OUR NEW RULERS.

CONTINUED FROM EIGHTH PAGE.

Register—Hugh McLaughlin, D
Sheriff—A. G. Williams, R.
County Clerk—George G. Herman, D.
Commissioners of Charities—John Cunningham, D.; Stephen H. Powell, D.; Cornelius Furgerson, D.; Henry Wills, R.; John G. Scott, D.
Auditor—Morris Fitzgerald, D.
Coroners—J. R. Jones, D.; Lawrence Whitehill, D.
Treasurer—Thomas A. Gardiner.

DEPARTMENT COMMISSIONS.

Police Commissioners—James Jourdan, R.; D. D. Briggs, D.; Sigismund Kauffmann, R.
Chief of Police—Patrick Campbell, D.
Inspector of Police—John S. Folk, R.
Fire Commissioners—Fred. S. Massey, D.; Hu[illegible] Laughlin, D.; Robert M. Phraner, R.; William A. [illegible] D.
Board of City Works—Commissioners—[illegible]dmer, R.; R. M. Whiting, Jr., R.; William A. [illegible] Excise Commissioners—John P[illegible] Rodney Thursby, D.; William G. Leich, D.
Health Officer—Andrew Ot[illegible]
Deputy Health Officer—[illegible]
[illegible] Gilbert, D.; Calvin E. [illegible]
[illegible] Alexander [illegible]ae, D.; George G. Reynolds, D.
Police Judge—Henry A. Meore, D.
Police Justice—Andrew Walsh, D.
Justices of the Peace—John Delmar, D.; N. B. Morse, Jr., D.; Thomas M. Riely, D.; Thomas Barnes, D.; Charles B. Elliott, Ludwig Semler.

CONFLAGRATIONS.

Continued Ravages of the Flames Throughout the Country.

Fires in This City Yesterday.

A fire broke out at half-past twelve o'clock yesterday morning in the forecastle of the schooner J. P. Ball, lying at the foot of pier 50 East River, [illegible] caused a damage of $50. The fire was caused by upsetting of a kerosene lamp.

At a quarter past two o'clock yesterday morning a fire occurred at 154 Goerck street that caused a damage of $100. The fire originated in the engine room of the building, and was caused from sparks from the boiler.

A fire broke out at twenty minutes past three o'clock yesterday morning in the basement of the three story brick building 17 Wooster street. Damage to stock $200, and to building $300. The house was occupied by Dennis Arnault as a confectionery establishment, and the fire was caused by the gaslight being too near the woodwork. The stock was insured for $3,000 in the Ætna and Adriatic Insurance companies.

A fire broke out at ten minutes to six o'clock yesterday morning at 56 Maiden lane that caused a damage to the stock of $100, and to the building of $400; insured for $42,500. The house is owned and occupied by Pennyman & Woight, wholesale druggists, and the fire was caused by an explosion of gas from the service pipe, and was owing to the carelessness of the gasfitters. Two persons were slightly injured by the explosion.

At ten minutes past two o'clock yesterday morning a fire broke out in the basement of the three-story brick building 221 Hudson street that caused a damage of $60.

A fire broke out on the third floor of 90 Ridge street at four o'clock yesterday afternoon that caused a damage of $30. The fire was caused by a child playing with matches.

Two Buildings Burned Down in Orange, N. J.—Narrow Escape of Families—Loss $35,000.

The town of Orange, in New Jersey, was visited yesterday by the fire fiend, and a couple of buildings reduced to ashes, involving a loss of from thirty thousand to thirty-five thousand dollars, besides occasioning considerable suffering. Between one and two o'clock fire was discovered in the furnishing store of Mr. J. C. Carroll, in a frame building on Main street, near Canfield. The alarm was sounded and the firemen called out, but the flames spread with such rapidity that before they arrived the adjoining building was endangered. F. E. Decker and his wife were aroused in time to get down the staircase all right; but Robert Hunter, who had but recently taken to his bosom a wife, was not so fortunate. He occupied the third floor, and by the time he was aroused the staircase was gone. With rare presence of mind he seized the bridal bedclothes and twisting them into a rope successfully lowered first his bride and then himself to a place of safety. Messengers were despatched to Newark for assistance by the Fire Department, and soon the Newark chief and an engine were on hand and a conflagration prevented. The losers by the fire are:—Abraham M. Baldwin, boots and shoes, building and stock, $18,000; Carroll, fancy goods, $2,000; Mrs. J. F. Joyce, building, about $4,000; Miss Sarah Wilson, millinery; Condit & Co., dry goods; Mrs. Northrop, millinery—in all footing up from $30,000 to $35,000. Mr. Baldwin, the heaviest loser, was insured as follows:—North American, of Philadelphia, $1,000; Firemen's, of Newark, $3,000; Hibernian, of Newark, $1,000; Humboldt, N. Y., $1,000; Mutual, of Newark, $1,800; Phœnix, of Hartford, $4,200; Merchants' Mutual, of Newark, $1,000; Germania, of Newark, $2,000.

