A KEY TO THE RIDDLE.

Where the Nest-Hiding Similes Came From.

SURPRISES OF THE BEECHER TRIAL.

How Mr. Fullerton Trapped the Defendant.

A Poetic Effusion on the Contrast in the Case.

One of the most remarkable features of the wonderful trial now in such tedious progress in Brooklyn is the constant series of surprises it affords. When the case opened we began to be astonished at the remarkably silly expressions found in the letters offered as part of the evidence. As these documents were read day after day the popular phrases of everyday life were greatly augmented, though not improved. "True inwardness" and "stepping down and out" will probably be remembered long after the scandal trial has faded in the minds of the people. "Grace, mercy and peace," though borrowed from the New Testament, seems a new phrase in the light of the quarrel between Tilton and Beecher; and there are many others of a similar character, such as "on the ragged edge," "solid truthfulness," "The True Story," "white-souled" and "Nest-hiding." All these surprise the ordinary run of mankind, and yet these are only a few of the surprises, for we find that kissing all round was a common incident in the lives of these people, and they acted every day in a way that perplexes common sense readers of the proceedings. One of the greatest surprises afforded in the earlier stages of the trial was the story related by Moulton, and his quiet persistence in its truth while being cross-examined. Then when the witness lost his mother by death he surprised nearly everybody in deciding to go on with the examination to its final end, then only going away to bury his dead out of his sight.

THE NEXT SURPRISE

was in the extraordinary latitude given the plaintiff in his examination, for the opposing counsel led him a pretty dance over all sorts of ground. He talked about religious journalism, woman suffrage, the law of marriage and divorce, the business of public lectures, the doctrines of theology, and on these and other irreleavnt subjects he discoursed at leisure and gave his individual opinions on all. Then other witnesses came and touched upon many matters having no possible relation to the issue before the Court, and the proceedings were thus spun out over four months with no other result, apparently, than to utterly mystify us all.

When the defence began to speak through their witnesses the same freedom in topics was observed, and some very curious and surprising bits of evidence were recorded. The story told by Bessie Turner was full of surprises, and added piquancy to a case already verging on indelicate and dangerous ground. The tripartite narrative was a source of astonishment, and even when the defendant went to the witness stand and boldly and utterly denied the several allegations and accusations of his opponents many people were surprised. Some expressed surprise that he had denied anything, while others were surprised that he denied so much, thinking probably that he might admit a few of the charges against him. There were some people even who appeared bewildered because Mr. Beecher had not confessed everything. But the greatest of all surprises offered during the trial was the discovery made by the plaintiff's counsel touching the nest-hiding and bird-singing business.

BEECHER'S EXPLANATIONS.

During his direct examination Mr. Beecher offered a series of explanations touching Mrs. Tilton's use of the phrase "nest hiding" and saying "that the bird had sung in her breast these four weeks." Those explanations were peculiarly Beecherite in their line of thought, and they failed to satisfy the impartial spectator simply because they failed to cover the real ground. Why a woman should use such remarkable language was not to be explained by the ideas and speculations of Mr. Beecher. Yet while he was thus busy in weaving a graceful theory of his own, neither he nor the public were aware that the crafty counsel on the other side were as busy in digging pitfalls for the witness when he should come into their hands.

The first two days of Mr. Beecher's cross-examination passed off apparently without any other striking incident except the sudden illness of the examiner, and the feeling became general that it would end as uninteresingly as it commenced. Yet the third day opened up a new line of inquiry and furnished us, at least, with

A KEY TO THE CYPHER

used so profusely in the letters of Mrs. Tilton. On that day, just after recess, Mr. Fullerton read one of the letters, in which Mrs. Tilton says to the defendant, "Does your heart bound toward all as it used to do? So does mine. I am myself again." As the counsel read these sentences a new light broke on the letter, for it then appeared clear that Beecher must have used the first sentence in a letter that has not yet been seen in Court. Then, as Mr. Fullerton continued to read on—"I did not dare to tell you till I was sure, but the bird has sung in my heart these four weeks. * * * Spring has come!"—the full significance of the language came with new force and a deeper meaning in view of the explanations of the defendant. While the letter was being read the audience yawned wearilody, for the document had been so often handled before, yet in a moment after every eye in the court room was wide open and every ear on the alert, for the dexterous counsel had struck a new vein in the mine and a new sensation was promised. Mr. Fullerton had just read a portion of the letter containing the sentence "My weapons were love, an eager, untiring generosity and nest hiding," and then he opened a line of fire wholly unexpected to the defence, and, for the matter of that, everybody outside the counsel for the prosecution. He began by saying:—

Q. Before asking you any questions with regard to those letters, Mr. Beecher, I ask you when you commenced writing the novel of "Norwood?" A. At what time did I?

Q. Yes, sir. A. (Referring to a memorandum) I think it was published in the *Ledger*—the New York *Ledger*—in 1867, in the progress of 1867, during the year, and in the book form in 1868.

