THE STATE CAPITAL.

Senator Morrissey on the Department of Docks.

A DEBATE ON FISH'S BILL.

The Bald-Headed Eagle of Westchester Loudly Shrieks.

ANOTHER VETO FROM THE GOVERNOR.

The Mutual Life Insurance Company Investigated.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

ALBANY, March 28, 1877.

Two of the bills supplementary to the omnibus were ordered to a third reading in the Senate. One of these is to provide for the construction, repairs and improvement of docks, wharves, piers, slips and bulkheads in the city of New York, and for the management and control of the same. The other is to create three new Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, to be appointed by the Recorder from the ranks of private citizens. The first bill is very full and elaborate. It abolishes the Dock Department in toto and hands over its management to an officer to be called Engineer of Docks, who shall be appointed by the Commissioner of Public Works and have a bureau in the Commissioner's department. But he is not to be responsible to the Commissioner, though appointed by him. The great powers with which he is clothed bow to no authority but that of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, who are to consist—as the twin bill recites—of three taxpayers, appointed by the Recorder and acting in conjunction with the Mayor and Comptroller. This, it will be seen, is a radical departure, and it was no surprise that so conservative a democrat as Senator Schoonmaker should exclaim to-day that he listened in utter amazement to the reading of the bill.

However, Senator Woodin declared that there was no need for alarm in regard to the immense powers conferred on the Engineer of Docks. Somebody wields a like authority in the Department of Docks to-day, but he is responsible to and is controlled by the Commissioners of the Dock Department. The only difference is that the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund take the place of the Dock Commissioners with a very great saving of expense. It was all smooth sailing up to section 7, and then the committee struck a snag in the shape of a clause declaring that "the violation of or disobedience to any rule or regulation of said Engineer of Docks, made as aforesaid, shall be a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not exceeding $500 or by imprisonment not exceeding thirty days, or by both such fine and imprisonment, on complaint of said Engineer of Docks."

Over this clause the Senators talked for a full hour, Senator Schoonmaker denouncing it as the most unheard of outrage on constitutional liberty that could be conceived, and likened the Senate which could pass such a provision to the servile and degenerate body that, in the decline of Rome's greatness, bartered away the highest privileges of the citizens. Senator Woodin made light of Schoonmaker's fears, and in a measure subdued the alarm aroused, particularly in Senator Banden's breast, by the reference to Rome. Finally the obnoxious clause was stricken out. The general merits of the bill then came in for remark. Senator Harris took grounds in favor of it, because he believed it was an effort in the direction of retrenchment and of a more simplified government for New York city.

SENATOR MORRISSEY'S SPEECH.

Senator Morrissey was looked to to say something on this occasion, as he has hardly opened his lips since these bills were put under way, though he bore the most prominent part in originating them. The bills were about taking their final leave of the Senate, and he said this Department of Docks was a bureau up to 1870 in the Department of Public Works. In 1870, in this Legislature, by a combination of democrats and republicans, it was made a commission. This department has spent $5,400,000 since 1870. It has given general dissatisfaction in every way. There is not a paper in the city of New York but that asks to have this department put in the Bureau of Public Works. The head of the Department of Public Works came before our committee in this Senate, and he was asked if this could be made a bureau in his department. That was Mr. Campbell, an engineer that stands as high as any man in the State of New York, and he said that he could do the work. He was asked if it would be a saving to the city of New York, and he said it would be a very great one; that is one of the reasons why I insisted that it should be a bureau in the Department of Public Works, and for this reason, Mr. Chairman, I know if it is made a bureau in that department it will not be made a political machine, but if it is not it will be made a political machine as bad as any in New York. We have got a payroll there of $10,600,000. We ask for the abolishing of these departments. I say to my democratic friends here that unless they support these measures it will cost them twenty thousand votes in the city of New York. There will be every effort made to defeat these bills before they reach the Executive. They have held meetings in New York and have asked for money to beat them. I have been a democrat all my life. I shall vote for every one of these bills. It would be one of the proudest things I ever saw if every democrat would do the same thing, and not give the majority the credit of passing these bills. This bill was sent here by a committee appointed by the Chamber of Commerce and the merchants of the city of New York. Its provisions I am not acquainted with, but the best people from the Chamber of Commerce have come here and asked for it, and for one am willing to take their judgment. They know more than I do about it, but to give power to this man or that man I have no such notion. I ask that it be put in the Department of Public Works, because it is economy. Mr. Campbell makes every man do his duty in office. The Common Council passed a resolution to impeach him. You do not want a better recommendation of him than that.

A SHORT AND TIM BY VETO.

The Senate was startled from its propriety for a moment, when another veto message from the Governor was announced. Something like it was anticipated, for the notary public nuisance has grown to be a stupendous nuisance. The veto was handed in by the Governor's private secretary and is as follows:—

STATE OF NEW YORK, EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, ALBANY, March 28, 1877.

