ERIN'S ENVOY.

Irish Citizens Preparing to Welcome Mr. Parnell Next Week.

ARRANGEMENTS IN NEWARK.

Pulpit Propositions to Drive Catholicism from the Emerald Isle.

The preparations for the reception of Mr. Charles Stewart Parnell, M. P., on his arrival in this city, are progressing with an activity unusual in Irish national circles, and the interest taken in the movement by Irish citizens seems to be greater than that shown in anything of the kind for many years. The ordinary Irishman who combats English rule in Ireland, whether with judgment or not, is generally popular with the Irish masses; but Mr. Parnell's high social standing and the universal belief in his thorough earnestness have given him a hold on the Irish people that no man has had since the days of O'Connell. Nothing can be clearer than this to any one who has had an opportunity of observing the hitherto discordant and conflicting elements which are to be found for the first time united on the committee which has been organized to tender him a reception in this city, and the unanimity hitherto displayed is something to be marvelled at. It was at first intended to simply give Mr. Parnell a reception and an opportunity of stating his case to the American people, but an incident which occurred yesterday will almost certainly change the whole aspect of affairs and draw into the movement the few Irishmen who still hesitated about throwing themselves heartily into it. The following cable despatch was received from the officers of the Irish National Land League by Dr. Philip E. Donlin and Thomas B. Bannerman, secretaries of the Parnell Reception Committee in this city:—

QUEENSTOWN, Dec. 21, 1879.

Parnell and Dillon have just sailed. The Land League has commissioned them to receive assistance for the relief of the distress, which the League will distribute. The distress is very pressing. LAND LEAGUE, Dublin.

There had been up to last evening some lingering doubts as to whether Mr. Parnell would come or would be allowed to come to America or not; but this despatch sets that question at rest. It also settles the question whether the money received through the proposed demonstration in New York should go to the support of the Land League or for the relief of the distress. Hitherto there has been no central body in Ireland undertaking to deal with the distress, and the efforts for its alleviation were local, and therefore not always applied where most needed. Now that the League undertakes the task money received from America must be equally distributed, and many thousands here who have up to the present held back will no longer hesitate about forwarding their subscriptions. Many also feel that the League will thus fasten itself firmly in the hearts of the people by first dealing with the question of life or death and leaving the question of politics till the hands of the country are free.

THE CITY TO BE CANVASSED.

Several of the sub-committees appointed at the Fifth Avenue Hotel meeting last Friday met yesterday to complete the arrangements for the reception, and a HERALD reporter was informed that a special meeting of the whole committee has been summoned for an early day during the coming week to take action on the despatch. It is considered certain that the question of relief will now be dealt with first, and that the Irish population of New York will be thoroughly canvassed with a view to raising a large sum of money for the starving people at home. It is almost certain that Gilmore's Garden will be engaged for the reception of Messrs. Parnell and Dillon, and that an admission fee will be charged, the proceeds to be sent to Ireland for the relief fund. To-day a sub-committee will decide that question, and a sub-committee on finance will make arrangements for a thorough canvass of the city. All existing Irish societies have been invited to send delegations to the forthcoming meeting, and those competent to speak anticipate complete success. The New York committee will also act as a sort of central committee for the United States for the purpose of facilitating arrangements in other cities, and it is already in communication by letter and telegram with most of the Western cities on the subject of Mr. Parnell's visit. Mr. John Dillon, who accompanies Mr. Parnell, is a well known Dublin barrister and is a son of the late John B. Dillon, the patriot of 1848, who some years ago practised law in this city in partnership with Mr. Richard O'Gorman.

PREPARATIONS IN NEWARK—MONEY TO BE RAISED AND HONORS TO BE OFFERED—A GRAND BALL IN PROSPECT.

Two movements are on foot among the Irish people of Newark, N. J. One is to raise funds to relieve the suffering people of Ireland; the other to arrange for a reception to Mr. Parnell. At an adjourned meeting held on Saturday night at the Board of Trade rooms there was organized "The Irish Relief Association of Newark, N. J.," the sole object of which is to devise ways and means to relieve the sufferings of the distressed in Ireland. It was decided to call a mass meeting for Monday evening, December 29, and the following call was prepared forthwith, and ordered to be issued over the signatures of those present and others to be obtained:—

In view of the distressing fact that there is widespread suffering among the Irish people in Ireland; that pinching hunger and piercing cold are felt in thousands of homes; that already the coroners are beginning to be busy holding inquests on the bodies of persons who have died of starvation, and that evidence accumulates daily showing that a famine impends in some parts of our beloved mother country, we feel that there is a crying need for action on our part to aid in helping to relieve the urgent necessities of our afflicted country people. With this object in view we deem it proper to call a mass meeting, to be held at the Newark Opera House on Monday evening, December 29, to devise ways and means to raise an Irish relief fund.

While it is desired and expected that the Irish people and their connections in this city should take the initiative and bear the largest share in this purely charitable movement, which is altogether disassociated from current Irish politics or sectarian considerations, we feel confident that, first, having ourselves shown proper zeal, earnestness and generosity in the matter, the practical sympathy of all citizens, without regard to nationality or creed, should be cheerfully and liberally extended to the object in view. As the first is of vital importance to ultimate success, we earnestly urge upon the Irish people of Newark the duty of turning out *en masse* at the meeting to be held as above stated. Let the Irish people of Newark and their descendants prove to the people in the old land and everywhere else that love of kith and kin is a chief attribute of Celtic blood wherever found.

Chairman P. T. Quinn appointed a committee of five to make arrangements for the mass meeting, with full power to act.

IRISH SOCIETIES COMBINING.

A meeting of representatives from half a dozen Irish societies of Newark and Orange was held yesterday at the Catholic Institute, in New street, to make arrangements for a reception to Mr. Parnell. John Hart was chosen president and J. J. Berry secretary. Remarks were made by several gentlemen in warm approbation of Mr. Parnell and the movement with which he is identified, and expressing an earnest desire to do honor to him as Ireland's ambassador to this country. In order to make the reception a grand success it was resolved to invite all Irish associations to participate, and a meeting will be held at the same place next Sunday afternoon, when definite action will be taken.