Fire and Loss of Life in Pennsylvania.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 31, 1872.

At Chester, Pa., this morning a tenement house, occupied by colored people, was burned, and two children named Holland perished in the flames.

Property Burned at Turner's Island.

PORTLAND, Me., Dec. 31, 1872.

Charles Litchfield's store, containing a heavy stock of goods, and David Newcome's residence, both at Turner's Island, Cape Elizabeth, were burned last night. Mr. Newcome's loss is about one thousand dollars, and is covered by insurance in the North American company.

St. James' Episcopal Church, Cincinnati, Burned Down.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 31, 1872.

St. James' Episcopal church, a magnificent structure on Spring street, was burned at half-past one o'clock this morning. The loss is $40,000.

[illegible]ction of a Valuable Business Block in Alexandria.

ALEXANDRIA, Va., Dec. 31, 1872.

A fire occurred here early this morning which destroyed a block of five brick warehouses on Union street, occupied for storage and counting rooms. The loss is about one hundred thousand dollars, upon which there is an insurance of $55,000 in home and foreign offices.

Reverdy and Henry Daingerfield and W. G. Cazenove were the owners of the buildings, which were partially insured. W. A. Moore loses $1,500 on grain, on which there was no insurance. George R. Shinn, dealer in guano, was insured. W. H. May, dealer in fertilizers, &c., lost $18,000, which is covered by insurance. R. W. Lawson, dealer in fertilizers, was insured. Wattles, Knox & Co. lose $20,000; insured; they also lost two valuable horses by the fire.

Half a Million Dollars' Worth of Goods Destroyed in Montreal.

MONTREAL, Dec. 31, 1872.

A fire this morning on St. Peter's street destroyed the fancy goods establishment and broom factory belonging to Nelson, Wood & Co., the boot and shoe factory of Ames Willard and an adjoining warehouse. The firemen worked splendidly, saving the surrounding buildings with high Mansard roofs. The thermometer marked fifteen degrees below zero and the water froze wherever it fell. The loss is estimated at half a million dollars.

THREATENED WATER FAMINE IN JERSEY.

An order has been issued by the Board of Public Works of Jersey City directing that strict economy be observed in the consumption of water, as the supply in the reservoir is notably diminishing every day. It has been ascertained that more water is consumed at night than in the day. This is owing to the fact that during the severe frost people allow the hydrants to remain running all night, so that the water in the pipes will not freeze. In any case the water supply is becoming wholly inadequate to the increased demand upon it. The immense supply pipe now being laid across the Hackensack swamps by John B. Halladay & Co. will connect the new Jersey City reservoir with that at Belleville, and when the work is completed Jersey City and Hoboken will have an ample water supply.

PIGEON SHOOTING IN NEW JERSEY.

Yesterday a pigeon shooting match came off between Miles Johnson and Charles Hubert, at Princeton, resulting in the victory of the former after a very close contest, in which both did some very good shooting. Mr. Hubert, who is a colored gentleman, is quite an expert at the trigger, having on several recent occasions defeated Trenton's favorite, Mr. Charles Holt. Fenton and Princeton each sent a large delegation of the sporting fraternity, and much betting was carried on. A good day's amusement was had, and everything passed off in a truly satisfactory manner. Subjoined is the score:—

Purse $200—15 birds each, 21 yards rise, 80 yards boundary; an H trap.

Johnson—1, 1, 0, 1, 1, 1, 0, 0, 1, 1, 1, 0, 1, 1, 1—total, 15; killed 11, missed 4.

Hubert—1, 0, 1, 1, 1, 0, 0, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 0, 0, 1—total, 15; killed 10, missed 5.

The officers of Merchants' Lodge, No. 709, F. and A. M., for 1873, were publicly installed by the Deputy Grand Master of Masons in the State of New York, Ellwood E. Thorne, last evening, at their rooms. Addresses were made by the Deputy Grand Master and J. E. Morrison. Music and recitations followed. Refreshments were served afterwards. It was a very fine entertainment. Officers for 1873—Josiah Moorhead, Master; L. Y. Diller, Senior Warden; A. K. Durand, Junior Warden; T. J. Coe, Treasurer; R. A. Brown, Secretary.

THE FRENCH ASSEMBLY.

A Field Day at Versailles.

GLADIATORS IN THE TRIBUNE.

Parliamentary Row Over the Petitions for Dissolution.

HOLD ON LIKE GRIM DEATH.

Successful Tactics of M. Thiers and a Renewed Lease of Official Life.

VERSAILLES, Dec. 15, 1872.

The National Assembly has decided by 483 against 196 votes to "take no notice of the petions for dissolution"—which may sound like a Hibernian conclusion to a session of unparalleled violence and uncommon length, in which the House did nothing else but take notice of the thus rejected addresses of the people in every part of the country. But the House only means that it will not take that particular notice which the petitioners wish it to take, and will not vote itself out of office.