TO THE SENATE:—

I return, without my approval, Senate bill No. 190, entitled "An act to provide for the appointment of additional notaries public." In 1863 the whole number of notaries public in the State was 2,624. In that year an act was passed which increased the number to a small extent. In various years since that date acts have been passed increasing the number to a very large extent, until it now amounts to 11,742. There is manifestly no necessity for any such number. It amounts to one notary to every ninety-six voters. The bill under consideration, if approved, will add 1,290 more, making a total of 13,032, equivalent to one notary to every eighty-seven voters. I can see no reason or propriety in any further increase of the number.

As it now stands the clerical force in the Executive office is insufficient to take care of all the applications for appointments, to carry on the correspondence relating thereto, to prepare the commissions which are required to be issued to each one of the notaries, to prepare the lists for nomination and to keep the records of the appointments. If the number is to be increased, as this bill proposes, to over 13,000, an additional clerical force will be indispensable. It is also undoubtedly true that in the appointment of so large a number without any opportunity for proper security many persons receive appointments who know little or nothing of the duties pertaining to the office and are wholly unfit to be intrusted with it.

L. ROBINSON.

The message was tabled.

WHAT THEY ARE AFTER.

There was a quiet, imperturbable cheek in a bill sent up to the Clerk by Senator Gerard, for which, of course, that gentleman was by no means responsible, authorizing the schools in charge of the New York Protestant School Mission Society to participate in the common school fund.

BAITING THE GOVERNOR.

The bill vetoed by the Governor relative to public works was shorn of all its so-called objectionable features and rushed through the Senate last night and through the House at lightning speed this morning. The moment it was ready it was packed off to the Governor, and republicans are now busily speculating as to whether he will sign or not. In the House the democrats voted almost unanimously for it, while about a dozen republicans were in the negative. The vote stood 93 to 21. When the vote was announced Mr. Hogeboom moved to reconsider and that the motion lie on the table. The motion to lay on the table was beaten—75 to 32. Then Mr. Hogeboom withdrew the motion to reconsider, and the bill was ordered to be returned to the Senate. In explaining votes the burden of the republican sentiment was that the bill should have had a non-partisan clause in it, and that the use of the canals for partisan purposes should not be allowed.

BUSINESS IN THE HOUSE.

The House transacted a great deal of business to-day. Among the bills introduced was one by Mr. J. G. Graham to more clearly define the duties of receivers of life insurance companies and to regulate the disposition of their assets. In reference to the necessity of this bill Mr. Graham says that not one of the six or eight receivers that have been so far appointed follows the same plan of conducting the business devolving on him. The committees were on hand and made a brisk series of reports. Over forty bills were passed, none of which was of any importance, most of them being bills to legalize acts of certain individuals and corporations.

A SAVING IN PROSPECT.

Senator Gerard calculates the city of New York will gain $30,000 a year from a bill he introduced this morning establishing fees for various kinds of business transacted in the Surrogate's office for which no fees are now charged. The bill is lengthy and enumerates in full the rates to be collected for this thing and that.

THE EVENING SESSION.

They had a warm time in the Assembly this evening. The Fish bill, for the better administration of affairs in New York city, was the special order, and Husted's amendment to make the Board of Estimate and Apportionment consist of three reputable citizens to be appointed by the Recorder and to act in conjunction with the Mayor, was offered in the House, having been beaten formerly in Committee of the Whole. Mr. Husted made a set speech, the cardinal point of which was that his proposition was honestly meant to secure good government in New York city. Mr. Purdy followed and accused Mr. Husted of trying to get even with Mr. Fish for having opposed him in the Speakership. Then Mr. Husted stood up, and with passionate energy flung back the accusation, saying that he hoped God from heaven would send down a bolt of lightning and strike him dead on the spot if he had been actuated by any such personal motive. He thought it was about time for him to vindicate himself, because for the past twelve months he had been accused of defeating reform legislation in the last Legislature. That charge was without foundation, and he hurled it back as unjust and as untruthful. He appealed to the Speaker whether he should be held responsible for the defeat of any measure on the floor of the House. He appealed to Mr. Alvord whether he when Speaker was responsible for the defeat of any measure. he was a member of the House for nine years, and this was the first time in his life that the finger of scorn had been pointed at him or that his honest motives had been impugned, or that any member had dared to rise in his seat and attack him.

Mr. O'Grady spoke against the amendment and Mr. O'Hare in its favor, and it was clear the crowd of New York Aldermen and politicians on the floor were intensely interested in the result.

To Mr. Husted's amendment Mr. Fish offered a substitute, which was that the Board of Estimate and Apportionment should consist of the Mayor, Comptroller, President of the Board of Taxes and Assessments, President of the Board of Aldermen, and three citizens to be appointed by the Mayor. Mr. Fish's proposition would be acceptable enough to the politicians from New York, but Mr. Husted's would be worse than poison. The debate continued, and Mr. Spinola, as usual, took a prominent part.

