TROUBLES OF A TICKET AGENT.

Unreasonable Conduct of the Public on the "L" Roads.

DIFFICULTY OF COLLECTING LADIES' FARES.

How Fussy Old Parties Cause Trouble and Loss.

The public have heard a great deal of the complaints against the "L" railroad employés, but very little of the latter's multifarious troubles with travellers. To hear the other side of the story was yesterday the duty of the writer, and a most amusing story it was as it came from the lips of one of the most intelligent ticket agents of the Metropolitan "L."

"You have no idea how unreasonable people are," said he sitting in his little box fairly deluged with silver change, trade dollars, quarters, dimes and pennies; "now look at these trade dollars, for instance. Everybody wants to get rid of them and nobody wants to take them. The very people, I have sometimes noticed who bring them to us grumble when we offer them to them in exchange. Said a man the other day to me:—'You don't take them and yet you pay them out.' Now, how could we pay them out if we didn't take them? So it is with pennies. Everybody wants to get rid of them and nobody wants to take them from us. Isn't it a queer thing that ladies always carry so many pennies? Now, of course, if we should accumulate all the pennies we receive we should have to get an extra train to take them down to the office. But many a person, if we give them a few pennies in change, will flop them down or push them rudely back, growling, 'I don't want any pennies,' and the very next day they'll come along and slap us down seven pennies and a three cent piece, shouting all the time, 'Give me a ticket, give me a ticket; I want to catch this train!' We have a good deal of trouble with these three cent pieces, too. They're so small and so easily lost that nobody wants to take them. Now, of course, I don't mind if a gentleman or lady tells me civilly that they do not wish to take trade dollars, pennies or three cent pieces, but when they are rude and insulting, as they frequently are, and flop them back, calling out gruffly, 'I don't want these,' I often become vexed.

WANTS TO GO TO THE METROPOLITAN HOTEL.

"To show you what comical incidents happen in a ticket agent's experience let me tell you what occurred here one evening. A stranger came along, with two ladies. He left them standing behind and came up to me, asking:—

"'Will this road take me to the Cosmopolitan Hotel?'"

"'Yes, sir,'" I replied.

"'What's the fare?'" he queried.

"'Ten cents per person,'" was my response.

"'That makes thirty cents,' said he, with an expression of disappointment on his face, and he added, 'That's pretty steep!' Then he asked, 'How near will this take me to the Cosmopolitan Hotel?' 'Right to it,' said I, 'its close to our station at Chambers street.' He pondered a few seconds and then went back and held quite a whispered conversation with his two ladies. Then he came back and said, 'Look here, now, I don't want to go to the Metropolitan Hotel, I want to go the Cosmopolitan.' 'All right,' said I, 'this will take you to the Cosmopolitan.' He then bought three tickets and rushed for the train, which was about to start. Suddenly he comes running back once more in the greatest excitement and, pointing at the tickets, cries out, 'Look here, you gave me tickets for the Metropolitan Hotel, after all.' I explained to him that the word 'Metropolitan' on the tickets was the name of the road, and not of the hotel. Then he rushed again for the train, which was gone, however, by this time, and he kept growling at me till the next train came along because we didn't tell him that before."

FOR HOW MANY WILL THEY PAY?

"Another comical difficulty often arises from the way people come in groups and pay sometimes for a whole party, and on other occasions each for himself. Here, for instance, a party of three or four comes along. They are engaged in conversation. Of course its impossible for us to tell whether they will pay separately or not, and there's such a rush that we have no time to ask them. If I only take one fare out of the dollar or fifty cent piece which the first comer silently puts down before me at the window, he will very probably snap at me and call out:—'What do you think I put a dollar (or a fifty cent piece) down for?' Another passenger, again, should I take out three or four fares, would get mad and halloo:—'I only want to pay for one. Damn it, what's the matter with you?' It's particularly funny with ladies. We often have two or three ladies come up in a friendly, cosey party. Each one will insist upon paying.

"'Never mind; I've got it,' the one will say.

"'Oh, I have the change,' the other will exclaim.

"And then they will fumble and fuss about for perhaps half a minute, and, by the strangest mischance, none can find the change for a surprising space of time. Finally a train comes along and one has to pay, and you can see from the perceptible shade of disappointment on her face how little she likes it, and then the others keep up a consoling chorus:—'Oh, that's too bad;' 'Now, really, I didn't want you to do that.'

ARE THEY DELIBERATE CHEATS?

"You have no idea how much trouble we have with passengers who, from all appearances, want to cheat us in giving wrong coin. I do not say, by any means, that it is so in all cases; but I am satisfied that in many of them it undoubtedly is. There are some men who will fling down a penny or a three cent piece so roughly that it will roll inside and fall upon the floor of the box office. Meanwhile they clamor excitedly for their ticket, telling me that they want to catch that train and that I can pick it up by and by, and several times when I have done so I have found myself stuck. One man flopped down a coin in this way the other day so that I could not see it, and kept holloong for his ticket, his ticket. I had been stuck several times, so that I picked it up immediately after I gave him his ticket, and found it was only a penny instead of a ten cent piece. I rapped hard at the window, made him come back.

