EDISON'S WONDER.

The Phonograph and Its Application Described by Its Inventor.

GREAT POSSIBILITIES.

Fugitive Sounds Captured and Imprisoned in Tin Foil Sheets.

TELEGRAPHY REVOLUTIONIZED.

From an authority so worthy of attention as the inventor himself we learn of the many applications to which that new mechanical wonder, the phonograph, can be put. Under the title "The Phonograph and Its Future" Mr. Edison publishes an article in the *North American Review* for May-June, in which he totalls the marvellous results he has obtained from his experiments when developing his invention, and points out the manner in which the new instrument is to simplify, and in many instances render unnecessary, the labors of the telegrapher, the writer, speaker and singer. He undertakes to show that in the near future a complete revolution will be accomplished in the now costly and laborious work of bookmaking, and that imperishable records of the identical utterances of men can be secured and reproduced as often and in as many places simultaneously as is desired. It is with the view of setting unintelligent conjecture at rest that the inventor of the phonograph gives his own description of the instrument to the public. He says:—"From the very abundance of conjectural and prophetic opinions which have been disseminated by the press the public is liable to become confused and less accurately informed as to the immediate result and effects of the phonograph than if the invention had been one confined to certain specific applications, and therefore of less interest to the masses." And with regard to the possibilities of the application of the phonograph he adds:—"In the case of an invention of the nature and scope of the phonograph it is practically impossible to indicate it to-day, for to-morrow a trifle may extend it almost indefinitely."

WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED ALREADY.

The success already achieved by Mr. Edison is thus summed up by him in answer to categorical questions assumed to be put regarding the phonograph:—

1. A vibrating plate or disk is "capable of receiving a complex motion which shall correctly represent the peculiar property of each and all the multifarious vocal and other sound waves."

2. Such a complex movement can "be transmitted from such a plate by means of a single embossing point attached thereto, to effect a record upon a plastic material by indentation, with such fidelity as to give such indentation the same varied and complex form," and this being the case, "this embossing point, upon being passed over the record thus made, will follow it with such fidelity as to retransmit to the disk the same variety of movement and thus effect a restoration or reproduction of the vocal or other sound waves without loss of any property essential to producing upon the ear the same sensation as if coming direct from the original source."

With regard to the foregoing Mr. Edison further states that "by application of power for uniformity of movement and by attention to many seemingly unimportant and minor details—such as the form and the material of the embossing point, the proper dampening of the plate, the character of the material embossed, the formation of the mouthpiece over the plate," &c.—he has "at various times during the past weeks reproduced these waves with such degree of accuracy in each and every detail as to enable his assistants to read without the loss of a word one or more columns of a newspaper article unfamiliar to them and which were spoken into the apparatus when they were not present. The only perceptible loss was found to be in the quality of the utterance—a non-essential in the practical application of the apparatus." He makes the curious and important announcement that "the articulation of some individuals has been very perceptibly improved by passage through the phonograph, the original utterance being mutilated by imperfection of lip and mouth formation, and these mutilations eliminated or corrected by the mechanism of the phonograph."

3. A record can "be removed from the apparatus on which it was made and replaced upon a second without mutilation or loss of effective power to vibrate the second plate."

This Mr. Edison regards as a matter of "mere mechanical detail, presenting no greater obstacle than having proper regard for the perfect interchangeableness of the various working parts of the apparatus.

4. "But about ten or fifteen seconds suffice for placing or removing the recording sheet. A special envelope will probably be required for the present, the weight and form of which, however, will but slightly increase the postage."

5. "Repeated experiments have proved that the indentations possess wonderful enduring power, even when the reproduction has been effected by the comparatively rigid plate used for their production. It is proposed, however, to use a more flexible plate for reproducing, which, with a perfectly smooth stone point—diamond or sapphire—will render the record capable of from fifty to a hundred repetitions, enough for all practical purposes."

6. "Many experiments have been made, with more or less success, in the effort to obtain electrotypes of a record. This work has been done by others, and, though the writer (Edison) has not as yet seen it, he is reliably informed that, very recently, it has been successfully accomplished. He can certainly see no great practical obstacle in the way. This, of course, permits you indefinite multiplication of a record and its preservation for all time."

7. In reply to the inquiry, "What are the requisite force of wave impinging upon the diaphragm and the proximity of the mouth to the diaphragm to effect a record?" the inventor says:— *

These depend in a great measure upon the volume of sound desired in the reproduction. If the reproduction is to be made audible to an audience considerable force is requisite in the original utterance; (if for the individual ear only the ordinary conversational tone (even a whisper) has been reproduced). In both cases the original utterances are delivered directly in the mouthpiece of the instrument. An audible reproduction may, however, be had by speaking at the instrument from a distance of from two to three feet in a loud tone. The application of a flaring tube or funnel to collect the sound waves and the construction of an especially delicate diaphragm and embossing point, &c., are the simple means which suggest themselves to effect this. The writer has not as yet given this stage of the development much attention, but sees no practical difficulty in gathering up and retaining a sectional part of the sound waves diffused about the orgin at source within a radius of say three feet sufficiently removed not to be annoying to a speaker or a singer.

