, Creek and Lakota.

The whole number of new publications issued from the Tract House during the year was 138, of which forty-seven were volumes.

The Society is now issuing regularly six periodicals—the *American Messenger*, the *Amerikanischer Botschafter*, the *Child's Paper* and the *Morning Light*, monthlies, and the *Illustrated Christian Weekly* and the *Deutscher Volksfreund*, illustrated weeklies.

During the year, publications for circulation among the destitute, including annuities, have been granted, amounting to $49,676 81, or nearly seventy-five million pages.

The following is the financial report:—Receipts for the year, in donations and legacies, $126,833 64; sales, $110,993 75; making, with balance in the treasury, $538,132 06. Expended in manufacturing books and tracts, $225,000 79; manufacturing and issuing periodicals, $133,381 94; colporteurs, agencies, and depositories, $107,211 03; district secretaries, $11,251 30; appropriations for foreign and pagan lands, $7,000; investment on account of the George Wood fund, $5,487 50; all other expenses, as by the treasurer's report, $49,862 19. Total, $537,194 75. Balance in treasury, $937 31.

During the year 263 colporteurs, including 42 students from 19 colleges and theological seminaries, labored in 34 states and territories, and in the adjoining British provinces. They held or addressed 8,886 religious meetings; made 258,408 family visits; conversed on personal religion or prayed with 176,138 families; found 37,362 Protestant families who habitually neglected attending evangelical preaching; 11,917 families of Roman Catholics, 20,984 families destitute of all religious books except the Bible, and 11,209 Protestant families without the word of God.

During the 31 years since missionary colportage was inaugurated by the society the statistical results have been as follows:—Time employed equal to the service of one man for 56,243 months; 9,966,530 volumes sold; 2,669,650 volumes granted; 354,402 religious meetings held or addressed; 10,885,687 family visits made; 5,839,013 families conversed with on personal religion or prayed with; 1,473,370 Protestant families habitually neglecting evangelical preaching; 895,604 families of Roman Catholics; 551,869 Protestant families destitute of the Bible; 904,729 families destitute of all religious books, except the Bible.

Dr. BUDDINGTON, in response to a special invitation, though evidently with some reluctance, said that a few days ago he had inspected a great quantity of bad books captured by the officers of the law. He was profoundly impressed with the awfulness of this trade, which for thirty years had been carried on without let or hindrance, save the blackmail paid to the detectives. In some instances quite large sums had thus been paid, and the executors of the law had become silent partners in this hideous business. Of the terrible character of the literature thus circulated no description could be too severe. It carried the classical scholar back to the worst days of Tiberius, and, in a word, it was so bad that the area of support to the efforts that were now being made for its suppression, not only over the whole area of the Christian Church, or of those who have an ethical sense, but over the whole area of all who desired to preserve the purity and honor, ay, the very life of our community. To him the most astonishing fact about this matter was this, that just as we had a Christian Sunday school literature, so by the same horrible inversion of good that made the kingdom of Satan the opposite of the kingdom of God, this abominable traffic had a department for the circulation of impure literature among the young. The object of these works seemed to be to so train up children of from nine to twelve years of age that when they passed the crisis of their maturity they should be prepared to plunge themselves into the depths of the most awful Pagan licentiousness. He could not command words to do justice to his deep sense of the horror of this business, which seemed to be perfectly organized on a vast scale, requiring large capital, and with branches in Boston, Philadelphia, New Haven and all the cities of the land where our youth of either sex were gathered together. Efforts of the most determined character were now being made to suppress this giant evil. The laws of the State about this matter would soon be remodelled so as to make it a perfect instrument. This discovery of the extent of the evil had, however, he thought, opened out a new field of usefulness to the Tract Society. It seemed to him as important to suppress vile literature as to circulate books of a high and useful character. He moved, therefore, that, under the direction of the secretaries, a bureau be formed, the object of which should be the execution of the laws against obscene literature and all its appliances, and that they be requested to receive funds which are now being raised in this community for that purpose.

Dr. HISCOX in a few words spoke to much the same purport, and alluded to the published statement that a manufacturing establishment devoted entirely to the construction of vile implements, when stopped by the law, was found to be under the superintendence of a woman, and nearly all the operatives in the factory were girls.

