the party who had bought them testified not only to the purchase, but to his possession of the goods for two months or more. The man was found guilty of the larceny, and served a term of twelve months in the penitentiary.

The witness just mentioned, who was the receiver of the stolen goods, was promptly indicted therefor at our suggestion, and on his arrest was bailed by another of the detectives, who, so far as we then knew, had no knowledge of the last mentioned crime. The receiver, however, very shortly made this all plain by furnishing his sworn statement and giving his testimony before the grand jury. From which it appeared that both of the detectives just referred to were not only acquainted and connected with the Christiancy robbery, but one of them planned the crime, sent for an expert thief to execute it, received the stolen jewels into his own hands, sent to New York for a go-between to buy them, haggled about the price to be paid therefor, sold them for $2,000, receiving four $500 bills in payment, two of which bills he exchanged for smaller money, and divided as follows: $200 to the witness who furnishes the statement, $200 to his fellow detective, $800 to the man who stole the property, and kept $800 for his own share of the plunder; and finally he went to the depot and finding that the way was clear his fellow detective actually carried the jewels to the depot, where he delivered them in due form and with all proper ceremony to the go-between, who was then in the car and waiting for them.

Such occurrences as the foregoing would be incredible were they not established by most abundant evidence, which the committee gathered and furnished to the grand jury.

The instances mentioned are enough, although we have in our possession proof, more or less complete, of probably one hundred similar transactions, involving ordinarily a much smaller amount of property than the Christiancy robbery, but some involving even larger amounts, and in one case the loss amounted to nearly $30,000, and the property was recovered at a cost of more than $5,000.

OUR INVESTIGATIONS HAVE BEEN PROSECUTED

now for about three months, but the work is by no means completed, and the next grand jury should have before them many more cases than the last jury had time to consider, although they were extremely faithful, diligent, and painstaking, giving many hours of each day to the consideration of this matter, and bringing into court thirty-four indictments, mostly against former detective officers.

We could never understand, until these investigations had taken place, how it was possible for thieves to prosecute their depredations not only with success, but ordinarily without even fear of detection or punishment; but one of this class, by no means especially an expert, committed more than thirty burglaries and robberies from the houses of citizens in less than two years, obtaining thereby sealskin sacques, suits of clothes, silver, diamond rings, watches, jewelry, money, and in fact almost every description of personal valuables. These crimes were nearly all committed in the day time, or at least before 10 o'clock at night, and the goods were generally in the hands of the receiver of stolen goods within an hour after the burglary was committed. In but one instance did that thief attempt to conceal the property.

The place of business of the receiver with whom he principally dealt was in a densely populated portion of the city, and within a stone's throw of Pensylvania avenue, a public resort where some of the detective officers could be found almost every day and night of the year.

His business seems to have been conducted there in a thoroughly systematic and business like way. On the thief's entering the receiver would look at his plunder, ask how much he wanted on it, and commonly complied with his demand upon the understanding always, however, that if the purchase did not prove remunerative to the receiver the matter would be made right on the next transaction between them.

It is astonishing how small an amount compared with the value of the property was advanced. Stealing was, indeed, to the thief an unremunerative business, and the reasons given for the smallness of the advance was that they must offer to return the goods at a price so moderate that the owner would commonly be willing to pay; out of that sum the detectives must have their share, and the receiver his, which was always large.

Under such a system the hazard of crime was reduced to the lowest possible rate; indeed, it might be said that there was comparatively no hazard at all, because if the thief was discovered in the act, and identified, and a warrant issued for his arrest, the detective who shared in the plunder communicated the fact to the receiver, and, the receiver informing the thief that he was wanted, the latter quietly made an excursion down the river, or to Baltimore, or to some other point at a convenient distance, where he remained only a short time, when he returned to resume his depredations on the defenceless people of this city.

Knowing as we now do the workings of

THIS ORGANIZED BAND OF ROBBERS,

we can see plainly that thieving can be measurably stopped only by destroying and blotting out of existence the shops of the receivers of stolen goods, and by preventing the protection of the thief by the officers of justice, and we therefore recommend to the committee and the citizens that their efforts should be directed to reforms in these particulars.

One would naturally suppose that it would not be difficult to prevent officers of the police force from becoming themselves the aiders and abettors of crime and the protectors of criminals, and perhaps it would not be so but for the fact that the whole force of about two hundred officers was in this respect put practically within the control of the six detective officers, for the practice has been, as we understand, to assign the more important cases of reported crimes to one or the other of the detective officers, with whom the other members of the police force did not undertake to interfere, and thus it came that the whole business drifted into their hands; and they not only had thus the control of the police force, but they were also in combination with the receivers of stolen goods, protecting them to the same extent and by the same means with which they protected thieves.

Although the work in which we are engaged, as has before been said, has only been begun, and ought not to cease until the organization to rob and plunder has been broken up, and those engaged therein have found a home inside the doors of a penitentiary, I congratulate you that we have already

ACCOMPLISHED THE FOLLOWING RESULTS:

First. The committee have discovered the existence of organized combinations to rob the citizens and protect the guilty perpetrators of the crimes.

