THE COURTS.

A Verdict in Civil Suit Against the Railway Bond Forgers.

CONFUSED MORTGAGE CASE.

Singular Circumstances of a Larceny Case.

The Howe Sewing Machine Company have leased several hundred sewing machines in this city, the lessors comprising mainly housewives and young girls in poor circumstances, striving through this method to become possessed of sewing machines. This was all well enough until their agents, Messrs. William C. and Joel M. Hickox, commenced to foreclose on the leases, which such agents, however, claim to be doing pursuant to an arrangement made with the company in regard to closing up their agency. Application was made yesterday, before Judge Barrett, in Supreme Court, Chambers, enjoining the agents from foreclosing these leases. After some argument in the matter Judge Barrett took the papers, reserving his decision.

The examination in the case of C. O. Sprague, charged with having in his possession a two cent counterfeit internal revenue stamp, attached to a forged note on Colgate & Co., was yesterday adjourned by United States Commissioner Osborn, at the request of Assistant District Attorney Purdy, until Monday next.

THE RAILROAD BOND FORGERIES.

The suit which has been in progress nearly three weeks, before Judge Sedgwick, of the Superior Court, brought by the National Trust Company against Charles Ralston, Valentine Gleason, Andrew L. Roberts, Horace S. Corp, Lydia J. Roberts and Amelia A. Gleason, to recover $30,000 obtained by Ralston from the Trust Company on forty-two forged bonds of the New York, Buffalo and Erie Railway Company, in the forging and uttering of which the other defendants are alleged to have been implicated, has finally reached a conclusion. On the 5th of July, 1873, Ralston obtained a loan of the amount stated from the plaintiffs, the latter at the time supposing the bonds left as collateral security to be genuine. In about a month the bonds were discovered to be forged, and Ralston was nowhere to be found. The fact was further discovered that the other defendants were in league with Ralston; that a plot had been matured to issue forged bonds of the New York Central Railroad Company, the Western Union Telegraph Company and various other companies; that the scheme was so successful that arrangements had been made with Bidwell and Macdonell, the Bank of England forgers, to negotiate spurious bonds in the English market, and that the latter, in pursuance of the scheme, had already disposed of some $500,000 worth of forged bonds. After a good deal of preliminary detective work, requiring the keenest vigilance, the fact was discovered that the defendants had deposited some securities with the Stuyvesant Safe Deposit Company. An attachment was obtained against these securities and the work of prosecuting the guilty parties entered upon in earnest. It is unnecessary to give all the details, as they have been fully published already in the HERALD. The suit brought by the National Trust Company to recover its money was begun at the opening of the present term. It was known that it would be a protracted and exciting trial, and eminent counsel were employed on both sides, the plaintiffs being represented by Messrs. William Wirt Hewett, Algernon S. Sullivan and Arnold, Elliott & White, and the defendants by Messrs. A. Oakey Hall, ex-Recorder Smith and Beach & Brown. The case was opened with signal ability by Mr. Hewett, who, in addition to working up the case, assisted in the cross-examination of the witnesses for the defence. A feature in the case was the testimony taken on commission of Spence Pettis, at present an inmate of the Charlestown (Mass.) Prison, claimed to be an ally in the commission of these forgeries. The other testimony was mainly that taken in the criminal prosecution of the same parties in the Court of Oyer and Terminer. Mr. Sullivan summed up for the prosecution in an address of great force and cogency. He was followed by Mr. Smith, who made a most ingenious argument for the defence. Judge Sedgwick gave a clear and succinct charge, intimating broadly that the whole issue involved depended upon the degree of credibility to be given to the witnesses. The case was given to the jury about noon yesterday. The jury were out only half an hour, when they brought in a verdict for $33,600, being the full amount claimed, with interest. An extra allowance was also given to the plaintiffs' counsel. This is regarded as a great victory for the plaintiffs' counsel, and especially for Mr. Hewett, who has stood by the corporations in this fight against these frauds since the discovery of the forgeries, and has resisted every attempt to induce him to abandon the prosecution.

A MIXED MORTGAGE CASE.