The actual practical results obtained from the phonograph may be set down as follows:—"The captivity, permanent retention and reproduction at will with original characteristics, of all sound waves heretofore designated as "fugitive." The transmission of captive sounds in material form "for purposes of communication or as merchantable goods." The indefinite multiplication and preservation of sounds, without regard to the existence of the original source, and the captivation of sounds with or without the knowledge or consent of the source of their origin. Among the more important prospective applications of the phonograph may be mentioned letter writing and other forms of dictation, books, education, reader, music, family record and such electrotype applications as books, musical boxes, toys, clocks, advertising and signaling apparatus, speeches, &c.

THE LETTER WRITER PHONOGRAPH.

"The apparatus now being perfected in mechanical details will be the standard phonograph. The general principles of construction are a flat plate or disk, with a spiral groove on the face, operated by clockwork underneath the plate, the grooves are cut very closely together so as to give the greatest length to each inch of surface—a close calculation gives as the capacity of each sheet of foil, upon which the record is had, in the neighborhood of forty thousand words."

"The practical application of this form of phonograph for communications is very simple. A sheet of foil is placed in the phonograph, the clockwork is set in motion and the matter dictated into the mouthpiece without other effort than when dictating to a stenographer. It is then removed and placed in a suitable form of envelope and sent through the ordinary channels to the correspondent for whom designed. He placing it upon his phonograph, starts his clockwork and listens to what his correspondent has to say."

BOOKS, MUSIC, RECORDS, &C.

Books may be read by the charitably-inclined professional reader, or by such readers especially employed for that purpose, and the record of such book used in the asylums of the blind, hospitals, the sick chamber, or even with great profit and amusement by the lady or gentlemen whose eyes and hands may be otherwise employed; or, again, because of the greater enjoyment to be had from a book when read by an elocutionist than when read by the average reader. The ordinary record sheet, repeating this book from fifty to a hundred times as it will, would command a price that would pay the original reader well for the slightly increased difficulty in reading it aloud in the phonograph.

"As an elocutionary teacher, or as a primary teacher for children, it will certainly be invaluable. By it difficult passages may be correctly rendered for the pupil but once, after which he has only to apply to his phonograph for instructions. The child may thus learn to spell, commit to memory, a lesson set for it, &c.

"The phonograph will undoubtedly be liberally devoted to music. A song sung on the phonograph is reproduced with marvelous accuracy and power. Thus a friend may, in a morning call, sing a song which shall delight an evening company, &c. As a musical teacher it will be used to enable one to master a new air, the child to form its first songs, or to sing him to sleep."

"A book of 40,000 words upon a single metal plate ten inches square becomes a strong probability. The advantages of such books over those printed are too readily seen to need mention. Such books would be listened to where now none are read." We may add in this connection that phonographic books would become as useful and interesting to the unlettered as to the highly educated, as both would receive the information they contained by hearing only.

TOYS, CLOCKS, TELEGRAPHY, ETC.

It is possible now by means of the phonograph to attach to toys, dolls, &c., an interest before unknown. Speaking figures can be made to utter familiar commonplaces and indeed carry on a prearranged conversation. Clocks, with a phonograph attachment, instead of stricking the hour will call it out distinctly. Will say in the morning, "Half-John! time to get up," like a forty-horse power mother-in-law, or as Mr. Edison suggests, may politely invite "dear Charles" or "Henry" to go home when ten o'clock P. M. arrives.

A more important use, however, can be had for the phonograph. Mr. Edison says of it:—

Lastly, and in quite another direction, the phonograph will perfect the telephone and revolutionize the present systems of telegraphy. That useful invention is now restricted in its field of operation by reason of the fact that it is a means of communication which leaves no record of its transactions, thus restricting its use to simple conversational chit-chat, and such unimportant details of business as are not considered of sufficient importance to record. Were this different, and our telephone conversation automatically recorded, we should find the reverse of the present status of the telephone. It would be expressly resorted to as a means of perfect record.

"How can this application be made?" will probably be asked by those unfamiliar with either the telephone or phonograph.

Both these inventions cause a plate or disk to vibrate, and thus produce sound waves in harmony with those of the voice of the speaker. A very simple device may be made by which the one vibrating disk may be made to do duty for both the telephone and the phonograph, thus enabling the speaker to simultaneously transmit and record his message. What system of telegraphy can approach that? A similar combination at the distant end of the wire enables the correspondent, if he is present, to hear it while it is being recorded. Thus we have a mere passage of words for the action, but a complete and durable record of those words as the result of that action. Can economy of time or money go further than to annihilate time and space, and bottle up for posterity the mere utterance of man without other effort on his part than to speak the words.

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF ETHICS.

