THE CITY.

PLYMOUTH CHURCH.

OPENING OF THE BAZAAR OF ALL NATIONS.

The ladies of Plymouth Congregational Church opened their Bazaar of All Nations last evening at their new church on Michigan avenue, near Twenty-sixth street. It was certainly a very brilliant spectacle that met the eye of the looker-on, as either from the main floor, or better still, from the gallery above, he gazed upon it. The booths were as bright as ingenuity and a harmonious combination of colors could make them, and the gay costumes designating the various nations were admirably gotten up. If there had been no attraction in the beautiful goods, the semblance of nationalities would have been sufficient to have repaid any one for going.

THE CENTRAL BOOTHS.

Three booths were placed in the centre of the hall, one being for the sale of confectionery, and here fair maidens from Paris presided, and, with all the grace attributed to the ladies of that country, dealt out their luscious sweets. The next booth was a pagoda from China, and here Chinese and Japanese had shaken hands and were dealing out their teas without the least jealousy of each other. The dresses here were really superb, being genuine costumes of exquisite workmanship, covered with that rich embroidery that can never be executed by other nations. These dresses were a perfect study, and the lady who represented Japan, from the skillful manner in which her hair was dressed, really looked very much like a true Japanese. A little artificial carving of the eyebrows, and narrowing or lengthening of the too full eyes, would make the illusion perfect. China also was well represented by Mrs. Gilbert, while Confucius himself, in robes of rank and pig-tail of unexceptionable length, dispensed wisdom to the crowd of questioners in a manner that makes the question of knowledge of interior China a mere bagatelle. The other booth was for the sale of flowers. This, strange to say, was in the charge of Switzerland, but the Swiss maidens dispensed every wondrous and ravishing blossom known to the sunniest climes. William Tell was present, but had left his bow and arrows at home, and his son said that "if the tyrant didn't object and his father wasn't afraid of getting out of practice he should prefer eating the apples, even a dozen if need be."

All around the sides were

OTHER BOOTHS,

among which was that of Spain, with fragrant cigars and delicious Spanish fruit, served by dark-eyed Senoritas in all the charms of their national costume. Rome naturally lent herself to Fine Art, and the Contadina shared with the Princess or Marchesa the pleasant task of exhibiting this wonderful collection of rare, beautiful, and artistic gems. The Sultanas have emancipated themselves, and sit unveiled before the Christian and sell him of their charming wares.

Germany, the home of St. Nicholas, contributes toys, and "The Doll's Wedding" is wonderfully true to nature. But just rear is the nursery, and a little farther off evidently the promenade where Flora McFlimsy shows her latest importation of nothing to wear. Here is everything to delight the little folks, and the big folks seem inclined to linger as well.

The Stars and Stripes wave over the

CHILDREN'S AND LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

Here is dainty wear to suit any mother for her child, and many things she would like for herself. There are all manner of side-shows, and a very fine refreshment-room where Turk, Russian, and Pole sit down together and discuss the American variety of caviare and sherbet with the utmost affection for each other. France and Germany are quite on rapport, and leave all political questions to be settled on the other side of the water; while Rome and England are like twin-sisters, and China and Japan extend their civilities to Austria and America. As a gentleman was heard to remark, "There are no impertunity-shops at the Bazaar," and persons visiting it can purchase the goods or not as they feel inclined. Still they are so pretty and choice of their kind they found ready sale, and probably by the close of the week the ladies who have worked so hard and faithfully will have put money in their purses, and will sit behind bare counters.

The young people give a different entertainment every evening. Last night it was a very pleasant concert by the Garden City Quartette,—Messrs. Howard, Hale, Clark, and Smith,—interspersed with select readings, an address, and a humorous sermon.

THIS EVENING

there will be another concert, with the addition of solos and duets, to which Mrs. Seymour, Mrs. Upton, Miss Smith, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Bowen will contribute. There will be an entire change of programme every evening, including amateur dramatic performances, and "Mrs. Jarley's Wax Figgers." No pains has been spared to make the whole matter a success, and it reflects much credit upon those who have carried it out. A paper, "The Plymouth Bazaar," is published daily, containing the latest telegrams from all quarters of the globe, which are specials for that publication. To people not up in national costumes, coats-of-arms, and colors, it will prove a valuable interpreter. It is well worth paying a visit to the church if only to see how admirably the ideas respecting the nations and costumes have been carried out.

The attendance last evening was very large, there having been fully 500 people present, which, for a matter relating only to a rather private affair, or one at least affecting personally only a small portion of the community, was certainly a fine start. It would repay any one, however, to go and enjoy a glimpse of the bright scene.

TOM MOORE.