Dr. BUDDINGTON, after a little more desultory discussion, continued to say that our children of the tenderest age are subjected to evil influences, the extent of which we had no conception. A friend of his had surprised his little son, less than nine years of age, reading one of those vile publications, and had said that he would infinitely have preferred that some brutal ruffian had beaten him and stamped upon him rather than that he should have placed such poison in his hands. He, himself, was profoundly impressed both with the awfulness of this thing and the difficulty of successfully contending against it. They knew how unfortunate had been some of the efforts made in this direction in the past. The burnt child dreaded the fire, and it was well, therefore, to be wary in action.

It having been suggested that the Young Men's Christian Association had already taken this matter in hand, and that it would be somewhat ungracious, therefore, for the society to usurp control of this healthy movement, Dr. Buddington withdrew his motion, and another was substituted, requiring the secretaries of the society to confer with the Young Men's Christian Associations and agree upon mutual action.

The report was then accepted, and the board of officers chosen for the present year. The principal change is that Mr. Shearer and Mr. Rand, who have hitherto been assistant secretaries, are now raised to an equality with the principal secretary. Now, therefore, the society has again, as formerly, three coequal secretaries.

In the evening a public meeting was held, in which the principal features of the reports were again dilated upon, and brief addresses made by Father Gavazzi, Dr. Hall and others.

NEW YORK ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSALISTS.

Annual Conference Meeting at the Bleecker Street Church—Reports of Committees—General Proceedings.

The annual conference of the New York Association of Universalists was held yesterday morning in the schoolroom of the church, at the corner of Bleecker and Downing streets. The pastor having called the meeting to order the proceedings were opened with a prayer by the Rev. Charles Fleurer, after which the election of officers for the ensuing year was proceeded with. Mr. William A. Conant, of Huntingdon, was elected Chairman, and Mr. F. B. Mayhew Secretary—both by acclamation. The minutes of the last meeting having been read and a committee on credentials appointed, Mr. Fuller presented his report on the state of the Church, as ordered last May. He spoke of the difficulty he had experienced in obtaining accurate and reliable statistics, and recommended that in future all returns should be sent in before May 1.

When Mr. Fuller had concluded reading the report he had compiled from the statements forwarded him by the superintendents of the various branches of the association the Rev. Mr. Sweetser objected to its adoption. He thought that the report was very incorrect, the statistics evidently being the result of mere guesswork, as they confounded materially with the reports of previous years. He finally moved that the report be accepted, but again referred to the committee, and, when completed, published in the *Christian Leader*.

Mr. NYE was sure that over-estimates had been given in many cases, especially with regard to the average number of worshippers at the Sunday services in churches belonging to the association. He seconded Mr. Sweetser's motion, and it was accordingly carried.

The Committee on Credentials then reported an addition of about ten delegates, after which Mr. Sweetser read the constitution of the association. Mr. Needham moved that it be again read, section by section, for adoption by the Convention. Some of the sections were made the subject of lengthy debate, but were amended so as to suit everybody, and ultimately adopted. Mr. Sweetser was then appointed to report upon religious meetings, and Messrs. Nye, Mayhew and Stratton as a Nomination Committee. It subsequently appointed Rev. Almond Gunnison the preacher of occasional sermons and Mr. Sweetser the committee to report on the state of the Church at the next meeting of the Convention.

It was then proposed that the next annual meeting should be held out of the city, as such a course would tend to foster the benefits of the association. Mr. Nye, however, thought that it would be better to pay more attention to home business, for there was sin enough in New York, and he was by no means satisfied with the progress of the association in the city districts—it was almost snail-like in its slowness. He proposed that meetings of the different branches of the association in New York should be held more frequently.

Mr. Chase and several other delegates advocated the proposition that the next May meeting should be held at Huntingdon, Suffolk county; but on the motion being put to the vote it was not carried, and it was finally decided that the annual meeting of the Convention for 1872 should be held in this city on May 9. It was also resolved that copies of the constitution of the association be printed and distributed. A vote of adjournment was put, carried, and after a prayer the meeting dissolved.

UNIVERSAL PEACE UNION.

The Reports of the Branch Associations—A Violent Denunciation of Indirect Damages.

The sixth annual anniversary of the Universal Peace Union was held yesterday in room 24 Cooper Institute. The morning session was commenced at 11 A. M., with Mr. Alfred H. Love presiding, and Mrs. Lillie Devereux Blake Secretary.