In his paper on the Sovereignty of Ethics Mr. Emerson says many things that are not only bound to attract attention because said by him, but because they are about matters that are of great interest at the present day:—

In the Christianity of this country, says the writer, there is wide difference of opinion in regard to inspiration, prophecy, miracles, the future state of the soul; every variety of opinion, and rapid revolution in opinions, in the last half century. It is simply impossible to read the old history of the first century as it was read in the ninth; to do so you must abolish in your mind the lessons of all the centuries from the ninth to the nineteenth.

Shall I make the mistake of baptizing the daylight, and time and space, by the name of John or Joshua, in whose tent I chance to behold daylight, and space and time? What anthropomorphists we are in this, that we cannot let moral distinctions be, but must mould them into human shape! "More morality" means—not put into a personal master of morals. Our religion is geographical, belongs to our time and place; respects and mythologizes some one time, and place, and person and people. So it is occasional. It visits us only on some exceptional and ceremonial occasion, on a wedding or a baptism, on a sick bed, or at a funeral, or perhaps on a sublime national victory or or a peace. But that be sure is not the religion of the universal unsleeping providence which lurks in trifles, in still, small voices, in the secrets of the heart and our closest thoughts, as efficiently as in our proclamations and successes.

Far be it from me to underrate the men or the churches that have fixed the hearts of men and organized their devout impulses or oracles into good institutions. The Church of Rome had its saints and inspired the conscience of Europe—St. Augustine, and Thomas à Kempis, and Fénelon; the piety of the English Church in Cranmer, and Herbert, and Taylor; the Reformed Church, Scougal; the mystics, Behmen and Swedenborg; the Quakers, Fox and James Naylor. I confess our later generation appears ungirt, frivolus, compared with the religions of the last or Calvinistic age. There was in the last century a serious habitual reference to the spiritual world running through diaries, letters and conversation—yes, and into wills and legal instruments also, compared with which our liberation looks a little foppish and dapper.

The religion of seventy years ago was an iron belt to the mind, giving it concentration and force. A rude people were kept respectable by the determination of thought on the eternal world. Now men fall abroad—want polarity—suffer in character and intellect. A sleep creeps over the great functions of man. Enthusiasm goes out. In its stead a low prudence seeks to hold society starch; but its arms are too short; courage and machinery never supply the place of life.

Luther would cut his hand off sooner than write theses against the Pope if he suspected that he was bringing on with all his might the pale negations of Boston Unitarianism. I will not now go into the metaphysics of that reaction by which in history a period of belief is followed by an age of criticism, in which wit takes the place of faith in the leading spirits, and an excessive respect for forms out of which the heart has departed becomes most obvious in the least religious minds. I will not now explore the causes of the result, but the fact must be conceded as of frequent recurrence, and never more evident than in our American church. To a self-denying, ardent church, delighting in rites and ordinances, has succeeded a cold, intellectual race, who analyze the prayer and psalm of their forefathers, and the more intellectual reject every yoke of authority and custom with a petulance unprecedented. It is a sort of mark of probity, and sincerity to declare how little you believe, while the mass of the community indolently follow the old forms with childish scrupulosity, and we have punctuality for faith, and good taste for character.

But I hope the defect of faith with us is only apparent. We shall find that freedom has its own guards, and, as soon as in the vulgar it runs to license, sets all reasonable men on exploring those guards. I do not think the summit of this age truly reached or expressed unless it attain the height which religion and philosophy reached in any former age. If I miss the inspiration of the saints of Calvinism, or of Platonism, or Bhuddhism, our times are not up to theirs, or more truly, have not yet their own legitimate force. * * * America shall introduce a pure religion. Ethics are thought not to satisfy affection. But all the religion we have is the ethics of one or another holy person; as soon as character appears be sure love will, and veneration, and anecdotes, and fables about him, and delight of good men and women in him. And what deeps of grandeur and beauty are known to us in ethical truth, what divination or insight belongs to it! For innocence is a wonderful electuary for purging the eyes to search the nature of those souls that pass before it. What armor it is to protect the good from outward or inward harm, and with, what power it converts evil accidents into benefits; the power of its countenance; the power of its presence! To it alone comes true friendship; to it come grandeur of situation and poetic perception, enriching all it deals with.

Once men thought spirit divine and matter diabolic; one ormuzd, the other ahriman. Now science and philosophy recognize the parallelism, the approximation, the unity of the two; how each reflects the other as face answers to face in a glass; nay, now the laws of both are one, or how one is the realization. We are learning not to fear truth.

The man of this age must be matriculated in the university of sciences and tendencies flowing from all past periods. He must not be one who can be surprised and shipwrecked by every bold or subtile word which malignant and acute men may utter in his hearing, but should be taught all scepticisms and unbeliefs and made the destroyer of all card houses and paper walls and the sifter of all opinions by being put face to face from his infancy with reality.

A man who has accustomed himself to look at all his circumstances as very mutable, to carry his possessions, his relations to persons, and even his opinions, in his hand, and in all these to pierce to the principle and moral law, and everywhere to find that—has put himself out of the reach of all scepticism; and it seems as if whatever is most affecting and sublime in our intercourse, in our happiness and in our losses, tended steadily to uplift us to a life so extraordinary, and, one might say, superhuman.