"'What's the matter?'" he shouted excitedly;

"'I'm missing that train.'

"'Well, sir, you only gave me a penny,' I said.

"'Help yourself; take all you want,' he exclaimed; and, thrusting his hand into his pocket, he brought down a whole handful of change which he violently slapped down before me. The train was about starting, and, without giving me a second to take out ten cents he grabbed up the whole handful quick as lightning, and rushed off again. I rapped again and the gateman made him come back.

"'Now I've lost that train,' he grumbled, and when I told him that he gave me no chance to pick out the fare he said, 'I told you to take all you wanted;' and he swore, as he finally paid his ten cents, that he'd report me 'at the office.' But then that's always the first word. If the gateman shuts out the passenger as the train starts, which is the rule laid down by the superintendent, he'll often be abused and threatened with a 'report to the office.' Another man, I remember, flung down a three-cent piece and reaching his hand through the screen, grabbed a ticket and rushed on. I rapped and made him come back, and then he rated me soundly for making him lose that train! It never entered his head that I would have been seven cents short if I had let him go. Talking about pennies, by the way, ladies will be so anxious to give them out that if one who has plenty of dimes, mind you, can only rake together eight out of her pocketbook, she'll borrow the remaining two from her lady friend with her.

THE FIVE CENT HOURS.

"The change of tickets during commission hours gives us sometimes a little trouble, too. Now, of course, it isn't in my interest to sell a ten cent ticket instead of a five cent one. If my sympathies are with any one they are rather with the poor man than with a rich corporation. And yet a few minutes before half-past seven in the morning, when the five cent hour expires, there will be a long line of grumblers, each of whom invariably has different time. One man says it's twenty minutes past seven, another twenty-five minutes past seven, a third twenty-nine minutes past seven, and so on—while my watch, which is regulated at Benedict's, shows half-past seven to be the right time. In the evening it's sometimes worse still. About four or five minutes before five there'll be quite a string of people waiting for the beginning of the five cent hour. They'll pull out their watches and grumble aloud, 'Now, isn't this a shame? Here it's two minutes after five!' 'What's the matter with that ticket seller's watch?' 'Isn't this a swindle?' and so on. When it gets to be about one or two minutes before five they'll appoint a quasi-spokesman who'll come up to me and make a speech about it, and probably tell me that I ought to be ashamed of myself. With children we have also a good deal of difficulty. Up to the age of five they pass free, and from five to twelve they pass for half fare. Well, you'd be astonished to see how large the children average along this line. I know I have some myself, and they have always been thought to be rather large for their age, but really they must run remarkably small, after all. There's one lad whom we all have watched for some time. He looks old enough to get married, but always insisted that he was 'not yet twelve.' Then we finally pinned him down to tell us when he would be twelve, and he said 'in February.' Now, do you know that he rode for the last time on January 31, and since then we havn't seen him on the road? Then you'd be astonished to see the finely dressed ladies who want to hide their children altogether and shield them behind their dresses. 'Madame, you want another ticket for that child.' I have said to some, and would you believe that they have answered, 'Oh, I'll pay for the child when I get out.' Then I have sometimes asked a lady carrying a great big child, 'How old is this child, madame?' 'Four and a half,' she replied. 'No, mamma, I'm six,' the child has spoken up, and then you ought to have seen how red the lady got in the face.

UNREASONABLE PEOPLE.

"If people were only a little more reasonable how much more easily we should get along with them. Now, don't you think it's a small matter for a gentleman to come running back when there is a great jam at the ticket window to give me back a three-cent piece and two pennies and ask me for a five-cent nickle instead? I have had it often happen to me. Then people will drop their tickets and mislay them, and some will come back and declare that I never gave them a ticket at all. Now, as I always have a ticket in my hand which I pass out before I even give change I know this is next to impossible; but sometimes, when I see that it is a gentleman who is evidently honestly mistaken, I would rather lose ten cents than have any trouble about it. The other day an elderly, wealthy looking gentleman declared that I never gave him a ticket. My recollection was as clear and positive as it could possibly be that I had done so, but I knew that if I refused he would complain at the office, and his recollection would probably be taken as against mine. Well, I gave him the ticket, and next day he came and said he found his first ticket, after all, and paid me back the ten cents. But others, who, I am sure, afterward found their mislaid tickets which they had declared I had never given them, have failed to do so. Then we hear much grumbling and fault finding about the new rule allowing only one five-cent ticket to be sold at one time and that only during the five-cent hours. You see the rule had to be established, because people would regularly get on, say ten minutes before five, and on getting off drop a five-cent ticket instead of a ten-cent ticket. People don't like the rule, of course, and some talk to us as though we, and not the officers of the company, had made it. Then many people are very unreasonable about getting change. I have had men come up with a ten dollar bill and be perfectly amazed and indignant that their $9 90 change was not quite ready for them. And meanwhile all these fault-finders are in the most excited condition for fear that the train which they see coming along will have gone. Why, it's most ridiculous to employés, who see these trains regularly pass every minute or two, to watch these people come bounding breathless into the station and hear them gasp for a ticket. Honestly, you would really think that the train which they were so anxious not to lose, and on which they keep their eyes fixed with a look of despair, was going to Buffalo or San Francisco, and that there wouldn't be another for a week to come. It's really most ridiculous!"