AN IRISHMAN'S OPINION OF THE POET.

Mr. John F. Finerty lectured in the Irish Literary Hall, corner of LaSalle and Lake streets, last evening, on "Tom Moore." The lecturer reviewed the career of the remarkable Irish poet at some length, and recited a few specimens of his best poetry,—quoting more especially from "Lalla Rookh," and the "Irish Melodies," which are the enduring monuments of the Irish national poet's fame. He said that Tom Moore had two distinct natures—the nature of an Irish patriot, which was his redeeming virtue, and the nature of a Whig place-beggar, which was one of the greatest stains upon his fame. He was, at once, a hero and a flunkey, but his heroism was in excess of his flunkeyism. This was amply shown by the celebrity which his purely-patriotic poetry had attained, while the pieces dedicated to George IV. and to the Duke of Wellington were almost forgotten, or were, at least, discarded by the Irish nation. Moore was the great ally of O'Connell in securing Catholic emancipation. His lyrics were sung in the palatial halls of Princes, Dukes, Lords, and Earls. They vibrated throughout Europe, and civilized humanity recognized in Irish music the certificate of Ireland's claim to civilization. The airs to which Moore had written immortal words could not have been born of a barbarous and besotted race. It all else relative to ancient Ireland were mythical, her music could not be so described. That was her diploma of glory, and her harp—the sweetest of all the world—might have forever been hidden amid the dust and cobwebs of time, had not the hand of Moore rescued it from provincial obscurity, and, sweeping its divine chords with the touch of a master hand, given it a world-wide fame.

His Lalla Rookh had been translated into many languages. It was familiar in Persia and throughout the realms of the East—the most gorgeous and the most sublime of the productions of all the English-speaking poets,—that is, lyrically considered. Shakspeare was a grander dramatist. Byron had, as a rule, more fire and vigor, but "The Fire-Worshipers" outranked in beauty and in sentiment anything produced by the modern Muse. The lecturer quoted a few extracts from the poem last referred to, which specially referred to that political treason which had been the bane of Ireland. Although Hafed was the hero of Moore's poem, in the written sense, the writer had Wolfe Tone, and Lord Edward, and Robert Emmet before his mind in the imprecation scene.

He recited some of the Irish melodies, among others "O, Blame Not the Bard!" which he considered beyond anything written anywhere in power of expression and depth of feeling. In view of the great fame conferred upon Ireland by the genius of Moore, he thought that the Irish race should absolve their poet from the littleness of his English toadyism. In contemplating the immortal poet, they ought to forget the imperfect mortal. In any case, the genius and patriotism of Moore, thrown into the scale of merit, utterly weighed down any feebleness of mind or sentiment he might have otherwise displayed.

After referring at some length to the career of the great poet, the lecturer concluded by appealing to the Irish-American population of Chicago to support a Lyceum of their own, and so win the respect of all classes of their fellow-citizens. Education meant revolution, for an enlightened people must be free; and Irish-Americans, while loyal to their own Government, could yet lend their moral support to the political struggles of Ireland at home. The Lyceum would have more bearing on Irish liberty than all the windy resolutions that might be passed from now until the final day against the Government of Great Britain. He concluded by saying that Ireland and the Irish could never blush when the name of their gifted Moore was spoken.

BISHOP HARRIS.

RECEPTION AT TRINITY METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The permanent location of Bishop W. L. Harris, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, as a resident and a citizen of Chicago, is a thing very much to the liking of the Methodists of this city, who regard it as eminently proper that Chicago should have a resident Bishop, and are particularly pleased that Bishop Harris should be the one. The event was the occasion of a brilliant and highly enjoyable reception tendered last evening in honor of Bishop Harris, his wife, and interesting family. The reception took place in the parlors of Trinity Church, on Indiana avenue near Twenty-fourth street, the chairs having been removed, and the pulpit and platform shoved back for the occasion, leaving a broad, spacious, handsome room, admirably adapted for the purpose.

It was purely a social gathering. The good ladies of Trinity took entire charge, issuing a general invitation to members of the denomination throughout the city to be present, and make the acquaintance of Bishop Harris and his family. The invitation was accepted by about 1,000 ladies and gentlemen, representing the wealth and culture of the Church in Chicago, and, as a representative social gathering of Methodists, its equal has never before been seen in this city. The clergy were numerously on hand, the sittings of the Judicial Court of the Rock River, Northwestern Indiana, and Wisconsin Conferences assisting to swell the number. Among the ministers present were Dr. C. H. Fowler, H. Coleman, of Fort Atkinson; J. O. Peck, T. C. Clendenning, L. Meredith, J. R. Creighton, of Chicago; J. H. More, of Sterling; C. N. Stowers, of Milwaukee; F. P. Cleveland, of Freeport; J. Baume of Ottawa; Dr. Thomas, Dr. Felton, Dr. Hitchcock, Dr. McKown, R. D. Sheppard, C. G. Truesdell, E. M. Boring, W. C. Dandy, John Williamson, Dr. Arthur Edwards, T. E. Webb, L. Bangs, T. P. Wilson, L. Sampson, and others.