The debate closed at two A. M. to-day, and, under the name of the "Séance du 14 Décembre" will occupy an important place in French parliamentary history, not merely because of the resolution taken, but also because of the very thorough airing that some conspicuous members have given to their opinions. It is made more and more evident that the hostility to parties is as extreme and uncompromising as ever; and that is what the occasion has principally shown, for the strictly parliamentary result that nearly five hundred vote to keep their places, while two hundred are willing to venture new elections, is of no practical importance and can, as yet, lead to nothing.

At the Lazore station in Paris and at the station at Versailles vast crowds were gathered, and it was evident that the public were in full sympathy with the excitement of the day. Along the streets leading to the theatre the windows even were crowded for hours with gazers. Many workingmen were out, and otherwise the crowd was of the usual motley material. Inside the Chamber there was a terrible jam, and many places were sold, speculative friends of the powers that be having secured tickets thus to turn an honest penny. Some Americans are said to have paid as much as 250 francs apiece for tickets. M. Thiers' private box was occupied by his wife, his sister-in-law, Mlle. Dosne, and the Princess Troubitzkoy, a Russian friend of Mme. Thiers. Thiers wisely stayed away, for he can command neither his temper nor his tongue, and could only have got into a scrape in a political position where he sympathizes with the opinions of the party that was necessarily to be beaten and that is for the moment in the wrong because it excites fruitless agitation.

Baron Decazes, Marquis de Morillan and M. Raoul Duval read the reports of their several committees against the petitions. The latter said of the eighty-six petitions before his committee:—"Most of these documents offer no signs of spontaneous individuality; their text, printed and nearly identical, reveals a centralized organization of petitioning. Nearly all of the signatures, of which many are evidently the work of the same hand, denote a very slightly developed education. Those who have signed evidently obey orders; it is at least doubtful if they have full consciousness of the consequences which the resolution they require you to take might have for France. The petitioning thus organized with the evident intention of agitating the country and of weakening, if possible, the authority of this Assembly, is the work of those same men who, by all the means in their power, retarded the convocation of it until February, 1871. Elected after a series of frightful disasters, forced to accept affairs in the state in which a revolutionary government had left them, the Assembly has been invested, by the confidence of the country, with the most extensive powers ever received by a political body. It has constituted a government, concluded peace, re-established order and credit; its duty is not to allow guilty and factitious agitation to compromise the work it has accomplished in accord with the government which it created. Your Commission believes that the mission of this Assembly cannot be considered as accomplished until it shall have assured the effective and complete evacuation of French territory; it will then have to determine how and under what conditions it will proceed to the constitution of a new national representation; but, until then, you cannot, without deserting the onerous *mandat* imposed upon your patriotism, dream of dissolution. Similar agitations are not without parallel in our history; in other times they have been repressed by atrocious means. We can recall to your memory the law of the 27 Germinal, an IV., which punished with death any petitioning calculated to provoke the dissolution of the national representation. By the grace of God, since then our manners have been softened. The reprehensible manœuvres by which it is attempted to disturb the country, which has need of order and peace in order to work and remake itself, only excite the public conscience and that of this Assembly. If you entertain our views you will accept the conclusions of your Eighth Commission, which suggests that you should set aside, by an *ordre du jour pur et simple*, the petitions which demand the dissolution of the National Assembly."

THE SCENE IN THE ASSEMBLY.

There was much excitement during the reading and a lively clamor at the close. M. Gambetta then ascended the tribune, and, at the aspect of the orator who, not many months since, swayed, single-handed, the troubled destinies of France, the confused hubbub of excited voices began gradually to subside. But it takes a long time for more than seven hundred Frenchmen, each anxious to hear himself speak, to condemn themselves to temporary silence, and a considerable period elapsed before complete calm was restored. Meanwhile M. Gambetta stood tranquilly surveying the crowded, troubled house before him, and it was not until every tongue was stilled that his clear voice was heard incisively articulating, in a tranquil undertone, the quiet opening words of his harangue. There was a calm sense of power about the man that compelled attention and respect; and no trace of passion was in his voice, as in sober language he said that he did not conceal from himself with what feelings his presence in the tribune was regarded by many eyes, what reception would be given to the ideas of which he was the humble but firm exponent, and how it therefore behoved him to be moderate. If his party had not hitherto touched the question it was because they had, beginning in August, 1871, on five different occasions contested the constituent powers of the Assembly, but had never succeeded in getting any such motion placed on the orders of the day. He stated these facts to prove that the opening of the discussion now ought not to be laid to his account, and that his antagonists had chosen to begin the debate rather on the ground of petitions more than a year old than on any proposition due to Parliamentary initiative. It was in his most conciliatory tones that M. Gambetta declared that, although a number of calumnious inventions were laid to the charge of the men favoring a dissolution, he would not dwell on the subject "here, where he would only meet with loyal adversaries." He did not ask for the dissolution of the Assembly, nor for the expulsion of a portion of the members; the question was whether the universal suffrage of the country had changed its point of view since the 8th of February, 1871, and whether it condemned the conduct of the House. He was prepared for a numerical defeat, but he wished to justify the movement for a dissolution, which in a few weeks would find convincing means that would make themselves felt.

