POLLUTION.

A Manure Factory in the Centre of Harlem.

THE SOURCE OF THE STENCH.

Skeletons and Entrails Brought from Barren Island.

STREET CLEANING FERQUISITES.

During the last two months the region around and about the foot of 105th, 106th and 107th streets, East River, has been intermittently pervaded with offensive odors. Occasionally the stench is so oppressive that it has driven laborers in the adjoining works from their occupation, and in some instances men have left their employment rather than subject themselves to what they thought was a risk to their health and to a smell so offensive that it frequently brought on nausea. Persons residing in the neighborhood attributed this nuisance to the filling in of 107th street with garbage and objectionable refuse; others thought it was exhalations caused by the mild weather from the old filling of the Harlem flats; a few thought it was from street garbage that had been surreptitiously deposited in the night, a few months ago, in the open lots southeast of Second avenue and 107th street.

THE SOURCE OF THE STENCH.

The nuisance is, however, not directly traceable to any of these causes. It is of a much more malignant and dangerous character than could be produced from any of the causes given above. At the foot of 105th and 106th streets, East River, is situated an old abattoir, or slaughter house, that has not been used for some years. Lately—that is, during part of the winter, and notably within the last three months—this building has been used for the manufacture of what is technically known as a "fertilizer," or, in more popular language, an artificial manure. The main constituent of this "fertilizer" is made up from the remains of dead animals. These are brought in scows, sometimes as often as three times a week, from Barren Island to this old slaughter house and there deposited for further manipulation. It is needful for the purposes for which these remains are required that a certain stage of decomposition should have set in, and this requisite renders their contact with the light and sun a very sufficient means for the diffusion of the offensive odor of which the neighbors complain. Part of the manipulation brings these skeletons, entrails and skins of dead horses, goats, dogs and cats into contact with sulphuric acid and phosphates from South Carolina, and after a further process an ingredient is formed which becomes a very marketable commodity under the name of "soluble manure." A reporter of the HERALD went through the manufactory a few days ago, and, without the workmen knowing his object, saw and smelt for himself not only the manufactured product, but the material in its earliest stages, before it became the article of commerce that results from the manipulation. On a kind of dumping board, on the river side of the establishment, were heaps of the bones and dried entrails of these dead animals from Barren Island. These had been steeped in sulphuric acid, and the smell therefrom was even under those circumstance unendurable for any protracted period; but when dumped from the boat at the emptying of the scows it could be readily imagined that it was a compound essence of all the objectionable smells that even Harlem has known.

WHAT IS TO BE DONE ABOUT IT.

It is strikingly illustrative of the oft-repeated proverb that public bodies move slowly, that this manure factory should have been in operation a great part of the winter, all the spring and that even last week 1,000 tons of the manure should have been shipped for sale and yet not attract the official attention of the Board of Health. It is only within the last forty-eight hours, and when there is every reason to believe that the Board got a hint of a probable HERALD exposure, that the preliminary official step for closing this factory was initiated. Every ounce of this manure has been manufactured in defiance of law. The proprietors have never received a permit from the Board of Health to carry on their work. Until very recently they did not even make an application. Dr. Veil, the inspector of the district, and Sanitary Inspector Day never visited the place till Monday last. They had scarcely reached the adjoining avenue when the reporter of the HERALD was in the neighborhood, and very shortly afterward discovered the source of the nuisance of which the neighbors so justly complain. Dr. Veil says that he has reported that the permit must be withheld, and that that report was placed on file yesterday. The inquiry, however, naturally arises, Why was not this done before? There has been neglect, at the least, by the officials to whom the guardianship of the health of the city has been entrusted. These boat loads of dead animals have been brought openly and in the daytime to this establishment from Barren Island, where city officials have to some extent a supervision, and yet no steps were taken to prevent the creation of this nuisance.

THE NEIGHBORING ESTABLISHMENTS.

Adjoining this manure factory is a tallow rendering establishment. This, however, seems to be conducted in an unobjectionable manner, and the neighbors do not complain. There is an atmosphere of burnt candle grease made very manifest to oliactory nerves that are strangers to the neighborhood, but this can be endured by the occasional visitor. Near by is the asphalt tube works, and this manufactory, Dr. Veil says, has mitigated somewhat the offensive stench from the manure factory and acted, fortunately, as a sanitary corrective. But, as the Doctor says, anything that obliges the people to keep their windows and doors closed when it is desirable that they should be kept open is an infringement upon the laws of health, and is a sure prelude to sickness that in the heated term will ultimate in contagious disease.

THE FILLING IN OF ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH STREET.