A mortgage suit of such a mixed character that it would puzzle a Philadelphia lawyer to understand it was brought on for trial yesterday before Judge Van Brunt, holding Supreme Court, Special Term. The plaintiff in the suit is Adolph Heilbrun, and the defendants Joseph H. Racey and Amanda A. Racey, his wife; the Seaman's Bank for Savings, of this city, and Edward A. Hammond. The suit is to foreclose a mortgage for $7,000, dated March 25, 1873, made to Dennis S. Pardee, which mortgage was assigned to the plaintiff on April 16, 1873, and the assignment recorded on the succeeding day. The Seaman's Bank holds a mortgage on the same property for $8,000, bearing date April 29, 1874, and Edward A. Hammond holds still another mortgage for $5,588, made to Edward B. Turbell, and bearing date June 15, 1874. On April 29, 1874, Pardee executed a satisfaction piece of the mortgage in suit, which was filed May 2, 1874. The defence of the third mortgage is that the mortgage is invalid on the ground of usury. It appeared in evidence that Mr. Racey, desiring to lift the original mortgage, obtained from the Seaman's Bank a loan of $8,000 and received a satisfaction piece from Pardee, knowing well that the latter had assigned the mortgage to Heilbrun and that Heilbrun had accepted the satisfaction piece, not knowing of any assignment, and in place of taking an assignment of the earlier mortgage took a new mortgage. The bank claims to be in the position of first mortgagee on the ground that Heilbrun's mortgage was void through usury, and that they have all the rights of the first mortgage, which was paid off with their money. The third mortgagee claims to be a second mortgagee, on the ground that Heilbrun's mortgage was void through usury, that the assignment to them was not notice to them, and that it could not be recorded here because the acknowledgment was taken in New Jersey. Judge Van Brunt took the papers, reserving his decision.

CIVIL RIGHTS COMING HOME.

The examination in the case of the colored man, William W. Davis, against the treasurer of one of our city theatres, for refusing to sell him two orchestra chairs for himself and wife, will take place before the United States Commissioner, John I. Davenport, on Monday. There is an interesting and unpublished history connected with this test case that the public will watch with interest. It is understood that certain persons in Washington are anxious to make a test case of the Civil Rights b[illegible] this city instead of in a Southern city; he[illegible] diplomacy at the preliminary examina[illegible] the accused, by United States Commissio[illegible] papers, who wanted to discharge the ac[illegible] upon his own recognizance, but was o[illegible] by Mr. Purdy, the Assistant United States District Attorney, who insisted that the accused should enter into bail.

Ex-Mayor A. Oakey Hall yesterday announced that the line of defence will be that when Davis applied for the tickets all orchestra chairs had been sold. The issue, therefore, will come on the facts, and if the defence shows that all the orchestra chairs were disposed of when Mr. Davis applied for two, of course the case has no bottom.

It is further understood that there is a disposition among theatrical managers in this city to make a direct issue with the colored population, and then carry the issue, thus raised, to a higher court for the purpose of testing the constitutionality of the law.

SUPREME COURT—CHAMBERS.

Before Judge Barrett.

FREDERICK EVERS ADMITTED TO BAIL.

Frederick Evers, who formerly kept a sailors' boarding house, was convicted in the Court of General Sessions of felonious assault with intent to kill James Curran, the keeper of a rival establishment, and sentenced for three years to State Prison. This verdict was reversed in the General Term of the Supreme Court and a new trial ordered. Pending the new trial application was made by his counsel, the new legal firm of William F. Kintzing & John C. Mott, for his admission to bail. Yesterday Judge Barrett granted the motion, fixing bail at $6,000, which was promptly furnished, Mr. David M. Williams becoming bondsman.

DECISIONS.

SUPREME COURT—CHAMBERS.

By Judge Donohue.

Cornell vs. Slater.—Memorandum.

Mott vs. Humeston; Soper vs. Davis et al.—Orders granted.

SUPREME COURT—CIRCUIT—PART 3.

By Judge Donohue.

Union Trust Company of New York vs. Whiton; Bleecker et al. vs. Spofford.—Settled; see amendments.

COMMON PLEAS—SPECIAL TERM.

By Judge Loew.

Studwell vs. Krinask.—Order settled.

Schewer vs. Adler.—Application denied; see memorandum.

Zulick vs. Hoyt.—Application denied; plaintiff has sustained no loss as yet.

Mackellar vs. McGinnis.—Motion granted.

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS.

Before Recorder Hackett.

AN INTERESTING CASE OF ALLEGED LARCENY.

A case of grand larceny rather out of the ordinary line of offences of that kind was tried in this Court yesterday and will be concluded on Monday. The accused, who is an aged and unprepossessing woman, was indicted under the name of Ellen Lucy, alias Ellen Lucy Gunning, alias Ellen Lucy Young, and upon the complaint of Martin Gunning, an old man, was charged with stealing $1,800 from him under the following somewhat peculiar circumstances:—Gunning swore that he kept a tinsmith's store in Tenth avenue and resided there with his family; that, being out of health, he drew out of the savings bank about $2,500 and proceeded to Boston, with a view of taking a trip to England or California; why he went East was not explained; that he was followed to Boston by the accused and remained there with her several days; and one day she took $1,800 out of his boot and refused to return it to him; that they returned to New York together, she still declining to return the money, and that she put it in three different savings banks in this city, after which he had her arrested on a charge of larceny. Mr. McClellan, counsel for the woman, cross-examined the complainant at great length. When asked if he (Gunning) did not go before a clergyman in Boston and marry the accused he said he was not able to swear that he did, but remembered that they occupied the same room during their stay.