Second. The committee have discovered that, while the thief relies upon receivers of stolen goods to take and dispose of his plunder, he depends upon the detective officers, and sometimes upon other members of the police force, to secure himself from arrest, trial, and conviction.

Third. The committee have discovered who are the principal receivers of stolen goods, as well as the names of the officers charged with the detection of crime on whom the thieves have relied for protection.

Fourth. The committee have been able to supply the proof, facts, and circumstances which resulted in the suspension of a portion of the force, and not only demonstrated that a separate organization of a few well known persons as detectives does not tend to either prevent or detect crime, but finally secured the abolition by an act of congress of the entire detective force.

Fifth. The committee have not only discovered the names of the perpetrators of a large number of crimes before unknown, but have placed such testimony before the grand jury as resulted in the finding of thirty-four indictments, principally against detective officers and receivers of stolen goods, which they deem it to be of the most vital importance to have speedily brought to trial.

And, finally, they have secured such full and adequate information in relation to the operations of criminals, the names and methods of their confederates in the police force, and among the dealers whose shops dot more than one of our streets, and who alone make crime easy and detection impossible, and that information has been so fully placed before the public, that if these investigations are not continued and these combinations broken up, the public officers, whose sworn duty it is to see that the laws are faithfully executed, and the guilty punished, will be justly chargeable for what the citizens may hereafter suffer from criminal depredations.

THE WAY FOR THE FUTURE IS PLAIN

and the labor comparatively light. Threats of violence and slanderous accusations will have little terror hereafter to men who conscientiously engage in an organized effort to protect life and property in our midst, while the entire community cannot but be sensible of the dangers from which it has been at least partially saved, and be ready cordially to cooperate in all proper measures which may be inaugurated for the suppression of crime and and the purging of the public service.

Your committee have received valuable service from many quarters that they may not properly mention.

They have also been ably sustained by the newspaper press, and some of the gentlemen connected with it have furnished most reliable and important information, for which the committee are under lasting obligation.

We deem it our duty especially to mention the fact that the attorney general has supplied to us every possible aid. Whatever success has been achieved we owe in great measure to his co-operation, and that of Mr. Brewster Cameron, the general agent of his department. For their valuable assistance, so cheerfully rendered, we make our grateful acknowledgments. Respectfully submitted,

J. W. THOMPSON,
Chairman.

The report was received with great satisfaction, and Mr. A. E. Bateman moved that it be adopted with the earnest thanks of the committee to the chairman for the vigorous and efficient manner in which he had performed his duty, which motion was put by the secretary and unimously adopted.

Mr. Thompson then submitted

A NUMBER OF DETAILS,

which were not included in the report, stating the valuable assistance which the committee had received in the prosecution of their work by the department of Justice; that when the committee first entered upon their investigations it was found that no assistance would be obtained from the police, as every communication made to headquarters was transmitted at once to the detectives, and that consequently special assistance had to be secured, and it was only by this means and the hearty corporation of the department of Justice that they had been enabled to accomplish the results that had been attained.

Remarks upon

THE CONDITION OF THE POLICE FORCE

were made by Messrs. A. T. Britton and Thomas Somerville, both of whom have been members of the board of police commissioners, and by B. H. Warner and H. D. Cooke. Mr. Britton then offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That this meeting considers it essential to the welfare of the district that there be a more vigorous administration of the police system; that the present force should be thoroughly reorganized, and that this action of the committee be communicated to the district commissioners.

The chairman said that he believed the commissioners were now thoroughly in harmony with the wishes of the committee in this respect, and that their expressed desire for thorough reform in the police system would have great weight with them.

Some discussion was then had as to the necessity for

A SPEEDY TRIAL

of the cases against the detectives, and Mr. R. C. Fox offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That in view of the pressure of business upon the United States district attorney for the District of Columbia at the present time the chairman of this committee be, and is hereby, requested to respectfully ask the attorney general of the United States to appoint special counsel to prosecute the indicted parties in the so-called detective cases.

Mr. W. W. Burdette then presented the following, which, after many complimentary remarks as to the value of the services rendered by

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,

was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the chairman of this meeting be requested to convey to the attorney general of the United States our sincere appreciation of the invaluable assistance rendered by himself and his able general agent, Mr. Brewster Cameron, to whom especially are due our thanks for his personal co-operation and unremitting zeal by placing the agencies of the department of Justice at the service of this organization in its endeavors to bring before the grand jury and the courts of the district those who, during the recent investigations of the so-called detective cases, have been charged with various criminal acts.

Mr. J. E. Fitch then stated that he did not think the labors of the committee had ceased, but that the organization should be permanently continued, and moved that when it adjourn it be to meet at the call of the chairman. Carried.

