CHEAP CABS.

A New Movement Toward Preventing Extortion and Other Abuses.

THE MAYOR AND HACK OWNERS.

Cost of Running Coaches and Stages, and the Revenue They Yield.

The efforts of the HERALD to bring about a cheaper system of cabs, and its exposure of the abuses of that now in vogue, have been attended by success in one direction at least. The hack owners have made a move in the direction of reform. They have begun to agitate and are discussing earnestly the question with a view to ascertaining what can be done toward making a change that may be somewhat satisfactory. As shown in these columns yesterday there are two factions—the Public Hackowners' Association and the special license men. The former have been busy for a week or two, the latter have just stirred. One of the first results of the commotion created was seen yesterday at the Mayor's office in the visit of a delegation from the first named association to His Honor Mayor Wickham. At half-past two Messrs. Richard Jones, Thomas Boylston, Edward Willis, Maurice Hyland and Daniel Linge called upon the Chief Magistrate, accompanied by Captain Leary, of the Twenty-sixth precinct, to ask for the removal or numbering of the vehicles at the hotel stands, depots and ferries, to whose drivers the association attribute much of the injustice and, extortion complained of. Mr. Boylston, Secretary o the Association, addressed Mr. Wickham, saying that the delegation had come for the purpose specified, and Captain Leary added that he thought the request was a just one. Mayor Wickham's reply, according to the delegation, was concluded in these terms:—"If you, gentlemen, will put your request in writing I will receive it and confer with the Corporation Counsel on its propositions to ascertain what can be done in the premises." The delegation then withdrew and visited the Mayor's Marshal's office to seek his views on the subject. Some little while afterward a HERALD reporter met the delegates by appointment and learned from them that the points of relief desired and to be hereafter incorporated in a document to the Mayor are these:—"To give an equal chance to all hackowners by doing away with special licenses; to deprive those now enjoying exclusive privileges on the docks and in the hotels of their chances to obtain strangers on their arrival in the city at exorbitant charges and to establish a rule whereby honest competition in the cab traffic may be encouraged, to the advantage of the public." These requests are concurred in, and will, Mr. Boylston said, be signed by the following hackowners:—

Richard Jones, No. 233 Sullivan street; Thomas Boylston, No. 215 East Thirty-eighth street; Edward Willis, No. 315 East Twenty-third street; John Freeman, No. 204 East Thirty-eighth street; John Fulton, No. 294 Third avenue; John Finnelly, No. 156 East Thirtieth street; James O'Connor, No. 155 East Forty-first street; Daniel Coleman, No. 102 East Forty-first street; Martin Hart, No. 186 West Fourth street; Joseph Renville, No. 153 East Forty-first street; Owen Duggan, No. 443 West Thirty-sixth street; Thomas McGuire, No. 212 East Forty-seventh street; Robert Moorehead, No. 203 East Forty-first street; Samuel McKee, No. 235 West Thirty-ninth street; Bartel Keeton, No. 223 West Thirty-fifth street; Nicholas Scott, No. 233 East Thirty-seventh street; Dennis Quigg, No. 182 Thompson street; James Kelly, No. 41 South Fifth avenue; John Lenihan, No. 394 Second avenue; Gustave Ratur, No. 438 West Thirty-first street; Ernest McDonald, No. 146 East Thirty-ninth street; Patrick McMann, No. 213 East Broadway; Thomas Harlin, No. 238 East Twenty-fourth street; Richard Johnston, No. 336 East Thirty-third street; Thomas Burke, No. 232 West Twenty-eighth street; Thomas Burton, No. 141 East Twenty-third street; John Kelly, No. 175 Bleecker street; William Palethorpe, No. 182 Thompson street; Michael Smyth, No. 528 Ninth avenue; Rudolph Schmidt, No. 41 Lexington avenue; James Dillon, No. 315 First avenue; Michael Halpin, No. 420 East Seventeenth street; D. S. Combs, No. 441 East Fourteenth street; Patrick O'Leary, No. 423 East Fourteenth street; Garrett Comba, No. 239 East Thirteenth street; Robert Canton, No. 201 East Thirty-sixth street; Patrick Murphy, No. 3 Vestry street; Patrick Cosgrove, No. 237 West Seventeenth street; Andrew McGowan, No. 558 Third avenue; Michael Lavin, No. 211 East Fortieth street; William H. Haley, No. 268 West Fortieth street; Robert Martin, No. 201 East Thirty-sixth street; Thomas Boland, No. 528 Ninth avenue; John Gartland, No. 326 West Fortieth street; James Neary, No. 26 South Fifth avenue; James McAloer, No. 46 Hamilton street; Morris Hyland, No. 13 Pyke street; George Noonan, No. 141 East Twenty-third street; John Kelly, No. 110 West Thirty-fifth street; William W. Goodspeed, No. 204 East Twenty-sixth treet; John Clarke, No. 156 West Twenty-eighth street; Michael Curly, No. 517 Pearl street; James St. John, No. 105 West Thirty-second street; William Patterson, No. 465 Third avenue; John Beekman, No. 431 East Eighteenth street; Timothy Slattery, No. 48 Leroy street; Patrick Kehoe, No. 139 East Thirteenth street; Edward West, No. 344 East Thirty-third street; John Conroy, No. 204 East Twenty-second street; Patrick McCue, No. 337 West Thirty-seventh street; James McCorey, No. 357 East Twentieth street; Peter Dusman, No. 218 Fifth avenue; James Shorten, No. 148 West Twentieth street; William Ready, No. 511 East Fifteenth street; Thomas J. Moss, No. 59 Cannon street; James Maclin, No. 404 East Seventeenth street; John Walsh, No. 712 Second avenue; Patrick Sharkey, No. 357 East Twentieth street; Charles Pollard, No. 162 West Twenty-sixth street; Joseph Hackett, No. 52 Spring street; Frederick Beekman, No. 230 avenue A; John Fellows, No. 1 West Thirteenth street; Patrick Cavanagh, No. 158 West Eighteenth street; Thomas Moyar, No. 228 East Forty-fifth street; Patrick Brady, No. 990 Second avenue; George Weakly, No. 36 Lexington avenue; Patrick McCullum, No. 234 Mulberry street; Robert Dickson, No. 438 West Twenty-fifth street; John Doyle, No. 70 East Forty-ninth street; Hugh Smith, No. 221 First avenue; Patrick Collins, No. 21 Third street; Lawrence Lamb, No. 257 Elizabeth street; Thomas Smith, No. 356 East Tenth street; William Colahan, No. 385 East Tenth street; John Gartland, No. 358 West Twenty-fifth street; Thomas Maclin, No. 340 East Thirteenth street; Thomas McDonnell, No. 141 East Twenty-third street; John Gosler, No. 431 East Twelfth street; Dennis Hays, No. 210 Sixth street; John Gannon, No. 19 Stanton street; Charles Etling, No. 236 East Forty-sixth street; James Bunnan, No. 241 East Twenty-fourth street; Harmon Bohack, No. 221 Thompson street; George W. Harris, No. 215 West Fortieth street; Edward Doyle, No. 105 Seventh avenue; Peter Hogan, No. 145 East Thirty-second street; Patrick Brennan, No. 241 East Twenty-fourth street; Charles Bush, No. 22 Dominick street; Christopher Archibald, No. 171 Fifth avenue; Patrick McLaughlin, No. 24 East Fourth street—and 210 others.