The accused, when she entered the witness chair, gave a very different account of the transaction. She said she was a widow, and went to Gunning's store for the purpose of getting a soapstone in a stove, and he at once became enamored of her charms, said he loved her, and, being lonely, proposed marriage; that she, believing him to be a single man, accompanied him to Boston, and went to two Catholic priests, who refused to marry them, and that after wandering around the streets for a while they stepped into a school which was taught by a Protestant clergyman, who, after he obtained a permit at the City Hall, performed the ceremony in the presence of the young ladies, who thought it was a "good joke" to see such an old couple made happy by their instructor. In the course of her rambling statement she said that Gunning gave her the money for the purpose of setting up a hardware store in New York upon their return from the bridal trip, and counsel produced a receipt for rent which she paid in advance for a store hired to conduct that business.

ACQUITTALS.

Horace Lent, a carman, was tried on a charge of stealing five boxes of Christmas greens, worth $60, on the 24th of December, 1873, the property of Francis P. Knapp. The accused showed to the satisfaction of the jury that he was employed to cart the articles. Mr. Nolan abandoned the prosecution and the jury rendered a verdict of not guilty.

George F. Meiggs was charged, on the complaint of Oscar C. Quirk, with stealing, on the 11th of March, a diamond ring, valued at $250. The evidence was only circumstantial, and the jury rendered a verdict of not guilty without leaving their seats.

FIFTY-SEVENTH STREET COURT.

Before Judge Murray.

EMBEZZLEMENT.

Hugh Campbell, of No. 341 East Forty-eighth street, charged that William H. Burns, an employé of his, had embezzled $50 of his money. He sent him on the 14th inst. to the Tenth National Bank to get cashed a check for $50. He received the money and then went off on a spree and spent it. He admitted the charge and was held for trial in default of $1,000 bail.

COURT OF APPEALS.

ALBANY, April 23, 1875.

No. 184. Calvin L. Hathaway, Supervisor, &c., appellant, vs. The Town of Cincinnatus, respondent.—Argument resumed and concluded.

No. 187. Aspinby vs. Erie County Savings Bank.—By request of the Court this cause, argued on the 12th inst., was reargued by counsel to-day on some of the points involved.

No. 199. Stephen Remington et al., appellants, vs. Oliver H. Palmer, respondent.—Argued by J. C. Cochrane, of counsel for appellants, and by W. F. Cogswell for respondent.

No. 201. Henry F. Smith, respondent, vs. The Glenn's Falls Insurance Company, appellant.—Argued by W. F. Cogswell, of counsel for appellant, and by J. C. Cochrane for respondent.

No. 205. The Board of Supervisors of Monroe county, respondents, vs. William Otis et al., appellants.—Argued by W. F. Cogswell, of counsel for appellants, and by George F. Danforth for respondents.

Adjourned.

AMENDED COURT OF APPEALS CALENDAR.

The calendar for Monday, April 26, is amended as follows:—Nos. 196, 216, 217, 218, 157, 158, 221 and 222.

DAY CALENDAR.

The following is the day calendar for April 26:—Nos. 114, 198, 216, 217, 218, 157, 158, 221.

AN INTERESTING WILL CASE.

The case of Partridge and others vs. Rapelye and others, already briefly alluded to as having been under trial in the Circuit Court for Queens county, and in which a verdict for the defendants was given by direction of Judge Tappen, involves a great many nice points of law, and, as the plaintiffs are not content to let the decision of this case govern in the ten or a dozen others of similar character, but propose further litigation, a fuller statement of the grounds of action and defence will doubtless prove interesting. Thomas Betts, deceased, formerly of Newtown, as stated in the complaint, was at and before his death, which occurred on the 24 day of August, 1804, possessed of the premises in dispute, which have since, by reason of improvements, become very valuable, as they now constitute a large portion of what is known as Laurel Hill, bordering on Newtown Creek. He left a will dated on the day of his death, which was duly admitted to probate by the Surrogate of Queens county on the 11th of October, 1804. By this will he ordered all his debts and funeral expenses to be paid by his executors, and directed that should the executors deem it proper to dispose of the real and personal estate they should do so, at such time and in such manner as they should think proper, the money arising from such sale to be put out at interest for the benefit of such child or children as his wife might have at the time of his decease; and in case no issue of his should arrive at lawful age, then whatever part of the estate remained unexpended after the death or remarriage of his wife was to be equally divided among the surviving children of his two nieces, Robert Moore and Edward Waters were named as executors in the will, but only Waters qualified. Deceased left no surviving children, and Margaret Betts, his widow, now deceased, was remarried at Newtown, on the 3d of March, 1806, to Nathaniel Sayre. It is contended by the plaintiffs that at the time of her marriage the real estate remained unsold, unexpended and in the possession of the executor, Edward Waters, and so remained until his death, on or about the 7th of July, 1860. The defendants moved for a dismissal of the complaint, on the ground that it did not state facts sufficient to constitute cause of action; that the plaintiffs had mistaken their remedy, if entitled to any; that the gift in the will was a money legacy, and that, by the face of the will and the manifest intention of the testator, there was an equitable conversion of the real estate into personal property; that in due season suit should have been brought or proceedings taken against the executor Waters, or the representatives of his estate, for the legacy or other redress, if the legacy had not been paid, or the parties interested were entitled to any redress for his neglect or misconduct, and that such suit or proceedings should have been brought or taken within reasonable time, and also within the statute of limitations. Further, that there is no devise of the real estate to the surviving children of the testator's nieces named in the will, and that upon the death of such surviving children or either of them the right of action of those deriving title from them was vested in the personal representatives and not in their heirs. Judge Tappen, adopting the views of the defendants regarding the statute of limitations, directed a verdict in their favor.