Some discussion was had as to the matter of bondsmen and the rarity of the collection of bail when indicted persons run away, during which Gov. Wells said that he only knew of one case in a number of years where any effort had been made either to collect the bail or to secure the criminal, and that was done, not by the United States attorney's office, but by the bondsman himself.

After a further interchange of views relating to the necessity of employing special counsel in the detective cases, of a vigorous and speedy prosecution of the indicted parties, and of the urgent need of an immediate and thorough reorganization of the police force, the committee adjourned.

BERRY'S STATEMENT CONFIRMED

Mr. John W. Thompson, chairman of the citizens' committee, says that he is daily called upon by people who verify the statements made by the different men who have given the details of robberies in their confessions. He yesterday received the following letter in reference to one portion of the confession of Edward Berry which was published in THE REPUBLICAN on Monday, which confirms Berry's statement and shows that the writer has a pretty correct idea of the reason why the goods stolen were never returned:

The robbery committed by Ed. Berry on I street, between Ninth and Tenth, in December, 1882, was at the house of Mrs. Col. Asmussen, No. 933 I street northwest, on Friday, Dec. 15, between 6:30 and 7 p. m. Besides the articles and money mentioned in Saturday night's *star* and Monday's REPUBLICAN an old silver watch, a pair of gold sleeve-buttons, and a plaited watch chain were stolen. This all belonged to my wife, Mrs. L. A. Veerhoff. The police department was informed at once, through telephone, and sent an officer to take a list of the stolen goods. Later in the night, Mr. Devitt called (to whom a messenger had been sent) and promised to do all he could. I never heard that anything was done in the case. As no reward was offered no goods were returned.

Very repectfully,
W. H. VEERHOFF,
916 Seventh street northwest.

WILLIAMS DENIES.

Mr. A. B. Williams has furnished the following documents in refutation of the statements made by Berry:

WASHINGTON, D. C., Mar. 13.—A. B. WILLIAMS, ESQ.—*Sir*: In reply to your letter of to-day I would say that the statement of Ed. Berry that I informed him that I had seen the sealskin coat taken from Mr. Finckles at your office is entirely untrue. I never said so to Berry, and never saw the coat or any of Mr. Finckles's property in your office. If I had my duty would have required me to have taken possession of it. Very truly,
WILLIAM H. WEST, M. P.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Mar. 13—A. B. WILLIAMS, ESQ.—*Dear Sir*: The statement of Ed. Berry published in this morning's REPUBLICAN is untrue. I did not inform him that his confession was true as far as I knew, or that I defended George Parker at the solicitation of yourself and Geo. Mantz. My visit to the jail was not for the purpose of seeing him, but to see Everett D. Berry, one of my clients. Yours, truly,
CHARLES PELHAM.

WASHINGTON, Mar. 13.—A. B. WILLIAMS, ESQ.—*Sir*: In reply to your letter of this morning, inquiring about the truthfulness of the statements of Edward Berry, I have to say that I never told Berry that you would defend him for nothing if he would refuse to consent to the return of the stolen property. Neither is it true that the seal skin sacque was ever at your office so far as I know; nor have I ever made any statements to Berry to that effect.

I also wish to say that since I received your letter I have visited Berry in the jail, and he authorizes me to say that he is mistaken in regard to his statements about the message, and that he is willing to correct it at any time. This was said by him in the presence of his counsel who, at my request, accompanied me to the jail. Very truly, &c.,
HENRY LACY.

High License Law.

ST LOUIS, Mar. 13.—A dispatch from Jefferson City to the *Post-Dispatch* states that the Downing high license bill as it passed the senate was passed by the house to-day by one majority, and is now the law.

The Bilious,

dyspeptic, or constipated should address, with two stamps and history of case for pamphlet, World's Dispensary Medical association, Buffalo, N. Y.

FURY OF THE FLAMES.

A Steamship, Sleeping Car, Variety Theater, and Buildings Burned.

NEW YORK, Mar. 13.—When the steamship Hudson, of the Cromwell line, from New Orleans, loaded with cotton bales was just about abreast of Long Branch on her way to this port this morning smoke was observed issuing from the forward hatchway. The hatches were torn up and an effort made to locate the fire but without success. A line of hose was attached to the pump and a stream of water turned into the hold, but the fire continued to burn furiously. All steam was put on, and the ship arrived at her wharf, pier No. 9 North river, shortly after 11 o'clock. An alarm was sent out, which was quickly responded to by the fire boats Havemyer and the Lopher Mills, the new fire boat which had never before been used. Meanwhile tackling had been rigged and the bales of cotton were being hoisted out. Holes were cut through the ship's deck, and soon twenty streams of water were playing into the hold. The fire, it was found, was in the lower hold, and is almost impossible to get at until a greater portion of the cargo is removed. It is supposed to have started from spontaneous combustion. The vessel is of 1,100 tons burthen, and is heavily loaded, the greater part of her cargo consisting of cotton. The fifteen steerage and one cabin passengers landed on the pier, but could not procure their baggage because the hatches were battened down.