MRS. SENATOR BRUCE AGAIN.

CURIOUS WHISPERS FROM THE NATIONAL SOCIETY GALLERY.

The Washington correspondent of the Louisville *Courier-Journal* writes of Mrs. Senator Bruce as follows:—

Helen of Troy was not a greater disturber of the peace nor did she give rise to more gossip and twaddle than the wife of the colored Senator from Mississippi does. As long as Bruce remained unmarried his Senatorial career was unruffled. His brother Senators accorded him the courtesy of the Senate, which was total oblivion as to his presence among them. It was an almost forgotten fact that the colored race had a representative in the Senate. Social recognition was not thought of, and so little was known of the private life of the Senator that when his marriage was announced it surprised every one, as they supposed he already had a wife. Newspapers have ascribed great beauty and accomplishments to Mrs. Bruce, and the attempt has been made to endow her with more culture than that of any lady in Washington. Ever since her advent in this city male correspondents have been determined to keep her before the public and stir up a commotion in the social world. It was reported that Mrs. Hayes had invited Mrs. Bruce to receive with her on New Year's Day. The reception took place minus Mrs. Bruce. Then the indefatigable apple of discord men called at the residence of the lady just to see who was there and how Madame appeared. This was chronicled in the most sensational style. Next it was reported that Mrs. Hayes had called and was so pleased with Mrs. Bruce that she had called a second time and invited Mrs. Bruce to the White House. The writer had not the fear before his eyes of the ready contradiction to this, as there is no point of etiquette so rigidly observed as the rule which forbids the lady of the White House from making any calls. If this fact were not sufficient Mr. Bruce's vote on the New York nominations would clearly indicate that there is no social recognition of himself or wife at the Executive Mansion. Had Mrs. Hayes stepped aside from her rule of non-intervention and called upon Mrs. Bruce and invited her to the lunch which she recently gave to forty-four ladies, there is no doubt that Senator Bruce would have recognized the duty of supporting the administration. It is not kind or friendly for any one to advocate the social recognition of Mrs. Bruce. It appears that she is a native of Cleveland, Ohio. Her parents live there. She was educated at Oberlin College, and at the time of her marriage was teaching a colored school in Cleveland. No one in Cleveland visits the family, and the three times that I met the Association of Ohio Teachers at their annual meeting at Put-in-Bay neither Mrs. Bruce nor any colored man or woman was with the noble seven hundred. A spirit of mischief has caused some correspondents to keep continually prodding Senator and Mrs. Bruce to assert themselves socially. Two ladies from Boston, who were stopping temporarily at one of the hotels, were prompted by shere curiosity to call upon Mrs. Bruce on Thursday (Senatorial day). They did not mention this visit to any one in the hotel, and one of the ladies absented herself upon the regular reception day at the hotel. It was a fine Monday afternoon, and the red parlor was full of elegantly dressed ladies receiving the highest *ton* of the city. "Mrs. Senator Bruce," called out the usher, a colored man in dress coat, white gloves and necktie. The buzz of conversation ceased and there was a dead silence. Mrs. Bruce who is said to enamel, was richly dressed in velvet, with a white bonnet and a white veil over her face. She asked for Mrs. Leopold Morse and Mrs. and Miss French. The latter ladies, who were present, received her graciously and made her welcome. Well! Perhaps it is best not to reveal the sequel; but there was some lively and spirited conversation that evening in the hotel, and if the public is interested to know what has been said there is quite a variety of opinions and comments to select from, for I am bound to confess that the ladies are not unanimous. It is affirmed that the code of etiquette requires that the new additions to the Senate have to call upon the older ones, and that Mrs. Bruce was prompt in performing her duty, and that the calls have been returned. I have not met either Senator Bruce or his wife. I am sorry that I am not able to gratify the curiosity of the public as to her personal and mental attractions. I only know that the wife of a Congressman was deeply affronted because some one asserted that Mrs. Bruce appeared much better than half of the wives of Congressmen.

KENTUCKY'S DICK TURPIN.

A MURDERER WHO TRAVELS AROUND IN DEFIANCE OF LAW.

[From the Louisville Courier-Journal.]