CRUELTY ON SHIPBOARD.

Yesterday morning a sailor named Peter Doble, belonging to the ship Clara Killam, of Liverpool, now lying at the Long Dock, appeared at the Second precinct station house in Jersey City with his face covered with blood and greatly disfigured. He complained that the first mate, Thomas Sutton, had accused him of throwing dirt over the side of the ship, and when he denied the charge Sutton knocked him down and beat him till he was almost insensible. The sergeant on duty sent the injured man to a drug store, after which a warrant was procured for the arrest of Sutton.

BOARD OF UNDERWRITERS.

HOW TO PREVENT FIRES FROM THE RECKLESS USE OF MATCHES AND INFLAMMABLE OILS—ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The National Board of Fire Underwriters resumed its session yesterday morning, Mr. Henry A. Oakley in the chair. The attendance was very large, including representatives of all the leading companies throughout the country, and the room was densely crowded.

Mr. W. H. Ross read a report on the origin of fires, patents and gas machines. The report says, in speaking of

FIRES CAUSED BY MATCHES:

"In the report showing the origin of fires in the city of New York for the year 1872 the whole number of fires reported was 1,396. Of this number 439, or nearly one-third, were traced to friction matches. Undoubtedly the safest of all are those that require to be brought in contact with a specially prepared substance to produce ignition. Such matches are made and imported from Sweden. Their manufacture has been attempted in this country, but, as they cost a trifle more than those of a more dangerous character, the endeavor to introduce them has not yet proved a success, simply because the average citizen considers cheapness of more consequence than safety, so long as underwriters continue to insure and pay. A little 'moral suasion,' in the shape of increased cost of insurance, would, in the judgment of your committee, exert a salutary influence in calling attention to this danger, and would result in driving a large portion of these hazardous articles out of use. We would suggest that the Executive Committee be requested, or, if thought best, instructed to frame and put in force such prospective regulations as would eventually eradicate the evil." The report, in alluding to

DANGER FROM OILS,

says:—"The question to be solved is, What remedy is there within the power of the underwriter to apply? We unhesitatingly recommended that as the form of policy adopted by this Board distinctly prohibits the keeping or using, in any form or in any quantity, of either of the lighter products of earth oils, no privilege shall be granted for such use or keeping, except under such regulations and in such form as may be adopted by this Board or its Executive Committee. This recommendation is not so arbitrary or unjust as the owners of such property might declare it. The storage of gunpowder in quantity is prohibited by municipal authority. No man for a moment doubts the propriety or justice of such prohibition; yet fire must be brought in contact with gunpowder to produce explosion; but the vapor of these lighter products of coal oil escapes and sometimes reaches the fire at a distance of several feet, causing ignition or explosion where gunpowder would have been harmless. In regard to kerosene oil the remedy is not so simple. While the legal restriction establishing a standard by the United States government indicts a penalty, it fails to enforce an inspection. Unless such inspection is compelled by State, township or municipal regulations, and sustained by public opinion, the government standard is valueless for protection to life and property. There is also some ambiguity in the United States law in regard to the actual standard of safety. Doubtless it was the intention of the law to establish 110 degrees as the flashing point, or the degree of temperature below which the oil should not give off an inflammable vapor; but it has been sometimes treated as the burning point of the oil itself. This would reduce the flashing point below 100 degrees, and at least twenty degrees below the safe limit."

THE OILS TO BE AVOIDED.

"The question which presents itself in this connection is:—How and to what extent can underwriters exert their influence to prevent the sale and use of unsafe or adulterated oils? Shall we act independent of this legal restriction, and adopt regulations of our own to either exclude them, or establish a tariff of charges for the increased hazard? Shall we attempt to enforce the present legal restriction? Or shall the attempt be made to combine both of these proposed remedies? Could the community see that the saving in cost of insurance would at once compensate for any exertions to suppress their sale, such unsafe oils would be retired from the market for want of purchasers. But we are forced to the conclusion, after examining this question in all its bearings, that it is one for compulsory education, either directly or indirectly, and hence would recommend that the Committee on Laws and Legislation be instructed to prepare a proper form of law covering the necessities of this case and urge its adoption by State Legislatures in all the States. And when such laws are enacted the Executive Committee should instruct all local boards to see that they are enforced in their respective localities. The oils to be avoided in this connection are chiefly the vegetable oils of commerce. These all have within themselves the proper elements to produce ignition, under favorable circumstances, at a comparatively low temperature. When diffused, as in the process of manufacture of textile fabrics their use for this purpose should be entirely discarded, and great caution should be used also to exclude oils adulterated with them and sold under other names. This should apply principally to the manufacture of wool and of wool and shoddy, or cotton combined, although oily rags used in rubbing furniture saturated with these oils are extremely dangerous. We would urge upon the Executive Committee to adopt and enforce such regulations as will exclude vegetable oils from use in any manufacture of textile fabrics."