Q. You misapprehend my question. Mr. Beecher; when did you commence writing that book? A. That I cannot tell you, sir; it was some time, I think, in the year 1867.

Q. You have stated that you read that book, or a part of it, to Mrs. Tilton? A. I read portions of it.

Q. What part of it did you read to her? A. Well, I cannot say how much; I recollect reading one chapter, and that was the chapter of the birth of Rose Wentworth.

Q. Do not you recollect reading other chapters to her? A. Not distinctly; I have an impression that I did.

Q. Did not you read it all to her? A. No, sir.

Q. What is your impression as to the parts of it that you did? A. The opening chapters.

Q. Where did you read it to her? A. I think at her house.

Q. In the day time or in the night time? A. In the day time, as far as I recollect.

Q. Was her husband present or absent? A. I do not recollect.

Q. Rose Wentworth was the heroine of that story, I believe? A. Yes, sir; that is what I tried to make her.

Q. Do you remember in writing that book of borrowing from the habit of the bird in hiding its nest a figure to illustrate the way in which love might be concealed, if it was necessary? A. I do not, sir.

Q. Do you recollect of describing Mr. and Mrs. Wentworth, and especially the peculiarities of the lady in that book? A. No, I have forgotten.

Q. Do you remember using this language:—

"It would seem as if, while her whole life centred upon his life, she would hide the precious secret by singing over it vines and flowers, by mirth and raillery, as a bird hides its nest under tufts of moss and behind leaves and vines, as a fence against prying eyes?

A BOMBSHELL.

This was a regular bombshell, and the attack was kept up vigorously; for, while squabbling over the dates of writing and of publishing, Mr. Fullerton began asking about the picture of the trailing arbutus which the witness had given Mrs. Tilton. Mr. Beecher told a slightly different story from the one he gave his own counsel on direct examination, but that did not attract much attention, for the reason that Mr. Fullerton dipped just then into the novel:—

THE "BREATH OF LOVE."

Q. And do you remember describing the perfume of that flower as the "breath of love?" A. I do not remember it, but if it is there I shall have to stand it.

Q. Let us see if it is there. Speaking of that flower—"It is content though lying upon the very ground. It braves the coldest winters. All the summers cannot elaborate a perfume so sweet as this, which seems to have been born of the very winter. It is like the breath of love. The pure white and pink blossoms and sweet clusters lie hidden in leaves and grass and often under unsightly snow. Blessings on them! They have the fairest and most modest and sweetest breath of all our flowers."

Q. Do you recollect that? A. No, sir; I do not recollect it, but I am willing to own it.

* * * * * *

Q. Did you in that book anywhere speak of the impression which a flower makes upon a sensitive mind? A. I do not know that I did.

Q. Do you recollect whether you did or not? A. I do not; I shall enjoy the re-reading of the book more than I anticipated, having the pleasure of hearing you read it.

Q. Well, you force me to say that I doubt whether you will enjoy it a great deal in the end. If you won't make such observations I will not reply to them.

"The image which a flower casts upon a sensitive medium is simply its own self form; but cast upon a more sensitive human soul, it leaves there not only form but regime, excitement, suggestion."

A. No, sir; I think it is a very good idea, indeed.

Q. Perhaps you will recollect it when I show it to you? A. I do not recollect it, but I find it in the book.

* * * * * *

Q. Now, do you recollect in that book of associating the song of a bird with a love call, as it is termed? A. No, sir, I do not.

Q. Let me read and see if you remember it. Speaking of two of the characters of this book it goes on to say:—"While they thus sat in the open door talking of the loved and absent and both of them thinking down deeply in the silence of the heart of other things which their lips would not repeat a robin flew into one of the trees in the meadow and began singing with the plaintive call for its mate which one hears so often in the summer. It is the robin's sweetest and mostspirited song, and few strains there are which surpass it in tenderness, clearness and brilliancy. Rose had always associated this evening robin song with the idea of a love call to one absent. To-night it seemed more yearning and affectionate than usual. She followed the bird with her eye. At first he sat patiently and sang, then, as it surprised that no response followed, it gave new strength to its call. Now growing restless it changed its place, singing in turn from several trees, and at last flew away as if alarmed lest it were forsaken. It seemed to Rose to say, 'The night is coming on, where is my love? Oh, is he harmed? Am I forsaken?'" Do you recollect that? A. No, sir; it is beautiful, I think, whoever wrote it; I am willing to own it for mine.

The remainder of the day was devoted to analyzing the two letters already alluded to and their significance, taken in connection with the paragraphs in "Norwood." Now, these extracts in reality furnish the key to the riddle that has so long puzzled the outside public, and we now see where all this silly gush about bird songs, nests and spring had its rise. For instance, we find in a conversation between two of the characters in the book these passages:—

"Do you think that a flower, in and of itself, has any moral meaning?"

"Do you think that the reply that words, in and of themselves, have any significance? Words mean whatever they have the power to make us think of when we look on them. Flowers mean what sentiment they have the power to produce in us. The image which a flower casts upon a sensitive plate is simply its own self form; but, cast upon a more sensitive human soul, it leaves there not mere form, but feeling, excitement, suggestion."