Here the patience of the Right began to give way. They broke out into loud murmurs, but M. Gambetta hastened to add, still in a conciliatory tone, "This is no threat; it is the simple statement of a fact which will certainly be accomplished by the mere force of reason—by the number and the importance of the petitions." Then, referring to the convention signed by M. Jules Favre and Prince Bismarck, he reminded his hearers that the object of the armistice was to elect a National Assembly, for the purpose of deciding if the war should be continued or on what conditions peace should be made. A voice on the right here cried out, "*C'est une infamie!*" and the whole party burst into a prolonged shout. Presently the single strong, mellow voice was heard, protesting that when the Assembly was elected it was by not more than five million votes—that is to say, half the electoral body—and then the noise recommenced. A reference to the unconstituent functions of the Assembly brought down upon the orator a mild remonstrance from M. Grévy, the President, who declared that the House having already pronounced itself on the subject touched by the speaker, he could not revert to it. But when M. Gambetta quoted a writer who, a fortnight before the elections, declared that the Assembly had no authority to entertain any questions of government, and, in reply to turbulent cries for his authority, cited triumphantly the *Gazette de France*, the special organ of the legitimist party, there arose an indescribable tumult, the Right being greatly excited and the Extreme Left clapping hands with intense delight, proving thus that in both the monarchical and the republican camps the idea was scouted that an Assembly thrown haphazard together, elected by surprise, on the principle of first come first served, should be endowed with legislative power. M. Gambetta asserted that when the electors saw, to their surprise, how their Deputies exceeded the fair length of their tether, they gave a series of striking proofs of their dissatisfaction. They elected republicans to the Municipal Councils, to the Assembly, to the Councils General. In June last, out of 134 new elections to the House, 115 republicans were returned. The speaker reverted with especial satisfaction to the constitution of the Councils General—now democratic for the first time since 1789—and declared, amid loud ironical cheers from the Right, that he saw in that a proof that the revolution was already established, and could henceforward afford to renounce the spirit of disorder and agitation. "I am astonished," he then exclaimed, "that conservatives will not listen to these words. You pretend to be the advocates of Parliamentary government, and you do not know how to listen to an adversary." Of a truth the rebuke was well merited. There was sound sense, as well as good rhetoric, in the orator's assertion, spoken in his most pleading tones, that if the higher classes—*les classes d'élite*—understood their situation their part would be, not to separate themselves from the democratic movement and to condemn it, but to guide it, that they may not come to see universal suffrage—the source of all their strength—become the source of all their woes." Recurring to the numerous hints given by the people that they no longer consider themselves represented by the Assembly, the speaker boasted, amid the derisive laughter of the Right, that his party had collected more than a million of signatures. "We will bring them to you next week," he added. "You are very *difficiles* in the way of petitions. There was once a great Assembly which dissolved itself at the expressed wish of 175,000 petitioners; but at that time the Deputies wished to be in concord with public opinion, with each other and with government. As for you," the orator exclaimed, turning to the various parties composing the Right, "you are not agreed in your views of politics, of government or of reforms; you are only agreed not to die!"—"*vous n'êtes d'accord que pour ne pas mourir.*" This telling climax, delivered with incisive irony of tone, lashed the Right to fury and proportionately delighted the Left. "Do you know," the orator exclaimed, with provoking quietude—"do you know what has made this movement invincible? The country vibrated with joy on hearing the President's Message; you were frightened at it, you protested against the sentiment of gratitude in the country; and then the country replied to your fighting policy"—*politique de combat*—" by petitions which no order of the day can stop. For the country knows that it acts within the limits of the law; it does not understand Parliamentary finessing; it has arisen by an instinct of preservation, for it knew it was the Republic which was threatened by your fighting policy." After giving a definition of the word "Radical," M. Gambetta went on to say that it was absurd to pretend his party were the enemies of the Conservative Republic. "We are so devoted to the Republic that we wish it to penetrate gradually in the consciences and hearts of all; we wish it to be established by the authority of its beneficence." Shouts of laughter from the Right greeted this speech; whereupon the speaker turned round and said, "You may laugh, gentlemen; remember, he laughs longest who laughs last." His manner grew more earnest and impassioned as he went on, and the interruptions continued to increase in equal ratio. "In voting the order of the day the Assembly would only secure an armistice, for the country would continue to fight with legal weapons until the day came when the Deputies themselves would be glad to obey and to separate. There can be no order without confidence, no confidence without settled government; the monarchists are incapable of founding a monarchy, for they have not a king to accept it or a people to ratify it; their only chance is to wear out and enervate the country so that it may throw itself into the arms of a saviour." This was the line of strong argument adopted, and it was wound up by the significant sentence, "But it is not among your families that the saviour would be sought. How are foreign nations," M. Gambetta continued, "to support France when the very existence of government is imperilled every other day, when every journal in Europe calls out for the dissolution of the Chamber?" He then referred to the rumors of *coups d'état*, which have lately been rife; and although he professed not to place any credence in their probability, the very suggestion of the idea seemed to drive the majority of his hearers mad, and he was interrupted at every other word. There are, indeed, many things which, however well they may be known, must never be mentioned. Thus the speaker's reference to published reports about General Ducrot was received with great dissatisfaction; and his citations from MM. Dufaure and Montalembert were interrupted because they were thought to be the expression of his own ideas. I fancied that the manner in which he was worried led him to close somewhat abruptly; but he gave full emphasis to his last telling words:—"The day is not distant when you yourselves will be prepared for self-sacrifice. To-day's vote will enable the genius of universal suffrage to recognize her own children. She will choose between those who have wished to retard and those who have wished to hasten the ultimate triumph of the Republic." With this threat M. Gambetta left the tribune, to be warmly shaken by the hand, after French fashion, by all his friends.