The discussion lasted up to eleven o'clock, when the bill was passed, with the substitute offered by Fish giving the appointment of the three reputable citizens on the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to the Mayor, in place of the Recorder.

INSURANCE INVESTIGATION.

TESTIMONY OF THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY—INTERESTING DETAILS AS TO ITS FINANCIAL CONDITION.

ALBANY, March 28, 1877.

The Insurance Committee continued its investigation this morning.

Richard A. McCurdy, vice president of the Mutual Life Insurance Company, appeared, attended by Judge Amasa Parker, as counsel, and was examined. Mr. Moak appeared for the committee.

Richard A. McCurdy, being sworn, testified that he is vice president of the Mutual Life; has been so for ten years; was one of the company's attorneys previous to that; Frederick M. Winston was at one time cashier; he is a son of the president; he had policies amounting to about $11,500 in his possession which had lapsed; they were restored at the time of his death and the amount paid to his heirs; this was a decision of the Finance Board of the company; this occurred about ten years ago; Mr. Winston was not connected with any other director; there were none of these policies upon which he had not paid premiums; they had all been in existence some time and had been paid for; the testimony upon the Miller insurance investigation was copyrighted by the Mutual Company, the notes being taken by the company's own stenographer; the Superintendent of Insurance also took notes, but what he did with them I do not know.

THE VOTING OF BONUSES.

Q. Was not the copyrighting of that testimony done to prevent its general publication? A. That I cannot say; I have heard of several copies being in existence; at least portions of the testimony; I cannot say how soon after the testimony was taken before it was copyrighted; the company had it printed and distributed a few copies; in 1866 I was elected vice president; bonuses were voted to the officers of the company; I received $6,000, or about that, as my share of the bonus; I had then been connected with the company one year; the officers to whom the bonus was voted were the president, actuary, myself and secretary; Mr. Winston was president and had been for fifteen years; the amount for each was a question of percentage; I cannot approximate the amount received by the president; the percentages, I think, were upon the increase in the net receipts of the company.

Q. Will you furnish this committee with a copy of that Miller testimony? A. With great pleasure; in regard to the bonus matter the records of the company show that the matter of bonus was brought up by a letter of the actuary comparing the salaries of other companies with ours, and showing that a percentage upon the amounts of business ought to be allowed; the letter was referred to a committee, which read it and deliberated over it, and it was then generally argued that an incitement to extra business attention was to be found in the allowance of such bonus; a scale was adopted and the bonus system was agreed to, but there were only two or three years that it remained in use; it was then abandoned for the reason that it created considerable discontent.

Q. Did not Mr. Winston in one year receive $90,000 as a bonus? A. No, sir.

THE PRESIDENT'S SALARY.

Q. What was his salary? A. Not over $6,000; it was raised now and then, but I cannot say how much.

Q. How much is it now? A. Thirty thousand dollars; it was raised gradually to that; I can give you the day and date of each raise when I get home, and will do that with pleasure; it was impossible to know exactly when salaries were advanced or to what amount; a committee makes such increases, and it never came officially to my notice; I think the last increase in the president's salary took place in 1872; in 1869 it was increased I think to $15,000 or $20,000; the president has not received any bonus since the system was abolished, nor any sum except his salary; my salary was raised three or four years after I became vice president to $8,000, then to $12,000, then, or during two and three years, to its present amount, $18,000; it has been at this rate since 1873; I have received no bonus or commissions; the secretary's salary is $5,000; his name is Lloyd, and he has been in the company but one year; Mr. Stewart, the previous secretary, became second vice president, and received $6,000 for the last year; I think he may have received as second vice president $12,500; there had been no such office as second vice president until Mr. Stewart was put in it; his salary was raised gradually like the others, just as the Board chose, hardly more than $1,000 or $2,000 at a time.

PRINTING AND STATIONERY.

Q. As to your other expenditures, what is included here under "printing and stationery?" A. Printing and stationery includes the almanacs, reports, mortality experiences of the company, all books of account, circulars, miscellaneous literature, policy blanks, &c., amounting to $62,144 13; the contingent guarantee amounted to $654,842 59 last year; that is a fund set aside as a permanent guarantee against losses by depression of business or other losses; it is taken from the surplus; the law expenses were $33,296; that is made up partly of the salary of the solicitor and amounts paid to other counsellors.

THE LAW FIRMS ENGAGED.

Q. To whom was the largest sum paid other than the solicitor?

Witness submitted a letter of the solicitor to the effect that Davies & Work, Turner, Lee & McClure, Dixon & Farnam, Develin & Miller, Sewell & Pierce and Mathews, Husted & Foley, of New York city, were among the law firms engaged by him during the year.

TRAVELLING EXPENSES.