There was no speech-making, and no formalities were observed. The object was to give the Methodists of Chicago an opportunity to become personally acquainted with their Bishop, and if this end was not attained it was surely no fault of the good people of Trinity, who did everything in their power to make the occasion agreeable. The hearty warmth of Bishop Harris, and the graceful, easy bearing of his wife and daughters, added no little to the enjoyment of all present. An introduction, a shaking of hands, and a moment's chat were all the privileges that the circumstances admitted of, but these were enough to make the reception a memorable success in every point of view. An elegant collation in the church basement was duly appreciated by all the guests, and at a reasonably late hour the assemblage dispersed.

BOGUS CONSTABLES.

HOW TO DEAL WITH THEM.

State's-Attorney Reed has particularly strong views in regard to the serving of warrants without proper authority. He has already "put his foot down" on bogus Constables, and, doubtless, his next step will be to deal in the same manner, by means of a criminal information, with certain citizens of Cook County, and the City of Chicago, who pretend that they are Justices of the Peace, and who are audacious enough to issue warrants in that capacity. A TRIBUNE reporter called upon Mr. Reed yesterday afternoon, and found that gentleman rather busily engaged in hunting up authorities on spurious public officers. He was, therefore, not in a mood to be very communicative, but was decidedly emphatic. The reporter said: "I have come to ask you something relative to the serving of warrants by unauthorized parties."

Mr. Reed—Yes. Well, I am just looking that matter up. I filed an information against some bogus Constables yesterday.

R.—Some Justices of the Peace, who are said to have no authority to act, are in the habit of issuing warrants.

Mr. Reed—I have heard something of the kind. Do you know of any "Justices" who do that kind of thing?

R.—It is not my desire to accuse any one, but it is asserted that Justice Banyon continues to act as formerly.

Mr. Reed—He has no more right to act as a Justice of the Peace since last December. He is not qualified, and lays himself open to prosecution.

R.—Suppose that a citizen is arrested by a bogus Constable on a legal warrant, what redress has he got?

Mr. Reed—He can bring suit for false arrest, and make it hot for the bogus Constable.

R.—Suppose that the warrant is all correct and the Constable bogus, does the latter fact do away with the power of the former?

Mr. Reed—No man has any right to serve a warrant, or to arrest a citizen on that warrant, unless duly authorized by law. Any man who acts as a Constable, without authority, is simply an outlaw.

R.—Then any citizen has a right to resist arrest by a bogus Constable?

Mr. Reed—Certainly.

R.—And a citizen, in resisting arrest in knocking a bogus Constable down, would not be liable to criminal prosecution?

Mr. Reed—Not at all. The knocking down would be perfectly justifiable. I am, however, going to make this thing so plain that the blindest of them can see it before very long.

With this promise Mr. Reed returned to his authorities, and the reporter departed, exclaiming pathetically, "Alas, poor Banyon!"

THE TRIBUNE published the other day a list of genuine Constables furnished by the County Clerk. Now, all that is needed is for every citizen to get the list, and if any man whose name does not figure thereon pretends to molest his person or his property, to knock him down and pound him. There is law for it, it seems.

GEN. SHALER'S FOURTH REPORT.

THE FIRE-ALARM TELEGRAPH.

Gen. Shaler yesterday submitted to the Board of Police his recommendations as to the changes that ought to be made in the fire-alarm telegraph system now in use in this city. The Board held a conference with him on the subject yesterday afternoon, and then accepted and placed on file the following recommendations:

To the Board of Police Commissioners:

GENTLEMEN: The "Telegraph Bureau," the importance of which in connection with the services of the Fire Brigade is fully appreciated by you, requires some changes and additions to make it as reliable and efficient as it should be. A fire-alarm telegraph for a city as large as Chicago should embrace,

First—A distribution of signal-boxes, from one to three blocks apart, connected with the central office, and disposed upon the lines so that no two contiguous boxes, or two of any three boxes, are upon the same circuit.