AN OLD OFFENDER.

Roundsman Price produced in the Jefferson Market Police Court yesterday a man named John Burke, alias Reynolds, who said he was a hatter and was twenty-five years old. He had been seen by John Mahon, of St. Francis Xavier's College, carrying away from the church, in Sixteenth street, the coat of August Dupil, which was valued at $35. When captured he was recognized as the man who had entered the choir on the day of General Devins' funeral and stolen the overcoat of Professor William Berge, the organist. A third charge was preferred against him by George C. Dye, of No. 25 Fifth avenue, whose coat he had purloined from the vestry of the Scotch Apostolic Church in Sixteenth street. When arrested he attempted to throw away a blank book, which was recovered and in which entries of numerous thefts where found. In it were also found the addresses of clergymen in Reading, Pa.; Tuckahoe, Providence, R. I.; Watertown and Beverly, N. J., together with the names and residences of people in Brooklyn, Cape May and Long Branch engaged in charitable enterprises. Judge Duffy committed him in $500 on each of the two first charges and in $300 on the third. A short time since Burke was arrested for entering the room of a lady at No. 129 West Twenty-fourth street, who locked him in and summoned the police. In Court he then pleaded that he was intoxicated and had wandered into the place. He was discharged at the time, but the repetition of the plea yesterday proved ineffectual.

LANDLORD AND BOARDER.

Dr. W. G. Wright, a physician of Jersey City, was yesterday arrested for threatening to kill Mr. A. D. Pearson. The Doctor and his wife boarded with Mr. Pearson's family at No. 215 Warren street, and yesterday they moved. As the truckman was taking the trunks out of the house Mr. Pearson made an effort to stop him, claiming that there was an unsettled board bill of $20. Dr. Wright met this with a bill of $12 for medical attendance on one of Mr. Pearson's family. Pearson then presented another bill for $30, in which the Doctor says there were several libelous statements. The Doctor then threw the bill in Pearson's face and, drawing a revolver, threatened to "bore a hole" through him. Pearson then caused the warrant to be issued for the Doctor's arrest. Dr. Wright sent for his counsel and was bailed by Judge Davis.

CARTMEN'S PRIVILEGES.

THE DIFFICULTY BETWEEN THE NEW YORK AND BROOKLYN BOARD OF ALDERMEN—MEMORIAL TO THE LEGISLATURE.

The New York and Brooklyn Aldermen have got into a very decided tangle relative to the operations of a certain ordinance governing cartmen's licenses. There are said to be 20,000 cartmen in the city of New York—4,000 more doing business here while residing in Brooklyn. The metropolitan Aldermen have recently passed a law prohibiting non-resident cartmen from carrying on their business in New York. This is a serious prohibition for the thousands of cartmen resident in the "City of Churches," who are thus deprived of earning a livelihood on this side of the water. A similar non-resident ordinance was in existence for years in Brooklyn; but two weeks ago the municipal authorities repealed it and now ask their Aldermanic brethren here to take similar action. But the New York City Fathers sternly object to any such course. It is said that the political fight over the spoils going on at Albany between the McLaughlin interest of Kings county on one side and the representatives of Tammany Hall on the other has bitterly intensified this particular contest. A bill has been just passed by the Senate and is now before the Committee on Cities of the House, permitting cartmen, on being duly licensed, to transact their business in any part of the State, no matter where they may reside. An effort is to be made by the New York municipal authorities, it is said, to defeat this measure.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ALDERMEN.

A special meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held at one o'clock yesterday for the purpose of taking the whole subject into consideration.

President Roberts presented the following memorial to the Legislature, which was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board:—

TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK:—

Having learned that a bill annulling an ordinance of the city of New York in relation to licensing public carts and cartmen has passed the Senate with most unseemly haste and without affording the municipal authorities of this city an opportunity of being heard in protest against said measure, the Board of Aldermen of the city of New York, without regard to party or political affiliation, unanimously memorialize your honorable body against the passage of said bill by the Assembly, for the following reasons:—

For two hundred years or more a municipal law of this city prohibited those who were not residents for at least six months from receiving a license to drive or use a public cart. In 1856 this ordinance was changed by substituting the word "State" for "city." The result of this change was that a large number of cartmen who made their living in New York, removed with their families to Brooklyn, thereby evading the taxation of a great city and withdrawing a large revenue which, in justice, should be expended among the people from whence it came.

To add to this, the municipal authorities of Brooklyn, with characteristic selfishness, repaid the generosity of New York by enacting an ordinance imposing a fine of $25 upon any New York cartman who should be found following his calling in their city. This ordinance remained in force until the New York board of Aldermen, on the 26th of March last, re-enacted the ordinance which for centuries was a law in this city. Then and not till then, the Brooklyn authorities repealed their ordinance, and, failing in their efforts to get this Board to reconsider its action, sent delegations to Albany, asking the Legislative and Executive authorities to annul, by an act of the Legislature, an ordinance as old as the chartered rights of the city of New York, and one which was, and is, deemed necessary to protect the 20,000 cartmen who reside in our midst, and the people who pay our taxes.