Mr. Seaman, one of the firm who had been from the commencement on the vessel, told the reporter that there was now no doubt of the vessel being saved. He said the value of the steamer was $250,000; nearly fully covered by insurance, and the cargo, consisting of cotton, molasses, and general merchandise, was worth about half that amount. The damage to the cargo is estimated at about $20,000. The steamer is damaged to the extent of about $5,000. The losses are fully covered by insurance.

A WASHINGTON SLEEPER BURNED.

PITTSBURG, Mar. 13.—The Washington sleeper of the western express train on the Pennsylvania railway, due here at 8:46 a. m., caught fire near Wilmore station, Allegheny mountain, at 4 o'clock this morning, and was entirely consumed. The passengers escaped without injury but lost nearly all their clothing. Among those on the car were: Gen. W. W. Dudley, commissioner of pensions; Col. Ben. Wilson, ex-congressman of West Virginia; Gen. Cochens, of Indiana; Col. Davidson, of Beaver, Pa., and Col. Porter, postmaster of Connellsville, Pa. When the train arrived here many passengers were half naked. The Pullman car company's loss is $20,000.

BURNING OF A VARIETY THEATER.

NEW HAVEN, CONN., Mar. 13.—This afternoon a two story brick building, owned by St. Mary's Catholic church, and used for church purposes till about eight years ago, since when the upper story has been used as a variety theater and the lower floor for stores, was burned, causing a loss of from $15,000 to $20,000. Press Eldridge has occupied and called the hall the American theater for two seasons. The company there this week lost their wardrobe. The adjoining property and the buildings across the street suffered some.

OTHER FIRES.

At Hillsborough, Mo. Seven small business houses. Loss $15,000. Partly insured.

At Asbury Park, N.J. The new Queen Ann villa of William A. Street, of New York. Loss $30,000. Insured.

At Troy, N. Y. Three dwelling and stores. Total loss $10,000. Twelve families were rendered homeless.

At Shreveport, La. The picking and engine room of the Pelican cotton factory.

At Philadelphia. The coating mill of Thomas Potter's Sons oil cloth works. Loss $10,000.

THE DUKES TRIAL.

Reading of Letters Cause a Profound Sensation in Court—Arguments Ready.

UNIONTOWN, Pa., Mar. 13.—When the Dukes-Nutt murder trial was resumed this morning, Joseph Nutt, son of the deceased, was put on the stand to prove that he had seen Dukes drop an anonymous letter, reflecting on his sister, in the road near his father's house. This evidence was ruled out. The letters which Dukes had written to Capt. Nutt were then offered in evidence, and notwithstanding the strenuous protest of the defense were admitted. They were read to the jury by Mr. Playford, and created a profound sensation in the court room. In point of infamy they were fully up to expectation. Dukes acknowledges unsolicitedly that he had enjoyed illicit intercourse with Capt. Nutt's daughter and gives alleged town rumors affecting her character. In closing, he expresses his opinion that Miss Nutt is in a delicate condition, and inferentially suggests to Capt. Nutt that an abortion might save the honor of his daughter and family. The prosecution here rested.

The defense in opening, proved that Dukes had said to Mrs. Jennings, as she left the room after the meeting, that he was sorry for what he had done, but he had acted only in self defense, as Capt. Nutt would have killed him if he had not killed Nutt.

The most important evidence for the prisoner this forenoon in the Dukes-Nutt murder trial was the letter of Capt. Nutt threatening to take Dukes's life until the latter should make reparation for the ruin of his daughter. The letter was very emphatic, and distinctly tells Dukes that if he did not do his duty as a man he would have to suffer death. The testimony of the commonweath that Dukes shot Nutt when the latter was resting and making no threatening movements was practically unshaken. After a large number of witnesses had been examined to show good character for Dukes the case was closed, so far as evidence was concerned, when the court adjourned until morning. The addresses to the jury will be made to-morrow, and by evening the case will be in their hands.

BUSINESS FAILURES.

Crash in a Number of Commercial Houses—Assets and Liabilities.

NEW YORK, Mar. 13.—The well known whisky and wine house of James Beecher & Co., at No. 98 Front street, failed to-day for nearly $500,000. The firm is composed of Frederick E. Ives, John S. Beecher, and Charles A. Tuttle, and has stood well for a quarter of a century, the paper of the firm having ranked as the best on the market. The value of the assets cannot even be estimated.

OTHER FAILURES.

Friend Humphrey's Sons, leather dealers at Albany, N. Y. There are thirty-nine preferred creditors, whose claims amount to $123,329.07.

Chris. Heck & Co., grocers and liquor dealers at Racine, Wis. Assets and liabilities, $35,000.

William H. Peyton, of New York, dry goods dealer. Actual assets, $18,859; liabilities, $41,176.

A. H. Chase, coal and lumber dealer at Batavia, N. Y. Assets, $100,000; liabilities, $85,000.

Deaths of Prominent People.