Whatever Ambrose & Mills, the contractors for filling in certain streets in Harlem, may have been guilty of in times past, at present they are only dumping at the foot of 107th street dirt and material that is entirely unobjectionable. A reporter of the HERALD visited yesterday the foot of Fourteenth street, East River, where they receive the contents of all the carts, and it was indisputable that all that was dumped on the scow was earth taken from excavated cellars, ashes and cinders from gasworks, and like material. The people in the neighborhood of this street say that they have no complaint to make now of the filling in, and think that when the manure factory is closed their neighborhood will be a tolerable place to reside in. Ambrose & Mills do not receive any refuse from the Street Cleaning Department. Some time ago an endeavor was made by them to enter into a contract with that department to take away the sweepings at fifteen cents per load, and subsequently at five cents, but this offer was not entertained, and lately the department has not received any proposals from them. If any one will watch the train of carts that pass along in almost continuous succession to the foot of East Fourteenth street it will be seen that the contents of the carts are what they are represented to be. It is said that all persons in connection with the city street cleaning are on their good behavior during the sitting of the Legislature, but that after the adjournment of that body the Street Cleaning Bureau will bear a good deal of watching.

STREET CLEANING PERQUISITES.

Ever since the year 1856, by a system introduced in this city by Mr. Thomas B. Asten, the Chairman of the Board of Assessors, a very large number of the best streets of the city, including the districts in which nearly all the residences of the more wealthy inhabitants are situated, are swept by private contract. A stipulated sum of about one dollar a month for each householder is paid to private contractors named Smith & Werry, and thereby the regular employment of gangs of sweepers are enabled to have many of the streets of the centre of the upper part of the city carefully swept during all seasons of the year. To the ordinary observer it would seem that the Street Cleaning Bureau should cheerfully encourage an enterprise of this kind that saves them so much labor and gives them a reputation among citizens that do not know of the private contract system. The ways of politicians are, however, dark and mysterious, and are not to be judged by the usual course of human conduct. In the days when corruptionists were learning their alphabet of fraud the sweepings of the streets swept by private contractors would be taken away by the carts of the Street Cleaning Department by giving the men in charge of the carts "a drink" or its price. Now, however, a "divvy" is demanded and obtained; the private contractor is known to receive a certain amount for a specified block, or a section of a ward, and unless a certain payment is promised the carts will fail to put in an appearance, and the private contractor must devise his own means for the removal of these sweepings. The taxpayers of this city are twice taxed; once by the city, second by the private contractor, and the latter must pay the city servants again for doing the work that they would be compelled to do if he did not do it. These and similar abuses still prevail, and the citizens appear to be helpless amid the corruption that surrounds them.

LOOKING FOR A DUMPING GROUND.

The Police Board yesterday afternoon ordered a survey of Hart's Island with the view of learning its adaptability for a dumping ground. The order is to be carried out at once.

THE VACANT COMMISSIONERSHIPS.

The local politicians are considerably in the dark as to whether or not Mayor Ely will send in any names for Commissionerships to the Board of Aldermen at their meeting this afternoon. A good deal probably depends upon the action of the republican Legislature upon the Omnibus bill. Mayor Ely and Comptroller Kelly, the governing powers in settling the important question as to who shall fill the vacant places, were not present at their offices yesterday. Should matters as to city legislation take definite shape before the Aldermen meet to-day the names will be sent in. Up to last evening it was understood that the list of probable appointees published in Sunday's HERALD was correct. Messrs. B. F. Manierre, Jacob Hess and Jacob M. Patterson are the most prominent candidates for Police Commissioner. Should the contract of last fall between Tammany Hall and the republicans be carried out in good faith, it is probable that one of these gentlemen will be selected. On the same theory Salem H. Wales will be reappointed Dock Commissioner and George H. Andrews Tax Commissioner. The reappointment of Park Commissioner Martin and Health Commissioner Chandler is considered very doubtful. City Chamberlain Tappan will be retained.

This slate, however, may be changed if the Omnibus bill passes in a shape particularly offensive to Tammany interests, and the anxious candidates will be compelled to wait another week before nominations are made to the Aldermen.

DISAPPEARANCE OF MR. J. T. DALY.

Mr. J. T. Daly, a wealthy resident of New York, and the owner of the Windsor Hotel, has been missing from his home, No. 4 East Forty-seventh street, since Tuesday morning. For some time previous he had been very disconsolate and gloomy, owing to business troubles which preyed on his mind. Prominent among these troubles was a suit against him for $60,000 by one of the Park Commissioners, which, in connection with heavy losses by the depreciation of the value of much of his real estate, was considered sufficient in the view of some of his friends to warrant the belief that Mr. Daly has committed suicide while under temporary derangement of mind. This view is not entertained at Mr. Daly's residence. His son stated to a HERALD reporter last evening that when Mr. Daly left his home on Tuesday morning he had no large amount of money with him, but he did have a number of very valuable law papers. The son's firm belief was that he had been foully dealt with in order to obtain possession of these papers. Young Mr. Daly declined to state particularly what these papers were. When Mr. Daly left his home he stopped first at the Windsor Hotel and conversed a few minutes with Mr. Waite, the lessee; from thence he proceeded to the Manhattan Market, where he paid a bill. Since then his movements are unknown. Mr. Waite did not seem to think Mr. Daly's mind was deranged, although he noticed the gloomy and disconsolate appearance which also the son had noticed. When he did not return home on Tuesday evening his family became alarmed, as he was never known to be away from home at night without first announcing his intention. His prolonged absence through yesterday gave further alarm, and Superintendent Walling was notified. A general alarm was sent to all police stations, and Detective Dunn especially detailed to search for the missing man, but although strict search was made he could not be found. He is about fifty years of age, of medium height, slim build, and has gray hair, mustache and whiskers. He was well dressed, and wore diamonds and a gold watch and chain.