MOUNT STERLING, Feb. 10, 1879

Your correspondent happening in the neighborhood of the Underwoods, in Carter county, suddenly ran upon the notorious Jesse Underwood, just returning from a wildcat chase, and with one of these "varmints" slung over his shoulder. He informed your correspondent that he had killed seven red foxes and one wildcat this winter. True to his habit, he had two seven-shooters belted around him, and an eight-shot Spencer rifle—twenty-two shots in hand for any emergency. Underwood was asked "if he apprehended personal injury, as the arms he carried seemed to indicate?" His reply was "No, not from my own county, but I have enemies in other counties who would halter me before to-morrow night if they didn't know I carried twenty-two shots in hand and a good reserve force. My weapons are never out of reach, and at night the doors of my father's house are barricaded and I sleep in an upstairs loft, where I have an opening in the wall commanding the front door, and from which I could kill twenty men attempting to break into the house." Underwood says he intends to leave the State in the spring; but he is always leaving the State and still here. It will be remembered that Underwood made his escape from the Bath County Jail last fall, just after dark one night. He had been brought from the Lexington Jail to be tried for killing Trombo several years ago in Bath. The morning after his escape from the Bath Jail he made his appearance at the crossroads on Licking River, twelve miles from Owingsville, with two navy revolvers buckled around him and a screwdriver, with which he had unscrewed the lock of his prison door. He went on to Morehead, the county seat of Rowan, ten miles from his home, and remained a good part of the day unmolested. He has not been molested since, though his whereabouts has been open and notorious. Those who wish to take the trouble to investigate the matter will find that Underwood has more followers in Rowan and Carter counties than he has enemies. It might not be out of place to ask how Jesse got out of jail so easily. Did the civil authorities have an elephant on their hands, and was the jailer directed to let him slip? Or are murderers secured in the Bath Jail by lodging them in an apartment, and the recess to the jail so loosely guarded as to permit Underwood, with a screwdriver furnished him from the outside, to remove the lock of his prison door? What sort of a prison door is it that can be taken off from the inside by the prisoner? The fact of the business is simply this. The worst criminals in the State go unwhipped of justice and only the more moderate criminals are sent to the Penitentiary, and as a consequence of such a shortsightedness, lawlessness, instead of being stopped, is actually promoted, and criminals and crime are on the increase, and so much so that now and then a whole county defies the civil authority of the State and the militia has to be called out, as evidenced by the outbreak in Carter a year and a half ago, and in Breathitt this winter, costing the State a couple of hundred thousand dollars. Had this large sum been spent by the State in building a narrow gauge railroad into Breathitt, thirty miles of road could have been built and equipped, which would have been a lasting blessing to the State. Has it occurred to the people of the State that in many counties rowdyism is in the ascendant, and that they poll two-thirds the vote of many of the mountain counties, and that county officials are in open sympathy with lawbreakers, upon whom they depend for office? If the next Legislature will appoint a committee to investigate this matter they will find abundant evidence. George Lewis Underwood, a brother of Jesse, who was shot through the abdomen a year and a half ago, and at the time the militia had to be sent there to quell these outlaws, is still confined to his bed, a mere wreck, the wound unhealed and the food constantly exuding from the orifice.

THE COURTS.

ALLEGED FRAUDS OF UNITED STATES ELECTION MARSHALS.

The examination of James R. Cosgrove, Chief Deputy Marshal of the Eighteenth Assembly district, charged with making false certificates as to the attendance of deputies in his charge, was resumed yesterday before United States Commissioner Lyman. After the examination of Christopher Pullman and William Guilfoyle, deputies in that district, Henry J. Storrs, of the Comptroller's office, was sworn. He brought with him vouchers showing that Nathan Kohler and Harry Paddleford, two of the deputies to whom, it is charged, Cosgrove gave false certificates of attendance, served as inspectors of election, and were paid for these services by the city. William Guilfoyle, another election deputy marshal, when called by the government, testified that he fully performed the duties required of him.

"Were you absent at all?" asked District Attorney Fiero.

"Yes, for my meals," replied the witness.

"Is it claimed by Colonel Bliss that it was a violation of the law to take meals?" asked Judge Dittenhoefer, who appeared for the defence.

"I don't know what Colonel Bliss thinks," said Mr. Fiero. "I father this prosecution now."

"Then you are fathering an illegitimate child?" remarked Judge Dittenhoefer.

Some further argument followed between the counsel, and then the examination was adjourned until next Wednesday.

The case of Robert Utley, of the Eleventh district, against whom similar charges have been made, came up yesterday before Commissioner Osborne. It was understood that James Carson, the complainant in the case, would be called by Commissioner Osborne, but he was not present. It was proposed by General B. B. Foster, who appeared for Utley, that his record was not such as to give him much standing in Court. The summing up of the counsel was very brief. The accused then testified in his own behalf, stating that in making out his certificates he relied mainly upon the reports of his aid-marshals. Commissioner Osborne said that he would render an early decision.

ALLEGED FRAUDULENT IMPORTATIONS.