The government of this city has important duties to discharge and vast interests to protect, and hence we are compelled to maintain a large municipal police force to protect life and property; we expend large sums annually in cleaning and repaving our streets; our real estate is very heavily taxed for State and local purposes, and it is manifestly unjust that some 4,000 cartmen who reside in Brooklyn, but who make their money in New York, should encumber our thoroughfares with their trucks day and night, and not contribute a single dollar in taxation for the repair of our streets, or towards the wear and tear of which they contribute so largely with their heavy trucks and drays; like the Chinese in California, they take everything with them, even their bones.

We would remind your honorable body that this city has ever been foremost in its liberality to our trades, professions and business enterprises which vouch for its patronage and protection. It is this liberality which has built up numerous towns and cities in the adjoining State of New Jersey, and which has been bestowed with a lavish hand on our sister city of Brooklyn. In fact, Brooklyn is the outgrowth of the generosity and enterprise of New York. We grant ferry companies most valuable franchises for mere nominal sums—franchises which are the exclusive rights of this city, beyond even State interference or control—to enable a large portion of our business people to reside in Brooklyn, and thereby deprive this city of millions annually, in taxation on their personal property. Besides all this, we have contributed toward the erection of a bridge between the two cities nearly $4,000,000; the benefit of which, if any, will inure to Brooklyn, and the injury, if any should come from it, will fall on New York.

But we think there is such a thing as carrying liberality beyond the bounds of justice; justice to our own citizens, who, in times of great business depression, are straining every nerve to meet the demands of our public and private obligations. If the residents of this city are to bear all the burdens of municipal taxation, while the residents of a joining territory receive the benefits without sharing any of our burdens, our dwellings will soon be empty and our taxes unbearable. Already a vast number of buildings in the lower wards of our city are in want of tenants, while those who should occupy them fly to Brooklyn and New Jersey to sleep. If New York city had the right to protect its own interests this state of affairs would be speedily and permanently changed. But, alas! the only privilege left to us, which successive Legislatures could take away, is the privilege of taxing our property to enable others to despoil us of our substance and our ancient prerogatives as a municipality.

Your memorialists therefore pray that your honorable body will not pass any bill annulling the ordinance in relation to public carts and cartmen. It is a just and wise ordinance, and if men want to follow the business of public carmen in our city they have only to reside here, and they will receive all the benefits and protection our city can bestow.

In conclusion we desire to say that politics or political considerations had nothing to do with the re-enactment of the ordinance referred to. Every member of the Board, irrespective of party, voted for it, showing that where the interest of the city is at stake there is but one party in the present Board of Aldermen.

DEBATE ON THE MEMORIAL.

President Roberts advocated the adoption of this memorial. He called attention to the depressed condition of all business in the city of New York, and the necessity of using every effort to relieve the burdens of the people. It was not fair for men who earned their livelihood and amassed wealth in this city to go somewhere else to spend it. Real estate had depreciated so much in New York that many persons who held mortgages on property could not realize their investments on a forced sale. The interests of the twenty thousand cartmen of this city should be protected. The Legislature had ruled us long enough, and it was only proper that some effort should be made to protect the city from the interference intended by passage of the proposed bill as to licenses. The gentleman then narrated the efforts of the Brooklyn Aldermen to secure Mayor Ely's veto of the cartmen's ordinance, designating the conduct of that body as "decidedly impudent."

Alderman Pinckney, speaking from a republican point of view, seconded the resolution as to accepting the memorial.

On motion of Alderman Lewis the memorial was amended so as to state that the appropriations to the Brooklyn Bridge had been "forced" from New York instead of "contributed."

The following committee was appointed to proceed to Albany and present the views of the Board of Aldermen before the Committee on Cities of the Assembly:—Aldermen Waelner, Keenan, Sauer, Stevin, Shiels, Pinckney, Morris, Jacobus, Bigin, Perley and President Roberts.

NON-RESIDENT CARTMEN.

The members of the Cartmen's Association of this city resident in New Jersey, who are prevented from obtaining work in this city on account of the ordinance lately passed by the Aldermen forbidding the licensing of any cart belonging to a non-resident, have appointed a committee to wait on the Board of Aldermen in Hoboken and Jersey City and request the repeal of a certain ordinance similar to the one recently passed in this city. They believe that the existence of the ordinance in New Jersey caused the New York cartmen to have the one adopted in this city.

THE CITY OF RIO DE JANEIRO.