And then again we have a fairy story which begins as follows:—

Once came to my fields a pair of birds that had never built a nest nor seen a winter. Oh, how beautiful was everything! The fields were full of flowers and the grass was growing tall, and the bees were humming everywhere. Then one of the birds fell to singing, and the other bird said, "Who told you to sing." And he answered, "The flowers told me, and the bees told me, and the wind and leaves told me, and the blue sky told me, and you told me to sing." Then his mate answered, "When did I tell you to sing?" And he said, "Every time you brought in tender grass for the nest, and every time your soft wings fluttered off again for hair and feathers to line the nest." Then his mate said, "What are you singing about?" And he answered, "I am singing about everything and nothing. It is because I am so happy that I sing."

This nest-building and bird singing seems very familiar after having the letters read so often to the jury, and the same language ripples on nearly every page of the book. Here is a dispute between the parents of the heroine:—

"Doctor, why do you trouble the child? Of course, she don't know yet all the meaning; but that will come to her when she grows older."

"You make a nest of her memory, then, and put words there, live eggs for future hatching."

One would imagine that the author of "Norwood" was in the poultry business instead of the Gospel by the ideas cropping out in his book. Here is another extract that has a deeper meaning:—

But that word sister is the covered way of love. It is the mask which bashfulness wears before it gains boldness enough to say love. It is a gentle sypophant, under which souls consent to remain and dream, in hope, by and by, of a rapturous waking.

Here again we come to spring and birds and singing:—

The inhuman soul, in this its real waking, is like the dawning of spring in the forest. All things good and bad, are quickened alike. The dove comes and the hawk also, the singing thrush and the cawing crow.

Here are three descriptions of the same woman widely separated, yet very like and in somewhat the same vein used in some of the letters:—

Rose had to a singular decree this fine and ineffable sympathy with matter and with mind. She had it without being conscious of it. She was not aware that she lived far deeper into life than others did. Of all things that lived about her, herself was almost the only one which she did not take cognizance of.

* * * * * *

Rose was gifted to the last degree in her constitutional endowments. Every part of her nature was in sympathetic relation to every other part. There were no repulsions or discrepancies between her mental powers. They were in exquisite sympathy; they were in singular symmetry; they were in perfect harmony.

* * * * * *

Rose was regarded as of an affectionate nature; but, in reality, the wealth of her nature lay far below the influence of daily life and unreached. Great as, therefore, were the expectations which her nature excited in those fitted to appreciate her gifts, there was a power beneath, should it ever develop, that would surprise even an ardent expectation.

Here is a passage on love, all in the same sweet cipher and full of the strange "gush" of the trial:—

But love is the acting force of a woman's life, and love is the organizing centre. In some this element is mild, easily susceptible, and as strong at the very first as ever afterward. In others it lies deep, inaccessible, capable of transcendent power; but, unreached by ordinary influences, it goes sometimes all through life undeveloped, reserved for a better life.

Toward the end of the book a herd of cattle and horses, hidden in the mountains from the rebels, is called a nest, "a mountain nest." In fact, the word "nest" appears everywhere. There can be no question, therefore, that in calling attention to "Norwood" Mr. Fullerton gave the public a key to the strange cipher used in the letters, and a careful perusal of the novel reveals many passages which, viewed in the light of current events, have some significance hitherto unsuspected. If Mr. Beecher had never acknowledged the authorship of "Norwood" his testimony and language as a witness would have clearly proven him to be the author.

THE LAST PITFALL

set for Mr. Beecher was laid for his unwary feet during the very last few minutes of his cross-examination. Mr. Fullerton led the defendant on so quietly that he confessed to having been greatly alarmed at the state of his health in 1873. He did that, however, in his direct examination, and it did not seem a very vital point—so the audience sat and wondered at the lawyer going over so much old ground. Mr. Beecher followed his interrogator as innocently as a lamb follows the butcher to the shambles, and he admitted that he had been threatened by and was even now in some danger from apoplexy, and that during that period of trouble about the scandal that would not lie down and sleep, he had often thought sudden death at hand. Having got all this on the record in black and white, Mr. Fullerton exhibited a policy of life insurance, granted about that time of supposed danger to the pastor of Plymouth church, for a large sum, on the express and solemn representation of Mr. Beecher that he was in full health and had no tendencies whatever toward ailment or disease of any kind whatever. Here was a contrast of fiction and fact that was most striking, and as Mr. Fullerton threw down his papers and announced that he had finished with the witness there was a smile on his face which seemed to say, "I have not only finished with him, but I have finished him also."

THE CONTRAST.

I.

The crime is out, the world on foulness feasts
And finds a fecund source of filthy jests;
Low things rejoice to see the high low lain;
Almost all proper shame from man has gone,
And still the unchecked tide creeps darkly on
Ten thousand souls to stain.