From this it may be seen that the cabmen are keenly alive to the necessity of doing something at once to divert the tide of public indignation which threatens to overwhelm them.

MAYOR WICKHAM'S VIEWS.

After being apprised of the action of the delegation just referred to a HERALD reporter called on Mayor Wickham and had quite a long talk with him. His Honor confirmed the statement of the association's secretary so far as it related to his disposal of their request, adding that he could not do anything unless the propositions were presented to him in tangible form and in writing. He did not care to enter at this moment into a review for publication of its merits. He was only aware that a cheaper system of cabs was needed. So far, however, as the latest ordinance—which was published in the HERALD—was concerned, his opinion had been very fully and clearly expressed in his veto of it when first passed last month at the suggestion of the Public Hack Owners' Association. Mr. Wickham said to the reporter, "as my opinion then declared remains unchanged I wish you would look at the veto. Here it is."

THE VETO.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT—CITY HALL, NEW YORK, March 2, 1876.

TO THE HONORABLE THE COMMON COUNCIL:—

GENTLEMEN—I herewith return to you, without my signature or approval, the ordinance entitled "An Ordinance to amend chapter XI. of the Revised Ordinances of 1866, relating to Hackney Coaches and Cabs."

It is within the experience of visitors to and residents in the city generally that the committee which reported this proposed ordinance would have been quite justified of the facts in animadverting even more vigorously than they have done upon the necessity for revision and amendment of the ordinances now in force upon this subject, and it is evident from the inspection of the paper herewith returned that there is much reason in the suggestion with which the report ends, that the time allotted to the work has been insufficient for that thorough inquiry and careful consideration which should precede final action upon the case which was before them.

There are many provisions of the present ordinances which can be changed for the better, and this is the time, above all others, for a deliberate effort to that end. But the most material of the amendments proposed by the Committee seem to be all in the wrong direction.

The rates now allowed to be charged by drivers of hacks and cabs are generally thought to be too high, and the penalties provided for charges in excess of those which are authorized and for other violations of the ordinances are inadequate to prevent them. The amendments proposed by the committee afford, however, no better remedies and no larger security against violations of the city law in these respects, and the rates of charges recommended by the committee are much higher than those now allowed—for short distances, and for a single person carried, the proposed rates being actually double the rates which are now found oppressive, and which are complained against every day by luckless travellers, whose necessities make them a prey to extortion.