Q. Have you travelled at the expense of the company? A. Yes, sir; to Boston, Chicago and here, and in 1871 I went to London and Paris, and they allowed me $900 for that; my aggregate expenses during a year would probably hardly exceed $200; the president has also been away at the expense of the company, twice to California, partly on business of the company and partly for his health; the amount paid for his expenses I do not know; traveling expenses of other officers are also paid for; the whole of the expenses under this item annually have not aggregated $500; we have fourteen general agents; they are compensated by commission; Mr. Merrill, one of the agents, is a son-in-law of the president; he has been general agent in the Western States for twenty years; he went from New York for the purpose of taking charge of the business out there; no other agents are connected in any way with the officers of the company; as to advertising the amount was $32,258 24; that was exclusive of printing; it is done partly through agents and partly through the agents' accounts and partly directly from our home office; the man who conducts it there receives no commission; probably two-thirds of all of it is done in the home office, of which one-third is probably in New York and Brooklyn.

INCOME FIFTEEN MILLIONS.

Q. How much did you pay for commuting commissions in 1875? A. Two hundred and eighty thousand dollars; our income was $15,122,894 61, which consisted of premiums, receipts and interest; our company is strictly mutual; we do no business upon the tontine principle; we have thirty-six trustees, who are elected by the policy holders at annual meetings in June; at the last meeting there were about one hundred ballots cast; none were cast by proxy; there are about 90,000 policy holders; the president had an endowment, which had matured, paid to him a short time ago; he has about $20,000 besides; I have $30,000; I have some proxies, but how many I do not know—possibly several thousand; they have not been voted for several years.

Q. But then there was no necessity for casting them; when you need them you will have them? A. We will have the tools to prevent the small body of policy holders in New York throwing out the large body of policy holders in the country; if the policy holders generally were dissatisfied they would at once sweep us out of existence.

THE PROXY QUESTION.

Q. How many thousand proxies have you and the president? A. I can swear, I think, to 10,000, but above that I would be uncertain.

Attempts to make the witness admit that he had as many as 30,000 resulted in his stating that he was very sure he had not, but he had not counted them. As the attempt continued Mr. Husted interfered, and the counsel dropped the question. The witness evinced the most thorough disposition to answer all questions to the fullest extent of his ability.

Witness continuing:—I presume we have proxies belonging to dead persons in our hands, but if we had to use the proxies we would have them examined and such as referred to weeded out; no proxies have ever been voted on more than once; that was in 1871; I cannot tell the number voted; certainly not 10,000.

TRUSTEES AND BORROWED MONEY.

Q. Are any of your officers holding office in any corporation, bank or trust company? A. No, sir; I think none of them.

Q. Have any of the trustees borrowed any money from your company on bond and mortgage? A. Yes, sir; R. H. McCurdy had done so; $30,000 on real estate in Brooklyn; any of the trustees could borrow money, I presume.

SONS OF THE PRESIDENT.

Q. Has the President a son who is a medical examiner of the company? A. Yes, sir; his salary is $9,600; he has been in the office several years; another son of the President is a clerk, at a salary of about $2,000; he is corresponding clerk and spends all his time there; the son who died was cashier; his salary was not over $3,000; his estate was not paid anything, I think, by the company, except the $12,000 on restored policies; there are no other companies, I believe, who pay surrender values in the same way that ours does; the computation is made by the actuary, and is based upon a fixed rule; the difference between the amount paid upon the surrender of policies last year and the reserve represented by them was probably fifty per cent; there were 1,760 policies forfeited last year by non-payment of premium; how much reserve they represent I do not know; there was at one time a fight between the Mutual and a man named English; he was arrested for libel and kept in jail for several weeks; the company had more than one suit against him, and the aggregate bail required, I think, was $50,000 or $60,000; there was a difficulty also at that time between the Mutual and Equitable; there was a compromise and English was let out of jail; I never heard that $30,000 was given him; the Chamber of Life Insurance was not formed about that time, but some time before, nor was a fund raised in the Chamber for English; the contribution of the Mutual to the Chamber the first year was about $6,000; last year it was $12,000; the business of the Chamber has grown; the object of the Chamber is the same as that of every trade organization and corporation, and to seek the advantage of mutual personal acquaintance.

THE CHAMBER OF LIFE INSURANCE.

Q. Is one of its objects to prevent oppressive legislation? A. An object is to inform and enlighten legislatures upon insurance matters, but it is not an object of the Chamber to exercise any but proper influence.

Upon the question being put to the witness again, he said he believed the Chamber would attempt to prevent oppressive legislation; there was nothing to that effect in any of its articles; we have held meetings where legislation was discussed, and the Chamber does occasionally employ persons to visit Legislatures and present their cases before them where legislation seems to be unfair. The influence has been for good, and there has never been any instance where they have used money to corruptly influence any legislation. The meetings are not attended, I believe, by any one but members. Records are kept of its proceedings, but they are not published. The returns of receipts and disbursements are made quarterly to the Chamber. The settlement between English and the Mutual was not, that I know, made by Mr. Hyde, of the Equitable; he called off his "dog" and we called off ours; we published a number of documents at that time assailing the Equitable; the fight continued several months; it was three or four years ago; the arrangement was done without my consent; I wanted the fight to go on; I do not believe that English was to be paid $30,000 by the Chamber of Life Insurance, or was ever paid it; we never loan money to any trustee without the security which the law requires; we have a trustee named Samuel D. Babcock; he is president of the United States Mortgage Company; we have never had any money on deposit with him, or with the mortgage company, nor had any transactions with it.