"Oh fortunate, O happy day!
When first this scandal came to light;
'Tis more exciting than a war,
Than fifty murders better far."
So newsmen think; but do not say,
"Talk loudly of the people's right
To read the evidence in full;
The judge and jury are too dull;
The people only judge aright."

II.

"And now I sit and muse on what may be,
And in my vision see, or seem to see,"
Through murky vapors, creeping into light,
Shapes horrible misshapen, forms deformed,
While decomposing carrion, myriad-wormed,
Are thrust upon my sight.

The scene is changed. Now, in a hall,
And seated at a table small,
Are man and wife. "Upon them shine
The evening lamps; but, more divine,
The light of love shines over all—
Of love that says not 'mine' or 'thine,'
But 'ours,' for ours is thine and mine.
They want no guests to come between
Their tender glances like a screen,
And tell them tales of land and sea,
And what soever may betide
The great forgotten world outside,
They want no guests; they needs must be
Each other's own best company."

III.

The picture fades at a village fair;
A showman's views dissolve into the air.
To reappear transfigured on the screen;
So is my fancy this; and now once more,
In part transfigured through the open door,
Appears the self-same scene.
Seated I see the two again:
But not alone, they entertain
A nursing devil unaware,
Not "with face rounded as the moon."
No "royal guest with daxen hair,
Who, throned upon his lofty chair,
Drums on the table with his spoon,
Then drops it careless on the floor
To grasp at things unseen before."
On no, an ample printed sheet,
Bearing the evidence complete
Of witness in the Brooklyn trial
In black and white, however vile,
The husband cons it o'er a while,
Then reads it over to his spouse—
Not thinking that it may arouse
In her pure mind a thought of guile;
Not thinking that the vended smell
Hath in it poisoning of hell,
And like an acid can corrode
The portals of the citadel—
The citadel of purity,
Society's security—
And for disorder make a road.

And now the husband lays aside
The paper with the grave remark,
"The ways of ministers are dark;
This scandal lacks not truth I fear;"
To which the wife says, "Really, dear,
It is too early to decide."

IV.

As one who walking in an orchard sees
Bright-feathered offerings flutt'ring 'mid the trees,
Then sudenly detects the mottled sheen
Of a coiled serpent that, with magic lure,
Endeavors their plump sweetness to secure,
So I beheld the scene.
Perched at the little table now
Are Cupid and the Fairy Queen.
Bright glances serve for arrows keen,
And live gold rings the royal brow;
Above their bowls with rims of blue,
Four azure eyes of deeper hue
Are gazing with inquiring glance
And wonderment, while papa reads
Foul-worded tales of filthy deeds
Which multiply with time's advance;
Ah, happy father, couldst thou see
In the broad sheet thou readest there
That lurking devil with his share,
You'd scarcely look without a fear
Into the days that are to be.

V.

Again the scene advances; now I see
A flock of sheep beneath a upas tree;
Poor sheep, their proper shepherd was unwise
And still lacks wisdom, lounging there beneath,
Dividing not the reason of their death,
As each one, gasping, dies.
"I see the table wider grown;
I see it garlanded with guests,
As if fair Armone's crown
Out of the sky had fallen down;
Maidens within whose tender breasts
A thousand restless hopes and fears
Forth reaching to the coming years
Flutter a while, then quiet lie,
Like timid birds that fain would fly,
But do not dare to leave their nests,"
Ah, would that it were so indeed.
"It might have been" had they not read
The foulness of the daily sheet,
And learned, unblushing, to repeat
Words which in less advanced times
Had deeply crimsoned matron brows;
To lightly laugh at social crimes
And scarce be decent on the street;
To hold as nothing marriage vows
And like their brothers to despise
The warnings of parental love:
Oh, ho! old people can't be wise,
For they were born ere free love throve.

VI.

The smooth, bright river, here scarce moved at all,
Quickens its current as it hears the fall,
And so the stream of Life that lingereth
Among the dreamy brightness of our youth,
If left undammed, unguided by the Truth,
With ever-quickening current glides to Death.
And now before my sight there rolls
A dark-hued torrent, deep and strong,
Which in its current bears along
A multitude of ruined souls.
'Tis gone, and in the hall again
I see the two alone remain.
Cupid hath broken Cupid's heart,
The Fairy Queen's a queen indeed.
Not vainly scattered Hell the seed,
The lurking fiend hath done his part;
Sweet jewels, brighter than the day,
He one by one hath stol'n away.
Of maids that might have blessed new homes
One now a wretched wanton roams,
And to my mind another comes
Who shortened her own life, they say;
And of the boys, there's one hath won
Most undesirable renown,
The others side from honor's ray.
"I see the patient mother read,
With aching heart, of wrecks that float
Disabled on broad seas remote,
Or of some great heroic deed
On battle field where thousands bleed
To lift one hero into fame.
Sadly she lifts her graceful head
Above these chronicles of pain,"
And wishes that, with honor dead,
Her sons were numbered 'mongst the slain
Rather than living in their shame.

VII.