CONCORD, N. H., Mar. 13.—Col. Charles C. Pearson, of Concord, the proprietor of the *People* and the *New Hampshire Patriot*, died at New York this morning, aged 42 years. The deceased graduated at Dartmouth college in the class of 1869.

DANVILLE, VA., Mar. 13.—Hon. Thomas S. Flournoy died suddenly at his home in Halifax county this morning. He represented his district in congress before the war and was candidate for governor on the know nothing ticket. He was distinguished at the bar and on the rostrum for the last forty year.

SPRINGFIELD, OHIO, Mar. 13.—Hon. Wm. White, judge of the supreme court of Ohio, and recently appointed judge of the United States court for the southern district of this state, died suddenly last night.

He Didn't Know It Was Loaded.

NEW YORK, Mar. 13.—Mrs. Kline, of Westburg, Long Island, left her house this morning leaving her 10 year old son to care for his two little sisters, aged 8 and 6 years. During her absence the boy procured his father's gun and placing his eldest sister on a bench said they would have some fun. He fired the weapon at her, inflicting a wound from which she will die. When he saw what he had done the boy washed the wound and told the child to say she had cut herself with glass. He then got a doctor and the serious nature of the wound was discovered. The boy "didn't know it was loaded."

SOCIAL EVENTS.

Mr. B. H. Warner's Reception to the Business Men of the District.

The reception given last night to business men of this city by Mr. B. H. Warner, at his residence, No. 200 E street northwest, was an elegant affair in all its details, and was highly enjoyed by every gentleman present. The house, which is large, commodious, and very richly, though tastefully, furnished, was decorated with flowers in profusion. The parlors were gay in the multiform hues of blossoms upon a background of deep tropic greenery. Halls, staircases, dining room, chandeliers, corners, and recesses were swathed in garlands and banked deep with blossoms.

Commissioner Edmonds held quite a levee in the library. Commissioner West was also the center of an interested coterie, discussing district affairs, while Mr. John W. Thompson received the congratulations of the entire company for the eminent services performed by him as the chairman of the citizens' com-committee in the interests of the people of the district. Mr. Edmonds won the good will of all who were presented to him, and shared with Commissioner West the congratulations poured upon the district for having an energetic and competent board of commissioners.

After a pleasant time spent in social intercourse the assembled party were summoned to a bounteous collation, which was served in the flower-lined dining room. The banquet was satisfactory in all its appointments, alike to the daintiest epicurean palate and to the hearty, vigorous appetite. The menu was full, ample, and varied, and the eye was pleased while the palate was gratified. Amidst the superabundance of refreshments, both solid and fluid, it was noticed with pleasure by most of those present that no alcoholic liquors were furnished. Mr. Warner practiced what he preaches, and eschewed wines, cordials, or spirits, while supplying tea, coffee, chocolate, and lemonade.

Among the many guests present were:

Messrs. H. B. F. MacFarlane, I. S. Tichenor, John Tweedale, James H. Saville, C. B. Jewell, Prof. E. V. Riley, A. S. Worthington, H. M. Baker, J. G. Hill, William Thompson, C. S. Bradley, A. M. Smith, Gen. W. Birney, F. B. McGuire, Gen. S. S. Burdette, W. J. Acker, A. H. Kelly, Col. A. F. Brifton, A. H. Herr, Dr. D. C. Patterson, Hon. John J. Knox, Hon. A. M. Clapp, Gen. D. G. Swaim, Hon. J. M. Wilson, G. W. Cissell, J. C. Heald, James A. Ruff, Gen. W. McDunn, H. S. Cummings, Gen. J. R. West, Hon. John W. Thompson, I. S. Waggaman, Judge N. G. McEarland, A. E. Bateman, C. C. Glover, Adolf Cluss, C. M. Matthews, M. Ashford, Capt. R. S. Hoxie, L. H. Kaufman, George E. Emmons, C. W. Hoffman, G. W. F. Swetzel, Prof. Thomas N. Gill, W. S. Thompson, Josiah Dent, P. F. Bacon, Col. A. Webster, J. W. Starr, N. D. Larner, Col. W. G. Moore, S. E. Middleton, E. Temple, J. C. G. Kennedy, C. A. James, Hon. George C. Gorham, H. J. Gray, Sol. Gen. S. F. Phillips, H. O. Claughton, G. H. B. White, Thomas Hyde, B. U. Keyser, Col. George Truesdell, W. D. Wyvill, Gen. Eppa Hunton, C. L. Dubois, J. Ormond Wilson, Mr. Justice Strong, W. C. Hill, M. W. Galt, H. K. Willard, F. J. Fisher, Maj. G. J. Lydecker, H. G. Jacobs, T. L. Tullock, H. S. Claughton, Gen. H. H. Wells, W. M. Galt, J. D. Cleary, Commissioner J. B. Edmonds, W. B. Gurley, Gen. R. W. Reynolds, Alex. Porter Morse, Prof. W. J. Rhees, H. A. Willard, Lewis J. Davis, Edward Clark, W. C. Dodge, G. F. Schafer, F. L. Moore, Thomas Somerville, J. W. Pilling, Dr. Frank T. Howe, W. F. Mattingly, John Randolph, H. D. Cook, E. Kurtz Johnson, Hon. Samuel Shellabarger, Capt. F. V. Greene, M. M. Parker, Rev. Dr. W. A. Bartlett, Matthew G. Emery, D. Walker, J. B. T. Tupper, J. L. Barbour, H. P. Godwin, C. B. Bailey, A. C. Bradley, W. W. Curtis, George C. Maynard, Jesse B. Wilson, Hon. A. G. Riddle, John A. Baker, D. L. Morrison, Hon. W. H. Smith, A. P. Clark, R. C. Fox, Hon. Simon Wolf, W. J. Sibley, John T. Arms, F. M. Green, Lawrence Sands, A. C. Stevens, Maj. M. S. Hopkins, Lewis Clephane, J. T. Dyer, M. M. Bohrer, C. E. Foster, John A. Baker, ex-Representative Neal, Samuel Polkinhorn, Judge W. B. Snell, Col. J. G. Payne, Col. A. A. Hosmer, B. H. Sheldmetz, and Commissioner of Patents E. M. Marble.