A decision was rendered yesterday in the United States Circuit Court by Judge Benedict denying the motion to quash the indictment for alleged conspiracy against Anthony De Greiff, Carl J. Triacca, Peter Schurman and Hugh J. Begley. The present case arises from a suit begun in 1876 to recover $200,000, of which it was claimed the defendants had defrauded the government in the payment of duties as importers, which were afterward discontinued on account of the loss of papers connected with it. It was subsequently ascertained, as alleged, that a suit in one of the State courts divulged the fact that these papers had been obtained by a lawyer in the employ of the defendants and destroyed. The government then began the criminal prosecution. It is understood that the indictments will be brought to immediate trial.

THE BOSTON GIRLS' TROUBLES.

Kittie Brown and Maggie Moore, who were arrested at the instance of their bondsman, Michael Keenan, and discharged by Judge Donohue on Wednesday last, were rearrested Friday night on a telegram from Police Superintendent Adams, of Boston, while they were at Police Headquarters visiting a female prisoner. Mr. A. H. Hummel at once sued out another writ of habeas corpus, and had the girls brought before the Supreme Court, Chambers, forthwith, urging that they were being persecuted relentlessly, and that the interests of justice did not, on a mere telegram, without requisition, justify their extradition. Assistant District Attorney Leary said that there was an officer from Boston to take them on there, and that a requisition would be here in a few days. Judge Donohue ordered the discharge of the oft-arrested prisoners, remarking that the officials should secure the requisition before taking them again into custody.

THE SEVENTH WARD MURDER.

The General Term of the Supreme Court, on application of Mr. William F. Howe, granted yesterday an order setting aside the conviction and sentence to life imprisonment of William Kennedy for shooting Dennis Mahoney. Kennedy has been kept, by stay of proceedings secured by Mr. Howe, in the Tombs since last September instead of being transferred to State Prison, and was yesterday removed from the condemned cell to more pleasant quarters on one of the upper tiers of the prison. A plea of manslaughter in the third degree will now, it is stated, be accepted in his case, in which event he will get off with not more than four years' imprisonment instead of imprisonment for life.

TRIAL OF ANGELO SPAGNOLO.

The trial of Angelo Spagnolo, charged with the assassination of Peter Drake, in Chatham square, on the 14th day of November last, will be moved for trial to-morrow morning in the Court of Oyer and Terminer, before Judge Barrett, by District Attorney Rollins. The indictment against the prisoner is for murder in the first degree. Upon his arraignment, it being represented to the Court that he was friendless and without means to employ counsel, the Court directed Messrs. James D. McClelland and William F. Kintzing to act as his counsel. The facts connected with the tragedy were at the time fully published in the HERALD.

SUMMARY OF LAW CASES.

A question interesting to commercial travellers and business men came yesterday before Judge Speir, in the Superior Court. Rosenthal & Co., of White street, contracted, as alleged, with Moses Newman that they would pay him, besides a regular salary, a commission of two and a half per cent on all goods sold by him; and in view of the fact that he was to have entire control of the Western trade they agreed to pay him the same commissions on all goods sold in the West by them. On a final settlement between them Rosenthal & Co. refused to pay him for any goods not sold by him. He, therefore, brought suit, and yesterday, through his counsel, Mr. Charles Strauss, made a motion that the firm be compelled to produce their books in court so that he could fix the amount of his claim. The motion was opposed by ex-Judge Coursen for the defendants. Judge Speir granted the motion and set down the further hearing for next week.

In the Surrogate's Court there was resumed yesterday, before Surrogate Calvin, the contest over the will of the late Daniel Berrien. Counsel stated that since the last adjournment the principal witness for the contestants had died, and that they had decided to close their case with the privilege of hereafter calling Mr. John J. Vaughn, of Staten Island, and also to take testimony as to the value of the estate. This was agreed to by the counsel for the proponents, with the understanding that the testimony of Mr. Vaughn should be taken before the stenographer to save time. Mr. Vanderveer, for the proponents, then stated that the contestants had closed their case so unexpectedly that they were not prepared to proceed at present. The case was then adjourned until April 22.

WRECK OF THE EUNICE RICH.

The German steamship Berlin, which arrived yesterday from Rio Janeiro, had on board the captain of the schooner Eunice Rich, which foundered at sea on January 23. The Eunice Rich was bound from Boston to Barbados, carrying a cargo worth about $2,000. When 400 miles from the Island of Antigua she sprang aleak, and the water filled her hold so rapidly that the pumps were wholly useless. Captain Chase, her commander, ordered the boats to be launched and provisioned, and as the crew pulled away from the vessel's side she sank before their eyes. They were four days on the ocean, taking turns at the oars and husbanding their scanty stock of water, which soon ran short. On the evening of the fourth day they spied land, and all hands came safe to shore. The American Consul at Rio Janeiro put Captain Chase on board the Berlin. He was very silent on board and showed little disposition to talk about the wreck. He left early in the afternoon for Boston, where his wife and children were anxiously awaiting him.