"After a day of cloud and wind and rain"
'Tis solacing to see the sun again,
But if the elements still wage the fight
And ruthlessly in wild disorder fling
His own branches 'gainst the forest king
Solemn and sad the night.
What see I now? The night not fair?
The storm of grief, the clouds of care,
The wind, the rain, not passed away?
The lamps not lit, the fire not bright?
Is this the Golden Wedding day?
No guests come thronging through the door,
Quick footsteps sound not on the floor,
No trooping children crowd the stair,
Nor in nor out nor anywhere
Flashes along the corridor
The sunshine of their golden hair;
O'er the round table in the hall
An aged man is bowing low,
While in the fire's cheerless glow
I see a hoary-headed crone,
Sitting stiffened as a stone;
She speaks, her tones are guttural—
"O, wretched! O, unhappy day!
When first that paper found its way
Into the circle of our home,
Mortal poison in its folds,
Bringing with it darkest doom."
Then all was swallowed up in gloom,
And when the gloom was lightened I descried,
As 'twere, the scandal greatly multiplied.
Now, in the scarce revealing light,
Foul carrion with maggots teems;
Now, hideous creatures of the night
Crowd in and in upon the sight
Till the vast concourse boundless seems.

EIRELION

THE AERIAL LADDER CONTRACT.

SECRETARY WHITE DEFENDS HIMSELF AND THE FIRE COMMISSION AGAINST THE IMPUTATIONS OF JOBBERY.

Mr. W. B. White, the Secretary of the Board of Fire Commissioners, in response to a resolution of the Board calling for information relative to his connection with the aerial and flying ladder contract, yesterday submitted a communication, of which the following is a digest:—

Mr. White stated that on the 12th day of September, 1874, he entered into an agreement to purchase from Mrs. Scott-Uda, under certain conditions, the letters patent of the United States and Great Britain, the sole right and interest in the improvement in firemen's ladders for the sum of $15,000, and in support thereof he produced the contract between Michael Uda and Mary Scott-Uda, his wife, duly signed and attested. He further showed that on September 12, 1874, he paid Mrs. Scott-Uda the sum of $5,000, and on September 17 the sum of $10,000, as required by the provisions of the contract; and on the next day received a complete assignment, the original of which he submitted to the Board for their inspection.

On September 25 the warrant of the city of New York in payment for the right to manufacture and use for municipal purposes the said invention was delivered to Mrs. Scott-Uda by her attorney. Three days after he received from Mrs. Scott-Uda the sum of $15,000, and on October 10 the additional sum of $6,124 89, in full for all moneys remaining in her possession after payment of outstanding obligations (by her made dependent upon the collection of the claim against this city).

It having been further verbally agreed that he should purchase the ladder trucks brought to this country for exhibition and use, in case such sale met the approval of certain interested parties abroad, on November 30 he paid Mrs. Scott-Uda, as per such agreement, $1,000.

On December 14, 1874, he also paid her $500 for a certain improvement made by her after the issue of the original patents. From the above account it therefore results that the total profits derived by Mr. White from the purchase of the patents were $4,624 89.

Mr. White further claimed that his statement proved that he had purchased the invention, together with all the improvements on it in the two countries above mentioned, and not the simple purchase of the claim against the city, and in conclusion said:—"I do not feel called upon by your resolution to refute the charges made against the Commission or myself by a portion of the public press, yet I will recall to your recollection the fact that the contract on which this claim against the city was based was concluded, as you are aware, in the meeting of your honorable Board of February 11, 1874, and the bill transmitted to the Finance Department by your order for payment on February 12—that is to say, seven months before this project of sale on the part of Mrs. Scott-Uda, which fact of itself excludes any intention to unduly influence in my own favor or in that of the Commission the payment by the city of this claim. A warrant for payment had indeed been drawn by the Comptroller and was countersigned by the Mayor some time in the month of May, but was withheld from the claimant for reasons not assigned. Some months later, the Comptroller still continuously opposing the payment, suit was instituted with every prospect of an indefinite prolongation. Under these circumstances, Mrs. Scott-Uda desiring to sell, the purchase was made by me with a view of obtaining possession of a patent I believed to be of value. The then pending and unsettled claim against this city, as you will see by referring to the agreement, was not made the subject of any special mention or arrangement, but like various other negotiations more or less advanced in other cities, naturally and inevitably came into my possession with the patent. Subsequent to my purchase I carefully refrained from attempting, directly or indirectly, to influence the same. The claimant had closed her negotiations with the Fire Department; the contract had been stipulated at the exact figures afterward paid, and had received every official audit and formality which the Commission or I, as its secretary, could give seven months before my official relations with her were ended. She was, at the time of my purchase, engaged in a litigation with the Finance Department, which precluded any interference on my part, officially or otherwise.

I knew and know of no law forbidding my entering as a private citizen into a transaction in which my official influence and duty were no longer concerned, and I did not therefore feel that I was violating any official obligation to the Commissioners in entering into the above business contract "without their knowledge or consent."