Legislation which is intended to benefit unduly one portion of the community at the expense of the rest, creates a privileged class, and I know of no reason for extending at this time the privileges of the class for the advantages of which this measure is advanced.

The burdensome cost of travel within the city in hacks and cabs, like the oppressive local charges here made for moving freights, have brought New York into deserved research. And the recent thorough discussion of the subject by merchants and others more immediately affected has revealed the fact that the material interests of the city are, from those causes, suffering to an extent which has not been generally suspected by diversion to other cities of trade which would, under other circumstances, have come to New York.

After the period of inflation, speculation and extravagance through which the country has passed during the last fifteen years, all values are shrinking and all prices are declining to reasonable proportions.

And now, that the city is expecting to be filled during the summer with visitors from Europe and elsewhere to the Centennial Exposition, the time for legislation, which (even though not so intended) would tax all strangers in the city in excess of sums the allowance of which already subjects us to unfavorable criticism, does not seem to be well chosen. The proprietors and drivers of hacks and cabs could, on the other hand, very well afford to submit now to a reduction of present rates, in view of the fact that the coming season will largely increase their opportunities for augmented receipts from the unusual crowds who will require such vehicles.

For these reasons I feel constrained to withhold my approval from the proposed ordinance in its present shape, and to return it to you, as I now do, for further consideration. WILLIAM H. WICKHAM, Mayor.

"Now," continued Mr. Wickham, "I don't think anything more explicit than is herein contained could be written in this connection. Later on, however, the Board of Aldermen, disregarding my veto, passed the ordinance. Aldermen Billings, Gross, Gumbleton, Guntzer, Hess, Keenan, Lysaght, McCarthy, Pinckney, Purroy, J. Reilly, B. Reilly, Sauer, Seery, Sheils, Twomey and Wade voting in the affirmative, and the President of the Board and Aldermen Howland and Morris in the negative on reconsideration."

A SPECIAL LICENTIATE'S VIEWS.

Mr. E. Van Ranst, who has a stand at the Astor House and is one of the oldest hack owners in the city, having been in the business since 1842, said to a HERALD reporter yesterday afternoon that there were two sides to the charges made against those who enjoyed special licenses, himself among the number. He contended that accusations of excessive rates laid at their door by the Public Hack Owners' Association were unjust as well as untrue. "The list of prices published in the HERALD yesterday," said he, "seems to be higher than those prescribed by the new ordinance. In reality they are not. We take a man or two to Forty-second street, a distance of nearly three miles for $1 50, or about fifty cents per mile, while the new rates allow $1 a mile. Special licenses are granted to responsible persons for the very purpose of preventing extortion on strangers. Not a dishonest hack owner in this city would be allowed to run his coaches from any of the first class hotels, and I will assure you that if one of my men were reported to me for having asked an unreasonable fare from a passenger I would discharge him. The cheating is done by irresponsible men, and not by those who, like the specially licensed, are known by everybody and have something to lose."

WHY CABS MAY BE RUN CHEAPLY.

There can be very little doubt that cabs may be run much more cheaply than they are now. In the first place, even the hack owners allow that the ordinance of 1839, which placed the prices at fifty cents a mile and seventy-five for two miles, was not thought so low within the last ten years as to be cancelled and higher rates fixed. In the second place, a one horse coupé, driver, outfit and animal considered, can be supported profitably, according to the admission of a well known hackman, at $5 50 a day, and a two horse carriage, driven by its owner, will pay him well if the receipts be $6, so that allowing the horse to travel twelve miles per diem at fifty cents a mile, there is a fine margin of profit for its owner. But a fair test of what can be realized by persons who are willing to meet the public demand for cheaper hacks may be gleaned from the following statement which was made yesterday to a HERALD reporter by a person connected with the stage lines. He said that each stage has three teams or six horses, whose keep will not exceed an average of $6 a day, and the whole turnout, driver included, will not cost a company over $10 per day the year round. Each stage makes about seven trips, earning $2 40 on each at ten cents a passenger. The total average receipts per diem for every one of these conveyances is in the neighborhood of $16 50 or $6 50 more than their running expenses. "This," said he, "is probably as just an estimate of what our stages earn, take them the year round, as can be given you; so that you may judge how much it costs to conduct economical transportation in this city." The same gentleman added that cabs could be put upon our streets in a more profitable manner than they now are if they were kept continually on the move looking for passengers, who should not be charged more than fifty cents a mile at the outside. Even thirty cents a mile, in his opinion, would afford generous interest to persons who invested their money in the cab business, for, instead of idling for hours without fares, on the stands, as they now do, people in general would be more apt to ride, when in a hurry, in a hack than in either stage or railroad car.

LOW LICENSE—LOW FARE.

NEW YORK, April 7, 1876.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

I read with very much interest divers letters from the people for the last few days regarding our hackney and cab fares. I would like to inform you of my opinion as a hack and cab owner. The people ought to write to those who have charge of our cabs, &c., telling them to lower our license, as it is so high each year that it does not leave us much profit by our present rate of fares. If our licenses were lowered we would be very happy to accommodate the people with less fares. Why not let us regulate our own rates as the cars and omnibuses did? We would have them to suit the people of New York just as well as it is done in London. Hoping that you will insert this in your valuable paper, I am yours. PATRICK COFFY.