The iron steamship City of Rio de Janeiro for the Brazil trade, constructed at the works of John Roach & Son, at Chester, Del., lies at pier No. 17 East River, but will immediately leave for Robbins' wharf, Brooklyn, where she will take in her cargo. An invitation to inspect the vessel was yesterday responded to by hundreds of merchants, railroad men, public functionaries and the public generally, including many ladies. The City of Rio de Janeiro has accommodations for 100 first class and for 400 steerage passengers. The staterooms are elegantly furnished, while her saloons are marvels of exquisite paintings and artistic finish. She is of 3,600 tons burden; length, 345 feet; width, 39 feet; depth, 28½ feet. She has six cylindrical tubular boilers, 13 feet in diameter, with compound engines, having cylinders 40 by 74 inches in diameter and 5 feet stroke. She has a patent steering apparatus, which is worked by steam, with an auxiliary steering apparatus of the usual kind, which can be worked in case the steam steering machinery should give way or break down. She is furnished with a patent ice making machine, which will supply all the ice required during her voyage. She has seven approved lifeboats, and, briefly, is supplied with every perfected appliance in modern steamship building, from forecastle to maintop and from galley to ladies' boudoir. On her trip from Chester to this port she averaged thirteen knots per hour. She will be under the command of Captain William Wier, formerly commander of the steamship Merrimac, of the Brazil line service, and is expected to make her round voyage in fifty days.

ERIE REORGANIZED.

The Erie Railroad sale was confirmed, by order of the Court, on Thursday. The property was duly conveyed to trustees, as purchasers, on Friday, by the referee, pursuant to sale. Yesterday the articles of incorporation of the new company, named the "New York, Lake Erie and Western Railroad Company," were filed in the office of the Secretary of State, and the trustees conveyed the whole property to the new corporation.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the new company, held yesterday, Hugh J. Jewett was chosen president and A. R. MacDonough, secretary. The office of treasurer is still vacant. The benefits of the new organization are open to all parties interested in the property, who choose to unite in it. Nearly all the bondholders have already united with it, as well as a majority of the stockholders. The latter have six months' time to come in, and the terms are payment of four per cent in money in the preferred stock and six per cent in the common.

The following gentlemen were elected directors of the new organization:—David A. Wells, James J. Goodwin, William Walter Phelps, R. Suydam Grant, Solomon S. Guthrie, Hugh J. Jewett, John Taylor Johnston, Edwin D. Morgan, Cortlandt Parker, Homer Ramsdell, Samuel Sloan, Henry G. Stebbins, George F. Talman, J. Lowber Welsh, J. Frederic Pierson, Theron R. Butler and Charles Dana. Many of these were members of the old Board. The members of the old Board who retire are Herman R. Baltzer, John S. Brown, Thomas Dickson, Giles W. Hotchkiss, Asa Packer and Marshall O. Roberts.

THE NEWELL SCANDAL.

CLOSE OF THE SUIT FOR DIVORCE—DISAGREEMENT OF THE JURY—THEY ARE UNANIMOUS ON THE QUESTION OF MRS. NEWELL'S GUILT.

The Newell divorce case reached the lame and impotent conclusion yesterday which had been very generally anticipated—the jury disagreed. At half-past ten o'clock in the morning Judge Lawrence took his seat as usual upon the bench, and the jury were called. They had been out since four o'clock Friday afternoon, or eighteen and a half hours, much to the astonishment of the few who had declared that they must soon bring in a verdict for the one party or the other. None of the ladies who figured in the case were present. Mr. Newell, however, was present with his counsel, Messrs. Shaler and Arnold, and though apparently nervous he looked quite hopeful. Of Mrs. Newell's counsel, Messrs. Fullerton and Fellows were absent, Mr. Ten Eyck alone being present. When the jury came in, looking all worn and sleepless, and fairly "beaten out," there was a general buzz of expectation.

NO AGREEMENT.

"Have you agreed upon the issues submitted to you, gentlemen?" Mr. Von Glahn, the clerk, asked.

Mr. Peabody, the foreman, replied in a low, weary voice, "We have not, and it is impossible for us to agree."

Judge Lawrence took the foreman at his word, and with prompt decision said, "Gentlemen, you are discharged for the term." Then there was a general scramble for the jurors to ascertain how they stood. They had been taken out Friday evening to Sweeny's hotel for supper, and had passed the night in their room extended on chairs, on which only one, the twelfth juror, was able to sleep. The others had not slept a wink during the night.

HOW THE JURY STOOD.

According to the statements made by a number of the jurors the jury stood as follows:—

In regard to the first issue as to whether the defendant, Lorenzo D. Newell, has been guilty with Miss Candace M. Olney, ten voted in the affirmative and two in the negative.

In regard to the second issue, whether the plaintiff, Mrs. Newell, had been guilty of adultery with the late William H. Boardman, of Boston, the jury unanimously agreed that the charge was proven, and that she was guilty.

In regard to the other two issues, whether Mrs. Newell had been criminally intimate with an unknown man in the Knowlton House in Somerset street, Boston, and with the lawyer Pickering, the jury unanimously agreed that both the charges were untrue and that she was not guilty.