President LOVE made a brief opening speech, in which he explained the object of the Peace Union, and how, although it might be a matter of time before they could accomplish their purpose, still they should hope on, hope ever, for a brighter future. People may say, what do we want with peace, because we are at peace now; but we might be at war again to-morrow. What we want is universal peace.

Mrs. AMANDA DEYO then read the annual report of the Union, which contained an exultation to the Treaty of Washington as a great forward movement in favor of peace. The reprisals of the government in the Corea were mentioned with considerable disfavor. Mention was made of the visit of Mrs. Julia Ward Howe to Europe, where she intended holding monster peace meetings. The report also alluded to the recent account given by Mr. Amand Gregg before a meeting in Philadelphia of the struggles of the Peace Unions in Europe. A new monthly journal, entitled *The Voice of Peace*, has been started to disseminate the truths and right of their Union. For the furtherance of the peace policy the Union appealed to General Grant to remove the sentence of death on the Indian chiefs Santanta and Big Tree, and were instrumental in saving their lives, as the sentence was afterwards commuted to imprisonment for life.

The report of the Pennsylvania branch was then read by Mrs. Lillie Devereux Blake, after which Mrs. Deyo read the report from the Duchess county branch. Reports from Iowa were then read, which alluded to the victory in behalf of peace which was gained by the abolition of capital punishment in that State.

Mr. L. K. JOSLIN then gave a brief description of the success of the peace party in the East. A petition to Congress to strike out of the constitution all the war clauses was then laid on the table for the signatures of all who felt so inclined. A letter from a Peace Union in Baltimore was then read by Mrs. Blake, after which President Love favored the audience with a communication of Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, written just before she left for England.

President LOVE then read a series of resolutions especially denouncing the death penalty, military training, military taxes, the army, the navy, oppression in every form, inequality of rights, intemperance and

INDIRECT DAMAGES.

These resolutions were unanimously adopted, and the meeting then adjourned until two P. M.

During the afternoon session a letter was read from the Indians in reply to the efforts of the Peace Union. Addresses were made by Dr. Frederick P. Marrin, Mr. Wardwell, Mr. Saul, Mr. Masquera and President Love.

There was a large attendance at the evening session and Mr. Alfred H. Love was re-elected President, supported by about forty vice presidents; Robert F. Wallcut, Treasurer, and Henry F. Child, Lydia A. Schofield, Albert Wadhams, Lillie Devereux Blake and Amanda Deyo, Secretaries. Letters were read from several influential men, Miss Dietz recited an appropriate poem and Mrs. Lillie Devereux Blake made an excellent speech, showing in glowing and picturesque language the horrors of war and for what small trifles thousands of lives were often sacrificed. The Convention adjourned at ten o'clock P. M.

AMERICAN HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The forty-sixth annual meeting of the American Home Missionary Society was held yesterday afternoon, at the Bible House, Fourth avenue, Rev. Theodore D. Woolsey presiding. The forty-sixth annual report was read and adopted unanimously. From it it appears that the number of missions in the various States controlled by the Society are 961. The receipts for the year have been $294,566 86, the expenditures $281,182 56, leaving a balance of $20,202 65, the receipts exceeding those of former years by $11,463 90. Gifts to the amount of $50,000 have been given outside the treasury during the year. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—President, Theodore D. Woolsey, D. D.; Vice Presidents, E. B. Webb, D. D. and Ezra Farnsworth; Director, Rev. George P. Boem; Honorary Secretary, Rev. Milton Badger, D. D.; Secretaries, Rev. Drs. D. B. Coe, A. H. Clapp, Henry M. Storrs; Treasurer, William H. Smith; Auditor, George S. Coe; Recording Secretary, Austin Abbott. The meeting then adjourned.

NATIONAL TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the National Temperance Society was held at 58 Reade street yesterday afternoon, James Black, of Pennsylvania, presiding.

The report of the Secretary, J. N. Stearns, and publishing agent, showed that during the year closing last month the society had stereotyped and published fifty new books, tracts and pamphlets; seven volumes for Sunday school libraries; two volumes miscellaneous, five pamphlets, ten sermons, twenty-six tracts and the regular monthly issues of the papers. Concerning the papers, the report stated that the *Youths' Temperance Banner* had reached a circulation of 130,000 monthly, and that during the year 115,340 copies of the *National Temperance Advocate* had been circulated.