THE LONDON CABRIOLET.

NEW YORK, April 7, 1876.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

Now that it is merely a question of time when we shall have cheap cabs in New York it is right to consider what style of vehicle is the best for "the wants of the people." The richer portion of the inhabitants being supplied already with these magnificent two-horse hacks, which may be hired on any of the stands, while for the carriage of extra baggage there are expressmen in abundance to be had at fifty cents apiece, I scarcely think that an ordinary London cabriolet can well be improved upon. It is built to hold four adults and the top is arranged so that luggage can be put upon it, with rails around to prevent its tumbling off. By this means a family who do not carry a large quantity of baggage can save the expense and inconvenience of an expressman. Another advantage of this vehicle is that it is built narrow, so that in crowded thoroughfares there is not so much likelihood of a "block" taking place. C. W.

NO SEAT NO FARE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

As the railroad companies promised, they have buried the "No Seat No Fare" bill completely out of sight. The people of New York are entirely at the mercy of the car owners. Even the report of the Railroad Commission hangs fire in its confirmation. The Legislature has no idea of acting upon the above bill unless forced to do so, in which event the bill is to be killed by amendments. The plan has been arranged and the wherewithal provided.

An act for the protection of soda water bottle manufacturers was of such momentous importance to the public that the people's representatives made it a law of the State the third bill of the session, but any move looking toward the correction of railroad evils, however well founded it may be, will be sure to find the "rocky road to Dublin" when it reaches a New York State Legislature. ANTI-MONOPOLY.

APRIL 6, 1876.

NEW YORK LIBERAL CLUB.

MR. JAMES PARTON'S LECTURE ON THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS.

The 340th regular lecture, given under the auspices of the New York Liberal Club, was delivered last evening at their rooms, Plimpton Building, by Mr. James Parton, and the subject chosen was "The Continental Congress." After some introductory remarks the lecturer referred to the Congress of 1774, which was distinctly a legislative body, each colony having contributed its most representative men. It was not a large gathering, and it became very small as the times grew stringent. Their movements were watched with considerable interest on every side. England was then the bully of the world. She was not only the only mistress, but she was alone in her conquest. After conquering Spain, then Holland, and finally France, its potent and menacing Empire was divided against itself. The England of that day was like the England of to-day—Chinese conservatism with progressive wisdom. The Southern delegates of the Congress had a rather weary journey through the wilderness at that time. In 1774 travellers between Baltimore and Philadelphia were compelled to hire guides to show them the way. Baltimore was then a village of eighty houses, and there were few large settlements along the coast; hence the Southern members were not cheered on their way by enthusiastic and sympathetic populations, but emerged from the woods into the umbrageous and comfortable Philadelphia.

The lecturer then proceeded to describe the meeting of the Congress referred to in Carpenters' Hall. It had taken those who had left Boston nineteen days to reach Philadelphia, and some interesting incidents were narrated concerning the preliminary arrangements of the Congress. The delegates walked in powdered wigs, knee breeches and buckled shoes—something similar to the dress worn by Sir Peter Teazle—from the City Tavern to the Carpenters' Hall. He referred to the opening of the proceedings and the gravity of the surroundings and paid a high tribute to the noble spirit which animated the delegates. He referred to the address of Patrick Henry, only parts of which had been remembered, but he struck the keynote when he said he proclaimed himself as not belonging to any particular State, but as an American. He alluded to the grandeur and simplicity of the Congress in question and which, he said, had elicited the admiration of the greatest minds. It had been well observed that for solidity of reasoning, force of sagacity and wisdom of conclusion it had never been surpassed. The question might naturally arise how it was that the colonists could so easily select from the mass of the people their most wise men to represent them in Congress. He explained it by showing that in the colonial period the ablest men in the community worked themselves into the affection and respect of the people. They were sent to the various Legislatures, and there became acquainted with each other; and accordingly from these the best were chosen. And it was the problem of to-day how a similar course could be pursued. He submitted that no man should sit in a legislative body and impose burdens on his fellow citizens unless he was going to carry part of the load himself. Surely no man should sit in Congress, State Legislature, or in a Board of Aldermen unless he had managed his own affairs with honorable success. He did not believe in a government of poor devils; but a government of rich devils was worse.