Second—There are now but two alarm circuits connecting the central office with company quarters, etc., used exclusively for that purpose. Before the great fire there were five, one of which was destroyed, and, instead of rebuilding it, the questionable expedient was resorted to of using the signal lines for sending out alarms. Two others also have since been used for both signal and alarm purposes, and in my opinion should be connected. The large tower-bells are now struck by the same circuit that strikes the gongs in company quarters. This arrangement consumes unnecessary time in notifying the companies, and should be remedied by placing the tower-bells on a separate line.

Third—The tower-bells of each division, with their slow movement striking-apparatus, can be placed on separate lines at a small expense, and should be for the reasons above stated.

Fourth—There are twenty towers erected upon the engine-houses high enough in most cases to be useful in detecting fires; but none of them are connected with headquarters by telegraph. As a consequence they are of value only in obtaining early information of fires near by. If they are used at all as lookouts, they should be connected with the central office by means of a separate line, with a Morse key and instrument in each lookout, so that in discovering a fire in any part of the city the watchman may, by use of his Morse key, notify the central office of its location; or if he sees a suspicious light or smoke may call the attention of the neighboring watchman to it.

Fifth—Dial or tabling circuits, connecting the different headquarters of the Fire Department, may not be regarded as indispensable, but are extremely useful in transmitting communications with a saving of time, which in many instances in this branch of public service is of the highest importance; and taken in connection with the service they may render in the operations of the other bureaus of the Fire Department, their introduction may be regarded as necessary, and is therefore recommended.

Sixth—No system of fire-alarm telegraph can be considered complete which does not furnish facilities for company commanders to transmit corps signals to headquarters. The introduction of a Morse key and instrument at each company quarters is therefore recommended.

Seventh—The machinery, batteries, etc., now in use would require but little enlargement to work the lines with the changes and additions are recommended. They are in good condition, and well cared for and reflect credit upon the officer in charge.

The telegraph lines are run almost exclusively upon house-tops, and I need not say that until they are transferred to poles the Fire Alarm Telegraph will be in a measure unreliable. The loss that may be sustained by a single line being thrown out of use in consequence of a fire in a house beneath it is a sufficient reason for the change at any expense. To get the full benefit of a Fire Alarm Telegraph, the greatest facilities should be afforded for its use. Signal box keys should be carried by every officer and member of the Police and Fire Departments under such rules as would secure their safety and proper use in addition to those now deposited in the buildings near each box, and a printed card should be posted in every house in the city informing the occupants of the location of nearest signal box and key. The importance of having a thoroughly reliable fire alarm telegraph cannot be overestimated, and in my opinion no greater mistake can be made than to cripple and weaken it by withholding reasonable appropriations for perfecting and extending it as the growth of the city requires. I have the honor to be, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

ALEXANDER SHALER,
Consulting Engineer, &c.

CHICAGO, Dec. 15

TRANSIT OF VENUS.

LECTURE BEFORE THE CHICAGO ATHENEUM BY PROF. COLBERT.

Yesterday evening Mr. Elias Colbert lectured in the church-room in the Methodist Church Block, in the Atheneum course, on the Transit of Venus. The room was filled and the audience attentive and interested. After giving a detailed account of the object of the observations, the method of making them, etc., he closed as follows:

"There is danger that, amid the eclat which attends the successful observations of the transit of Venus, the value of the labor, which have led up to it, will be underrated or forgotten. The human mind is ready enough to applaud the result of a successful combat with a huge difficulty, while it is too often insensible to the value of the training which renders such a result possible, and to the importance of the preparatory work which forms the ground on which the contestant struggles for the mastery. Here, in Chicago, the people are alive to the importance of the transit; thousands read eagerly the telegrams which announce that this or that party has succeeded in taking valuable observations of the phenomenon, while they entirely forget that we have in our midst an instrument capable of doing almost equally important work, which is suffered to rest for years together for lack of a little pecuniary support. The Dearborn Observatory is the standing disgrace of Chicago, not only since the great fire, but before it. Our citizens ought to be ashamed of themselves that a telescope, which till within three years past was the best on the face of our globe, has been suffered to lie here idly for want of funds wherewith to enable Chicago to take the same rank in the scientific world that she has long since asserted in the commercial. I almost blush at the thought that the Director of that Observatory, a gentleman whose abilities entitle him to take a place in the very front rank of scientific workers, and of whom not only Chicago, but the whole United States, ought to be proud, has not received a cent of salary since the fire of more than three years ago. I have not, however, relinquished the hope that there will yet be found in this city enough men righteous to the cause of scientific investigation to place our Observatory upon a satisfactory basis, and enable it to aid in the work of astronomical research. The fire was perhaps a sufficient excuse for the non-representation of this city in the observations of last Tuesday night, but it will not, and ought not to, prevent our co-operation in 1882, in the task of verifying and correcting the results obtained from the transit of Venus in 1874."