The receipts for the past year were:—Publication department, $42,916 54; donations, bequests and memberships, $6,432 25.

The expenses of the year were $49,264 62.

The society is in need of funds, and calls upon its friends for aid.

THE COURTS.

Interesting Proceedings in the United States Supreme and New York Courts.

Madame Fraloff's Laces—The Valk-Warmser Bankruptcy Case—An Old Counterfeiter Committed—Charge of Bigamy—Transfer of a Bankrupt's Liabilities—Business in the General Sessions—Decisions.

UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT.

Important Decisions—The Case of Paige's Right in the Chancery Reports Disposed of in Favor of the Publishers—The Increase of Twenty Per Cent Added to the Salaries of the Subordinate Government Officials in Washington.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 8, 1872.

The following decisions were given in the United States Supreme Court on Monday, the 6th inst.:—

No. 59. French vs. Edwards et al.—Error to the Circuit Court for California.—This was an action of ejectment brought by the plaintiff in error to recover possession of a tract of land in Sacramento county, being a part of what is known as the Sutter grant. The defendants held under a sheriff's deed in pursuance of a judgment in favor of the State for unpaid taxes. The Court sustained the deed and directed a judgment for the defendants. This Court reverses the judgment, holding that as the entire tract was sold, when a portion of it would have satisfied the demand for delinquent taxes, the statute was violated and the rights of the former owner were infringed. Mr. Justice Field delivered the opinion; Mr. Justice Miller dissented.

No. 165.—Carpenter vs. Boyer—Error to the Circuit Court of Appeals of West Virginia.—Dismissed for want of jurisdiction.

No. 571.—Cockroft et al. vs. Vose et al.—Error to the Supreme Court of the State of New York.—Dismissed for want of jurisdiction.

No. 166.—Coperton vs. Baldwin—Error to the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia.—Dismissed for want of jurisdiction.

No. 146.—Pugh vs. United States—Appeal from the Court of Claims.—Decree dismissing petition affirmed.

No. 167. Paige, Executor of Paige, vs. Banks et al.—Appeal from the Circuit Court for the Southern district of New York.—This was a bill in equity to obtain an injunction and to compel the firm of Banks Brothers, law booksellers in New York, to make an accounting for printing and selling the first volume of "Paige's Chancery Reports," after January, 1858, thereby infringing, as claimed, a copyright of plaintiff's. The question was as whether by an agreement between the testator and the publishers, made in 1828, the entire property in the work was transferred to the latter, so as to preclude a subsequent copyright by the former. The Court below held that there was at least a perpetual license to print given to the publishers by the contract, and the decree was for them. This Court affirms that decree, holding that a fair and just interpretation of the terms of the agreement indicates unmistakably that the author of the manuscript, in agreeing to deliver it for publication at a stipulated compensation, intended to vest in the publishers a full right of property thereto. Mr. Justice Davis delivered the opinion.

No. 158. Hook et al. vs. Payne et al.—Appeal from the Circuit Court for Missouri.—This was a proceeding by the heirs of one Curtis, a resident of Missouri, the heirs being residents of Virginia, to make Hook, as Public Administrator of the county in which Curtis died, and his sureties, responsible for interest on moneys and mortgages of the estate which remained in his hands. The decree was for the heirs, and it is here affirmed as to certain of the parties, but reversed as to others not necessarily joined, without costs. Mr. Justice Miller delivered the opinion.

Nos. 169 to 172. Republic Fire Insurance Company of New York vs. Wilde, and three other insurance companies vs. same—Error to the Circuit Court for Minnesota.—These were actions by Wilde on policies of insurance issued by the several companies on his stock of goods. The defence was that the assured refused to furnish the companies with proper evidence of the quality and value of the goods destroyed, and particularly that he neglected to produce certified copies of invoices, as provided in the policies, the originals being destroyed by the fire. The error assigned is that the Court rejected evidence tending to show that demand was made for these and that they were refused. This Court sustain the ruling of the Court below, finding that the evidence offered did not tend to show when the demand was made—whether before or after the suit was commenced, or whether it was refused by the assured, and besides, the Court say the bill alleges that duplic