After referring to the events which succeeded the Congress, the commencement of hostilities and the sensation which the announcement of the battle of Bunker Hill created, the lecturer proceeded to narrate many novel and interesting facts, which were listened to with the greatest attention on the part of the audience. Mr. Parton infused at times a good deal of humor into his lecture, especially in regard to some of the traditional sayings and anecdotes of those who took an active part in the great movement which led to the independence of the country. He also cited many incidents illustrative of the straits to which the members of Congress were then reduced. They were frequently tested by allurements of wealth and office. John Rein was offered £10,000 to help to undo independence. His reply was in simple words, "I am not worth purchasing; but, such as I am, the King of Great Britain is not rich enough to do it." Calumny, the blight and the peril of a free country, pursued the Congress then as it did the Congress of to-day. For fourteen years in all the Continental Congress governed the United States. It was, in fact, President, Cabinet and Congress—a kind of Venetian Senate without a doge. It made war and concluded peace; it appointed, promoted and degraded generals; it sent and received ambassadors; it gave us decimal currency, which would, no doubt, in time be adopted by all the world. Never was a government more defective and yet more successful, and having fulfilled its mission, it became unsuitable and insufficient; and when the country became ripe for another better organized government, the Continental Congress did a wise thing in going quietly out of existence.

Mr. Parton's lecture was exceedingly interesting throughout, and at its conclusion he was given a unanimous vote of thanks by the members of the club.

ANTI-TAMMANY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the anti-Tammany Executive Committee was held at Irving Hall last evening. This committee is composed of sixty six members—three from each Assembly district and three each from the Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth wards. There was a full attendance. Among the members were Senator Bixby, Colonel McMahon, Ira Schafer, ex-Alderman Menheimer, Charles H. Swann and others. The main object of the assemblage was the election of permanent officers of the Executive Committee for the year 1876. Mr. Charles Crary presided and Mr. W. P. Mitchell acted as secretary.

After calling the roll the names of Thomas J. Creamer, Emanuel B. Hart, Charles W. Brookes, Charles Crary and several others were placed in nomination.

A vote was then taken by districts with the following result:—

Charles W. Brookes, 18.
Emanuel B. Hart, 29.

After some debate as to the rights of chairmen of standing committees in the General Committee to vote on the election, Mr. Brookes withdrew his name and moved the selection of Mr. Hart by acclamation. This motion was carried.

Mr. Hart then assumed the chair and returned thanks for the honor conferred on him. He advised harmony in all the proceedings of the committee and the abandonment of all personal animosities for the general good of the organization.

William P. Mitchell and John F. Carroll were then elected Permanent Secretaries.

James Hayes, of the Third district, was elected Treasurer.

After the transaction of some unimportant routine business the committee adjourned.

POLITICAL BARGAINS DENOUNCED.

A meeting of the German-American Citizens' Association was held last evening at Beethoven Hall. Mr. Wendt presented the following resolutions:—

Resolved, That the bill now before the Legislature entitled "A bill in relation to certain offices in the city of New York and nominations and appointments to fill the same" has our unqualified approval. The principle embodied therein is based upon equity and justice, and is more conducive to better government, as by its adoption the Mayor elect, the chosen exponent of the people's will, is enabled to select such men for the offices to be filled as have his confidence and are in accord with the policy the people have indorsed at the polls.

Resolved, That we deeply regret to see indications of a bargain by political factions, by which the best interests of the city are bartered away in the interest of wily politicians and cunning wirepullers. Such an unholy alliance will surely and must be repudiated by the people at the polls; and we trust that all those who prefer a good reputation to a temporary advantage, the confidence of the people to promises of a political leader, will refuse to consummate such a bargain by their votes.

Resolved, To send a copy of these resolutions to every member of the Legislature.

Coroner Ellinger, in a brief address, strongly indorsed these resolutions and denounced the appointments of Mayor Wickham of School Commissioners and Excise Commissioners in the strongest terms.

The resolutions were then adopted unanimously.

On motion of Colonel Dengler resolutions regretting the death of Surrogate Van Schaick were adopted.

STATEN ISLAND POLITICS.

On Monday last the Richmond county Democratic General Committee met at Nautilus Hall, Tompkinsville, and chose delegates to the State Convention. This action, without the usual preliminary of primary meetings, the party throughout the county have rebelled against, and a mass meeting has been called at the same place for Monday evening next, to take action for holding primaries. Now Mr. Samuel R. Brick, chairman of the committee, who was appointed one of the delegates, declines to serve, and has sent out notices to the members of the committee to meet again on Monday, also at the same place, to appoint the time for primaries in the usual way, for the purpose of selecting another set of delegates. The two meetings having been called for the same time and place a lively time is anticipated.

POLITICAL NOTES.

The Houlton (Me.) *Times* is out for Bristow for President. The Bangor *Whig* (rep.) says the *Times* is not a republican paper and hence has no right to speak for the republican papers in the State, which are unanimously in favor of Blaine.

Grimes is the name of a new county made out of the east end of Pottawattomie, Iowa. Two years ago an effort was made to divide this county and it was proposed to call it Belknap, but some sage legislator suggested the impropriety of naming anything after any living statesman or warrior.

Judge Ellis has decided in a case at Davenport, Iowa, that church parsonages, bishops' residences, &c., are not exempt from taxation as church property. The decision puts $100,000 worth of property on the tax books of that city. An appeal has been taken to the Supreme Court.