THE HEREDITY OF CRIME.

Dr. W. G. Stevenson, of Poughkeepsie, delivered a lecture last evening before the Medico-Legal Society, at their rooms on West Thirty-first street, on the subject of "Criminality." The lecturer reviewed the general principles of evolution as they pertained to human development. Having seen the obedience of man to law in all the manifestations of bodily functions, he then asked if there was not some rule or law which influenced the acts of man, and in proportion to this influence are not his responsibilities under law directly modified thereby? Having given the general facts relative to the nervous centres and their actions, and shown that mind is dependent on and influenced by the physical condition of the brain, Dr. Stevenson entertained no doubt but that the evidence is sufficient to enable us to determine with approximate accuracy the bodily and mental conditions which give the bias to individual character.

CRIMINALITY AND NERVOUS PHYSIOLOGY.

The Doctor's argument relative to criminality was based upon the evidence furnished by nervous physiology. He claimed that it is a neurosis, originating in either an inherited or an acquired condition of the brain—a condition of positive disease or of non-development of certain faculties—the existence of which would preclude the possibility of crime.

THE EQUALITY OF MAN.

He first reviewed the question of the equality of man and found physical and mental differences existed among races and individuals. The lecturer then discussed the heredity of these differences and found that the law of heredity prevailed in all the attributes of mental as well as of physical life. This being so, he argued that we could not formulate a general law or a general rule by which to measure the human action, but the acts of each individual must be interpreted according to his own personal condition and surroundings.

The Doctor then briefly traced the effects of insanity and inebriety and showed the existence of a correlation between these and crime.

THE NEW STEAMBOAT MASSACHUSETTS.

The new steamboat Massachusetts, of the Providence line, will make her first trip for Providence from pier No. 29 North River next Monday evening. She is the sister boat to the Rhode Island, and the two steamers are to go direct to Providence from this city. The dimensions of the Massachusetts are:—Length, 325 feet; beam, 46 feet; beam over all, 76 feet; depth of hold, 16 feet 4 inches. The frames of the new steamboat are of white oak, locust and cedar, the floor timbers are of white oak and the top timbers of locust and cedar, and the deck of white pine. Without the machinery or joiner work the launching weight of the Massachusetts was 1,000 tons. The fittings of the interior are very handsome. The dining room is on the main deck, and the grand saloon has two galleries. The berths are commodious and number 220, in addition to the staterooms. The furniture is of Boston manufacture. She has all the modern improvements for steamers of this class, and was built by Mr. Steers, of Greenpoint.

A PECULIAR PETTICOAT.

A demure looking little woman, of about thirty-five years of age, accompanied by a stout, sinister faced man, entered the fancy goods store of Louis V. Holzmaster, at No. 403 Broadway, yesterday morning and began pricing goods. It was noticed that the woman continued examining the various articles while her companion talked aside with the salesman. Soon a watchful errand boy, named Luden, saw the woman slip a box of kid gloves beneath her shawl, and immediately afterward she walked toward the door. The boy informed his employers of what he had seen, and they sent him for an officer. Before the latter arrived the man had escaped, but the policeman took the woman into custody and found the stolen property concealed under her shawl. She was taken before Justice Smith, at the Tombs Police Court, and committed in default of $2,500 bail. The Justice eyed her critically, and recognized in her an old shoplifter who had on previous occasions been before him. Then he whispered to the officer to have Mrs. Foster, the matron of the woman's prison, make a careful examination of the prisoner's clothing. The matron soon entered the court room carrying two large boxes of kid gloves and a petticoat of a peculiar pattern. It was made of felt of double thickness, and bore a capacious pocket, which extended nearly the entire length of the garment. The boxes were found lying snugly at the bottom. Mr. Holzmaster's salesman identified them as the property of his employer and gave the value as $140. The prisoner looked composedly at the petticoat, and when questioned as to how the gloves came there merely shrugged her shoulders, answering in broken English "Me not know." She gave her name as Rose Rode, of "No. 408 uptown, near Third avenue." With this lucid address the Court was obliged to be satisfied, as she declined answering further questions.

The prisoner was recognized by Captain Allaire as a notorious German shoplifter, whose picture is in the Rogues' Gallery.

Justice Smith held her in $5,000 to answer, remarking that he would critically examine any bail she should offer. In default of the bail she was committed to the Tombs.

MATRIMONIAL MISERY.