The Clan-na-Gael Association of Newark have decided to hold a grand ball on the evening of January 26, the entire proceeds to be devoted to the relief of the suffering in Ireland.

REV. DR. WILD SUGGESTS A FEW POINTS FOR MR. PARNELL'S CONSIDERATION.

Rev. Dr. Wild, pastor of the Union Congregational Church, Elm place, Brooklyn, made Mr. Parnell and his mission to this country the leading feature of his evening discourse. Mr. Parnell, member of the English Parliament, he said, is coming to this country to lay before us some of the wrongs of old Ireland. Now, I have no objection to his coming. Without doubt the tenant laws of Ireland need adjusting, but the point I wish to call your attention to is, To whom is he coming? Is he coming to a people who are just in land laws and who care sacredly for vested rights? One would hastily so conclude, because you can hear the "hurrah" from a thousand throats crying for vengeance or redress for Ireland. Meetings here and there pass stinging resolutions against the aristocracy and large land owners, and invitations of fulsome welcome to this hero of the poor. A point Mr. Parnell should be made to thoroughly understand is that while we are not sticklers for tenant rights in our own land, yet we are very scrupulous about a thing of this kind in any other land. We, of course, have plenty of land and money, but we prefer to give it away by millions of acres at once, not to the poor and needy, but to rich corporations and big monopolies. Having no landed aristocracy, we are anxious to create one as fast as we can, and, the way matters have moved of late, we shall be successful.

A NEW RELIGION NEEDED.

Now, I do believe there are many grievances which should be redressed in Ireland. And this I as surely believe, that the thing most needed is a new religion, or a mighty change in the one they now have. Catholicism is a failure. The hundreds of years of wrong endured and poverty inherited do most solemnly proclaim this statement a truth. Such vassalage and poverty could not exist in the presence of a pure religion. The very history of this Church in Ireland or anywhere else in this age or any age is the wealth of the few at the expense of the many. If Protestantism failed in like manner I would change it, just as, after months and years of sickness, if my own physician failed to cure me, I would get another. The masses in Ireland are religiously paralyzed, and it is almost, if not altogether, impossible for them to be successful aggressors. I do affirm, on the testimony of history and facts of the present day, that the present condition of Ireland is normal to her chief religion—that is, the poverty and vassalage of the masses agree to and with Catholicism. No other state of things ever existed for the last 1,100 years wherever this Church had absolute control. Spain is an example to-day, and Italy has been a terrible witness of the same truth. A man who wants to do a good thing for Ireland must set to work to change her chief religion. "Seek ye first the kingdom of heaven, and all other things shall be added." If the Hon. Charles Parnell would become a convert to "Israel's identification" he might do Ireland good and the world, too. The theory speaks freedom, liberty, progress and sovereignty of conscience that would soon give to Ireland her needed reforms. We should remember that events are like icebergs—more out of sight than in. I have seen in the North Sea large icebergs going against wind and wave. How were they propelled? you ask. They were borne along by an under current. So events are sunk in Providence. The winds above and opposing waves cannot stay their march. With all the winds of oratory and waves of passion Ireland is moving on against them to her God appointed goal.

IRELAND'S NEED OF CONVERSION.

The services of the Independent Irish Catholic Church at Clarendon Hall last night were attended by an immense audience. Father O'Connor delivered a short address on the fallacy of Romanism, in which he created considerable merriment by his peculiar manner of referring to the national peculiarities of Italians. He then spoke briefly on the mission of Mr. Parnell, and said that Ireland was held in the slavery of the Romish Church, which was more humiliating than vassalage to England. When the Irish are ready to throw off the chains forged by the Italian priests the dawn of freedom for unfortunate Ireland will be at hand. Until the souls of the Celts are their own, through the blood of Jesus, political liberty will be a mockery. Mr. O'Connor urged Irishmen to pray for the redemption of the erring Irish people and do all in their power to bring them to the light of the Word of God. The services were closed by remarks on Bishop MacNamara's work in Boston.

THE NEGRO FLIGHT.

CONDITION OF THE FREEDMEN IN NORTH CAROLINA—HISTORY OF THE EMIGRATION MOVEMENT—POLITICAL RIGHTS SECURE AT HOME—FROM CERTAIN PLENTY TO PROBABLE WANT.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

GOLDSBORO, Dec. 21, 1879.

This is conspicuously the exodus section. Within the past month between four hundred and five hundred negroes—men, women and children—have left the surrounding country for Indiana. At present there is a temporary lull in the exodus tide, attributable in part to unfavorable reports received from some who are now in Indiana, but mainly to lack of funds. The extent of the exodus feeling cannot be arrived at. It is difficult to place any estimate upon it, yet it is safe to say that in this Congressional district several thousands are ready to go regardless of consequences were their expenses to be paid. Some are now laying up their savings, awaiting further developments, while many appear unsettled in their intentions. Of those who have already left this State a few had sufficient means to take them to their destination, while the majority had barely enough to reach Washington, and some who had started were left behind for lack of money. Among the emigrants a few were reputed to be industrious and thrifty. One of them, with his boys, had cleared this year over $300 on his crop above all expenses. Others, less industrious, had lived from hand to mouth, as is characteristic of the negro.

BEGINNING OF THE MOVEMENT.

The Indiana scheme was begun here some months ago, and appears to have been inspired by one Langsdale, the editor of the Greencastle (Ind.) *Banner*, a republican newspaper. Langsdale had proclaimed that he would furnish homes to colored emigrants in Indiana, and his paper seems to have fallen into the hands of a notorious negro named Sam Perry, who taught a free school at Lagrange, about twelve miles from Goldsboro. Perry associated with him a negro preacher named Williams, and they soon succeeded in producing an exodus fever among the negroes, and it is said that by levying fees they made the excitement a source of handsome profit. Meetings were held in various sections and inflammatory speeches were made by Perry and others. Indiana was pictured as a perfect paradise for colored emigrants. They were promised plenty of work and wages—from $15 to $20 per month and board—good schools with the whites, and lands at from $1 to $3 an acre.

IMAGINARY WRONGS.