Mrs Senator Hill is in New England, where she was suddenly called by the illness of her son, a student in Brown university, Providence.

Mr. R. H. G. Bouis celebrated his fiftieth birthday at his residence, No. 519 Eleventh street northwest, last night, by a very pleasant entertainment. Vocal and instrumental music contributed to the enjoyment of the guests, and a fine repast was served. The Rev. P. H. Green presented Mr. Bouis with a handsome gold watch and chain, the gift of the recipient's wife and son. Among the many present were Mr. T. S. Chappell and son, Mr. E. Edmonston and Mrs. Edmonston, Mr. Davis and Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Wm. Ashley and Miss Ashley, Dr. J. T. Southron and Mrs. Southron, Mrs. Backus, Mrs. Cox, and Mrs. Ryder.

SAMUEL DONALDSON'S SUICIDE.

The Coroner's Inquest—An Investigation Probably to be Made.

The body of Samuel Donaldson, a white boy, aged eighteen, was taken to Georgetown police station early yesterday morning by Capt. A. E. Moss, Charles O'Brien, and James Perkins. Donaldson cut his throat with a razor aboard the sloop Lottie, at Rozier's creek, Virginia, last Saturday. A coroner's inquest was held in King George County, Va., over the remains, and the verdict was "suicide, to which he was induced by fear." It appeared that a letter containing $14.02, sent from the post office to Capt. Simmons, of the sloop Lottie, while the sloop was lying at anchor off Rozier's creek, was missed. Donaldson was suspected of having stolen it. He denied the theft, but Capt. Simmons ordered him to be taken ashore, telling the boy he would send him to the penitentiary. In an agony of fear the boy begged to be taken back to the sloop, saying he would find the money. He was taken back, and while professing to be searching for the money he seized a razor and cut his throat, dying almost immediately. The boy's parents, who live in Roslyn, were notified and the body was removed to their house, where the funeral will take place to-day. It would seem to be in order to investigate the matter and see if the boy did steal the money and how the threat of imprisonment operated so strongly upon him.

DEPARTMENT CHAFF.

Gen. Elmer is still acting as postmaster general.

There were 177 pension certificates and 132 land patents issued yesterday.

The national bank notes received for redemption yesterday amount to $216,000.

The receipts from internal revenue yesterday were $228,412, and from customs $824,399.

The patent issue of this week aggregated 420, including 25 foreign patents. Of the domestic patents New York secured 75; Illinois, 43; Pennsylvania, 37, and Ohio and Massachusetts, each 33.

Secretary Teller will, in a few days, select a successor to his brother as member of the Sioux Indian commission, he having resigned that position to become secretary of the territory of Dakota.

Three hundred clerks have been dismissed from the census office. Further discharges will be made at the beginning of the next fiscal year in order to keep expenses within the appropriation.

Of the temporary clerks in the pension office whose appointments expire this month 250 will be reappointed and 30 will be discharged. There will be no further reappointments until April 1.

In the court of claims yesterday the cases of Rowland A. Colby and August Klein against the United States were dismissed for want of prosecution. The case of Thomas G. Power against the United States was argued and submitted. The petition in the case of Cyrus C. Clark against the United States was dismissed.

Secretary Folger was not at the Treasury department yesterday. His health does not improve as rapidly as was expected. He will probably acquiesce in his physician's advice, and take a short sea voyage in a few days in order to recuperate. It is, therefore, probable that Assistant Secretary French will continue to be acting secretary of the treasury for some time to come.

It is the general impression among the officials at the Treasury department that Assistant Treasurer Wyman will be appointed to succeed Treasurer Gilfillan, although it is asserted by some that Mr. E. O. Graves, of the National bank redemption agency, is most likely to receive the appointment. The President has said that he will be guided entirely in this matter by the secretary of the treasury.