It was the dullest speech I ever heard from him. He wanted, obviously, to be moderate and parliamentary, and thus lost the electric exaltation of style, in virtue of which, as an orator, he is nothing if not violent.

THE POSITION OF THE RIGHT.

M. d'Audiffret-Pasquier followed. He is quite the type of a country gentleman and provincial lawyer. He said that from the first day of the existence of the Assembly it had been protested against; that the present petitioning for its dissolution was not spontaneous; that the hostility to the Assembly had been most persevering.

They dare to say that our mandat has been limited by the Prussians. I will not allow it to be declared from a French tribune that the foreigner has given you the mandat you possess. M. Gambetta has just made himself the advocate of liberty—he who has attacked the muncipal councils and the Conseils Généraux. He speaks of the right of petitioning—he who, when dictator, threatened to prosecute the inhabitants of the Loire who demanded the elections. We do not dispute the right of petition; but we reply to the petitioners that the moment has not arrived to do what they ask. This movement is a denial of the right of delegation—it is the personal and direct interference of the elector in order to expel the Deputies from the Assembly. What is our mandat? Is it limited to peace or war? No. Our mission is not terminated. We have yet to make the communal law, the military law and other organic laws. Accomplish your mission—the country will be thankful. For my own part, I should regret the dissolution of the Assembly, for I have yet much to say to you respecting the Contract Commission.

Turning towards the Extreme Left, M. d'Audiffret-Pasquier exclaimed with energy:—

You desire dissolution. Why? You hope to occupy our places! You, the radicals! You call yourselves republicans, but you are not!

The speaker was interrupted by the Extreme Left with loud cries of "*Si! Si!*"

M. Gambetta—We desire universal suffrage with the Republic and by the Republic.

M. d'Audiffret-Pasquier—I have among the Left many friends who are republicans. I do not wish them to believe that I confound them with the radicals. You always advance the theory of numbers, which is the most revolutionary theory that exists. Number is not sense. I repel you, not because I am a monarchist, but because I am liberal. I reject you in the name of liberty. I reject you because all the excesses of the Commune were the consequence of the theories you profess. I reject you, because you are—Atheism. Radicalism is the denial of everything—of propriety, of family, of country. I repel you because your doctrines lead to servitude. After you, Cæsar can come. You demand dissolution because you have lost all hope of conquering the majority in the Chamber. Here there are none but conservatives and radicals. Let us, then, unite; for the day when the doctrines of radicalism shall triumph the conservatives will be lost, and society with them.

M. Pasquier spoke better than Gambetta, for he has power also on a lower oratorical key. He is strong, without passion; a good reasoner, and the facts also were in his favor. It was six o'clock when the Duke left the tribune, and the members were beginning to show fatigue, and the discomfort from the heat of the hall was becoming very great.

RADICAL COUNSEL.

At this inauspicious moment a small, beardless, juvenile-looking personage mounted the tribune and awaited with resigned look a lull in the storm. It was M. Louis Blanc. The majority was evidently disinclined to hear him, for the talking in all parts of the *salle*, except in the "Extreme Left," was loud and persevering. M. Louis Blanc was as perseveringly patient and sipped the glass of water placed by his side with astounding imperturbability. As it was evident that he intended to speak the majority thought they had better listen, and at last, in obedience to the continued bell-ringing of the President, they allowed the orator to proceed. M. Louis Blanc's well-turned and rounded phrases had evidently been carefully prepared beforehand, but his weak voice could not be heard well above the storm. He said:—