The report goes on to treat of explosions in flour mills, gas machines, patents, such as are connected with the construction of buildings, as concrete shutters, sprinklers, &c. The report was accepted and referred to the Executive Committee.

A long report on "Co-operation for the West" was read, showing what progress had been made in bringing about a greater uniformity of rates in Western cities. The report was accepted and referred to the Executive Committee.

Mr. D. A. Heald moved that a report on form of policy should be presented one month before the next annual meeting.

On motion a committee was appointed to correspond with the United States Signal Service Bureau for the purpose of obtaining a tabulated statement of the winds, their force, &c.

The next subject discussed was the imposition of special taxes on policies of insurance for the purpose of effecting reforms in local taxes. The matter was finally referred to the Executive Committee with power.

ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The annual election of officers occupied several hours, there being a vast amount of discussion on the question as to whether the Royal Insurance Company of London should have one vote, as every other company, or fourteen votes—one for each agency. The discussion called forth a humorous speech by Mr. Bowker, of the North American, of Boston, about English tyranny, &c., which elicited much hearty laughter. It finally ended in the Royal being restricted to only one vote.

The following gentlemen were elected officers for the ensuing year:—President, Henry A. Oakley; Vice President, George L. Chase; Secretary, Samuel P. Blagdon; Treasurer, J. L. Parrish; Executive Committee, Stephen Crowell, D. A. Heald, John W. Murray, Charles Platt, A. G. Baker, D. R. Smith, B. Lockwood, J. B. Hall, George A. F. Cram, George L. Chase and Henry Kellogg.

After some unimportant business the Convention adjourned until this morning.

RAPID TRANSIT.

DUTY OF PROPERTY OWNERS TO THEMSELVES AND THE PUBLIC.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

A committee of property holders and real estate men should go to Albany on Monday next and by the force of their presence and as representatives of the masses here demand their rights from the Legislature. If the owners of large tracts of real estate on the island and in lower Westchester county mean business they ought to stand up and fight the powers that are against rapid transit instead of subscribing paltry sums of money for a rapid transit road. Is the Speaker of the Third house in Albany a large owner of stock in car roads and the one-legged road, which latter begins nowhere and ends nowhere? Is the Governor himself a large stockholder in the city car lines. Certainly Mr. Tilden's silence in regard to rapid transit leads one to that conclusion. If he were in favor of rapid transit he would recommend a commission of honorable and well known citizens to build the road, the same as the Croton works and the Central Park were created and made living realities and blessings to the city of New York. City real estate is declining, and there is a lively prospect that all the weak owners of vacant real estate up town will be wiped out if the Green process of strangulation and stagnation continues, and if the Governor ignores the existence of New York and continues to travel on the canal packets, as he thinks, toward Washington. Quick communication with those vast tracts of land on this island which now lie isolated would bring us a local prosperity that we little dream of. Long rows of houses would spring up as if by magic, and a legitimate speculation set in that would make fortunes for landowners, house builders and real estate brokers. Thousands would come to live here who are debarred from the beauties, enjoyments and culture of our public institutions. EUGENE BERRY.

CHEAP TRANSPORTATION.

MEETING YESTERDAY OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE TERMINAL CHARGES ON GRAIN—THE EVILS NEW YORK MERCHANTS HAVE TO BEAR.

The State Senate Committee, consisting of Senators Kellogg, Connolly and Johnson, lately appointed to investigate the rate of alleged excessive terminal charges on grain coming into New York, met yesterday in the office of the Cheap Transportation Association, Pearl street, Senator Kellogg in the chair. Several persons who had been cited to appear before the committee were present and testified under oath.

E. C. Rich, a grain receiver, of this city, was the first to testify. In yesterday's proceedings he said an item of expense in terminal grain charges had been omitted. The total charges per bushel on grain were really 4¾ cents and not 3¾ cents, as stated. The charges for elevating are ¾ cent, storage ¾ cent, lighterage 1½ cent, reweighing ¼ cent, and the charges for redelivering from ⅜ to ½ of a cent, making a total of about 4½ cents per bushel. The grain brought two cents per bushel less in warehouse than afloat. No boat brought less than from 6,000 to 7,000 bushels to the load. He could tell nothing about portage charges and knew of no combination for the purpose of keeping up terminal charges. These were, he believed, uniform throughout. The rate seemed to rest upon a mutual understanding among those interested. Members of companies owning elevators and others had met to consult about the reduction of rates.