The first vote was naturally taken upon the Newell-Olney issue, with the result already indicated. The two jurors who stood out for Mr. Newell and Miss Olney were the second juror, Mr. Linsly, an artist, and the eleventh juror, Mr. Kohn, a cigar dealer. When it was next seen by the vote on the Mrs. Newell-Boardman issue that the jury were unanimous as to Mrs. Newell's criminal intimacy with the late William H. Boardman the ten jurors did their utmost to persuade the other two to subscribe their verdict in the first issue also, but the two men were obstinate and could not be moved from their first vote. The ten then decided that they would not bring in a verdict condemning Mrs. Newell without condemning Newell and Miss Olney also, as they believed them all bad, and thus no agreement was reached.

WEIGHING THE EVIDENCE.

Several of the jurors said that the two who stood out for Mr. Newell and Miss Olney took the position that Newell was undoubtedly guilty of adultery, because the confession of his condition to Pickering showed it, but not with Miss Olney. The jury unanimously took the view that the letters of Mrs. Newell to Boardman, about which so much had been said, were not of a pure character, as claimed by the plaintiff's counsel, but, on the contrary, showed a criminal relation. On the strength of these letters the jury, upon their very first vote, found that Mrs. Newell was guilty. In reference to the charge of her criminality with an unknown man, the jury disbelieved it, because they wholly rejected the testimony of the servant girl, Mary Campbell, and of Knowlton, and they found no proof whatever to show an improper intimacy with Pickering.

DOMESTIC TROUBLES.

Martin Murphy, a private coachman in the employ of Mr. Morgan, of No. 178 Madison avenue, separated from his wife, Sarah, about a year ago, and in order to avoid legal perplexities agreed to pay her $4 a week. He adhered to his agreement until within a week or two, when the payments suddenly ceased. Without inquiring into the cause Mrs. Murphy, who lives at No. 416 East 113th street, applied to Judge Wheeler and obtained a warrant against her husband. Officer Walters arrested the latter on Friday in his stable at No. 17 East Thirty-ninth street, and the matter came up yesterday in the Harlem Police Court. Murphy assigned financial embarrassment as the reason for his negligence. Judge Wheeler declined to accept the excuse, and told him he must continue the payments or go to prison. The prisoner chose the first alternative, and His Honor required him to give bonds in $300 for his faithful performance.

ARRESTED ON THE BRIDAL EVE.

The banns of matrimony were announced on two successive Sundays in St. Peter's Church, New Brighton, S. I., by the Rev. Father Barry, between Thomas McElhenny and a Miss Donohue. Annie Mackee afterward called upon Father Barry, and made a statement which caused him to refuse to perform the marriage ceremony as announced. Miss Mackee then went before Judge Corbett, and made complaint that McElhenny, under promise of marriage, had had improper relations with her. A warrant was issued securing to law, being brought by Superintendent of the Poor Dempsey, and McElhenny was arrested and arraigned. His counsel demanded to see the papers in the case, when the warrant was found missing, so the prisoner was discharged. He was to have been rearrested on a new warrant yesterday, but the officers have not yet found him.

COMPROMISED.

Miss Matilda Bartlett, who was awarded $4,000 by a jury in Newark, N. J., on Friday, in her suit against Ferdinand Krauss for breach of promise of marriage, yesterday compromised with the defendant for $1,000 in cash, which sum was supplied by the latter's friends.

DISTASTEFUL ATTENTIONS.

For some time past the placidity of Officer William Moore's life has been disturbed by the obtrusive attentions of Miss Hattie Livingston, a young woman who resides on Sixth avenue, and who in the evening beguiles the vigilant patrolman into conversation. "She will not let me alone," pleaded Moore to Judge Duffy yesterday. "I have been fined by the Police Commissioners for conversation, and all on her account. Last night she came after me again and I could do nothing but take her in." Hattie, who was arraigned before the bar, promised the Court that her attentions would be discontinued, and, eyeing the complainant very unlovably, she tip-toed away.

DESPAIR AND POISON.

Mrs. McDermott, the janitress of No. 156 Prince street, had her suspicions aroused yesterday afternoon by hearing groans coming from a room on the first floor of that building. Entering the apartment she was startled to find Mrs. Eliza Somerset in terrible convulsions on the floor, and her two little children, the youngest scarcely able to walk, crying and crouching in a corner of the room. A physician was sent for and restoratives applied. When the suffering woman was partially relieved of her pains she told the doctor that she had taken Paris green. She said that she was tired of life and wanted to die. Her husband, she complained, was addicted to drink and he was in the habit of illusing her. It is not likely, however, that her wish will be gratified, as her condition is favorably reported from the New York Hospital.

A SINGULAR STRIKE.

The men employed on the Erie Oil Docks at Weehawken repairing and making oil barrels are on a singular strike. They were directed on Friday to mark every barrel made or repaired with their name in red chalk. The intention of the company was to find out who were working and who idling. The men refused to mark the barrels and thirty-five of them quit work. Yesterday they held a meeting in the Elysian Fields and appointed a committee to wait on the yard master and inform him that they would resume work when the order was countermanded. The committee was informed that the strikers' places had been filled by new men.