In connection with these promises and delusions the more ignorant of the race were made to believe that all sorts of imaginary wrongs were being practised upon them here. It was told them, for instance, that they could not here get credit at the stores, while in Indiana it would be readily accorded them. Their worst fears, passions and prejudices were worked upon. They were told by some that if they remained here, should the democrats elect the next President they would be thrust back into slavery and other similar nonsense. The negro is of a decided migratory disposition, and while many of those who have gone barely knew whether Indiana was a State, a county or a city, yet the very idea of a grand excursion infatuated them so that they disposed of their little effects for a mere trifle and recklessly started out on their journey.

Agents are still among the negroes here urging others to go, and another party is advertised to leave in a few days, but the movement will hardly reach any considerable extent until further tidings are received and more money is furnished. The return of one of their representatives now in Indiana is anxiously awaited here. Should he bring a favorable report—and it is feared that designing men will induce him to make such a one—the exodus will doubtless receive a strong impetus. He is expected soon.

A CAUSELESS MOVEMENT.

As for the cause of the exodus, there is none. The white people here generally regret it and deprecate the departure of the negroes from North Carolina. The farmers in particular are laboring under considerable uncertainty as to their future crop arrangements. The more intelligent of the colored race, too, are openly opposed to the scheme; but, strange as it seems, neither their political white leaders nor the intelligent of their own color can induce them to halt. They feed on castles in the air—day dreams of fame and fortune. All admit that they are being treated well in North Carolina and that their condition has very much improved within a few years. Large numbers own houses and lots, and not a few own valuable farms. The white people generally are pleased at the thrift of the colored people. The industrious negroes find no trouble in leasing good lands for farming purposes, and on the most favorable terms. This class of people are very much sought after by landowners, and are gladly supplied by the landlord with teams, implements and provisions at most reasonable prices, to be paid for out of the crops in yearly instalments. Those who are industrious and economical generally find their labors rewarded and themselves in the possession of a handsome surplus after paying for advances and rents, while others, who neglect their crops and lack capacity to manage for themselves, may not do so well.

POLITICAL CONDITION.

The negroes are perfectly secure in their civil rights, and, while some of the whites may have prejudices, the more intelligent masses form a strong conservative element, and the negro is sure of protection. The State has provided the same educational facilities for the colored as for the white children, the races being separately educated. The colored schools generally are well patronized, even by adults, and the children make rapid progress. The colored free school here is in a most flourishing condition and is kept up eight months in each year. It is taught by three competent teachers. The democratic Legislature of this State has established a normal school at Fayetteville, where colored teachers for free schools are being educated at the expense of the State. It also appropriated $50,000 for the construction of an asylum for the colored insane, and another appropriation will probably be made for this institution by the next Legislature. The building is being erected near this town and is a very handsome edifice. It will be completed by next March, with accommodations for 125 patients. There is also an institution at Raleigh for the colored deaf, dumb and blind maintained by the State. There are about twelve well equipped colored military companies in the State. They form part of the State guards, and have been formed under the present democratic administration. The company at this place is named the Vance Guards, after Senator Vance.

NEGRO INDUSTRY AND SKILL.

The industrial State fair of the colored people, held at Raleigh last month, was in every way creditable to their race. It was planned and conducted by them, though most of the premiums were donated by whites. The fair was opened by Governor Jarvis, who, with other gentlemen, was escorted to the grounds by the colored military. Politically, the rights of the negroes are fully protected. They can vote in every election. Our courts of justice are as open to them as to the whites. Colored men serve on juries, and this, too, in trials altogether confined to whites. Of those who have left several have written most pitiful letters from Indiana, asking for money to get back to North Carolina. Most of our mechanics are of the colored race, and they always find plenty of work. In fact the white mechanics often complain that the negroes are preferred to them, both as mechanics and as farmers.

THE NICARAGUA CANAL.

PROMOTERS OF THE ENTERPRISE ONLY AWAITING THE SURRENDER OF THE LAND—VISIT OF SENOR DE FRANCO TO CENTRAL AMERICA TO COMPLETE ARRANGEMENTS.

A HERALD reporter called yesterday afternoon at the Fifth Avenue Hotel to see Señor De Franco, who, with Admiral Ammen, Mr. A. G. Menocal and others, has taken so large an interest in the Nicaragua Interoceanic Canal project. The gentleman was found busily engaged in packing his trunk. He said, after greeting the reporter:—"You see I am busy and can spare only a little time for an interview. I will be pleased to answer any questions the HERALD may wish to ask me."

"You start shortly then, Mr. De Franco, for Nicaragua?"

"Yes, to-morrow, by the Pacific Mail Steamship line. I arrived here last evening from Philadelphia."

"Does any other gentleman interested in the canal project accompany you?"

"No; I go alone. Next week Mr. Menocal will follow me. I go straight to Aspinwall."

"Then all preliminary arrangements have been settled upon?"

"Satisfactorily so. Nothing now remains but to get the Nicaraguan government's concession. When that has been accomplished the company will be regularly formed. There will, of course, have to be a formal paper drawn up, officers elected and so on. Decided action on our part will follow the concession."

"What is the object of your sailing before the others, Mr. De Franco? Is there any particular significance in it?"

"That is easily explained. I have a week's start of Mr. Menocal to allow for a conference with the Nicaraguan government about our project. I will pave the way for Mr. Menocal and expect to canvass with the authorities the subject. Mr. Menocal will carry with him instructions and full powers to enter into an agreement. My conversation with the government officers will have helped them to come to a conclusion. Upon Mr. Menocal's arrival nothing will remain except to grant the concession and agree upon details."

"Do you expect soon to return to this country?"

"In about two or three months."

INTERVIEWS WITH GENERAL GRANT.

"Did you have the pleasure of seeing General Grant lately?"

"Oh, yes. I went on to Philadelphia for that purpose. I enjoyed not only one but many interviews with him. Yesterday I had an interview with him, lasting two hours."

"In relation to the canal project?"

"Yes."

"Was there anything of public interest in your interview, Mr. De Franco?"

"No. The General and myself simply talked business matters."