The Elko *Post* says it is stated that four of the Nevada delegation to the Republican National Convention are in favor of Bristow, one for Blaine and one for Hayes.

Referring to the "new movement" among the republicans in Massachusetts, the Worcester *Gazette* says:—"We should feel more confidence in the strength of the movement if it had started more aggressively. It will not be possible to control the Convention without hurting somebody's feelings. At the same time we believe that there was good faith in the inception of the plan, and we have no wish to discourage any honest endeavors to elevate the republican party."

The Lockport (N. Y.) *Union* (dem.) has come to the front in double leaded brevier in favor of Sanford E. Church, of New York, as the democratic candidate for President.

John M. Francis, of the Troy *Times*, now travelling abroad, cordially indorses the course of his paper in sustaining Senator Conkling. He writes from Athens:—"I am heartily and earnestly in favor of Mr. Conkling. I certainly desire his nomination. If that cannot be, I would try as far as my judgment and little influence could contribute to that end to secure the nomination of the next best and strongest man."

In summing up the results of the Connecticut election the Hartford *Courant* (rep.) says:—"We have no doubt that in the coming national campaign the voice of the State will be unmistakably for the Union party, led by men who, like the candidate of the Union party in this State, will represent the true sentiment of the nation for honesty and reform."

The Columbus *Independent* hoists the name of General Jacob Sharpe for Congress. The Chickasaw *Messenger* is for Hon. Robert McIntosh. Either would be a splendid nomination.—*Jackson (Miss.) Clarion (dem.)*

The New Haven *Palladium* (rep.) recommends ex-President Woolsey, of that city, as a suitable personage to represent this country at the Court of St. James.

The *Palladium* argues that the overwhelming democratic victory in Connecticut proves that the republicans will carry the State in November! The logic is unique, and reminds one of the chap whose lottery ticket came so near drawing a prize that he thought another purchase would bring it.—*New Haven Register (dem.)*

The announcement that James G. Blaine would hold a levée at a hotel in Woonsocket, R. I., on the 1st o April, attracted quite a large audience.

Governor Elisha Baxter declines to be considered a candidate for renomination as Governor of Arkansas.

Says the Rome *Sentinel* (dem.), referring to the Democratic National Convention:—"If it is found that the winning man can be selected from New York, well and good. But let the winning man be chosen, no matter what part of the Union he hails from."

The Exeter (N. H.) *News-Letter* (rep.) is out for Bristow, and avers that the late election in that State meant his nomination and nothing else.

The Chambersburg (Pa.) *Repository* (rep.) flings out the name of Hartranft for President.

CONGREGATIONAL DISSENSIONS.

FOUR MINISTERS WITHDRAW FROM THE NEW YORK AND BROOKLYN ASSOCIATION—THEIR VIEWS ON THE SPLIT.

There is likely to be a permanent split in the association of Congregational ministers of New York and Brooklyn in consequence of the action taken on Mr. Beecher's case. Four ministers have already sent a letter of withdrawal to the Moderator, the Rev. George Whipple. These are Drs. William Ives Budington, Richard S. Storrs, William M. Taylor and Rev. H. H. McFarland. Further than this withdrawal nothing definite has yet transpired, but it is believed that the split will lead to other action on the part of the protesting members. Others may follow their example, as at least nine voted against the resolutions, and those withdrawing may, if they deem it wise, form a new association. They considered, for the moment, only the point of refusing their sanction to the resolutions adopted. Their withdrawal is not of special significance, in so far as it concerns the churches. Some pastors join an association without the knowledge of their congregations, and in leaving it they merely act with regard to their personal responsibility. The association gives no law to the churches. It is merely a convenience to its members for certain purposes, among others the examination of candidates for the ministry. There is very little discussion of Church questions, and some of the withdrawing members say that it has as little to do with Church government as a social club has with the government of the city.

Rev. Dr. Storrs, when called upon by a HERALD reporter, was very cautious in expressing an opinion as to the probable effect of this action. It was, he said, an act of individual members. It might result in some new movement, but he had not as yet given the subject sufficient consideration to state what is likely to be the effect upon other churches within the Congregational body.

A reporter also questioned Dr. Budington yesterday as to his probable action. He stated in substance that his position had been so clearly defined that he hardly thought it necessary for him to further explain his views. He would stand by the record. So far as the committee was concerned his withdrawal from the association seemed to cover the question of his serving in the capacity in which the Rev. H. M. Storrs had placed him. Dr. Storrs had put his name on that committee right in the face of and against his protest, and after he had been called away from the session by parochial duties. He could say nothing as to what the course of the ministerial brethren who dissented with him from the action of the association would be. He was averse to expressing any opinion on the likelihood of a new ministerial association being formed. It might be accepted, however, that his brethren would stand by the protest.