THE TRANSFER OF GRAIN

and the storage charges were different. The latter item was one-quarter of a cent per bushel for the first ten days. The charges of stationary and floating elevators did not differ from each other. The annual trade of New York in this line of business—grain—was equal to $90,000,000.

Mr. S. W. Fairfield, President of the American Exchange (butter and cheese), made a long statement, the general tenor of which was that he had ascertained the annual loss resulting from transfers and transshipments of merchandise in New York to be $30,000,000. He then read a paper which he had addressed on the 7th of last January to the Chamber of Commerce in this city, in which he took the ground that New York must take immediate action for the purpose of procuring better facilities than now exist for the exchange, storage and transfer of merchandise. The piers of the Hudson are termini for upwards of 72,000 miles of railroads. The prosperity of New York depended upon the American trade in the domestic staples of food—not cereals alone, but dairy products, provisions, &c. The books of the Clearing House last year had on their pages $33,972,773,942 97. The total export trade during the same time was $313,129,963, and the estimated total tonnage of this port was 100,000,000 tons. Any plan contemplating the transfer of this tonnage from our river piers amounted, he said, to a tax that would invite it to other ports. A general exchange for the convenience of commerce and a united movement of the merchants at this centre, under the auspices of such an institution for economical terminal and storage facilities, were the chief requirements of our commerce. The absence of a general exchange involved the necessity, on the part of small merchants and others, to spend much of their time in bargaining with dealers at opposite sides of the city. More than 20,000 merchants and business men of this city were compelled to travel from point to point, in order to manage their affairs, at great trouble and expense. In this way we have a daily tax of $100,000, and $30,000,000 annually, on

OUR CITY TRADE,

without estimating the carting, storage and recarting of merchandise consequent upon this anomalous condition of things. The issue now involved was to form a common Trade Exchange, and to indicate where railroad companies and other public carriers ought to invest capital for the formation of produce trade centres. To move a ton of merchandise by cart in New York costs as much as to transport it to Liverpool. If a common centre for trade were fixed, railroad corporations and others equally interested would afford facilities for reducing present terminal charges. The $10,000,000 worth of cheese exported annually was, he said, moved with much difficulty and carted at great expense from the railroad depot to the Produce Exchange.

Mr. William J. Preston said that a reduction could be made in the charges for elevating and moving grain, without taking away all the profits from this line of business. A quarter cent per bushel could be taken off the six-eighths of a cent charged to buyer and seller. The charges for loading and unloading were not unreasonable. The absence of any system for grading grain in this market was severely felt on all sides. Even the smallest shipments have now to be kept separate from other samples of the same grade and quality. An equitable grading system would bring about a reduction of expense in handling by giving large quantities for the elevators to hoist at once.

Harbor Master F. Z. Tucker testified that the wharfage on canal boats was seventy-five cents per diem. Instead of the canals receiving the benefits of transportation the railroads come in and receive a great share in trade profits. There was now no room or facilities for canal transportation.

Harbor Master John W. Tyler deposed that the facilities for canal transportation were very poor; they were included between piers 2 and 9 East River. The space may have been sufficient years ago, but was now altogether inadequate to the present requirements of trade. Sometimes boats have to lay two or three days at their berths before they can be sampled. It was frequently impossible to get for days at a time the boats on their slips under the derricks, especially during summer time. A large basin for canal boats was badly wanted. At times the boats were six or seven tiers deep outside their berths.

Captain Edmund B. Seaman, Port Captain, stated that the docks were divided into eleven districts, with a harbor master to each one. There was a sad lack of accommodation for canal boats. The port dues were $1 25 per annum on each boat. The wharfage dues were from fifty to seventy-five cents per day and were payable to the lessee of the property, whether it be private or municipal.

John W. Pratt said in substance that boats might lay for a month before they could be discharged. In addition to the dock dues, an additional item of expense was incurred by moving from one dock to another; such charges were frequent. There were no facilities to meet present requirements for dockage. Of late additional rates of insurance had been charged, and midnlemen received a "draw-back" out of them. The boat owner got nothing from this fund. Insurance rates had lately advanced, because last season much property was frozen in and consequently suffered.

Thomas E. Porter testified that if Western merchants could make shipments by rail of one car, instead of five, as heretofore, it would be very convenient to them. In other cities there were fixed facilities for disembarking grain, while here we have no such means at our command, and the consequence was that merchants were often compelled, against their inclinations, to ship for Boston or Philadelphia.