Conscious that the city has not lost one dollar by my action in the premises, and feeling that your honorable commission has been in no way compromised by the same, I do not feel called upon to offer any apologies for a step taken, to the best of my belief, in the entirely legitimate exercise of my rights as a private citizen."

MUNICIPAL NOTES.

The nominations of Commissioners by the Mayor to fill the vacancies which will occur on 1st of May in the Police, Health, Fire, Charities and Correction, Tax and Park departments will not be sent in to the Board of Aldermen until after the 1st. This is settled. As the charter is peremptory as to when the nominations shall be made (within ten days after the vacancy occurs) they will be sent in on the 6th of May, when the Aldermen hold a regular meeting. It is understood that Mr. Cox will certainly be retained in the Department of Charties and Correction, Mr. Stewart probably in the Park Department, and that out-and-out democrats will succeed General Duryee in the Police, Mr. Van Cott in the Fire, Mr. Moulton in the Tax and Dr. Stephen Smith in the Health departments.

Mr. Miller, the country democrat, who was made a "cat's paw" of by Husted a few weeks ago by introducing Comptroller Green's charter, called at the Mayor's office, but the Mayor like the fashionable mother in "La Famille Benoiton," had "just gone out." What Mr. Miller wanted was not ascertained. At all events if he was after a job on the big pipes he might as well have remained at Albany, for the Mayor has no labor tickets to give away. Had he a patronage grist mill no doubt even a rustic miller would stand a good chance of employment during the coming summer.

The Mayor was served yesterday with a summons and complaint in a suit for damages for injuries received by Patrick Lavelle, who was permanently injured by the falling walls of the crockery warehouse in Duane street a few months ago. The damages are laid at $40,000.

The Mayor, Comptroller and City Chamberlain met yesterday to designate the banks in which the city moneys are to be deposited, but did not come to any definite conclusion about the matter.

THE RING REAL ESTATE.

No. 183 SECOND AVENUE,
NEW YORK, April 23, 1875.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

Please correct error in your issue of the 19th inst., wherein I am made to appear as having purchased property of John H. Keyser, on the north side of Tenth street, 100 feet west of avenue D, 18x25 feet, &c., when the fact is I never purchased any such property. By inserting this you will oblige yours truly, CHARLES J. GOELLER.

OLIVET CHAPEL.

At No. 63 Second street, in the midst of one of the most thickly populated sections of the city, where the common speech is about equally divided between German and English, the City Mission Society has one of its most useful institutions—Olivet chapel. The site was at one time owned by a Presbyterian body, but was donated several years ago to the City Mission Society, and the edifice was by that body opened in the end of the year 1867 for undenominational religious services. A church was organized on this basis, with services in English and German alternately, and from that time to the present persons of both tongues, Methodists, Presbyterians, Baptists, Lutherans, Episcopalians and other sects have here practically discussed sectarianism and labored together for the spiritual and temporal improvement of the inhabitants of the neighborhood. Services—religious, social or industrial—are held at the chapel and its attached rooms almost daily, in which the participants endeavor to serve God and help their neighbors. A large church, with various schools and institutions, has sprung from these labors. Childhood and youth are here made to join in the mission of charity, a sewing meeting being held at stated times, in which the attendants, while themselves being taught how to help themselves in woman's work with the needle, are taught also the lesson of care for others; the product of their industry going into a stock of garments to be given to those most in need of them. This worthy Christian enterprise needs money. To secure this an entertainment has been planned, to take place at Steinway Hall on Wednesday evening, April 28. An "Aunt Polly Bassett Singing Skewl" will be a feature of the occasion, which will also present some music of a more strictly classic character by well known artists. Besides, there will be between the two parts of the musical entertainment an interlude of the popular pastime—a spelling match—in which orthographic proficients will be afforded an opportunity for glory, while the audience will be sure to win abundant amusement.

So attractive a bill of promised pleasures should be sure of itself to attract a crowded attendance, and this, added to the peculiar merit of the humanizing and Christianizing work to which it is to contribute, should insure for Olivet Mission a most abounding benefit from the entertainment.

THE FLORALIA.

A grand festival, to continue for several days, will begin on Wednesday afternoon in the armory of the Seventy-first regiment, at the corner of Broadway and Thirty-fifth street. It will be called "The Floralia," and the monetary proceeds from it will be devoted to the benefit of the Free Training and Cooking Schools, institutions which deserve the patronage of every charitable person. During the Floralia a number of very interesting, as well as instructive, ceremonies will be performed which will express some of the social characteristics of Oriental peoples. A number of Eastern young gentlemen, who are now pursuing their studies in this city, will take the parts in these exhibitions. Every evening there will be dancing, and, altogether the Floralia is likely to be a series of very pleasing entertainments.

ST. JOSEPH'S HOME FOR THE AGED.