"Then he has agreed to enter into the project?"

"Certainly. He has, in fact, been the originator of it. He has been in favor of the enterprise for a long time, and has been largely instrumental in securing public interest in it."

"He is to be the president of the company?"

"Yes, when it is formed."

"Can you not tell me anything new about your enterprise, Mr. De Franco?"

"The HERALD's interview with Mr. Menocal covers the entire ground. There is nothing left to say. I have just read the interview in to-day's HERALD. It is exact except in a few very trivial matters. Mr. Menocal has said all there is to say at present. The enterprise is one the people of this country should be proud of, take an interest in and aid in every way they can."

"Your visit to New York has been limited?"

"Necessarily so. I have accomplished my object, and no time is to be lost in putting our plans into execution. I only arrived here at half-past five o'clock last evening, and I will be occupied the remainder of the day in my preparations for departure to-morrow."

"You have every reason to feel satisfied that the Nicaragua canal project will be certainly carried out."

"I see nothing to prevent it. The concession, I believe, will be granted us at once. Then we have only to commence operations."

"Your return will take place when the concession is granted and the details agreed upon?"

"Yes. I will not leave Nicaragua until all arrangements are perfected."

THE CANAL AGAIN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

It is my conviction that M. de Lesseps took a false step when he invited subscriptions to his Panama canal before having an absolute security, not only of the possibility of the work in a material sense, but of its real estimate and comparative cheapness to the enterprise and to commerce at large. My position is amply sustained by the results. The subscriptions were meagre, and anybody but M. de Lesseps would have been discouraged. But he was not, and instead of cowardly forsaking his bold scheme, he who has made a great canal for the Old World and is bent upon making another for the new one, has gathered able engineers from France, Holland, America, &c., and is to-day within a week's navigation of the isthmus to minutely and decisively survey his chosen route. After the advocates of the canal through Nicaragua have virtually admitted the necessity of new studies on the field nobody who cares for General Grant's reputation would like to see him imitating M. de Lesseps' precipitance and untimely putting himself at the head of an undertaking which at all events is in a very crude state. Far from me to criticise the action of those who press him to decide himself, expecting that his name will make the millions come forth in their aid, even before they have secured a concession from the Nicaraguan government, which most strangely is counted for naught in the transaction. I have no doubt that the projectors act in perfect good faith, and that their haste is mainly due to the desire of running a competition to M. de Lesseps, who is apparently ahead in the race. But when they take everything into consideration they will distinctly see that their hurry is as unnecessary as it is useless. And if they do not General Grant will see it for them. In effect, when a respectable international corps of engineers embodying such names as Totten, Dirks, Tégan, &c., are on the point of carefully examining a proposed route for a canal, about which many a favorable opinion has been already entertained, and which counts upon the energy of M. de Lesseps if said survey and report be all that the interest of the world require, no sensible American or French or English capitalist would venture one dollar in the contemplated Nicaragua route. If, on the other hand, the result proves, as it is possible, that M. de Lesseps' conception is but a dream, or at least so difficult and expensive that capital must of necessity shun it, is there not then a magnificent chance for the Nicaragua route, and for my pet, the San Polas route and for the parties concerned to calmly and easily enlist the necessary support? I am not blind to the fact that what alarms the *bona fide* advocates of the Nicaragua route is not precisely that the rival one of Panama is going to take away from them any special and personal advantage; what actuates them is not exactly the unqualified persuasion of the superior merits of their own scheme. It is rather the quaint idea that the Lesseps undertaking is a thoroughly French concern, and as such will be under the control of the French government. It is feared that the work, under such auspices, may be occasion for European interference on this continent, and the American spirit revolts against that possible emergency. Now, if I shared those apprehensions, I would be the first to oppose the De Lesseps project, for no one is more jealous than I of American independence and American influence on this continent. But it seems to me that the apprehended evil is a mere delusion. The Panama canal and the Nicaragua canal, or any other canal will substantially be similar to the majority of the stockholders. If Americans want to wrench from M. de Lesseps' hand the sceptre of the Panama scheme, after his new survey proves satisfactory, let them come forth and subscribe for half the capital estimated; or, what is, perhaps, more sensible, let them wait and see if the capital is subscribed by French people and then take up the stock in the market, as the English government did with the Suez Canal stock. Who has to-day the control of the Suez Canal? It seems to me that it is the English government; first of all because they hold one-third of the whole stock, and second because the larger part of the trade passing through there is of English nationality. Precisely the same thing would happen with the Panama canal in regard to Americans if the government or mere individuals were to possess a large portion of the new stock. In the supposition that the Panama stock was to be taken by French capitalists alone, which I should regret, we could prevent it. But such a thing is scarcely possible; and if it happen, as I presume, that only a portion is taken up in Europe, there is a chance for the Americans to dictate conditions, and to even demand the transfer of the company's seat to New York as a requisite to their subscribing the balance. Things would not materially change with the Nicaragua canal. If its capital was to be raised in France (which, by the by, seems to me extraordinary), I cannot conceive why the shareholders would prefer to Americanize the work. The probabilities are in every case that the stock, if raised at all, will be a mixed one; American, French, English, Dutch, &c., and no nation shall have any special and undue influence in the canal. There is one particular point in which the American government, and of course the American people, are deeply interested in this connection, and that is the passage of the fleet through the canal in case of war to which they are a party. But for this necessity, which is of paramount importance, there is ample provision in articles 5 and 6 (as amended by the Colombian Congress) of the grant given to Lieutenant Wyse in 1878. Those nations who may have guaranteed by treaty stipulations the sovereignty of Colombia upon the Isthmus of Panama shall have the aforesaid right of using their fleets through the canal when at war with other nations; and since the United States fulfilled the condition long ago by treaty with New Granada dated December, 1846, they have actually the right of passage without any further stipulation. What else could the American people reasonably wish or expect from the Nicaragua canal? The neutrality and security of both should be under the protection of the new States and of Great Britain by the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty of 1850, and I fail to see what other legitimate or desirable advantage might be got with the one route that would be ruined by the other. Let us then be sensible and avoid the risk of doing harm by one scheme without the certainty of carrying out the other. There can be but one canal and the best route may and will be found out in the interest of everybody without any one-sided conception or effort. I am, sir, truly yours, JUSTICE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19, 1879.