DEALING IN OLD BONES.

John Fitzgerald and Joseph Wallace early yesterday morning, it is charged, stole a rowboat from George Malloy, of East 113th street, and went fishing for old bones. These latter are collected from the different institutions under the care and by order of the Commissioners of Charities and Correction, and piled on the beach at Ward's Island, to be ground up for fertilizing purposes. Fitzgerald and Wallace, it is said, have been in the habit of filling a boat with bones at night and selling them to other parties at the rate of $1 per barrel. Yesterday they were taken to the Harlem Police Court and committed to answer.

OUR COMPLAINT BOOK.

[NOTE.—Letters intended for this column must be accompanied by the writer's full name and address to insure attention. Complainants who are unwilling to comply with this rule simply waste time in writing. Write only on one side of the paper.—ED. HERALD.]

POISONOUS GAS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

Is there no way of stopping the nuisance issuing from the Assay Office in Wall street, near Nassau street. As the wind blows north or west it is very offensive and irritating to the lungs, a noisome acid exhalation. Where is the Board of Health?

PNEUMONIA.

MORE LOAFERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

The police would greatly oblige the storekeepers on Tenth street, between avenues A and B, by routing out a set of loafers that are in the habit of congregating in front of their stores every night and often raising a disturbance and insulting passers by.

A CITIZEN.

POST OFFICE DELAYS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

Will you stir up the Post Office officials at Eighty-sixth street? We, residents of this neighborhood, cannot get the mails till half-past ten o'clock in the morning. Six months ago we got them as early as half-past eight o'clock. Why not do the same now as formerly?

A. C. WINSLOW.

TOO MUCH DIRT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

Are the street cleaning authorities all dead? If not, please inform them that it is dangerous for "man or beast" to venture on Broad street, between Exchange place and Beaver street, while the present horrible, filthy condition remains. We can easily spare dirt and rubbish enough to sink the largest ship afloat.

H. C. DEXTER.

LEISURELY POST OFFICE CLERKS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

Allow me through your columns to direct the attention of Postmaster James to the delay which is daily caused at the newspaper windows at the New York Post Office by the conspicuous absence, when called upon, of the clerk there stationed. My own experience has shown me that I have to wait from five to fifteen minutes before he answered my call, and I can name several who have been served likewise.

COAL.

TRAVEL DELAYS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

Why is it that passengers of the Central Railroad of New Jersey on the arrival at Communipaw of the 8:31 train from Plainfield are compelled to wait on the boat from five to ten minutes for overdue trains on other branches of the road before the boat leaves the slip, thus making our arrival at Liberty street 9:40 and frequently 9:45, instead of 9:35, as per schedule?

Plainfield commuters would be obliged if the railroad company would put on that Plainfield express of last summer, 8:13 A. M., landing us in New York at 9:05.

COMMUTER.

A SAMPLE STREET.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

The condition of Bayard street is simply outrageous. The street has not been cleaned for months. It is filled with holes dangerous to both man and beast, and should there be a thaw the stench would be horrible. It is quite a thoroughfare, and those doing business in the street cannot understand why it is not cleaned as well as other streets. Those having the matter in charge should either attend to it or let some one else who will take their place. Please give this communication room in your valuable paper and oblige one of

YOUR SUFFERING FELLOW CITIZENS.

ATTENTION, BROOKLYN POLICE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

Cannot a stop be put to the fraudulent newsboys attempting to sell bogus extras, yelling at the top of their voices, "Frightful accident!" "Dreadful loss o' life!" "Elevated Railroad." This thing is of frequent occurrence in Brooklyn on the Heights, alarming the women and children. There is also a swindler who has been operating now for over six months, trying to get money for packages purported to have arrived by steamer from Europe. The police of Brooklyn may possibly wake up a little and put a stop to the above practices by seeing this in your widespread journal. Yours,

A RESIDENT.

WANTED—A PLAYGROUND.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

I desire to call the attention of the trustees of the public school on Thirty-fifth street, between Eighth and Ninth avenues, to the necessity of having a playground for the scholars of that school. During nearly the entire day, from nine A. M. to three P. M., the children (principally boys) are running on the pavement, in every person's way, hooting, ringing door bells, breaking glass in windows, &c., so that tenants refuse to occupy the houses on that side of the street near the school. Owners of property are severly taxed, and yet they are annoyed beyond patience by these children.

ARE ALL RECEIVERS ALIKE?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

Can you, and will you, inform us through your valuable columns why Receiver Parker, for the New Jersey Mutual Life Insurance Company, keeps us waiting so long for the promised dividend? Something must be wrong. It is now more than two years since we have seen one cent from that source, and he certainly could pay a small dividend if disposed. I understand he was successful in two lawsuits pending against said company, which must have given him some funds, and in these pressing times, no matter how small, it would certainly be very acceptable to me, as well as many others. Please ask Mr. Parker to explain this delay, and much oblige a needy

POLICY HOLDER.