BEFORE THE BAR.

What Was Done in the United States Supreme and in the Local Courts.

Several Wills Considered—Extra Criminal Court Transactions.

UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT.

The following business was transacted in the supreme court of the United States yesterday:

No. 576. Lydia A. Maynard, appellant, vs. Thomas B. Valentine. Appeal from supreme court of Washington territory. On motion of C. H. Aimes, in behalf of counsel, dismissed with costs, per stipulation.

No. 116. E. B. Matthews, executor, &c., et al., appellants, vs. The Memphis and Charleston Railway company and J. H. Viser. Argued by D. H. Poston and S. F. Phillips for the appellees, and submitted by H. P. Branham for the appellants.

No. 1041. Charles F. Kring, plaintiff in error, vs. The State of Missouri. Argued by Jefferson Chandler and L. D. Seward for the plaintiff in error, and submitted by S. F. Phillips for the defendant in error.

No. 863. William C. Walsh, commissioner of the general land office of the state of Texas, appellant, vs. William Preston, and No. 864. William Preston, appellant, vs. William C. Walsh, commissioner, &c.

Argument commenced by John Mason Brown for Preston, and continued by A. J. Peter for Walsh, commissioner, &c.

Adjourned until to-morrow at 12 o'clock.

THE REV. JARED ELLIOTT'S WILL.

Yesterday, in the supreme court and general term, Justice Hagner rendered a decision sustaining the judgment of the court below. About a year ago the Rev. Jared D. Elliott, a chaplain in the navy, died, and upon his will being opened it was found that he had left the bulk of his fortune, estimated at from $60,000 to $70,000, to H. Clay Stewart and only $5,000 to his nephew, who was his legal heir. The nephew filed a caveat against the will, and the issues were sent to the circuit court, where a verdict was rendered in favor of the contestant. Mr. Stewart appealed from the verdict, but, as before stated, the verdict was yesterday sustained and the will literally declared invalid.

SUIT FOR PARTITION.

An amicable equity suit has been entered by Anna E. Barnard and others vs. Jane B. Barnard and others for the sale of parts of lots 1 and 2, square 107, and a distribution of the proceeds.

SPECIAL CRIMINAL COURT.

The special criminal court convened for the first time yesterday morning. Justice Hagner occupied the bench. Charles Ruoff, W. O. Douglass, Robert Boyd, W. T. Walker, W. S. Hoge, and Andrew Goddard, of the regular panel, were accepted as jurors.

Thomas McLean, charged with assault with intent to kill, gave bail in $1,000, with his father, J. McLean, as surety. Mary Keenan, an old woman, whose white hairs seemed sadly out of place in a felon's dock, was charged with larceny second offense. Two witnesses testified to her stealing some bread and meat from a basket in the market some time since, and she was convicted and remanded for sentence.

Thomas Boss, a huge colored man, was charged with highway robbery in snatching Mrs. Cornelius Ramsburg's pocketbook, containing $12.25. Thomas was quickly convicted, and Judge Hagner gave him six years and six months in the Erie penitentiary.

Charles Boles, a colored youth, was convicted of burglarizing August Donath's residence six weeks ago, and was sent to the penitentiary for two years.

A young colored woman, indicted under the name of Anna Meredith, was called for trial on a charge of receiving stolen goods. Messrs. Hewett and Moss appeared for the defendant, and entered a plea of misnomer. The plea was sustained, and the defendant discharged. She was immediately rearrested and put in the dock, and she will be proceeded against under her right name—Anna Merritt.

The court will convene again at 10:30 this morning.

ELIAB KINGMAN'S WILL.

The will of Eliab Kingman was filed yesterday. There are five codicils to it. After providing for the sale of his property in square 241, for the lease of his homestead until the land shall bring $1.50 per foot, and for the release of all encumbrances on any portion of his real estate, the testator leaves $1,000 to his sister Kesia P. Kingman; $1,500 to his nephew, Rev. R. M. Nott, of Wakefield, Mass.; $2,000 each to his nieces, Cordelia E. Robinson, of Waterville, Maine, and Lydia P. Nott, and Elizabeth B. Nott, of New Haven, Conn; in the case of the death of either, the survivors or survivor to receive the entire amount; $5,000 to his deceased wife's nephew, Dr. Francis E. Martindale, of Port Richmond, Staten Island, and in case of his death to his children, and $150 each to his nephews, Mason G. and Chauncey Parker, of Boston. His musical instruments are to go Dr. Martindale's children. The residue of the property of every description is left to Abner Kingman, of Boston, and in case of his death before the settlement of the estate to his wife and children. William M. Boyce, of Fairfax county, Va., and Abner Kingman, of Boston, are appointed executors. The first codicil makes the bequest of $5,000 to Dr. Martindale a preferred one.