Mary Howard is thirty-nine years old and a resident of No. 118 Ridge street. She has been married for some time and latterly has been quite unhappy. She fell out with her husband yesterday and in a fit of despair attempted to commit suicide by cutting the arteries of her right arm with a razor. She rushed into the Delancey street police station and related her rash conduct to the sergeant. A surgeon was summoned and her wounds were attended to. She was removed to the Chambers Street Hospital.

BUSINESS TROUBLES.

A meeting of the creditors of Boyden, Malloy & Co., hat jobbers at No. 520 Broadway, was held yesterday at the office of Register Dayton, to act on the offer of the firm to compromise at forty cents on the dollar, the liabilities being $98,000. The creditors finally decided to accept the composition.

Register Dayton has received a warrant in bankruptcy against Witold Zychlinski & Max Hippler, coal dealers at No. 24 East street, who have been adjudicated bankrupts upon the petitions of several of their creditors. They recently made an assignment under the State law to John White.

The following assignment was yesterday filed in the County Clerk's office:—Morris Plonikey to Isaac Barnett.

GERMAN LUTHERAN SYNOD.

The fifty delegates to the German Lutheran Synod of the Eastern District of Missouri reassembled yesterday morning at St. John's Church, corner of Graham avenue and Ten Eyck street, Brooklyn, E. D. Pastor Stuerken, of Baltimore, Md., presided, and a debate was commenced on the eight articles of their creed as to the difference between the law and the gospel. In the course of the debate secret societies were denounced. The session will be resumed this morning.

CUSTOM HOUSE INVESTIGATION.

THE AUDITOR AND HIS ASSISTANT RECOMMEND A REDUCTION OF FORCE—COLLECTOR ARTHUR ON THE GENERAL ORDER SYSTEM.

Secretary Sherman's Commissioners, appointed to investigate the system of collecting duties at the Custom House and its personnel, held another session yesterday in Naval Officer Cornell's office, Mr. Jay, the chairman, presiding. Prior to going into the investigation of the Custom House affairs the Commission held a protracted private interview with Messrs. Jackson S. Schultz, Thomas Barbour, Daniel G. Robbins, and their counsel, S. B. Eaton, who appeared as a committee representing the Chamber of Commerce. About an hour subsequently the doors were opened and the members of the Press admitted. The first thing done was the reading of the following letter by Mr. Jay, which, he said, he had received from Deputy Appraiser Bausch, who had been examined on Tuesday:—

APPRAISER'S OFFICE, PORT OF NEW YORK, May 2, 1877.

To the Honorable Commission Investigating Affairs in the New York Custom House:—

GENTLEMEN—I desire to correct a statement made by me yesterday in my examination. I stated that the amount of assessments made last fall was paid to the late Appraiser, S. H. French, Esq., which I find, upon reflection, not to be the fact.

The money was paid to Mr. H. Sperry, the contractor, for furnishing a portion of the labor for this department.

In justice to Mr. French I make this correction. I am, respectfully, J. A. BAUSCH, Assistant Appraiser.

Mr. Robinson, Assistant Solicitor of the Treasury, and of the Commission, having received telegraphic instructions from the Secretary, announced his intention hereafter to administer an oath to each witness before testifying, pursuant to section 183 of the Revised Statutes.

MR. OGDEN'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

Mr. Samuel Ogden, the Auditor, was then called. Being an invalid, his testimony was almost inaudible. The gist of his evidence was to the fact that if he could have the right kind of men the present force of the Custom House might be reduced twenty per cent. The Naval Office should be abolished, but it might entail some difficulties at first, and in lieu thereof make the Auditor independent of the Collector, which would be the proper check on him. He was in favor of a civil service code and a more certain tenure of office. Ninety-nine men were employed in his division, of whom about seventeen clerks and three or four men, who are preparing statistics, might be dispensed with. The system in vogue in his office could not, in his opinion, be improved. The office hours should be from nine to four. He does not know of any gratuities paid to any of his clerks for lawyers or others. The functions of the Auditor are to disburse moneys and account for the same. None of his accounts have ever been returned from the department incorrect. Contributions for political purposes are usually made voluntarily. None of the employés of the Auditor's department hold any sinecures; they have to work hard and regularly. Mr. Ogden recommended the abolition of the fees upon documents, which now amounted to over $200,000 per annum, and instead add them as duties. This system causes great trouble, loss of time and vexation to importers. In order to get a "check" on an entry persons have to walk around a number of departments and then come back to the cashier's office to pay a twenty cent fee.

A REDUCTION OF TEN PER CENT SUGGESTED.

Mr. Samuel J. Jacobs, Assistant Auditor, was next sworn. He deposed that he had been in this office for a number of years and is fully conversant with the affairs of his department. In his opinion ten per cent of the employés might be dispensed with. His office hours are from half-past eight A. M. to five P. M. The personnel is good, but the salaries are too low. Does not know of any gratuities being received by any of the attaches of his office. He also condemned the system of paying the twenty-cent fees, which amount to about $25,000 a month. There is no check on this payment, and the collection and accounting thereof must be trusted entirely to the honesty of the cashier.