It is with profound emotion that I ascend the tribune—so impressed am I with the gravity of the interests a-stake. It is not a question of this party or that party, but of France. Therefore I shall preserve a suitable moderation. The party I serve has just been the object of violent and unjust attacks which rely on an arbitrary definition. The term radical is a new word applied to the republicans of yesterday. I—who have been republican since I first made use of my reason—I have been radical since the month of September. The Duc d'Audiffret-Pasquier has said that he repels us in the name of liberty. I will reply to him that under the Empire, while the liberals bowed to it, the republicans expiated by twenty years of voluntary exile their love of liberty. At that time they were called republican, or socialist, which is the same thing. I will not expatiate on these personal questions. Often the violence of men is but the result of circumstances. Commerce is paralyzed. Why? On account of this provisional state of things, which, offering the chance of victory to all parties, leaves France to grope for her destiny. The Chamber cannot form a majority. On the 29th of November it was the "Left;" on the following day the "Right." It is impossible to allow this situation to be prolonged. There is but one issue—an appeal to the country. If the "Right" could come to an understanding respecting the choice of a monarch it would certainly propose to establish a monarchy. Well, then, as M. Thiers told you, do it. Ah! M. Thiers knew his country well when he thus spoke to you; he spoke to you with the authority which the suffrages of twenty-three departments have given him.

At this point the conversation, which had gradually increased in loudness of tone, completely drowned the voice of the speaker. The President called upon the Assembly to observe the greatest silence; and M. Louis Blanc, who was evidently determined, in case of necessity, to "make a night of it," continued:—"The country thirsts for repose, tranquillity, work. Where can the Assembly discover the right to prolong itself indefinitely?" The conversation had again become general. The President stood up and rung violently. M. Louis Blanc, perfectly self-possessed, rested with folded arms, leaning on the tribune. M. Grévy, standing exactly behind and above him, with the rigidity of an obelisk, declared that if his unruly Deputies would not keep silence he would adjourn the debate. The orator then, like M. Gambetta, cited passages from the speech delivered in 1849 by M. de Montalembert in favor of the dissolution of the Assembly. "If you will not hear me," urged Louis Blanc, "do at least listen to M. de Montalembert. Ah, gentlemen, what an argument you furnish in favor of dissolution!" M. Louis Blanc, having allowed the storm which this sally caused to subside, resumed:—"I will not discuss your origin, but permit me to tell you a free people never confides to its Deputies an unlimited *mandat*. You say that there is a misunderstanding. There is a very simple means for clearing it up. Let us consult universal suffrage." The orator then, to the surprise of all, quietly left the tribune.

Louis Blanc's speech was the shot of a blank cartridge—it hit nothing; was utterly without effect in the mind of the House.

SPEECH OF GAMBETTA'S RIVAL.

He was followed by M. Raoul Duval, who had the tribune when an adjournment was made till a later hour. On the reassembling he argued in most aggressive language that the dissolutionists and Communists were all one. He attacked Gambetta for having proscribed the Bonapartist candidates at Bordeaux, and cited General Aurelles de Paladine as an authority that his military dictatorship was fantastic. Referring personally to M. Mestreau, a Deputy for Paris, as a Communist, the latter gave him the lie. Indescribable confusion followed. M. Grévy saying that M. Raoul Duval could not mean to insult a colleague, urged M. Mestreau to retract. The latter said he would if M. Raoul Duval repeated the words of the President. M. Raoul Duval required a retraction first, and M. Mestreau, refusing, was called to order.

How far things in France turn on trade considerations not only appears in the allusions of all speakers and in the caricatures that present Thiers as assiduously courting the toy merchants, but it came out even in Duval's speech before the recess. When it was proposed to adjourn till Monday he said:—"I implore the Assembly, in the name of our commerce and of the enormous transactions of this time of year, to sit through the night if necessary that it may be known definitely without delay what we are to do."

Duval is especially bitter in all he says against Gambetta. These two young politicians are fierce rivals. Duval is a red-haired man and a thorough-going supporter of the extreme Right, and his opponent of the Left is of the swarthiest type. Both are highly admired in their respective parties—both full of talent and fury, and their mutual hostility will be heard of some day.

M. Le Royer pointed out to the Assembly the fact that while it was not in session the country was tranquil, prosperous and happy, but that its sitting was the signal for furious agitation, and argued thus to the advantage of its dissolving altogether.

THE VOICE OF THE GOVERNMENT.

M. Dufaure closed the debate by appearing for the government. He was evidently set on to flatter the Right, and performed his mission with a will, and for the moment succeeded. He said the government, though standing aloof from the passions which had animated and prolonged the grave debate, would shortly state its views. This discussion had become inevitable, because the Assembly was elected in a crisis without previous constitution or regulations, and no thought was taken of fixing the duration of its existence. He regretted, however, that M. Gambetta had sought an argument in the Prussian treaty, which, though stating that the ratification must be made by the Assembly, was not so cruel as to limit its mandate to that alone. He repudiated M. Louis Blanc's reproach, that the Assembly laid claims to perpetuity, and his old theory that the sovereignty of the people should dictate to the Assembly. He only understood such a claim when asserted in arms on May 15. (Approving laughter on the Right.) He only admitted the sovereignty of the people on election day. Afterwards that sovereignty was delegated to the Assembly, which was a far better judge than the petitioners could be as to when its career of usefulness was over. (Triumphant cheers on the Right hailed this official declaration, which almost endorses the ducal argument against universal suffrage, that a grocer can have no political sagacity.) The contrary doctrine had produced infinite evil in France for eighty years. Far was it, however, from the intention of the government to deny the right of members to suggest that the time for a dissolution had come, or of petitioners legally and respectfully to support that opinion.