William C. Clark testified to the insufficiency of canal boat accommodations in New York, and also to the usual dock and other charges given above, stating that inside berths cost seventy-five cents per day, and that the Atlantic Basin people charged two cents per ton. He said he came to New York last fall with two boat loads of grain under agreement to hold it over to the 1st of April at nine and a half cents per bushel. He was to receive $3 per day for the first thirty days and $2 a day afterward until discharged. On the fourth day after arrival he was ordered to the Columbia Stores. In consequence of his refusal to pay the seventy-five cents demanded there, the company threw off the lines and shoved away his boat; he was thus unable to deliver the cargo according to contract, and the Sheriff took possession of it, and a suit was commenced against him for $5,000 damages. According to his experience the average shortage is from 20 to 25 bushels per load of 8,000 bushels; a fair equivalent for handling grain in Buffalo would be about one-half cent a bushel. It ought to be done here for the same price; a cargo should be put on board for $40—$20 to the boat and $20 for the elevator, &c.

The committee adjourned to meet in Buffalo on Tuesday next.

A BANK ROBBER'S DOOM.

FREDERICK KLENEN SENT TO STATE PRISON FOR TEN YEARS.

Yesterday morning, in the Court of Quarter Sessions at Jersey City, Frederick Kienen, the defaulting secretary of the Hoboken Savings Bank was called up for sentence. The indictment on which he was convicted was for grand larceny in stealing $20,000 in United States bonds from the bank. His brother and his father-in-law sat beside him. Mr. Leon Abbett counsel for the prisoner, pleaded on behalf of his client *non vult* to nine other indictments, two being for embezzlement, five for forging the name of Margaret Rose Green to a money order and getting the money, one for forging the signature of Joun Rollins to a money order and another for forgery.

The Court, addressing the prisoner, said that the proof of his guilt was conclusive; that the crime was a great one, that the amount stolen was large, and the result was a suspension of the bank and great distress to many poor people, depositors of the bank. The appeal of the prisoner's wife the Court would willingly take into consideration if it could do so consistently with justice. In a case like the present, where the law had been deliberately violated, the full measure of justice was demanded. The sentence of the Court, therefore, was that on the indictment under which the prisoner was convicted he be confined in the State Prison for ten years, at hard labor; on the indictment for embezzlement, two years' imprisonment; on the indictment for forgery, ten years' imprisonment; on another indictment for embezzlement two years, and on six indictments for forgery ten years each, all the terms to run together, so that instead of eighty-four years they would make ten years in all. The wife of the prisoner, who had remained by him during his two trials, was not in court when the sentence was pronounced.

NEW YORK CITY.

The fire which occurred at 498 Broome street, Thursday evening last, broke out on the second floor of the building, and not in the part of the building occupied by Mr. L. Levine, as erroneously stated.

James Clifford, twenty-seven years of age, sentenced at the Court of Special Sessions, December 28, 1874, to one year's imprisonment, died at the Penitentiary Hospital on Wednesday afternoon. Coroner Croker was notified to hold an inquest.

The Homœopathic Hospital Fair, at the Twenty-second Regiment Armory, Fourteenth street, near Sixth avenue, still continues to attract large and fashionable companies every afternoon and evening, and to fully please all who attend its brilliant reunions. It will probably be continued into next week. All who would enjoy a most pleasing entertainment should be sure to visit this fair before its close.

The Arcadian Club has elected as its officers and executive council the Hon. R. B. Roosevelt, the Hon. A. S. Sullivan, E. R. Wilbur, R. L. Fabian, B. F. Reinhart, H. Millard, Frank Mayo, M. Dielendorf, Edward Moran, W. A. Bailey, J. S. Polk, D. G. Gillette, Laurence Hutton, J. J. Hall, E. Agramonte, W. M. Soper, W. H. Elder, the Hon. J. N. Tappan, the Hon. S. K. Phelps, Edward L. Gaul, and the Hon. Richard O'Gorman.

A concert will be given in Steinway Hall on Wednesday evening next for the benefit of Olivet chapel at No. 63 Second street, an undenominational house of worship, under the supervision of the City Mission Association, where charity and religion go hand in hand to improve the condition of one of the most crowded sections of our city. The object of the concert should secure it a magnificent financial success, while the programme promises abundant entertainment.

STATEN ISLAND.

The amount of the recent gold discovery upon Staten Island has not yet been definitely determined, and probably never will be. It is certain, however, that the sum is a large one. It is known that the police have secured between $600 and $700 in coin.

The six little girls who last year held a fair in Christ church Sunday schoolroom, in New Brighton, which realized $390, for the benefit of the Smith Infirmary, at Tompkinsville, propose to repeat the work this year, and will open their fair on Thursday, the 29th inst.

A brutal affair occurred on the Hunter's Point drawbridge on Wednesday night, which, it is feared, will prove fatal to one of the participants. The foreman of the Olnphem Oil Works discharged three of the men on Wednesday for some irregularity, and when he was leaving the factory at night was attacked by the men and terribly beaten. His assailants escaped to Greenpoint.

The Taxpayers' Committee on Drainage have been informed that the Commissioners of Drainage for the towns of Southfield, Westfield and Northfield are offering drainage bonds for sale, and have issued a notice to the public that an earnest litigation is going on between the taxpayers and the commissioners regarding the drainage proceedings. Judge Moore, of Kings county, will give his decision on the 1st of May in the suit brought against the commissioners to compel an accounting, and should it be against the taxpayers they will immediately carry the case to the Supreme Court.