A HERALD reporter lately paid a visit to this admirable institution and found the Home filled with 236 old ladies, 104 of whom are penniless and friendless. In conversation with Sister Ulrica, the Superioress of the institution, he learned that the Sisters found it very difficult to make ends meet, as the interest on the debt of $20,000 materially cramps their efforts. The building, which is situated in West Fifteenth street, near Seventh avenue, has a frontage of 125 feet on West Fifteenth street and is 48 feet deep, with two wings each 30x50 feet. It is five stories in height, with a high basement, and contains 135 rooms. The front is built of Philadelphia pressed brick, with liberal use of Ohio stone for trimmings. As this institution receives no aid from the State or city, it has special claims on the public. While the Sisters appeal to the charity of the public they are not inactive. Habits for the dead, stoles and surplices are made in the Home, and fine sewing in all its useful branches is done by some of the inmates under the direction of the Sisters. A visit to the Home will be found pleasant and profitable, and every visitor may be sure of a cordial reception from the Sisters and their aged protégés.

DIED IN CHURCH.

George Tappan fell dead in the second avenue Methodist church last Friday evening of heart disease. He left home about six o'clock in the evening, and started to go to Harlem to "sit up" with a sick friend, but before reaching his destination received intelligence of the death of his friend. This event seemed to have a great effect upon him. He went to the church to find his brother, and after service stopped to talk to his niece. While conversing with her he fell dead. Deceased was sixty-five years of age. Coroner Kessler will hold an inquest in the case.

THE JERSEY BALLOT CONSPIRACY.

ANOTHER VINDICATION OF JERSEY JUSTICE.

The conspirators appointed to act as canvassers by the Police Commissioners, almost the only remnant of the Ring that plundered the taxpayers of Jersey City, met again yesterday at the County Court House. They had hunted for some lawyer over the whole county of Hudson to point out to them the road by which they might escape from jail if they should trample under foot the injunction of Judge Knapp, restraining them from disfranchising any portion of the community. A lawyer appeared before them at last and warned them that they had no alternative except obedience to the order of imprisonment for contempt. They should, therefore, retrace their steps immediately and declare the result of the election for Freeholders in Hoboken based on the whole returns. They should proceed in like manner with regard to the returns from the Eighth district.

At this announcement a member, wearing bushy red whiskers, suggested that the Chairman proceed at once to sum up the returns, as he did not relish the idea of going to jail. There was not a dissentient voice. And the Chairman, with a tremulous voice, directed the clerk to proceed. The action of the conspirators was thereupon reversed, and Messrs. James Curran and Ramon M. Cook were declared the Freeholders elect from Hoboken. Stuhr, who had been previously counted in, was set aside. The returns from the Eighth district were then taken up, and after they were fully canvassed John Dwyer and Thomas P. O'Rothy were declared elected. This result sets aside Charles F. Ruh, who was anxious to obtain a seat. The only other act of the conspirators which it is thought will be altered is the declaration that Henry Van Horn was elected in the Sixth district. Mr. Wickham, it is claimed, is the elected member, but he was set aside. The Board of Freeholders stands nine democrats, five republicans and two independent. If the illegal action of the conspirators regarding the Sixth district were allowed to stand the democrats would only have half the Board, thus creating a deadlock. The prompt action of Judge Knapp in this case has elicited warm commendation throughout the whole county.

THE COURTS.

Penalty of Having Bought Bonds of a Defaulting Official.

THE TEMPLETON CHILD CASE.

The Convicted Counterfeiter, Mason, Refused a New Trial.

Augustus Meyers, a sailor on the ship John Sherwood, convicted of felonious assault upon Isaac Stewart, was, yesterday, in the criminal branch of the United States Circuit Court, sentenced to Kings County Penitentiary for two and a half years.

By consent of the Attorney General of the United States a nolle prosequi was entered yesterday, in the United States Circuit Court, in the various indictments, found some three years ago, against several hundred persons for alleged whiskey frauds.

Judge Barrett, in Supreme Court, Chambers, yesterday, granted a temporary injunction against Otto Echardt, proprietor of Concordia Hall, enjoining him from giving any further performances at his place until he has paid his license fee. As usual in all these theatrical license cases, the injunction was granted on application on behalf of the Society for the Reformation of Juvenile Delinquents.

THE DEFAULTING JERSEY CITY TREASURER.

Something over a year ago, when Hamilton, the Treasurer of Jersey City, after having, as alleged, embezzled some $60,000 worth of bonds and other securities belonging to the city and sold the same and pocketed the money, fled to Mexico, taking a beautiful young actress with him, there was quite a stir in financial circles. He was finally traced to his place of refuge, arrested, and, though claiming to have been meantime fleeced out of the most of his money by Cortina, brought back to Jersey City, where he is now awaiting trial. Among those to whom Hamilton sold some of the stolen bonds was William Leight, a broker of this city, he having purchased from him $5,000 worth of Jersey City bonds. The Grand Jury of the Court of General Sessions at its present session found an indictment against Leight, charging him with having been possessed of the bonds, knowing the same to have been stolen. An application was made yesterday to Judge Donohue, of the Supreme Court, by Mr. William F. Kintzing and John G. Stott, to admit Leight to bail. It was urged in the application that he bought these bonds in the course of his regular business; that he paid their full market value; that he supposed that Hamilton, from his position as Treasurer, was authorized to sell them, and that there was no question of his being able to substantiate his innocence at the trial. On this statement of facts Judge Donohue granted the application, fixing the bail at $10,000, which was promptly furnished, Mr. George Ray, a real estate broker, becoming his bondsman. Meantime it is stated that, notwithstanding the present indictment, the Jersey City authorities propose to repudiate all their bonds sold by Hamilton, and that for this reason the trial of the latter is delayed, it being proposed as a *dernier ressort* to allow him to turn State's evidence.