THE GENERAL ORDER SYSTEM.

A recess was here taken and messengers sent after a number of representatives of steamship companies. On reassembling the following named gentlemen presented themselves:—Mr. B. J. Cortis, of the White Star Line; Mr. William B. Guion, of Williams & Guion's line; Mr. Radcliffe, of the State line; Mr. Schwab, of the North German Lloyd; Mr. Mayer, of the Hamburg line; Mr. Allen, Cunard line; Mr. De Bebian, Transatlantique line, and Mr. Pim, of the Atlas line. These gentlemen were all present at the examination of Collector Arthur, and ventilated their opinions pretty freely on the subject of allowing goods to remain on the dock for forty-eight hours instead of sending them to general order warehouses immediately on arrival.

General Arthur said, "As soon as a vessel is entered an order is issued for the goods to go into general orders. The regulations give authority to the Collector, at his option, to allow the same to remain on the dock."

DISCHARGING VESSELS AFTER DARK.

General Arthur explained the system of allowing vessels to discharge after sunset.

Question by Mr. Jay to General Arthur—What would be the legal fees to inspectors and others for watching goods and seeing that they do not go into general orders?

General Arthur—There is no special legislation on that subject. There is a regulation allowing vessels to discharge at night, for which the steamship companies give a general bond as security for the goods in case of loss. If any steamship company suffers from having goods unduly hurried from the dock, by complaining to the Collector the inspectors are severely punished.

A representative of one of the steamer lines here remarked to the Commission that whenever any complaint was made to the Collector by them relief was at once accorded.

The Collector continued, "When inspectors work after sunset the extra compensation therefor is fixed by the Surveyor and himself."

Mr. Turnure asked General Sharpe, who was present, whether the inspectors were allowed by law to receive extra pay for night work, which was answered in the affirmative. The former replied that he differed decidedly with the Surveyor, inasmuch as the law requires the money to be paid by the steamship companies to the Collector and by him to the inspector.

This closed the examination for the day, but before adjourning it was agreed between the Collector and the steamship representatives present, on the recommendation of the Commission, that hereafter the companies should apply for regular night permits for each vessel, and pay the extra labor of inspectors to the Collector's office direct.

ART MATTERS.

There is on exhibition at the art rooms of Messrs. Radtke a collection of pictures belonging to the various European art schools. In the catalogue the paintings are described as coming from the easels of eminent artists, and some very well known names are on a few of these canvases. There is a Venetian canal scene, attributed to Canaletto, with much of the quality of that very much overestimated artist's work in it; but very few people, we imagine, will be able to get up any enthusiasm looking at the formal, grayish blue ripples which are intended to represent wavelets. There is also a head of a burgomaster, painted in the style of Rembrandt, which is set down as coming from the gallery of Baron Henri, but the work does not impress one with the idea of power and knowledge of character which is the distinguishing feature of Rembrandt's portraits. There are quite a number of other great names represented in this collection, but the works show very little of the distinguishing qualities of the men whose names they bear. The collection numbers some 150 works, mostly of cabinet size, but the subjects are not of the class which most interest American buyers. The sale of these works begins to-night at the exhibition rooms, and will be continued to-morrow evening.

BENEVOLENT LAWYERS, ATTENTION.

Mrs. Herman Schmidt, wife of a jeweller who recently carried on business at No. 311 Smith street, Brooklyn, represents that her husband has been incarcerated in Ludlow Street Jail for an alleged debt of $33, growing out of a transaction in Brooklyn. Twice Mr. Schmidt has frustrated his adversary in the Brooklyn courts, and now that he has removed to No. 796 Second avenue, where a wife and six destitute children reside, he is again made the victim of persecution. Justice Daniel Ferry, of the First District Court, Brooklyn, vouches for Mr. Schmidt's honesty. Some humane lawyer might do a deserving service to an unfortunate family by interesting himself in behalf of the man.

FAREWELL RECEPTION.

The Rev. Mr. R. S. MacArthur, pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church, sails for Europe to-day in the steamer State of Pennsylvania. He is to be absent five months, during which time his flock will be placed in charge of various ministers of the Baptist denomination in this city. Last night the congregation, under the auspices of the Young People's Association belonging to the church, tendered their pastor a farewell reception.

Social enjoyment was indulged in by the congregation until ten o'clock, when the Rev. Mr. MacArthur appeared. A few words of farewell were addressed to him by the members of the committee, to which the pastor feelingly responded. The reception closed with a farewell banquet. During Mr. MacArthur's stay in Europe the church will continue his salary as usual. In addition a large purse has been presented to him by the congregation. The pastor's wife will accompany her husband on his European tour.

BROOKLN OFFICIAL SQUABBLING.