COMMON SENSE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

Excuses seem to be made of late in almost every case where men have been clubbed in lager beer saloons by the proprietor that the poor drunken fellows have insulted the saloon keepers' wives, *vide* the "Probable Murder" in your issue of to-day. Now, I think it is a perfect shame if any such plea is heeded, because the wives and very often the daughters of these men, to my certain knowledge, wait on the customers in such places, are treated by and drink with them, and it is no wonder that the men sometimes overstep the mark while drunk. The way to avoid all this is to keep the women and girls out of the saloons, that being no place for them, as men, when in a saloon, even when not intoxicated and under the circumstances above stated, are not very particular or choice in language or manners, and I don't see how they can be blamed if the females are insulted. Yours,

REFORM.

PRESENTS TO SCHOOL TEACHERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

Would it not be well for the Board of Education to prohibit the receipt by any teacher or other school official of any present whatever from any pupil or parent or friend of a pupil? It has become a regular custom in some of our public schools to make presents of more or less value to those in authority, and the poorer scholars too often have cause to bemoan the partiality shown to their fellows, whose means enable them to purchase favors. I am told that, in certain schools, it is not necessary for the teachers to bring with them a lunch, so bountifully are fruit, cakes, &c., &c., furnished to them day after day. In holiday times, too, subscriptions are taken up, and well do the recipients remember who have subscribed and who not. So long as human nature is what it is all possible safeguards should be erected against such abuses as these. Those having the charge of children should be especially saved from the temptation of partiality among their young charges. The Board of Education should remove any teacher receiving a present.

NEMO.

THAT SHIRT IN THE POST OFFICE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

The "Song of the Shirt," as sung by your correspondent, "C. T. B.," is just a little out of tune; or, in other words, a part of the shirt tale is lacking. The charge of additional postage was not made because of the presence of his name on the garment (which the law permits), but on account of other writing in or on the package, or because it was so wrapped or sealed as to render impossible that examination of its contents which the law requires. As to the letter "head for postage," it never reached this city, but was, of course, sent direct from Springfield to the Dead Letter Office at Washington, so that the fact that the person addressed was "well known to the carrier" in New York does not seem to have any special bearing on the subject. If the bill "for the classification of mail matter," &c., which is now, and for a long time past has been before Congress, is not talked to death before adjournment many of the petty miseries of this sort which now afflict the public and the Post Office under existing laws will be ended, and none will more heartily "rejoice to see the curse removed" than the

P. O. PEOPLE.

TAXPAYERS' BURDENS.

Over a Quarter of a Million Annually Expended by the City for Rents.

THE HALL AS IT WAS AND IS.

Only Three Departments Where Were Formerly More than Twenty Bureaus.

The final estimate of the cost of running the city government, as passed upon by the Board of Apportionment, has for some years past always contained an appropriation to pay rents for property leased by the city for Corporation purposes. The amount appropriated for this purpose in the budget of 1879 reached the sum of $160,000, although no provision whatever was made for the payment of leases of property used by the Fire Department. In order to accommodate the engines and men of the latter department a separate sum of $175,000 was given, a portion of which, however, was to be applied to the liquidation of debts incurred in repairing buildings and for other purposes. That the city of New York, the owner of property valued at many millions of dollars, should expend almost $300,000 in leasing the property of its citizens, is an anomaly that taxpayers wonder at. Why cannot the departments and bureaus of the city government be afforded facilities within the precincts of the City Hall and of the new County Court House? is a question often asked by the owners of real estate, obliged to bear the heavy burden of taxation. The query is answered thus:—Where one or two rooms were sufficient for a commissioner a few years since the head of a department now requires a suit of from four to six rooms, besides a number of small private offices. In explanation of this state of affairs it may be said that a vast deal more business is transacted by the city at present than was the case ten or twenty years ago, but this excuse will be seen to be a lame one when it is stated that those branches of the municipal Corporation having the least work to perform generally monopolize the greatest amount of space.

ARMORY PROPERTY LEASED BY THE CITY.