COAST SURVEY SERVICE.

STEAM VESSELS TO TAKE SOUNDINGS IN SOUTHERN WATERS—DEPARTURES FROM THE NAVY YARD.

There has been considerable stir among the crews of the vessels connected with the Coast Survey Service which have been lying at the docks of the Brooklyn Navy Yard during the past month. Two steamers have already sailed for their field of operations during the winter, and the other two are rapidly undergoing repairs preparatory to sailing. The work of these four is said by naval officers to be most arduous and tedious, and one from which there is little apparent benefit and no credit, except from interested scientific people. The steamer Eagre, which was formerly the yacht Mohawk, in which Commodore Garner was drowned, started at the beginning of the present month for her work in determining and marking the variation in the mariner's chart in the North Atlantic. Lieutenant Ackley, commander of the expedition, will proceed down the coast and ascertain the variation of the isogonic lines from the latest determination, and mark the rate of variation on charts prepared for the purpose. The Eagre will continue in this work until spring, when her field of operations will be changed.

The steamer Blake, Captain Bartlett, sailed from the Navy Yard on Saturday afternoon for the Caribbean Sea to take deep sea sounding. Before reaching the Caribbean she will stop at Norfolk and take on her apparatus for making the soundings. Captain Delano, of the torpedo boat Intrepid, furnished a HERALD reporter with the details of this work yesterday afternoon. "The apparatus for making deep sea soundings has considerably improved within a comparatively recent period," he said, "and it is now almost perfected. The weight used in the sinking leads are nine-inch shot with the centre scored out. A flask is inserted in this hollowed-out cylinder, having a pointed end with a valve a short distance above, into which the mud from the bottom of the sea enters and is held. A swivel detaches the cord at the top (or, more properly speaking, a fine wire, such as are used in pianos), from its connections at the top of the shot. The flask, to which it is also attached, is drawn out at the lower end, while the shot remains at the sea bottom. The wire with the flask is drawn out, when the character of the deep sea bottom is determined. It was heretofore done in a clumsy manner, which often involved the loss of the lead, the cord being too light to lift the weight attached to it. The present mode was adopted after much deliberation and gives a great deal of satisfaction. The Blake will also take the temperature of the water, ascertaining its most minute variations by delicate instruments. There is no definite route laid out for the steamer, so far as I know; but I believe, from former labors in deep sea soundings, that it will work across the Caribbean from both shores."

THE GULF OF MEXICO.

The next vessel engaged in the coast survey work is the Thomas Gedney, commanded by Lieutenant Sebree, which is now lying at Jersey City, having her boiler repaired. She will probably start for the coast of Texas during the latter part of the present week. She will make a hydrographic sketch of that coast and record soundings in the Gulf of Mexico, as well as plottings for that coast. The steamer Endeavor, Lieutenant Thomas, will do the same work off the coast of North Carolina. This work was described at considerable length by Captain Delano, and he also shows by sketches how tiresome and tedious it is. "For instance," he said, "the Gedney will commence operations outside of Galveston harbor. If the State authorities have not made a most correct chart of the bay Lieutenant Sebree will set about making one. He will ascertain the most prominent bearings, entering the harbor from the south, east and northern points. With this data he will make soundings frequently and in all directions, so that if any prominence exists at the bottom of the harbor it is immediately marked in the chart. As the steamer progresses in its work seaward, soundings will still be taken and an accurate knowledge of the harbor bottom will be obtained. It is the same work as is carried on by the Coast Survey in all the harbors on the coast."

CLUB OR GLOVE?

PATROLMAN MOHR PLACED UNDER ARREST ON A CHARGE OF MANSLAUGHTER—SLATTERY'S WOUNDS.

The wife and son of the man who died on Saturday at Chambers Street Hospital from the effects of wounds received by a fall in Madison street on Friday night called at the hospital yesterday and identified the body. The name of the deceased was John Slattery, of No. 101 Madison street, a bricklayer. He left his home, his wife stated, early on Friday evening and was not then under the influence of liquor, though he had been drinking somewhat. The family were much alarmed at his continued absence from home, but had no suspicion of what had happened till they read a description of the unknown man who died in Chambers Street Hospital on Saturday morning. A further examination of the body was made yesterday, and though no bruises or cuts were found on the lower part of the body, there were three contusions—one on each side of the head and one on the forehead—besides the contused wounds on the back part of the head. The contusions on the sides of the head, it is thought, go far to substantiate the statement of Mr. George P. Gee, published in yesterday's paper, that the man was clubbed by Officer Mohr, of the Seventh precinct, on Friday night. As Mr. Gee described it, he saw the officer deliberately raise his club and strike the man first on one side of the head and then on the other, and after the second blow the man fell to the ground, the back part of his head striking the curbstone. The officer admitted that he struck the man with his glove; but there is no glove that would produce the contusions that were discovered by the physicians in the hospital. Coroner Flanagan and Deputy Coroner Miller called at the hospital yesterday and decided to hold the autopsy at twelve o'clock to-day.

ASKING FOR FURTHER PARTICULARS.

Inspector McDermott while on duty last night at Police Headquarters was handed the following despatch, which had been received by telegraph from the Seventh precinct station house in Madison street:—

Captain Petty has placed Officer John Mohr under arrest on a charge of manslaughter.

The Inspector thought the message a remarkable one, and, anxious to learn more about the case, immediately telegraphed for further particulars. In response to this order a report was forwarded to the Central office. It reads:—

SEVENTH PRECINCT.

To Inspector JOHN MCDERMOTT:—

SIR—At a quarter past nine o'clock P. M. on the 19th inst. Officer John Mohr brought to this station an unknown man, who, the officer said, fell on the sidewalk in Madison, near Birmingham street, with a fractured skull. He was taken to the Chambers Street Hospital insensible and died at eleven o'clock A. M. on the 20th inst. On the evidence of George F. Metico, of No. 99 Madison street, who said he saw the officer strike him on the head with his fist, which caused him to fall, the said unknown turns out to be John Slattery, of No. 101 Madison street. Respectfully, CHARLES SNYDER, Sergeant.