The Andover proposition he held to be the true Congregationalism, and the acceptance by the association of the proposition of the Rev. Dr. Storrs for the appointment of this committee would only be to affirm the novel doctrines enunciated by the Advisory Council. He believed that these questions that had agitated the association so forcefully would never be satisfactorily disposed of until a mutual council had been called, but he was disinclined to commit himself as to whether it was seriously contemplated to call such a council.

Rev. H. H. McFarland, who was present when Dr. Budington expressed himself as above, cordially indorsed the sentiments and position of Dr. Budington. He, too, felt a delicacy about outlining the future course of the clergymen who joined in the protest and withdrawal.

Another of the clergymen who signed the letter of withdrawal said he did not wish that his congregation should be interested in the matter at all, hence he did not care to have his name mentioned, as the affair only concerned himself. He said the association, if it so desired, may make a mudrake of itself to gather into the scandal bureau all the filth of the scandal, but rather than be made a tooth in the rake he chose to retire from membership. No power on earth could keep him in there if he wanted to get out. He did not want to be put in the position implied by the resolutions, of first inviting people to come forward with proof, and, if they did not come, pronouncing upon Mr. Beecher's character a verdict of unqualified approval. He hoped to see Mr. Beecher able to establish his innocence to the world in a satisfactory manner, but he did not think the method suggested in the resolutions adopted on Thursday a proper one, hence he withdrew. As to the ultimate result of this action he had as yet formed no conclusions.

METHODIST CONFERENCES.

NEW YORK EAST CONFERENCE SESSION—ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO GENERAL CONFERENCE.

After an hour's prayer yesterday this Conference gathered for business. Committees were appointed to investigate the charges against the Rev. F. C. Hill and to wind up the accounts of the Rockville Centre church. The hour of ten o'clock A. M. having been fixed for the election of delegates to the General Conference, Bishop Harris desired that the class of the third year who remained on trial should be admitted into full connection so that they could vote. For that purpose the class was called up before the Conference. They are Ross Lindsay Parker, E. Watt, F. M. Hallock, George Filmer, James Robinson, J. B. Shepherd, N. L. Porter and A. A. Belmont. Mr. Markinck having had an affection of the throat during the year and having asked for a supernumerary relation for this year, by the advice of his physicians, that he might cross the ocean and recruit himself, the Conference refused to admit him into full connection until next year, and then only if he shall appear sound and well. Mr. Markinck is an Englishman, and is the editor of the life of Brigham Young's wife No. 19. Mr. Belmont was represented by his presiding elder as lacking in common sense, and, therefore, not the man to be made a Methodist preacher. Nevertheless, the church at Moriches, which he has served during the year past, ask for his return. Rev. C. E. Harris gave an instance of a prominent infidel having been converted under the preaching of Mr. Belmont, and he thought that fact alone was evidence of his good common sense. Rev. C. T. Mallory announced that a brother near him, who had followed Mr. Belmont on two charges declared that Mr. Belmont "amounts to nothing." The Conference refused to receive Mr. Belmont because of the reports of his elder and of the Examining Committee, which showed that, though he has been three years on trial, he was not yet able to pass an examination in the first year's studies. He, therefore, falls back into the local preachers' ranks, and may be employed by the presiding elders. The Rev. Dr. Dean, of the Tennessee Conference, and the Rev. J. F. Robertson, of the Philadelphia Conference, were received by transfer.

Rev. W. C. Steele was appointed prosecutor on behalf of the Johnson street Methodist Episcopal church against Rev. F. C. Hill, its former pastor. The court of trial met last night and heard testimony on both sides, and will probably report to Conference to-day.

The election of delegates to General Conference, which was by ballot and occupied over an hour, resulted in the choice of Dr. Curry by 156 votes; Rev. J. M. Buckley, 151; Dr. A. S. Hunt, 127, and Rev. D. A. Goodsell, the secretary, by 126 votes out of 229, the whole number cast. The Conference is entitled to five delegates on the enlarged basis of representation fixed by the last General Conference. The fifth, with the alternates, will be elected to-day. The Lay Electoral Conference held a session also yesterday afternoon, and chose Mr. Oliver Hoyt, of this city, and Judge Reynolds, of Brooklyn, to represent it in the General Conference in Baltimore next May. Later in the afternoon the two Conferences met together and addresses were delivered by Revs. L. S. Weed and J. S. Willis, and Mr. Hoyt, Judge Reynolds and others. In the evening the missionary sermon was delivered by Rev. J. S. Breckenridge.

NEW YORK CONFERENCE.

The eighty-sixth annual session of the New York Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church was continued yesterday in the Free Tabernacle church, in Thirty-fourth street, near Eighth avenue. Bishop R. S. Foster occupied the chair. The morning session was devoted to routine business, not of public importance, excepting the report of Dr. M. D'C. Crawford, presiding elder of the New York district, who stated that the increase in property and membership of the church during the past ten years was as follows:—In 1865 there were 7,288 members; in 1875, 9,430; church property in 1865 amounted to $84,900; in 1875, $244,300. There are about fifty churches and forty-three Sunday schools in his district.