THE CIGAR MAKERS' STRIKE.

A meeting of Cuban and Spanish cigar manufacturers was held last night at Mr. Herena's factory, at No. 115 Maiden lane, when it was resolved not to accede to the demands of the cigar makers now on strike. The employers, however, stated that they were willing to confer with the men, who have now been on strike for about a month. The question in dispute between the masters and the men is on a reduction of rates for making cigars to the extent of about six per cent. The majority of the Cuban and Spanish strikers are now engaged in "running the blockade," or making cigars at their residences without licenses; others are working in German manufactories.

THE STRIKE OF BROOKLYN LABORERS.

The laborers of Brooklyn still refuse to go to work under any other agreement than that which will accord them $2 50 per day of eight hours' work. The police are on the alert, and it is due to the idle men who have thus thrown down the hod and the shovel to say that they have not molested any of the men who have taken their places. It is estimated that 2,000 laborers are out of employment, and as a matter of course several hundred bricklayers and masons find nothing to do. The latter are willing to work ten hours, but the laborers say they are not to be bound by arrangements that other workingmen may make. The architects of Brooklyn resolved yesterday that they would not entertain any proposals for building contracts upon the basis of the eight-hour time system. Meanwhile many persons who proposed to build this spring have, in consequence of the strike, determined to bide their time.

MARRIAGES AND DEATHS.

ENGAGED.

ISAIAS—WICE.—Mr. J. M. ISAIAS to Miss EMILY WICE, both of this city. No cards.

MARRIED.

SWIFT—DAVIES.—On Wednesday, April 21, 1875, by the Rev. John Cotton Smith, D. D., LUCY, daughter of Henry E. Davies, of New York city, to SAMUEL SWIFT, M. D., of Yonkers.

TURNBULL—SCREVEN.—On Tuesday, April 20, at St. Bartholomew's church, by the Rev. Samuel Cooke, D. D., ROBERT J. TURNBULL, of Mississippi, to CATHERINE V. R. SCREVEN, of South Carolina.

DIED.

ADAIR.—On Friday, 23d inst., of pneumonia, ROBERT ADAIR, in the 55d year of his age.

Funeral services to take place from his late residence, 440 Canal street, on Monday, 26th inst., at half-past ten o'clock.

ARCHER.—At Upper New Rochelle, on Thursday, April 22, LEWIS ARCHER.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, on Sunday, April 25, at two o'clock, from the Episcopal church, Upper New Rochelle.

AUSTIN.—In Harlem, April 21, 1875, of paralysis, ANTHONY HALLENBECK AUSTIN, son of the late William Austin, of Albany.

Remains taken to Albany for interment.

AYLIFFE.—On Wednesday morning, the 21st inst., of heart disease, RICHARD W. AYLIFFE, late of Parsippanny, N. J.

The relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from Trinity church, New York, without further invitation, on Saturday, the 24th inst., at one o'clock P. M.

BODEN.—In Brooklyn, April 19, FREDERICK WILLIAM BODEN, aged 82 years.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend his funeral, from his late residence, No. 119 Boerum place, on Sunday, the 25th inst., at two o'clock P. M.

BROWNING.—On Wednesday, April 21, ELIZA S., wife of John H. Browning and daughter of John W. Hull, of Stonington, Conn.

The relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral, from her late residence, No. 7 East Forty-eighth street, on Saturday, April 24, at one o'clock.

BULKLEY.—At Southport, Conn., on Wednesday, April 21, of consumption, CASSIE, youngest daughter of Charles and Elizabeth Bulkley.

Funeral, from the residence of her parents, on Monday, April 26, at half-past two P. M. Trains leave the Grand Central depot at 12 M., returning at 6:15 P. M.

BUTLER.—On Thursday, April 22, MARGARET, wife of Pierce Butler, in the 28th year of her age.

The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from St. Paul's church, corner of Fifty-ninth street and Ninth avenue, on Saturday morning, at ten o'clock.

CASSADY.—On Friday, April 23, after two weeks' illness, MAGGIE, widow of John L. Cassady, in the 38th year of her age.

Relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of her sister, Mrs. Georgina E. Beers, 25 East Twenty-ninth street, on Sunday afternoon, at one o'clock.

CLIFFORD.—April 22, 1875, JAMES CLIFFORD, aged 27 years.

Relatives and friends are invited to the funeral, from his late residence, 45 Market street, at two o'clock on Sunday, the 25th.

CLAGGETT.—In Brooklyn, April 22, RUFUS CLAGGETT, aged 69.

Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral services, at his late residence, 170 Ryerson street, on Saturday, April 24, at ten A. M.

COCHRANE.—On Thursday, 22d inst., CAROLINE M., wife of David E. Coch