The above message differs slightly from the one in reference to the same case, sent to Police Headquarters at two minutes past eleven P. M., 19th inst., which was as follows:—

SEVENTH PRECINCT.

At fifteen minutes past nine P. M., Patrolman Mohr brought to this station an unknown man who fell on the sidewalk at Madison and Birmingham streets and received a severe wound on the back of the head. Sent to Chambers Street Hospital.

THE MOUNTED POLICE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

Last week a resolution was offered by Commissioner Voorhis before the Police Board that the Mounted Squad be disbanded and the men transferred to Westchester, leaving most of the long avenues and drives on Manhattan Island to be patrolled by foot police. The Mounted Squad is commanded by Sergeant William A. Revell, who has in his command four roundsmen and seventeen patrolmen. There are twenty-two horses belonging to the squad, whose beat extends from Fifty-ninth street on the east side to Westchester, there being ten posts on this and six posts on the northern side of the Harlem River. One man is kept on the Eastern Boulevard, from Fifty-ninth to Eighty-sixth street, preventing fast and reckless driving by parties from the horse market. Fifth avenue is being macadamized, and is now finished from Fifty-ninth to Seventy-second street, and will soon be completed to Ninetieth street. This is also patrolled by members of the Mounted Squad. The law prohibits faster driving than six miles an hour on all streets and avenues below One Hundred and Thirtieth street except St. Nicholas avenue, and the Mounted Squad have to see the ordinance respected on all this ground, besides attending to criminal matters. People who drive on the road look upon the Mounted Squad as a great protection for the prevention of accidents, stopping of runaways, &c., and few who drive regularly but have seen the great utility of the squad at all times and would feel great regret at their being disbanded. Being mounted, this band of experienced men can catch the most desperate runaway, and they at all times are ready to rush gallantly to the rescue. Many are the men, women and children who are even indebted to them for their lives when accidents have occurred, and it is hoped that the Commissioners will keep them as they are, particularly as the Thirty-second, Thirty-fourth and Thirty-fifth precincts, to which it is intended to transfer them, are now patrolled by the regular police on horseback to the Bronx River on the east and the Hudson on the west, and there are twenty-three horses attached to these precincts. ROADMAN.

PROCTOR ON EDISON.

The English Astronomer's Admiration of the American Wizard's Feat.

GIVING LIGHT TO THE WORLD:

A Dream of the Alchemists Crystallizing Into Reality.

"It never rains but it pours," says the old adage, which the news of the last few days makes as applicable to scientific discovery as it has been to the ordinary affairs of life. In the last two issues of the HERALD were reported two inventions, one beyond the sea, the other within the charmed circle of Menlo Park, which, if they carry out their promise, will add to the miracles which the necromancy of scientific research has wrought in this century. That the Wizard of the Wire who gave the metal a tongue and made it carry a whisper over leagues of space would wring from the forces he seems to control the secret of the Maker's first creation was believed by many, but that he would break the silence of months by the announcement of a success so bewildering and complete entered into the calculations of no one. Almost coincident with the marvellous revelations of Edison comes from England the announcement that the dream of sages has been realized, and that in the hands of a Scotch chemist the bubble which generations of alchemists pursued in vain has solidified and resolved itself into a jewel of price. If Mr. Maclear's reported discovery in the St. Rollox's chemical works of the process of diamond manufacture be confirmed, a secret transcending the transmuting power for which hosts of philosophers toiled and which scores of charlatans claimed shall have been brought to light. It will be noted as not the least curious feature of these discoveries that out of carbon—the commonest material in the world—is made an object so highly esteemed as the diamond and an agent so highly prized as light. To ask the opinion of Professor Proctor as a scientific authority concerning these discoveries a HERALD reporter yesterday called at the Westminster Hotel. He found the Professor much interested in both, and eager to communicate to his English friends early tidings of Edison's latest creation.

"It will astonish many, I have no doubt," said he, "although most people are prepared for any miracle that man's genius may work. The story that the crystallization of carbon has been discovered at last is equally a cause of gratification. If it be true the age has scored another triumph."

"What do you think of the probability of such a discovery?" asked the reporter.

"Oh, it is impossible to decide till we hear more about it. According to the papers Professors Tyndall and Smyth, as well as Mr. Maskelyne, have pronounced the artificial crystals to be diamonds. They certainly are able to determine. Of course there have been deceptions practised. *Bona fide* diamonds could be submitted for examination as the fruit of the experimenter's work, but in this instance it is improbable that any such unworthy device would be resorted to."

AN ENTHUSIAST'S DREAM.

"This crystallization of carbon has been long sought after, has it not?"

"Ever since the discovery of what the diamond really is," Mr. Proctor replied. "Doubtless the manufacture of diamonds and precious stones was dreamt of ages ago by just such enthusiasts as wasted their lives over a crucible in quest of the philosopher's stone or the elixir of life; but, of course, no advances could be made until the nature of the diamond was ascertained. Boyle's revelations in the seventeenth century, with the experiments of Gannal, de Latour and Maillard, and the deductions of Sir Humphrey Davy and Lavoisier were most accurately detailed in the HERALD, and of course it is subsequently that the crystallization of carbon has been sought after for the production of diamonds."

"What has been the chief obstacle to overcome in attaining such an end?"

"The inefficiency of any apparatus to produce the requisite heat and exert sufficient pressure," said the Professor. "That has been the chief, perhaps the only, stumbling block. It is only at an exceedingly high temperature that carbon can be crystalized, and in no laboratory has the desired intensity of heat been obtained."

"Could such a temperature be reached that the manufacture of diamonds would be effected?"

"Yes; that is all that is needed—sufficient heat and sufficient pressure. With them nature forms the diamond, and there is no reason why art could not imitate her processes."

"That makes the new discovery quite possible, does it not?"