In the afternoon session the election of delegates to the General Convention, to be held at Baltimore, in May next, resulted in the choice of the following:—Drs. C. D. Foss, President Wesleyan University; H. B. Ridgaway, of Kingston, N. Y.; John Wiley, of Madison, N. J.; M. D'C. Crawford, of Sing Sing, N. Y.; J. Y. Bates, of Newburg, N. Y., and R. Wheatley, of 100th street, N. Y. Lay delegates, Brothers Decker and Cornell. Reserves, elected by the Conference, William Goss, of Poughkeepsie, N. Y.; A. K. Sanford, of Prattsville, N. Y., and L. H. King, of Newburg, N. Y. The Rev. C. C. McCabe, of Philadelphia, presented a report of the Church Extension Society. It showed that 1,658 churches had been assisted during the year. The receipts for the year 1875 were $152,271 62, and the expenditures $148,290.

The case of Brother Hill, of Rockville Centre, N. Y., was then again brought before the meeting on an application by him to be admitted to the Conference. It was made the order of special business for to-day.

One of the most interesting features of the Conference thus far was the formal reception of lay delegates during the afternoon session. On the announcement that the lay delegates had completed their session and desired to report to the Conference, the presiding officer, the Rev. Bishop R. S. Foster, desired the delegates present to pass to the pews on the side aisles of the church. That left the two rows of pews in the centre vacant. The galleries were crowded with ladies. All the doors of the church were thrown open, and as the lay delegates entered, under the escort of the appointed ushers, the members of the Conference rose and welcomed them with the singing of an appropriate hymn. The lay delegates and Conference members being seated, Bishop Foster warmly greeted the laymen and asked for their wishes. Judge Fancher, the spokesman for the laymen, said that in the early days of the Methodist Church the power of guidance had been delegated to the ministers, and the children of the Church had followed the precepts of their fathers and accepted in all cases their judgment on spiritual affairs. For himself, and speaking so, he believed that he but echoed the sentiment held by the entire body of the laymen; all that he was and could be, he owed to the ministers of the church. (Applause.) Until four years ago the ministers had been supreme in the government of the church; but they had said that when the laymen demanded a voice in the law-making power of its government the ministers would hear them. The time was not then, but is now come, when they ask that power, and it filled his heart with joy to know that they, the laymen, had been received into the Conference of New York with songs of welcome by the ministers of the church. In closing he announced the delegates from the laymen to the Baltimore Convention, to be held in May, as Messrs. Decker and Cornell. (Applause.)

The lay delegates were then introduced to the Conference and an address of welcome delivered by Dr. Miley, of Madison, N. J.

The evening session was devoted to the anniversary services of the Educational Society. Addresses were made by Messrs. A. P. Lyon, J. J. Dean and H. B. Ridgaway. Nearly 200 members of the Conference attended the evening services at the Hippodrome.

PLYMOUTH PRAYER MEETING.

Plymouth lecture room did not fill up quite so early last evening, but by the time for commencing it contained its usual complement. One of the brethren, on being questioned as to whether there would be any other meeting following the prayer meeting, exclaimed, with devout thankfulness, "Not a bit of it, thank Heaven; no!" From which it may be inferred (as was the case) that the meeting was simply the regular prayer meeting, with no apprehension of any after-clap.

After the regular opening exercises Mr. Beecher said:—After the miracle recorded in the fourteenth of Matthew, of the multiplying of the bread, the people were so much impressed with the sovereignty of the Saviour that they insisted on thrusting Him forward. They determined to make Him king. The disciples were consenting; they had caught the enthusiasm; but He sent the multitude away, and constrained His disciples to go into a ship and go before Him to the other side. That word "constrained" has a whole history in it. The necessity of command is conveyed in that language, and when He had sent the multitude away He went up into the mountain and prayed. In every great crisis of His life our Saviour spent much time in prayer. It was His habit, when anything was greatly on His mind, to go apart and spend a long period in prayer. When the evening was come the ship was in the middle of the sea, tossed with the waves, for the wind was contrary. Now, this sea looks on the map like a punctuation point compared with the Mediterranean. Nevertheless, if you were in the middle of it in a little fishing boat in a right good storm it would be just as much to you as if you were in the middle of the Atlantic in a man-of-war. If a man living in a hollow has trouble it is just as much to him as if he lived in sight of the whole world. Now, this little sea in history is bigger than the ocean, and this little ship was big enough to be stormed, and there were the disciples unable to get ahead and subjected to one of the fierce storms to which that sea is liable. In the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea, and when the disciples saw Him they were troubled, saying, "It is a spirit," and they cried for fear. Now, they were subject to that strange superstition and the not stranger fear with which almost every one is affected in the presence of something supernatural. When we can take the measure of a danger and see what it is we have some sense of our resources; but when things come in conditions we do not understand we are afraid; and so it was with the disciples; but straightway Jesus cried out, "Be of good cheer, it is I; be not afraid." When we are in trouble, if we could only understand the voice of God