THIRTY-FIVE MILLIONS OF FIRE POLICIES.

We loan usually not more than forty per cent upon the appraised value of property under mortgage; the amount stated as on deposit December 31 to the credit of the company was actually on hand; we have never transferred funds for the purpose of making a fictitious balance; we hold real estate in Pennsylvania; the law allows us to do so in States adjacent to New York; we have not reinsured a risk of any other company, nor had one of ours reinsured in another company; the President, I think, is not a director in any other corporation; I am a director in the City Fire Insurance Company; we have about 35,000,000 of fire policies on hand; the Continental and Home probably have most of this; no officer in the company has received any loan or commission as an inducement to give loans to any corporation; our fire insurances are in about one hundred and fifty companies; our death policies are always made payable to the beneficiary by check, sometimes directly and sometimes to the agent for delivery; it is possible that agents may have exacted some present from the insured for giving him the check, but we would not permit such a thing if we knew it; our officers have to give security for the performance of their duties—the President to the amount of $40,000 or $50,000, I for $20,000 and every other officer in other sums; Mr. Winston is an officer in no other corporation but charitable or religious ones; Robert H. McCurdy is a trustee of the Continental Fire and a director in several banks; S. D. Babcock is trustee in a number of fire companies; Mr. Vermilye is, I think, director in a trust company; Mr. Bates is a director in several fire companies and a number of others hold positions in other corporations, but not in any other life insurance company; in the year 1870 there was no extra compensation given to the officers except the bonus mentioned; the bonus was considered a proper charge to the dividends paid out; it was so charged; I think the charge was an error and we gave up bonuses altogether soon after.

Mr. McCurdy was on the stand some eight hours. The committee then adjourned until nine o'clock tomorrow morning, when Charleton Lewis, secretary of the Chamber of Life Insurance, will be examined.

CONNECTICUT LIFE COMPANIES.

ORGANIZATION OF A STATE COMMISSION TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF POLICY HOLDERS.

HARTFORD, March 27, 1877.

The recent troubles in the New York life insurance companies have resulted in the appointment by the Connecticut Legislature of a special commission, with instructions to make a thorough investigation of all the life companies of this State. Primarily this action grew out of the charges against the Charter Oak Life, of Hartford, and the parties who urged the examination of that company were foremost in asking this special commission. However, the life companies here, instead of opposing the project, have, in the main, given it their hearty support, for the reason that they believe the results of the investigation will establish the falsity of rumors injurious to their credit. It might be presumed that the favorable reports of Insurance Commissioner Stedman would be satisfactory to the policy holders, and while such might have been the case a year ago many have had their faith in the value of the reports of regular State officials somewhat weakened by the New York developments regarding companies that had been pronounced solvent.

THE COMMISSIONERS.

The commission originally recommended by the Insurance Committee of the Legislature was made up of Hon. William Faxon, of Hartford, formerly Assistant Secretary of the Navy under Secretary Wells; Judge Origen S. Seymour, of Litchfield, formerly Chief Judge of the State Supreme Court, and Hon. David P. Nichols, of Danbury, formerly State Treasurer, and who was a valuable member of the special commission that examined the savings banks a few years since. Mr. Faxon declined, and Mr. Henry M. Cleveland, recently the publisher of the *Christian Union*, and who served as House chairman of the legislative Insurance Committee this session, was appointed to fill the vacancy. Efforts to throw out Judge Seymour and substitute Senator Bowers, a New Haven insurance agent, or Daniel Chadwick, of Lyme, signally failed. The commission, as formed, is regarded as an excellent one, and it is proposed to make a complete examination of every company in the State, or nearly all, the employment of experts to assist the commission having been authorized. The report will be made to the Legislature in January, 1878, and if before that time the commission find reason for action toward any company to protect the interests of the policy holders it can be taken by the Insurance Commissioner under the State law.

LIFE INSURANCE SUIT DISMISSED.

CHICAGO, Ill., March 28, 1877.

The suit against the Protection Life Insurance Company of this city, demanding an injunction and a receiver because of alleged fraud and mismanagement, was called up before Judge Moore, this morning, and dismissed, the complainants, Shufeet and Westervet, having withdrawn their allegations and stated that the company's answer to their application was satisfactory and complete.

POLICY HOLDERS RELEASED.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., March 28, 1877.

Judge Thayer, of the Circuit Court, this morning confirmed a decree freeing the policy holders in the Columbia Life Insurance Company from the payment of premiums pending the litigation against that company. This is regarded as a new departure in equity, and meets with general approval.

ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians assembled in their twenty-eighth annual convention last night in Ferrero's Assembly Rooms, Tammany building. A large number of delegations were on hand, some of them from Boston, Philadelphia and other cities, including the West and California. The national delegate, Mr. James McGuire, of New York, called the meeting to order and acted as temporary chairman, and Mr. Thomas Corrigan, also of New York, acted as secretary. There was a good deal of trouble about contested seats, and at ten o'clock the Convention took a recess for a short time in order to have the disputed points settled in committee. After reassembling the Convention adjourned at a late hour until nine o'clock this forenoon.

It is rumored that one of the questions which will be brought before the present Convention is the very important inquiry as to whether the Catholic Church is opposed to them as a secret society, and, if so, ought they to dissolve or continue to work as heretofore. Another is to settle the relations in the future between the Irish nationalists and the society.

A SEA WALL DAMAGED.

About forty feet of the sea wall at the foot of Thirty-third street, Brooklyn, was toppled over yesterday by the violence of the storm, causing a damage of about $600.

EASTER MUSIC.

PREPARATIONS IN THE LEADING CHURCHES OF THE METROPOLIS—THE HANDMAID OF RELIGION TO LEND HER AID IN CELEBRATING THE GREAT FESTIVAL.

The Feast of the Resurrection, the grandest of all Christian celebrations, will be observed this year with more than ordinary brilliancy in regard to musical and floral displays at the leading Catholic and Episcopal churches in this city. Churches of other denominations will be represented in a less prominent manner, yet there seems to be a rivalry among some of our best organists as to who shall furnish, irrespective of dogmas, the best music for the great Feast of the Resurrection. Many of the churches have not decided upon their musical programmes, on account of the pernicious system existing in some places of church music committees, the majority of the members knowing nothing at all about the divine art. The organist and choirmaster make out their list of musical works appropriate for the festival or within the capabilities of the choir. This list is passed over to a number of gentlemen utterly innocent of all acquaintance with even the first rudiments of music. They are, nevertheless, proportionately anxious to conceal their ignorance. The organist or choirmaster is simply their employé. They make ridiculous suggestions, and in numerous instances those suggestions are faithfully carried out. Hence chaos and disaster, musically speaking, in great festivals. A meeting of a music committee of the period reveals many amusing phases. Mr. Smith thinks that the old-fashioned hymns which he heard in the old village church half a century ago are the only "tunes" permissible in the divine service, while Mr. Brown, who has a daughter at a "conservatory," wants something "classical." The real musician has no voice whatever in the matter. Again, nothing can be more detrimental to the influence of music on grand occasions in the church than the divided power of organist and choirmaster. The handmaid of religion pays no divided allegiance in the tone incense she sends up to the Throne of Grace. She pours forth her soul with unstinted ardor, and every heartstring pulsates when she sweeps the lyre of human feeling. The organist should be, like the leader of an orchestra, endowed with supreme command.

TRINITY CHURCH.

"Old Trinity" will usher in the grand festival with her chime of bells, on which the veteran Ayliffe will perform a number of pieces appropriate for Easter. The first service for holy communion will commence at six o'clock in the morning. The second service will be in the German language at half-past seven o'clock, for the benefit of the German residents of New York, 800 of whom attended the initial service of this character last Christmas. At nine o'clock there will be morning prayer and a sermon by the rector. At half-past ten o'clock the opening voluntary will be played on the organ by Mr. Henry Carter. This gentleman has selected Bach's toccata in F—a noble work. Then comes Schubert's mass in F, full of heart-touching melody and beautiful harmony, and anthems by Haydn and J. P. Morgan. Mr. Messiter will take charge of the surpliced choir of boys in the chancel, and it is to be hoped that there will be less uncertainty in *tempo* shown than on former festival occasions. The Philharmonic Orchestral Society will be represented by thirty-five of its best members in the organ gallery. They will close the morning services with the first movement of the G minor symphony of Mozart. On Easter day the old altar will be used for the last time, preparations being necessary for the new Astor memorial altar.

GRACE CHURCH.

The musical services at this church at Easter will be as follows:—Morning—Processional hymn; "Christ Our Passover," anthem, Buck; Te Deum in E flat, Buck; "Jubilate Deo," Mozart; hymn, "Jesus Lives No Longer Now;" hymn, "The Strife is O'er;" offertory anthem, "Why Seek ye the Living Among the Dead," S. P. Warren. Evening—"Gloria in Excelsis," Gounod; "Cantate Domino," Bristow; "Benedic Anima," S. P. Warren; Hymn 98; Hymn 156. The choir consists of:—Soprani, Miss Ida W. Hubbell and Miss Waters; alti, Miss Anna Drasdil and Miss Granger; tenori, Mr. George Simpson and Mr. Jameson; bassi, Mr. Adolph Sohst and Mr. Chapin. Samuel P. Warren organist and director.

ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL.

The choir of this church consists of Mme. Bredelli, soprano; Mme. Unger, alto; Mr. Bersin, tenor; Mr. Urchs, basso; Mr. H. Schmitz, conductor, assisted by the St. Patrick's Choral Society; A. Hoch, organist. The music will be Mozart's Mass No. 12. "Ven. Creator" by Handel, alto solo, Mme. Unger; offertory, "Regina Cœli" by Hoch, soprano solo, Mme. Bredelli. Vespers by Corini, with soprano and bass solos—"Regina Cœli" by Giorza, for chorus and soprano solo; "Tantum Ergo" by Gustavus Schmitz.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S CHURCH.

At the church of the Jesuits, in West Sixteenth street, a magnificent musical programme has been prepared for Easter. Dr. William Berge, one of the most renowned organists in America, will preside at the organ. The soloists of the choir will be Misses Teresa and Mary Werneke, soprano and contralto; Signor Tamaro, tenor, and Mr. Stanton and M. Dupan, bass. A large chorus and a number of instrumentalists will also take part in the morning service. The mass will be the "Missa di Paschale," by Berge, and in the afternoon Lambillotte's oratorio of the "Resurrection" will be sung.

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH.

Mr. Henry B. Danforth, the organist of this church, will have in the choir at Easter the following vocal and instrumental force:—Soloists, Mlle. Anna Rosetti, Mlle. Munier, Mr. Carl Bernard, Mr. Jacobsohn and Mr. Higani. The chorus will number twenty and the orchestra eighteen. Before high mass the overture to "Oberon," by Carl Maria Von Weber, and a processional march by Weingarten will be played. Then follows the grand mass in E flat by Mercadante. At the gospel a "Veni Creator," by Rossi, for tenor voice, and at the offertory a brilliant "Hæc Dies," by Danforth, will be sung. At vespers Mercadante will be represented with Magagnini's "O Salutaris" (violoncello obligato) and Giorza's "Regina Cœli."

ST. THOMAS' CHURCH.

Mr. George W. Warren, the organist, has prepared an imposing list of musical selections for the morning service of this church. The principal works will be the massive morning service by Berthold Tours, the intimate friend of Charles Gounod. The choir consists of Mrs. Guiager, soprano; Miss Winant, contralto; Mr. Garner, tenor; Mr. Wicks, bass; Mr. Toulmin, harper, and Mr. Schnecker, assistant organist.

CHURCH OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS.

The choir in this Catholic church consists of an organist, Mrs. Major, a quartet of amateurs and a large chorus of children. There will be no special display in the Easter musical services.

BROADWAY TABERNACLE.

The absence of Miss Emma C. Thursby, formerly the leading soprano of this church, will be sorely felt at Easter. Mrs. Christopher is the organist; and Miss Finch, contralto, Mr. Nilsen, tenor, and Mr. Aiken, bass, constitute the vocal force. The sopranos will probably be Mrs. Bowes, of Buffalo, who sang in this church last Sunday.

CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION.

The "Little Church Around the Corner" has the following choir for Easter:—First soprano, Mrs. Hurry; second soprano, Miss Ryan; first alto, Miss Fanny Waldron; second alto, Miss Mary Cherry; first tenor, Mr. Henry Waldron; second tenor, Mr. John Herron; first bass, Mr. George Raeburn; second bass, Mr. James B. Wasson; conductor, Mr. W. C. Gilman; organist, Mr. Albert Berg.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH.

The choir of the church, consisting of Mrs. Imogene Brown, soprano, Mrs. Anna Buckley Hill, contralto, Mr. Bischoff, tenor, Mr. Remmertz, baritone, and Mr. C. C. Dodge, organist, with a large chorus, will give an imposing array of musical selections by old and modern composers on Easter Day. The floral decorations will be rich and elegant.

ST. ANN'S CHURCH.

At Chancellor Preston's handsome church, in Twelfth street, the musical services for Easter will be fully up to the standard of former years, notwithstanding the change of organists. The soloists will be Mlle. Henriette Konradi, soprano; Mlle. Octavie Gomien, contralto; Mr. Leggat, tenor, and Mr. Alorein Blum, baritone; organist, Mr. Bialla. One of Haydn's masses has been selected for the occasion.

RUSSIAN GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH.

On inquiring at Rev. N. Bjerring's little church on Second avenue, the HERALD representative was informed that there would be no special services on Sunday, as the Easter of the Russo-Greek Church is held a week later. Then, it is likely, the chapel over which Rev. Mr. Bjerring presides will be honored by the presence of the Grand Duke and the Russian naval officers.

CHURCH OF THE HEAVENLY REST.