M. Dufaure closed adroitly in adopting for the government a formula, or "*ordre du jour*," that satisfied the Right, but binds nobody for the future. There were many projects, and the rurals wanted to refer to the presence of the enemy in the country and extend the function of the House to the full payment of the indemnity. Thiers' interest is to kick the door open for dissolution, if necessary, and this is fully accomplished; so when the Christmas holidays are over we may hear of this subject again.

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

Ex-Sheriff O'Brien's Bills Again—Assistance to the District Attorney at a Discount.

The Board of Supervisors met at four o'clock yesterday afternoon in the Chamber of the Board of Aldermen, His Honor Mayor Hall in the chair. A large amount of miscellaneous business of an unimportant character was transacted.

The bills of Martin B. Brown, for stationery and printing for the courts, were ordered to be paid.

A report was received from the Committee on County Affairs recommending the payment of the bill of Henry C. Allen for professional services rendered to the District Attorney, from July 1 to November 30, 1872, at the rate of $5,000 per year, the bill amounting to $2,083 33.

Supervisor VAN SCHAICK objected to the passage of the report, claiming that the bills for services in the District Attorney's office were already too heavy for the amount of work done therein. It cost $35,000 a year to run it now, and there are plenty of good lawyers, he said, who could run the same office at 25,000 a year for the same services as are now rendered. The report was rejected.

Supervisor MEHRBACH called up the resolution directing the payment of the bills of ex-Sheriff James O'Brien for discharges and commitments during the years 1868, 1869 and 1870, amounting to $98,774 75.

A discussion was imminent and a rare wrangle might have ensued had not

The CHAIRMAN interposed law and facts to quell the coming tempest of ignorance in regard to both.

The MAYOR stated that it was his impression that he had on a former occasion called attention to the fact that the special matter of these bills was not within the jurisdiction of this Board. By a special act of the Legislature of 1870 the claim of Sheriff, or ex-Sheriff, James O'Brien was remitted to the Counsel to the Corporation, as sole auditor and adjuster, and that act still stands as law, nothing having been enacted which repeals it.

Mr. VAN SCHAICK inquired if it would be in order to move the reference of the claim to the legal adviser of this Board.

Mayor HALL replied that that was the point the chairman had just stated—that such reference of the claim had actually been made by the Legislature and the claim was so referred.

Mr. MEHRBACH withdrew his resolution, and after the transaction of some minor business the Board adjourned.

THE NILSSON HALL ARMORY.

Examination Into the Leasing of Nilsson Hall for an Armory and Drill Room—Testimony of Witnesses—First Day's Proceedings.

A meeting of the Investigating Committee appointed by the Mayor at the last meeting of the Board of Supervisors was held yesterday afternoon in the chamber of the Board of Aldermen. The members of the committee present were Supervisor Vance (chairman) and Supervisor Falconer; Supervisor Cochrane was too sick to be present.

Mr. Charles W. Brookes appeared as counsel for General Funk and the Ninety-sixth Regiment; Mr. Thomas E. Stewart as counsel for Supervisor Conover.

The first witness called by Mr. Brookes, was Mr. Anfenger, 33 Pine street, a real estate agent. He said that he received instructions from Colonel Steuff, some four months ago, to look out for a hall suitable for an armory and drill room for the Ninety-sixth regiment; that he was directed to Nilsson Hall; that he afterwards saw Mr. Young, the owner of the building, at the Spingler House, and that Mr. Young said that he would let it for $8,000 per year; that he subsequently saw Mr. Young with the son of Colonel Steuff, and that on Mr. Young's being informed that it was intended to use the hall for an armory and drill room Mr. Young said that he could not let it for less than $100,000 and taxes; but he (Mr. Young) could not give a decided answer as to that until he could receive an answer from his partner, who resides in New Brunswick; he received this offer in writing. (Communication produced.) He told Mr. Conover of it, and said the hall could be obtained for $10,000 per year; it was on the 10th of December, he believed; it was six days before the resolution was passed as to the leasing in the Board of Supervisors; he did not show the paper in which Mr. Young made his offer to Mr. Conover; it was about the 6th of December that he told Mr. Conover the hall could be obtained for that rent; it was before he (witness) had received the offer in writing from Mr. Young; received the offer in writing about the 10th of December.

In cross-examination the witness reiterated his statement that he told Mr. Conover as to the rent of the building being $10,000, and that he never said that the rent was $15,000; Mr. Conover went with him to look at Nilsson Hall, but objected to it, because, he said, it wanted so much fitting up; subsequently Mr. Conover told him that they must be content with Glass Hall; told Mr. Conover that that would annihilate the regiment; Mr. Conover replied that he did not care for that; had commenced a suit against Mr. Young for damages; had laid them at $90,000.