"There can be only one opinion about its possibility. What has been done in a small way is possible in a large one. Diamond dust has been produced by artificial means. Why should not actual diamonds? And talking of Mr. Maclear's discovery," Mr. Proctor continued, "puts me in mind that Edison has been delving in the same direction. He claims to have discovered the amount of heat carbon will bear, and it is likely that his practice and experiments may conduct him to the same results as Mr. Maclear is said to have reached."

TALKING OF EDISON.

"What is your opinion of Edison's new electric light?" the reporter inquired.

"It is from the HERALD I have learned all I know about it," said Professor Proctor. "If the light and the apparatus that produces it are what they are said to be—and I have great faith in the inventor's representations—I believe that a flattering advance has been made in the art of illumination. But of almost paramount importance do I consider some of the discoveries which he made while in pursuit of his main object. You remember most of his earlier attempts were comparative failures, and several of the apparatus he constructed were remanded to a place among his so-called 'philosophical toys,' but every effort had its fruit in some revelation that could be made of avail. His successful substitution of simple substances for platinum is a very valuable accomplishment, and of equal importance is the discovery that platinum if heated under certain conditions will be changed in character and bear greater heat. The knowledge of this can be turned to account, and the rule will perhaps be found to apply to the other metals."

"Do you believe that the new invention will be practically a success?"

"I fancy," said the Professor, with a smile, "that the inventor of the phonograph is equal to almost anything. I was among the first to recognize the value of his contributions to scientific discovery. Lord Lindsey called my attention to some of his earlier inventions and became much impressed with them. In fact, my faith in Edison subjected me to ridicule once or twice. I remember hearing it said that Mr. Proctor would believe in a plan for galvanizing the dead if that Yankee inventor proposed such a one, and would credulously contemplate the possibility of shaking his deceased grandfather by the hand or binding his sires of past generations time of day. From what I have read in the HERALD I feel hopeful of Edison's complete success. He would hardly have given such ample particulars of his discovery were he not assured of it. His long silence led many to believe that he had given up his project—that his customary good fortune had abandoned him—but it now appears that he was quietly working out his problem with a patient industry that brought to light the virtues of all the material he handled and enabled him to compass his end sooner and to more purpose than he himself had dared to hope."

WILL SPEAK FOR ITSELF.

"Of course," said the Professor, "the new invention will speak for itself, and the public cannot long be in doubt about its actual value. For my part I shall look forward with profound interest to the New Year's eve experiment, and I hope to see it in every way successful."

"You believe the new light will be of great utility for the ordinary purposes of life?"

"According to the account of it it must be of incalculable service. And here I may say that the consideration of cost should not enter into the problem of the production of light as the chief factor. Cheapness is certainly desirable to place the new discovery within every one's reach, but I am satisfied that people have a sufficient appreciation of the benefits of a clear, pure light, without noxious vapors or the danger of explosion, to be willing to pay more for it than the common and inferior kind they are used to. Happily the new mode of illumination is said to have the advantage of extreme cheapness, too. If such be the case, and one remembers how great a boon to health is the riddance of gas and lamp vapors, how much the more secure life and limb is rendered by the prevention of accidents, I see no reason why the invention should not become popular."

"Is the new light apt to be injurious to the sight?"

"That depends entirely upon its arrangement. The electric light can, of course, be so arranged as to be painful to the eyes, but it can just as readily be made far more pleasant than the yellow glare and flicker of gas. In fact, it can be made to resemble sunlight as closely as any artificial illumination."

"Could this light be diffused in a large city like New York by means of central stations in which powerful machines to generate electricity might be placed?"

"Doubtless it could," said Mr. Proctor. "But, if I understand aright, Edison has three different methods of general illumination. One plan is to use machines for generating electricity in large quantities and distributing it through a district. The second is to supply each house with a machine, and I believe he has so simplified the apparatus that a third plan is possible, and that is to have a machine wherever it is wanted—in each room if necessary."

BOTH FEASIBLE.

"Either of these plans is feasible then?"

"Since Edison struck on a plan of dividing the electric current effectively I fancy either of them possible. Formerly, when the current was divided it was much weakened. That was a serious difficulty to encounter. But we heard that Edison had discovered how to divide the current without the corresponding weakening. I understand, too, that he has discovered a method of constructing the machines generating electricity so that little of their energy is wasted. Of course there are many means which might be essayed for driving these dynamo-electric machines. Sir William Armstrong has the electric light in his house, and the machine he uses is driven by power from a little stream close by. For my own part, it seems to me not impossible that a time will come when the sun's heat can be used in driving these machines. There is great power in it. Professor Langley, of Pittsburg, Pa., says that the sun's heat wasted on the Adirondacks would be sufficient to work all the mechanisms now existing in the world. It may some day be turned to account."

"The success of Edison's experiment will be a cause of gratification to scientific men, will it not?"

"Certainly, his discoveries may be productive of great results in various departments of science. You see how intimately the manufacture of diamonds and of light is connected. The carbon enters into both of them as the chief material. It is hard to say what other investigations may be facilitated. On the other side of the water many people thought at first that Edison was falling into old grooves of error. His past successes tended to dissipate such a belief, and if he succeeds this time no one can deny him his meed of applause. Altogether, my impression is that with such evidences of success an inventor like him would not be satisfied with half success."

BROOKLYN TAX SALES.

HOW THEY ARE CONDUCTED AND HOW THEY AFFECT THE PROPERTY AND THE PURCHASERS — INTERVIEW WITH REGISTRAR O'KEEFFE REGARDING THE ARREARAGES OF 1873.

The financial difficulties of Brooklyn, with her $14,000,000 arrearages in taxes, and the methods of various kinds advocated for her relief, are attracting general attention. Other cities, in the hope of gaining knowledge for their own relief, are eagerly awaiting the result of the impending tax sale, which Registrar of Arrears Michael O'Keeffe has ordered. In order to obtain Mr. O'Keeffe's views on the subject, and the reasons for ordering such sale when the general feeling of the taxpayers was in opposition to it, a reporter yesterday visited that gentleman at his office. He was glad, he said, to be afforded an opportunity to explain the reasons of his course and the methods by which he proposed or hoped to relieve the finances of the city. After a few preliminary questions Mr. O'Keeffe called for such papers as he desired from his subordinates, and after he had made a brief study he was asked by the reporter:—"Have you ordered a sale for the arrears of 1873?"