The city of New York pays $62,250 a year for the rent of the armories and drill rooms used by nine regiments of the National Guard. By the terms of a lease executed on May 16, 1876, Messrs. D. F. & Edward A. Manice receive the sum of $12,000 a year for the second story of the building on Broadway, Sixth avenue, Thirty-fifth and Thirty-sixth streets. The premises are used by the Seventy-first regiment. The Twenty-second regiment is accommodated in Fourteenth street, between Sixth and Seventh avenues, at a cost of $15,000 a year, the rent being paid to Valentine G. Hall, who is named in the lease as sole surviving executor, of whom does not appear. A lease of five years was taken on May 18, 1876, from Cassius H. Reed, of the halls and premises on the second story of buildings Nos. 139, 141 and 143 West Twenty-third street. The property is at present used as an armory by the officers and members of the Fifth regiment, and the amount paid by the city is $7,500 a year. Mr. Charles W. Dickel will receive until 1883 $5,500 for allowing the use of Nos. 7, 9 and 11 West Thirteenth street to the First troop of cavalry. Companies A, G and K of the Twenty-seventh regiment have quarters on the second floor of Morrisania Hall, Railroad avenue, between 166th and 167th streets, and the city pays $750 a year for the premises. Mr. R. T. Ford allows the city, for $9,000, a year the use of the second floor of the building on the south side of Forty-fifth street, near Broadway, and the second story of the premises on the east side of Broadway, between Forty-fourth and Forty-fifth streets. These quarters are occupied respectively by the Washington Gray Troop and the Twelfth regiment. The executrix and executors of the estate of Paran Stevens, Marietta R. Stevens, John L. Melcher and Charles G. Stevens receive the sum of $8,000 per annum for the use of premises in Twenty-sixth street, between Sixth and Seventh avenues, occupied by the Ninth regiment. Battery K costs the city $3,000 a year for the rent of the lower part of the premises Nos. 139, 141 and 143 West Twenty-third street.

All these rents are very large, and their payment annually adds a goodly sum to the tax levy. Many of the leases expire in a few years, and it has been proposed by some of the taxpayers' associations to build a large brigade armory to accommodate a number of regiments and thus relieve the city of a portion of its present heavy burden. A large portion of the National Guard quartered in New York occupy property belonging to the corporation, and there is said to be no reason whatever why a portion of the unproductive real estate belonging to this city should not be used for the purposes of armories and drill rooms. It is an interesting fact that the city authorities have to pay for leases double the amount of rents usually received for its own property.

DEPARTMENTAL AND OTHER PREMISES.

Beside the immense amount annually expended on armory leases the city pays nearly $70,000 a year for the rent of premises in which to conduct the business of various departments. The Department of Public Parks pays $2,500 per annum for a lease of the upper part of the premises No. 36 Union square. The money is paid to the Mutual Gaslight Company, and the lease will expire January 1, 1880. The premises occupied by the Dock Department on the second floor of Nos. 117 and 119 Duane street cost the city $8,900 a year, which amount will be paid to the Manhattan Real Estate Association up to May 1, 1880. Since February 8, 1875, this city has annually expended the sum of $3,500 for the lease of the second, third and fourth floors of No. 2 Fourth avenue, at present occupied by the Building Department. The owner of the property is Mr. Reuben Smith. Oswald Ottendorfer receives the nice little sum of $7,500 a year for the lease of the third floor of the *Staats Zeitung* building. The floor is used by the Counsel to the Corporation. The Excise Commissioners pay $3,000 a year to Jane De Zea for their office No. 40 East Houston street. The premises on the northwest corner of Centre and White streets are leased until May 1, 1880, from the New York Dispensary, the annual rent being $9,500. The property was taken for the purposes of a reception hospital, but, it is said, was never used as such. A large portion of the building is unoccupied, and the city is virtually paying heavy rent without obtaining any equivalent. The city in 1876 leased until May 1, 1880, the second, third and fifth floors of No. 27 Chambers street, agreeing to pay $12,000 a year rent. The premises are now occupied by the Marine Court judges. Only a few of the civil, district and police courts have rooms in city property.

WHERE THE REMEDY LIES.

In considering the facts given above it may be wondered how the different branches of the city government came to spread themselves over the city. They were all at one time, and that at no very remote date, confined within the limits of the City Hall Park, in the centre of which the City Hall stood then, as it stands now. There was no County Court House, and there were only the Tax Office, the Rotunda and the Register's Office in which heads of bureaus could be accommodated. The City Hall is 216 feet long, 105 feet wide and 51 feet high. It is two stories high above the basement, with a third or attic story in the centre building, from which rises a cupola. In the building there are about forty rooms available for public purposes, nearly all of which are at present occupied by the Mayor, the Common Council and the different bureaus attached to the Department of Public Works. Mayor Cooper enjoys the luxury of an elegant suit of five large rooms, not counting those occupied by his first and second marshals and the clerks in the Permit Bureau. It is believed that His Honor could easily dispense with more than one-half this space without the slightest detriment to the public service. The Aldermen, besides having control of the Corporation Library Room, monopolize three rooms each of which is fully fifty feet square. Their assembly chamber, on the second floor, is very large, and the opinion seems to be general that the city fathers should confine themselves to closer quarters. The Department of Public Works, with its Bureau of Repairs and Supplies, Bureau of Water Register, Bureau of Lamps and Gas, and Bureau of Incumbrances, takes up a large amount of space, but then the business of the department is greater than that done by any other branch of the city government. The various offices, however, are at present very much scattered, and if another wing could be added to the building so as to bring all the departmental bureaus together, much less room would be taken up. With the exception of the Governor's Room and basement offices allotted for the use of the Ordinance Police and for the Supervisor of the *City Record*, the rest of the building is occupied by the janitor.