SWORN INTO OFFICE.

Freeholders-elect James Conroy, John F. Mangels, Michael Desmond, Bernard McCarthy, Horace Schermerhorn, Frederick Mollier, William Frost, Andrew J. Rapp, John Bull, R. M. Cook, Timothy Foley, James G. Morgan and Peter Hauck, of Jersey City, were yesterday sworn into office by Judge Vanszckel, and presented their bonds in $10,000 each. The Board will organize on Thursday.

A HOODLUM'S END.

Execution of John Runk at San Francisco for the Murder of Police Officer Coots.

STRANGLED TO DEATH.

Pitiable Career of the Youth Who Died on the Scaffold at Eighteen.

A REMARKABLE DEFENCE.

The execution of John Runk, at San Francisco, on Friday last, was as remarkable as the career of the criminal, and an apposite end of the youth's life. It will be remembered that he murdered a police officer named Charles J. Coots. Up to the time when the Sheriff adjusted the noose he was cool and callous. But when the drop fell, the noose turned and slipped under his chin, threw back his head and slowly strangled him. His struggles were terrible to behold and his efforts to breathe caused a painful rattling which could be heard for quite a distance. It is reported to have been a sickening sight.

RUNK'S CAREER.

John Runk was a native of San Francisco, and at the time of the commission of the deed for which he paid the extreme penalty was only eighteen years old. He belonged to a class called "hoodlums" on the Pacific coast—a class not unknown, though by other designations, in cities on the Atlantic side. On the night of the 25th of April, 1877, Runk and a companion were loitering through Sacramento street when they encountered Charles J. Coots, a special police officer, a powerful man, weighing nearly two hundred and fifty pounds. Some words passed between the parties resulting in Coots arresting Runk's friend. While conveying him to the station Runk asked the officer to let the prisoner go, promising at the same time that he would take him home. The request was refused. The youth then went up to the door of a house at which two women of notoriously bad character were standing, and said he had some trouble with an officer, and that he would "fix him before morning." He pulled a pistol from his pocket when he made the threat. Soon after Runk met Coots, and drawing his weapon fired, inflicting a wound causing death. He was immediately taken into custody and on the 13th of July brought up for trial before Judge Morrison, in the Fourth District Court.

THE TRIAL.

The killing of a police officer by a "hoodlum" under these circumstances made a deep impression on the public mind, and, though the laws of California permit juries to affix either the punishment of death or imprisonment for life, in cases where verdicts of murder in the first degree are returned it was the general idea that the extreme penalty should be visited on the prisoner if found guilty. The killing was admitted, but premeditation was denied. The evidence to sustain the latter element in the case came from women of questionable reputation, but other testimony was adduced to show that Runk harbored feelings of animosity toward the entire police force. Runk himself was allowed to testify in his own behalf. He stated that on the night of the homicide he had no conversation with the females who were called as witnesses and made no threats against Coots. When the latter refused to release his friend he said, "Damn you, I will arrest you too." "I then," remarked the prisoner, "shot him and ran away." The prisoner's mother was also placed on the stand, but all she could do was to tell a story of domestic misery in which she endeavored to place on the shoulders of her husband responsibility for first placing their son within prison walls, blighting his early years and bringing him to his then most miserable position. The following additional facts came out during the trial, but they had little effect on the jury, who only occupied a few minutes in reaching a verdict.

A DOWNWARD CAREER.

The marriage of Runk's parents proved a most unhappy one, and before he was thirteen years old they were divorced. He was reared under the most inauspicious circumstances, and from his earliest days was permitted to run wild, go into bad company and cultivate an aptitude for crime. When barely twelve he was sent to the San Francisco Reform School on a charge of theft, whence he succeeded in effecting his escape before his sentence expired. He was recaptured and his term extended four months. Runk subsequently committed an assault on a fellow prisoner, for which he had to suffer two months' additional confinement. Immediately after his liberation he was again taken into custody on suspicion of larceny and detained for some time, but no case was brought against him on that occasion. The youth, now thoroughly hardened and his moral sensibilities vitiated by jail associations, entered upon a downward career to ruin. He became a "hoodlum," and lived with his mother when not in the hands of the law. She could obtain no employment for the unfortunate boy, and he manifested no desire to work. He became an idle rowdy, passing his time lounging about street corners, vacant lots and disreputable saloons with others of the same class as himself. They frequented the disorderly part of the city, and Runk, of course, soon became utterly vicious and depraved. The "hoodlums" constitute a really dangerous class in San Francisco; they are a terror to peaceable citizens and have frequently set the police at defiance. They act in gangs and are ready for any outrage, no matter how black. They indulge in profanity and obscenity toward passers by—male and female—and when remonstrated with resort to actual assault with fists, clubs and stones. Two months before the murder of Coots, Runk was arrested for vagrancy and distur