Mr. George A. Steuff was examined at great length, but only confirmed the evidence of the previous witness.

Mr. Rosenberg was then called, but was not examined. The examination was adjourned until Thursday next, at half-past two o'clock.

COMPTROLLER GREEN AND THE CITY INTEREST.

Comptroller Green forwarded the following letter to the Broadway Bank:—

DECEMBER 28, 1872.

THE NATIONAL BROADWAY BANK:—

I have received your letter of the 21st inst. in reply to mine of the same date, asking for a statement of the interest on deposits of the city and county in your bank during the year 1872, in which it is stated that action thereon would be taken by the Board of Directors on the following Tuesday, and that they have been awaiting some indications of my views on this subject since February last.

My communication of February 5, 1872, contained a request that a statement of the interest account on these deposits during the previous months of December and January should be immediately transmitted to me, but I have never received the statement requested.

I am now also without the statement asked for on the 21st inst., and beg leave to renew my request that you will, without further delay, furnish me with a statement of the interest which has accrued upon the daily balances at the credit of the city and county on your books during the year 1872.

As the accrued interest, along with the balance of principal, should be stated in the financial accounts of the department for the year, any further delay in this matter is inadmissible, and unless, therefore, you supply the information now asked for in the beginning of the following week I shall see that whatever proceedings may be necessary are adopted to compel this being done, or such other relief obtained as the interest of the city and county may demand. Yours respectfully,

ANDREW H. GREEN, Comptroller.

Similar letters were also sent to the Tenth National Bank and Tradesman's Banks.

THE CITY INTEREST QUESTION.

More Explanation from Chamberlain Palmer—The Interest Not in the Treasury.

City Chamberlain Francis A. Palmer informed a HERALD reporter yesterday that the last certificate of the balances of moneys in the National Park Bank was made May 31, in these words:—

I hereby certify that at the close of business on Friday, May 31, 1872, the sum of $150,000 was on deposit in the National Park Bank, of the city of New York, belonging to the city and county of New York.

J. L. WORTH, Cashier.

The last certificate of the balances in the Union Trust Company was of like date and in the same form, for the amount of $50,000. This shows that the certificate of balances made to the Chamberlain from January 1 to June 1, 1872, contained no mention of any credits of additions to the principal sums on deposit in those depositories. These certificates have been filed in the Comptroller's office weekly for years past, and in no case has his request of December 16, 1871, to add interest to principal been complied with.

The Chamberlain denies the assertion that the interest accrued on those deposits (which have been closed by reason of non-compliance with the laws of 1866) is actually in the treasury, for it has not been paid to him, nor does any record appear upon his books or vouchers of any such transaction.

PAYMENTS BY THE COMPTROLLER.

The following payments were yesterday made at the Comptroller's office:—

To the employés of the Fire Department for December, $71,774 34; payments to Police force for December, $212,000; payments for current expenses of the Department of Public Instruction, $100,000; salaries of the Boards of Aldermen and Assistant Aldermen for the month of December, $11,667 95, and salaries at the Mayor's office, $2,750.

The payments to the laborers on the "big pipes" to December 15 was concluded yesterday. They amounted to $14,237 79.

All the rolls of laborers that have been presented at the Comptroller's office have been checked and the amounts paid.

The Comptroller also paid $61,074 received from the excise fund to such free schools of different denominations as had been designated by the Board of Apportionment.

Payments on account of the county were also made to the Judges and clerks of the various Courts, and payments to the inspectors and clerks of election and to the landlords of premises occupied as polling places in the various districts will be made on and after to-morrow in the numerical order of the districts.

MAYOR HALL AND THE PRESS.

Yesterday Mayor Hall invited those representatives of the press whose duties are connected with the City Hall and the public proceedings of the city government to meet him in the private room of the Keeper of the City Hall (Mr. George Roome), at one o'clock. At that time the Mayor received a number of gentlemen, who during his Mayoralty have, in the course of their duty, found it frequently incumbent upon them to interview His Honor. After a friendly shake of the hand and a pleasant and cordial greeting, Mayor Hall called the attention of the gentlemen to the centre table, on which was spread a lunch, including a supply of wine, and invited all present to help themselves, without any formality or ceremony. Mayor Hall then proposed, in one of his happiest extemporaneous speeches, "The Press," alluding to what he termed "the happiest days of his life"—the days when he was a newspaper reporter, and which profession he regretted he could not afford to return to. This was appropriately acknowledged by Mr. Oliver Stout, and the health of the Mayor was proposed and drank with enthusiasm. Mayor Hall then gave the health of Mayor Havemeyer, expressing a hope that he would be spared the calumnies of the malicious and that he would receive the assistance of all good men and true in the performance of his duties, the arduousness of which were well known to the gentlemen whom he had the honor to address. The health and prosperity of Mr. George Roome, the Keeper of the City Hall, was then proposed by Mayor Hall, who said that Mr. Roome's familiarity with the City Hall would not prevent him from walking down Broadway after political necess