THE TEMPLETON CHILD CASE.

The examination to determine the question whether Colonel William C. Templeton shall continue to retain in his care his grandchild, Willie C. Templeton, or whether he shall be given to his mother, Mrs. Ida Maud Templeton, continues to drag its slow length along before Judge Donohue, of the Supreme Court. There was another several hours' session yesterday, before a crowded court room, as usual. It lacked, however, the spicy flavor of the previous examinations through Judge Donohue keeping under close rein the restive counsel, Mr. John D. Townsend and ex-Judge Busteed. A sharp legal rencontre and crossing of lances seemed imminent on several occasions, but the Judge has evidently got tired of this sort of thing and kept them down to business.

Only two witnesses were examined. The first called was C. S. Kimball, a resident of Brooklyn. He gave some damaging testimony as to the character of Mrs. Templeton and her mother, Mrs. Babcock. It was very evident that he was a reluctant witness, as the testimony was likewise damaging to himself. On his cross-examination he admitted that he had been arrested over in Brooklyn for giving a check on a bank without having the money to meet it. He explained on the redirect that he asked the party to whom he gave the check to hold it a day or two before presenting it, which was not done, and the money not being in the bank he was thereupon arrested, indicted and admitted to bail, and from all he had been able to learn a nolle pros. had been entered in the case. It was understood that the other side had been active in the matter and had an officer of Brooklyn to arrest him as he left the court room. With the examination of this witness Mr. Townsend rested.

Dr. Julius S. Birdsall was the first witness called on behalf of Mrs. Templeton. He testified that he had known Mrs. Templeton and her mother for several years and Colonel Babcock for twenty-five years. He gave both the ladies a high character, and said that Colonel Babcock was abundantly able to provide for them and the support of the child. On his cross-examination by Mr. Townsend, he admitted that he had, during his years of acquaintance with Mrs. Templeton and her mother, only called on them some eight times, and then only saw them in the parlors of boarding houses. At the close of his testimony an adjournment was had for one week. The case promises to be through about the time the Beecher trial ends.

MASON THE COUNTERFEITER.

In the United States Circuit Court yesterday Judge Benedict denied the motion of General Foster, counsel for George Albert Mason, for a new trial. The Court said that after a full review of the case he was convinced that the defendant received justice, and therefore the motion was denied. Of the counts one, he thought, could be sustained, and this was the second, and there were no discrepancies between the language of it and the bill offered in evidence to justify the granting of a motion for a new trial. He further said that the indictment was drawn with the greatest carelessness, and he hoped that he might never be compelled to try a case where so little care was taken in the preparation of the indictments. The prisoner, therefore, would be sentenced on the second count. At the request of District Attorney Bliss, who stated that he wanted to present affidavits showing Mason's previous bad character, the passing of sentence was adjourned until next Saturday.

DECISIONS.

SUPREME COURT—CHAMBERS.

By Judge Barrett.

Townshend vs. Pollard; Mutual Life Insurance Company vs. Whipley; Rust vs. Abbott; Montant vs. Dibble; Dowd vs. Dohonevend; Van Sauer vs. Bayard (No. 1); Van Sauer vs. Bayard (No. 2); Galway vs. Bayard; Philip vs. Chapin.—Motions granted.

Slossen vs. Slossen.—I want an explanation of the previous denial of the motion.

Turner vs. Turner.—Report of referee confirmed and judgment of divorce granted to plaintiff.

COMMON PLEAS—SPECIAL TERM.

By Judge Loew.

Lowenstein vs. Jackson.—Motion for leave to file and serve a supplemental answer granted.

Glendenning et al. vs. Connory.—I think the sureties are sufficient.

Fisher vs. Fisher; O'Gorman vs. Kamak.—See memorandum for counsel.

Wilkes vs. Simmons.—Undertaking should be approved both as to the form and sufficiency of sureties.

Morrise vs. Wheeler.—Motion to open default granted on payment of $25 costs.

In the Matter of the petition of Stephen Stone—Application granted.

ESSEX MARKET POLICE COURT.

Before Judge Otterbourg.

ALLEGED HIGHWAY ROBBERY.

Harris Perriner, of No. 143 Essex street, accused Marks Rosengarten, of No. 98 Orchard street, of knocking him down on the corner of Grand and Norfolk streets, about seven o'clock on Friday evening, and rob