The contest over the appointment of members of the Board of Election in Brooklyn between the Mayor, Comptroller and City Auditor continues to be a subject of interest in political circles. Under the law the Commissioners of Election now in office hold over till their successors shall have been appointed. The bureau is republican. Yesterday afternoon Mr. Joseph Platt and Mr. John Gilbertson, who were appointed on Monday last and who subsequently took the oath of office, called at the Bureau of Elections in Montague street for the purpose of taking possession of the office. They were cordially received by Commissioners Franklin Woodruff, Robert D. Benedict and William Green, who declined to surrender the records or the responsibilities to the democratic appointees named, refusing to recognize their legal claim to possession till such time as the courts shall have decided the question. Mr. Slote, the Mayor's appointee, has not qualified.

THE STRANGER FROM THE EAST.

A PSEUDO-EGYPTIAN PRINCE WHO SWINDLED THE PEOPLE OF FOUR CONTINENTS AND WAS MADE A LION OF NEW YORK SOCIETY.

A welcome guest in some of the wealthiest of New York families, a boon companion of the sons and a favored chaperone of the daughters, has been for the last couple of months one Selim R. Bey, a magnificent Oriental, with ways most winning, manners most distinguished and a facility for pleasing which falls to the lot of but few men. Whence he came and what he was doing no one took any pains to learn, but from his conversation it was apparent that his antecedents were respectable and noble. With rulers of the East, whose magnificence almost surpassed description, he had been reared in childhood and associated in youth, and he was on terms of intimacy with dukes and lords of high degree in every nation in Christendom. He had quite a fund of anecdotes, pleasant and spicy, and invariably illustrative of the consideration in which he was held by these exalted personages. Besides this he carried with him souvenirs of many distinguished people—little trinkets they were, generally of not much value, but unique in their way—and these had the virtue of frequently suggesting to him incidents in his experience with their original owners. The fashionable society in which he moved was awed by his grandeur and dazzled by the greatness of his connections, and at once Selim Bey secured the friendship of the scions of good houses and the admiration of the most select coteries.

HIS APPEARANCE.

No one was better able to improve upon acquaintance and no one had a better facility for making the most of favorable impressions. In appearance he was exceedingly prepossessing. The olive tint of the East seemed only to lend a special attraction to his face and to harmonize with his black hair and eyes, and, moreover, this Oriental Adonis had a rare control of his facial muscles, and could be interestingly pensive at one moment and the next be beaming with merriment. He was a scholar, too, of no mean attainments; spoke English, French and German fluently, besides no end of Eastern languages, and could converse intelligently about science, art, or in fact any topic that in the possibilities of society gossip could arise.

Of course Selim Bey became a lion in fashionable circles. He was dined and wined at the best tables, his society was courted by gay young men and he was most signally favored by the fair. During all this time he was residing at the Windsor and Fifth avenue hotels, and would no doubt have continued his career had not Mr. Waite, the lessee of the former establishment, determined upon exposing his experience with the grand Oriental and giving society an inkling as to his methods of operating.

It was in the Windsor Hotel that the stranger from the East first registered on his arrival in New York the name of Selim R. Bey. His baggage was not bulky, but his apparel and conversation were calculated to mark him as a man of means. He represented himself to be the son of a wealthy Egyptian potentate, and said that he was travelling for pleasure and instruction. While stopping at the hotel he lived in princely style, had a most elegant suit of rooms, and ran up colossal bills for wines, cigars and carriage hire. Time passed, and the Egyptian prince, who was feted and paraded about by a number of wealthy people, gave invitations to his friends to dine with him, and always had the most delicious viands and the choicest wines to please their palates. Mr. Waite after a while thought it to send up a bill to His Oriental Highness, who received it complacently and said nothing more about it. Mr. Waite then made him a personal visit, and suggested that he would be compelled to have some guarantee of Selim's intention to pay him. The latter waxed wroth at this, and was for some moments in a perfect frenzy of indignation, but finding that his host was determined he produced a curiously wrought casket, and motioning to it in a way that seemed to indicate that the wealth of Ormus and of Ind was far less valuable than its contents, he said:—"If you doubt me, sir, let that be my pledge."

A CASKET OF TRINKETS.

Mr. Waite subsequently found that the strange casket contained an immense gold sleeve button and a lot of cheap trinkets that were not worth a dollar. On the occasion in question, however, he said that a settlement must be made at once, and at this Selim assured him that he would proceed to secure the required funds without a moment's delay. To do this, he hurried to the telegraph office, and telegrams in the Egyptian tongue were in a few moments flying across the wires to Beyrout, Cairo and other Eastern cities, demanding from a number of correspondents that letters of credit be at once forwarded. The telegrams were never answered. Mr. Waite was patient, but at last endurance failed and he took measures to have the Egyptian's affairs investigated, and Selim Bey, finding exposure imminent, made an appeal to a very wealthy Jewish family whose confidence he enjoyed, and a settlement was at once made by them. To them Selim was still the Eastern prince, and it was esteemed an honor by them to have their son employed as his private secretary, to which position Selim was gracious enough to appoint him. From the Windsor the Egyptian went to the Fifth Avenue Hotel. Here the programme of dinners, revels and general festivity was repeated; but the proprietors, being informed of Mr. Waite's experience, demanded a settlement of the bill, and the Jewish family were again constrained to pay the pseudo prince's expenses.