"Yes," replied Mr. O'Keeffe. "My reason for ordering the sale is that the taxpayers are considerably in arrears, a number of years, and the law directs the sale. The question of expense was the first thing taken into consideration, and I had a conference with the Mayor and newspaper proprietors in reference to the rate of advertising. They decided to accept 50 cents—one-half the former rate—for each parcel or lot for each paper. For which amount they agree to publish the list for three months and to use every endeavor to put it into the hands of citizens at large."

THE EXTENT OF THE SALE.

"How many parcels will be included in the sale for 1873?"

"About five thousand parcels. The actual cost of the sale, including advertising, pamphlets and all, will be about $11,000, as against the last sale, which took place in 1873, which cost nearly $29,000."

"Will the sale improve the condition of affairs?"

"That will only be known from the result of the sale, depending, as it does, entirely upon the amount of the receipts. We have been called on by several persons who say they will invest."

"Have the arrearages been reduced to any marked degree during the past year?"

"They have been, in some instances, paid regularly, the amount received during the year ending November 30, 1879, being $1,788,229 08, an amount somewhat less than during the two previous years. For 1877 the amount received was $2,297,080 92, and for 1878 the amount was $2,287,472 77. The year 1878 thus shows a decrease over 1877 of $9,608 15, and 1879 of $508,851 84. The reason of this decrease, in my estimation, is that every taxpayer has been expecting some legislation that would relieve him of some of his taxes. People are coming in every day and asking what legislation will be taken, and saying that they would not pay until something was done."

"Will you continue the tax sales for the years in arrears until the limit prescribed by the law is reached?"

"That is the proposition at present, if it pays the city to do it, which will be determined by the outcome of the present sale, and possibly by the action that the Legislature may take during the coming session."

"What will the city do with the parcels that do not find outside purchasers—bid them in, as heretofore?"

"No. The idea is that the city will not purchase any more, but will allow the sales to remain open for outside buyers or the payment of the arrearages. The city never issued a warrant for the payment of tax sale purchases, and there has been no money raised in the budget for that purpose. The certificates of indebtedness issued by the city on the arrearages have been issued on the call of the Treasurer to meet the outstanding obligations for which the taxes had been laid on the property in arrears."

EFFECTS OF THE SALE.

"What, then, will be the effect of the sale on the property?"

"The only effect will be that the law ordering such sale has been complied with. If a parcel is purchased by an outsider under the provisions of the law the owner will be allowed the privilege of redemption at any time within two years, the party purchasing being bound to notify the owners. If the property be not so redeemed the purchaser obtains a lease for the term of years at which he purchased. The terms of sale are that the parcel is to be sold to the party taking it for the shortest term of years for the amount of arrearages accruing during the year for which the sale is held. The money is paid over to the city within forty-eight hours, and the arrearage, so far as the city is concerned, is wiped out. Should the money not be paid within the forty-eight hours the sale is void, and the property must be included in the next sale."

"What is the average term of the leases executed under these sales?"

"Of late, 100 years. In former times they sold for 1,000 and even for 10,000 years."

"How is property redeemed by the owners?"

"After the term of two years has expired and the lease has been taken out by the purchaser they cannot redeem from the city, but must go to the purchaser and make a bargain with him. The purchaser, if this is not done within six months thereafter, can apply to the courts, and by summary proceedings obtain possession of the parcels he had purchased at the tax sale."

"How are tax purchasers affected by subsequent sales?"

"A subsequent sale cuts off all prior sales, so that a man who purchases for one year's arrearages must purchase at the next sale, and so on: it is absolutely necessary to follow each purchase up. A new lease cuts off the old one, because it has been allowed to go to sale again. It is necessary, therefore, for a man once in the business to keep in it, as the parcels purchased naturally accumulate on their hands, especially in estates where there are minor heirs and it takes years to settle the estate."

"Are there no other methods of obtaining the arrearages?"

"Several have been tried. The seven per cent penalty was tried instead of fifteen per cent, but the very men who obtained the passage of the law did not pay their arrearages under its provisions. The present law was arranged to assist the city in this matter, but it has only had the effect of inducing a falling off in the payments."

THE HEAVIEST ASSESSMENTS.

"In what wards are the heaviest arrearages for assessments laid?"

"The greater amounts of assessments are in or touching portions of the following:—The Sixth, Ninth, Tenth, Twenty-second, Twenty-third, Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth wards in the Western District, and the Thirteenth, Fifteenth, Sixteenth, Eighteenth and Nineteenth wards in the Eastern District; so that it will be seen they are not all in the outlying wards."

"Will a compromise with some of the owners aid them or benefit the city in the matter?"

"Any such remedy as a compromise is a question of law. We are now engaged in getting up a report or statement showing all the property that is entirely overloaded and covered by taxes, assessments and water rates, which will be ready shortly, and will show in detail every such encumbrance on each parcel and proportion of arrearages to the assessed value of the property. This statement will furnish the groundwork for the legislation that may be considered necessary."

"What is the total amount of arrearages on Brooklyn property to-day?"

"On the 30th of November ult., it was $14,146,090 07, as follows:—

Taxes		$8,107,134 43
Water rates		586,625 34
Assessments		3,354,359 18
Sales to city unredeemed—estimated	$2,000,000 00	
Less collections	1,757,171 06	
Balance	242,828 06	
Add 15 per cent default	1,845,142 18	
		2,087,971 12
Total		$14,146,097 07

At the close of the interview the general plan of the report was explained. Each sheet will show at a glance the amount of property in arrears in each block or group of blocks in any particular ward.

ROBBED BY A HIGHWAYMAN.

Max Metterliter, on his way to his home, No. 9 Harrison street, early yesterday morning, was assaulted at the corner of Hudson and Harrison streets by an unknown man, who knocked him unconscious to the pavement. When he recovered he found that his watch, valued at $75, was missing. At the Chambers Street Hospital the surgeons found that his nose had been broken by the highwayman's blow. Detectives are searching for the robber on the description furnished by Metterliter.