The second codicil appoints Abner Kingman, of Montreal, son of Abner Kingman, of Boston, who died previously, one of the executors, and leaves the residue of the property to Caro A. Kingman, widow of said Abner Kingman, and her children.

The third codicil nullifies the foregoing one in so much as it relates to Mrs. Kingman and her children, being the residuary legatees.

The last codicil reduces all the bequests in the will, save that to Dr. Francis Ewell Martindale, to $150.

CATHERINE BROWN'S WILL.

The will of the late Catherine Brown was filed yesterday. She leaves $200 to Alexzene Montague, $200 to James C. Wright, $400 to Lincoln Brown, $100 to the First Colored Baptist church, and $100 to the Nineteenth Street Baptist church. These amounts are to be paid out of the proceeds of her life insurance policy in the Mutual Reserve association of $2,000. The balance, $1,000, she leaves to James Gray to be invested in United States bonds for his use during his minority. James Gray also receives in addition two $100 4½ per cent. government bonds. After these bequests are paid all the real estate, household goods, and personal effects of the deceased are bequeathed to her niece, Annie Gray. John W. Hunter is named as executor.

THE ESTATE OF JAMES BATEMAN.

In relation to the estate of James Bateman, deceased, a citation has been issued to Joseph Bateman, Mrs. Mary Hill, and Sarah Bateman, ordering them to appear before the probate court on Mar. 16 and show cause why letters of administration shall not be granted, as petitioned, to Samuel Fearson, a creditor.

THE RECORD.

Supreme Court in General Term—Chief Justice Cartter and Justices Hagner, Cox, and MacArthur.—H. Clay Stewart vs. Elliott; judgment below confirmed. United States vs. National Bank of the Republic; judgment reversed with costs. C. M. Stewart vs. David W. Reed et al.; judgment below confirmed. G. W. Teabower et al. vs. Helen R. Kengla et al.; on hearing. Assignments for to-day—Nos. 27, 31, 32, 42, 43, 43½, 44, 48, 49, 51, and 52.

Equity Court—Justice James.—Fleetwood vs. Hawkins; decree substituting trustee passed. Young vs. Gale; delivery of possession of premises ordered. Shugrue vs. Fogarty; rule on Christopher Ingle returnable April 13 ordered. Denmead vs. Denmead; auditor's report confirmed and distribution ordered. Robinson vs. Johnson; testimony ordered taken in fifty days. McGarrity vs. Shipman; on hearing.

Star Route Trial.

The defense continued the presentation of petitions and other official papers in the star route trial yesterday morning. After about two hours had been consumed in monotonous reading Mr. Ingersoll said that his supply of papers was exhausted, but that he was hopeful of finding more for the afternoon session.

Although the court seemed to attach small importance to this kind of evidence, remarking that a houseful of it would not weigh a feather, Mr. Wilson procured a fresh supply of papers and continued the reading.

Ray B. Eaton, of Bath Me., deputy collector of customs, and formerly a corresponding clerk in the second assistant postmaster general's office, was placed upon the stand to show the method of advertising the service to be let upon certain routes, but the court refused to allow testimony of that character.

The witness said that in 1879 he had traveled over the west in his capacity of inspector of star routes, and he described the growth and development of the country.

Walter Spangler, of the inspection division, Postoffice department, described the method pursued in making fines and deductions for failures of service. A long examination was made regarding the Kearney-Kent route, with the object of showing that the subcontractor had failed to comply with the terms of his contract.

The examination of this witness, and the arguments to which it gave rise, occupied the remainder of the day's session. Adjourned.

ALEXANDRIA AFFAIRS.

What is Going On Across the River—Proceedings of the Councils.

Col. D. A. Windsor, chairman of the coalition committee of this city, has been instructed to call a convention of the party, to meet in May, to nominate candidates for the various city offices to be voted for at the May election. Ward meetings to elect delegates to the convention will be called in each ward some time next month.

At 7:40 p. m. last night a false alarm of fire called the fire department out.

The grain market is quiet and easy. There is no change to note in flour. Wheat—2,500 bushels were offered and sold at $1 12@1 17 for Fultz, $1 21 for mixed, and $1 21@1 22 for Lancaster. Corn—2,900 bushels sold at 56c for damp and 63c for good white; 62c for mixed and 65c for yellow. Oats—210 bushels brought 52@55c. No rye was reported.

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

The councils met last night. A petition was received from Robert Tomlin, policeman, asking that one month's pay be allowed him while he was sick. Referred to committee on police.

Alderman Lambert offered a bill to reduce the price of gas to $1.38 per thousand, with 10 per cent. discount if paid before the fifteenth of the month, after receipt of bill. Referred to committee on light, with request that that committee confer with committee on finance.

The council in joint convention with the board of aldermen decided to defer the filling the vacancy now existing in the school board in the first ward, caused by the resignation of Mr. Snowden, until the next meeting of the council.

When the Potomac Manufacturing company was organized and located in this city the council was induced to exempt the company's property from taxes for twenty years, under promises from the company that they would commence work within th