The morning exercises will be:—Opening hymn, "At the Lamb's High Feast," Syria; instead of Venite "Christ, Our Passover," C. J. Hopkins; Te Deum, in A, Thomas Bridgewater; Jubilate, in A, Thomas Bridgewater; introit, hymn 106, Wirtemburg; "Gloria Tibi;" anthem, "Christ, the Lord, is Risen," Damon; offertory, "Let the Bright Seraphim," Handel's "Samson;" "Sanctus," Camidge; communion hymn 203, verses 3 and 4, Arlington; "Gloria in Excelsis." The evening exercises will be:—Cantata, in C, H. P. Damon; "Benedic," in A, A. W. Berg; anthem, "This is the Day," John Sewell; hymn 424, Coronation. Charles S. Fischer is the organist and choir master, and the choir consists of boys and men, with the addition of lady soloists.

CHURCH OF THE HOLY APOSTLES.

The morning service will be as follows:—Opening hymn, "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing," Syria; "Christ, Our Passover," John Davey; "Te Deum," in F, J. R. Thomas; "Benedictus," in E flat, Samuel Jackson; introit, hymn, Wirtemburg; "Gloria Tibi;" anthem, "This is the Day," John Sewell; "Gloria," after sermon, Humphrey's; offertory, "Praise God From Whom," "Sanctus," Camidge; communion hymn, Bedford; "Gloria in Excelsis." The afternoon service will be:—Anthem, hymn, "Unser Herrscher;" cantate, in C, H. R. Damon; "Deus," in G, Mammatt; anthem, hymn, "Christ, the Lord, is Risen;" "Gloria," after sermon, Humphreys; offertory, "Thou Art Worthy, O Lord;" hymn, "Coronation." The choir consists of a large chorus, and Charles S. Fischer, Jr., organist and choirmaster.

CHEMICAL ENGINES ABOLISHED.

At a meeting of the Fire Commissioners yesterday chemical engines Nos. 5 and 6, located respectively in West Forty-seventh and Canal streets, were abolished.

BRIGHAM'S HOUR HAS COME.

[From the St. Albans (Vt.) Advertiser, March 27.]

The accepted time is at hand and the hour has struck. Let action be prompt, decisive and unwavering. For more than fifty years a community of persons, enjoying all the rights and privileges of American citizens, occupying a recognized Territory within the borders and government of the United States, represented on the floors of Congress and with the prospect of attaining to full representation—for a Territory is but a State in embryo—have been in a condition of active treason and rebellion against the government of the United States and in active contempt of the constitution and laws of the country.

For more than thirty years one Brigham Young has assumed to be, temporally and spiritually, absolute dictator over a population of some 200,000 souls, which properly are under the protection of our government and owe their allegiance to it. By virtue of this authority, the exercise of which is treason, Brigham Young has caused these people to swear a solemn oath of undying hostility to the government of the United States, as can be readily proven.

He has openly and flagrantly violated the statute forbidding polygamy himself, and instigated its violation by others. He has openly preached and advocated treason, rebellion, murder, robbery and polygamy, in terms most grossly obscene and against all law and good morals. He has repeatedly committed perjury. He has accumulated an immense fortune, estimated at upward of $7,000,000, almost entirely by fraud, breaches of trust and direct theft and robbery, of which the criminal law takes notice. He has stolen large sums of money from the government and diverted and misappropriated public funds. He has been the head and the brain and the motive power of a horde of vicious or misguided people who, in the name of religion, have carried on a system of crime which none but Tartars, Hottentots or some of the more bloodthirsty and inhuman tribes of barbarous countries can rival, and all the while these fiends in human shape have enjoyed the protection and recognition of the government, immunity from punishment, and in some sort a social caste as a "peculiar, but sincere religious sect."

At last tangible evidence against Brigham Young has come officially into the possession of the government, and an opportunity is presented to strike at the fountain head and tear up by the roots this accursed community of rebels, traitors and assassins. In the name of the indignant and outraged people of the whole country, in the name of the innocent blood that cries to heaven to be avenged, in the name of the poverty and misery brought upon innocent people, in the name of the constitution and the laws they have sworn to support and enforce, we call upon the President and the head of the Department of Justice to do their duty.

If prompt and thorough measures are taken there is no reasonable doubt but, from the long catalogue of crimes of which he is guilty, enough can be proven against Brigham Young to hang him, and haste should be made lest he bring reproach upon the country once again by cheating the gallows. He is the head and centre of the whole system, and should be the first offering upon the altar of angry justice. Then for his priests, bishops and all who have willingly aided and abetted him in his great scheme of crime, treason and villany, in the name of a religious creed that he cannot honestly plead even his own genuine belief in, until the guilty are all punished and the innocent rescued.

DOWN WITH POLYGAMY.

Lynchburg *Virginian*:—"Congress should not meet and adjourn again without doing something to abate this fearful nuisance. In the days of slavery it was the fashion to denounce the "twin relics of barbarism." Yet, although slavery has been abolished for twelve years, polygamy is still rife on this continent, and in a Territory of the United States, while one of the polygamous brood sits in the Hall of Representatives