THE PRINCE IN ANOTHER LIGHT.

In the meantime Mr. Waite wrote to a correspondent in Cairo, inquiring about Selim Bey's antecedents, and he learned that the magnificent Oriental was some years ago a guide for travellers in the neighborhood of Beyrout. He was shrewd and intelligent and easily succeeded in mastering the tongues of the strangers he came in contact with, but being discovered in a theft he fled to Cairo in Egypt. Here he abided for a time, but was caught at his old tricks and flogged out of the city. Alexandria was his next sojourning place and here he made the daughter of a wealthy dignitary his dupe, seducing her first under promise of marriage and then robbing her of her jewels, with which he fled to Europe. Since that he has resided in all the great capitals, always sumptuously attired, always living in superb style and always leaving a host of creditors behind him. Paris, Vienna and London have been successively the scenes of his operations, and, narrowly escaping conviction for swindling in the last city, he came to New York to begin anew his life of extravagance and deceit. Mr. Waite yesterday furnished this information to the police authorities, and this prince of swindlers, who operated successfully in four continents, will no doubt be compelled to give over his routs and revels for a time, and, what is better, the eyes of his infatuated victims will be opened to his real character.

THE DOG LAW.

Six canines were seen yesterday afternoon disporting in the City Hall Park on the lawn fronting the Mayor's office. They were without owners, muzzles, tags, chains or strings—in fact, they gambolled with as much apparent enjoyment as if no ordinance had been passed or no Aldermen were in existence. Mayor Ely has not yet promulgated his instructions as to the method of capturing vagrant dogs, and arrangements for the issuing of licenses will not be completed until Monday next. Metal tags, upon which will be inscribed the number of the licensed animal, are now being manufactured. They will cost about ten cents apiece. The license fee is $2, and the expense of the tag will also be defrayed by the owner. The Permit Bureau, in the basement of the City Hall, will have charge of the business of licensing dogs. A number of applicants for licenses put in an appearance at the Mayor's office yesterday, but the necessary machinery not being in readiness, they were compelled to go away without the wished-for tag. Ambitious local political leaders by the hundred have also applied for the onerous positions of dog catchers.

MAD DOGS IN CONNECTICUT.

[From the Hartford Times, May 1.]

Last night, while Professor V. Alvergnat (professor of French) was giving a lesson to one of his pupils, at his residence, No. 19½ Pratt street, his attention was attracted to a strange dog which came in at the street door and passed his study. When the scholar left, M. Alvergnat supposed the dog went with him, but he soon after heard the animal howling between the street and vestibule doors. He went out with a candle in his hand to relieve the dog, and, on opening the inner door the dog ran into the hall. M. Alvergnat tried to coax him back, and as he was opening the street door the dog flew at him and bit him on the calf of the leg. M. Alvergnat then hit the dog with the candlestick and attempted to seize a cane which stood in the hat rack, and the dog, seeing the motion, seized his left hand in his mouth, inflicting seven or eight wounds, one of which severed an artery in the middle finger. M. Alvergnat shook the animal off his hand and struck him, only to be attacked a third time, when the dog flew at his face, catching him by the cheek, but only inflicting a slight wound, being prevented from further injury by M. Alvergnat's whisker's, who made another attack with the cane upon the dog, which flew at him again, this time catching the right hand in his mouth, and biting through the nail of one forefinger, inflicting a most painful wound. The dog then ran into the library, and was there left all night, and this morning a policeman was sent for, who, after firing six shots into the body of the dog, succeeded in killing it. Professor Alvergnat had his wounds cauterized last night.

HYDROPHOBIA REMEDY.

Cases of hydrophobia are becoming too frequent. If any remedy exists it should be known. The powdered root of elecampane, boiled with a little madder in milk, is still found to be the most efficacious remedy for this dreadful disease—after other things have been tried in vain. An ounce of the powdered root, a tablespoonful of madder and one quart of fresh milk—the latter to be taken with the rest—a wineglassful a day. Cauterizing the wound can do little good, unless the cautery is instantaneously effected.

AN INSANE ASSAILANT.

Henry O'Brien, the youth who assaulted his father, Douglass F. O'Brien, with an axe, at their residence on Sixth avenue, South Brooklyn, on Sunday night last, was yesterday committed by Justice Ferry to the Lunatic Asylum.

THE SAVINGS BANKS.

A FEW SUGGESTIONS TO THE COMMITTEE NOW INVESTIGATING SUPERINTENDENT ELLIS THAT MAY PROVE VALUABLE.

Interviews which have been had with bankers, merchants and business men show that the community is taking much interest in the doings of the Senate committee who are investigating the charges against Bank Superintendent Ellis. A number of gentlemen who have been spoken to on the subject believe that Messrs. St. John, Coleman and Wellman, who are hearing the charges, will do justice to the public, while a few others are apprehensive that the power of political influences, to say nothing of the possible personal interests of at least one member of the committee, may intervene to warp their judgment. It is agreed generally, among those who have expressed an opinion on this point, that fraud is not the right sort of charge to advance against Mr. Ellis. It is not alleged by those who oppose him that he has been guilty of fraud under the statute; he has not been detected in fraud, and any charge under this head would simply be a misnomer. Criminal neglect of duty is the nature of the offence that must be brought home to the door of Mr. Ellis. Another piece of official conduct which is much talked about as being extremely disagreeable to the people of this State is found in the appointment of Mr. George W. Reid as Bank Examiner under Ellis. Reid is a non-resident in New York State or city; he lives in New Jersey, and is only under the jurisdiction of the lex loci when he happens occasionally to come over here on business. Business men complain that this is a great public inconvenience, a source of much annoyance in many respects and altogether improper in a case like this, where no less than $375,000,000 come under Reid's supervision. It is believed that a man in so responsible a position should at least be a resident of the State.

THE THIRD AVENUE BANK.

Mr. Mellon, a depositor, who lost over $12,000 by the Third Avenue Savings Bank, is determined to have a rigid examination of the official conduct of Superintendent Ellis in his connection with the affairs of this corporation. He suggests to the Investigating Committee that the following matters be gone into:—That the Superintendent's reports to the Legislature for the years 1875-6 and the previous ones, relating to this subject, be examined; letters and special reports which have been received by the department and by Mr. Ellis individually, as well as letter books and copies of answers to communications, with special reports of examiners and others, be laid before the public; all reports and writings relative to the Third Avenue Bank to be submitted, and Mr. De Witt C. Ellis to be individually placed under examination; George W. Reid, of Elizabeth, N. J., and his memoranda, with copies of his letters and reports on this subject to be brought forward; all special and other reports and copies of letters concerning the matter of the Third Avenue Savings Bank, since Mr. Ellis was confirmed as Superintendent, to be produced. The following witnesses to be called on the stand:—William F. Aldrich, No. 71 Broadway, sub-examiner, together with reports, private memoranda and letters on the subject; Isaac Smith, accountant in the department at Albany, with all his reports and letters; Henry L. Lamb, deputy accountant of the department at Albany, with full sets of Superintendent Ellis' reports to the Assembly; S. H. Hurd, No. 33 Pine street, New York, receiver of the Third Avenue Bank, with copies of his statements of sales of real estate made by him and documents relative to the insolvency of this institution; the books of the bank, particularly that in which the proceedings of the Board of Trustees are recorded, and the resolution of that body to raise the value of Tarrytown real estate—his knowledge of its usurious transactions and statement, showing the following deficits:—Robberies by clerks, $120,000; frauds by raised checks, $23,169 56; United States bonds unaccounted for, $20,000; cash received on Lee's bonds, $6,500; loss on settlement of the Atlantic Mail stock, $26[illegible],575; losses by real estate, growing out of the Atlantic Mail stock mainly, $492,512 21; the expenses of clerks, bookkeepers, with the amount of salaries and who drew them, $308,086 13, making thus a total of $1,231,842 90. It is also desired that John B. Manning, of Wall street, be examined as to Southern bonds, and George Hencken, Jr., a trustee, as to the meeting wherein it was resolved to close the bank on the evening of the 28th September, 1875, and as to its general condition; finally, A. G. Dunn, of No. 113 East Fortieth street, a former trustee of the bank, and his report showing its insolvency.

In addition to this formidable array of figures and witnesses the opponents of Ellis claim to show from his own annual reports to the Assembly that it has been a common practice for banks to invest in all sorts of valueless stock, "wild cat" speculations, worthless bonds and depreciated real estate without being in any way held to account by the Superintendent, who, it is urged, ought to have prevented investment in such securities, which are not allowable by law.

COTTON INTERESTS.

The question of the supervision of cotton which has been under consideration by the members of the Cotton Exchange for some time was again up yesterday afternoon. This question of supervision concerns the protection of cotton arriving at this port from loss by larceny, &c. It is estimated by members of the Exchange that fully 10,000 bales of cotton are stolen at the port of New York every year.

The plan of supervision proposed met with considerable opposition, and it was decided to refer the question back to a committee to reconsider it and suggest some more acceptable arrangement within thirty days. It is believed that by the proper concentration of storage much of the present trouble can be overcome.

PETROLEUM EXCHANGE.

The Petroleum Exchange recently organized opened at No. 84 Beaver street. There is a fountain in the centre of the Exchange, and the usual circle is railed off to separate observers from active operators. The Exchange's rules are such as govern speculations generally. Mr. W. Jay Ives, the President, opened the Exchange with a brief address, which was followed by remarks from several other gentlemen.

REAL ESTATE.

The following is a record of the sales made at the Real Estate Exchange yesterday:—

BY JOHN T. BOYD.

Foreclosure sale—Philo T. Ruggles, referee—of the building, with lot 14.2x67.9, No. 89 White st., s. s., 68.8 ft. w. of Elm st., to Philip Wagner, for $7,100