OBITUARY.

DEATH OF SAMUEL PEARCE.

Mr. Samuel Pearce, father of Messrs. Myron L. Pearce and J. Irving Pearce, died in this city Monday afternoon at the age of 83 years. He was born in Middlesex, Yates County, N. Y., July 27, 1792, and was a soldier in the war of 1812. He came to Chicago from Clifton Springs, N. Y., in 1864, and has resided here ever since. In his earlier years he was one of our most active and influential citizens, and took much interest in local politics. He leaves an aged widow, who had walked fondly by his side during the last sixty years. He had been the father of five children, but three of them have died and gone before him. The former wife of Mr. H. O. Stone, whose beautiful tomb at Rosehill is known to all who visit that garden of the dead, was their only daughter. Mr. William L. Pearce, their eldest son, died last August, and was well known as one of the former proprietors of the Matteson House; and Mr. Samuel Darwin Pearce, their fourth son, died in this city some twelve years ago.

The deceased has always been remarkable for his physical strength and activity, and his mind was vigorous and clear up to his last moments. He was hardly ever seen sick, and enjoyed his usual health up to one week ago last Thursday, when he was suddenly attacked by inflammation of the lungs. The consequent sickness rendered him so feeble that hopes for his recovery were no longer entertained, and he finally died Monday afternoon.

His bereaved widow, though comforted by loving children and grandchildren, feels the loss acutely. The funeral will take place from the residence of Myron L. Pearce, 1035 Indiana avenue, to-morrow morning at 11 o'clock.

PHYSICAL CULTURE.

WHAT IS IT?

The Physical Culture Society met at the rooms of the Atheneum yesterday afternoon. The attendance was limited, for some cause or another. With the Society, which is comparatively new, "Physical Culture" is but a new name for short dresses,—in other words, dress reform. The object of the meeting has not yet been discovered. The President, Mrs. Swisshelm, was absent, as was also the Treasurer. The latter was charged, in a jocose way, with having absconded with the Society's funds, amounting to $2.08, but no notice was taken of it.

Mrs. Babbott presided, and the first order of business was to determine whether or not the Society had an existence. Before this question was settled the idea of amalgamating with the Atheneum was broached. In the discussion it was understood that the Atheneum was unwilling, when it was decided that the Physical Culture Society had an existence, which it would labor to perpetuate.

Mrs. Dr. Underwood then read a paper on "Physical Development." Following this came several little speeches, and the election of Mrs. Underwood as President. The Society then adjourned until the afternoon of the first Saturday in January.

GENERAL NEWS.

Barney Aaron was boasting yesterday that he went grand rounds Monday night with a South Side Sergeant of Police, and got him very drunk. Who was the man?

Among yesterday's transfers is that of the lot on the west side of Michigan avenue, 160 feet south of Monroe street, sold by Horace White to John B. Lyon for $32,000.

Chief-Inspector Harper has just made an important addition to his office by putting in neat boxes to exhibit the samples and the grade of grain inspected by him.

The temperature yesterday, as observed by Mauasse, optician, under THE TRIBUNE Building, was, at 8 a. m., 18 deg. Fahr; 10 a. m., 23; 12 m., 29; 3 p. m., 32; 6 p. m., 30; and 8 p. m., 29.

The Chicago Athenæum has resolved upon a course of dime lectures, by home talent. The first one will be delivered Thursday afternoon, Jan. 7. The hall, speaker, and subject remain to be agreed upon.

Isaac Levy slipped and fell at the corner of Madison and Green streets yesterday forenoon, and broke his ankle. He was attended to by Dr. Richardson. Mr. Levy does business at No. 185 West Madison street.

The Aldermanic contest in the Eleventh Ward, Walsh vs. Gounderson, will come up early next week in the County Court. Gounderson's attorneys will file a demurrer to Walsh's petition, claiming that the charges of the petition, upon which the contest is based, are not specific enough.

A canned-goods dealer of Baltimore—a city which claims the distinction of being the chief distributing point in the United States for that class of goods—has just effected the purchase from a Chicago firm (F. A. Waidner & Co.) of a car-load of peaches. This is believed to be the first recorded instance in which that city has been a purchaser in the West of canned fruits.

The case of Ross vs. Fancher, a suit commenced by Miss Ross, of this city, for breach of promise, the history of which has been published in these columns, will come up before Judge Booth on the 5th of January. From the number and character of the depositions already on file, the hearing of the case promises some rich disclosures.

The Hebrew congregation Ansho Maariv, which, before the fire of July 14, worshiped in the synagogue that stood at the corner of Wabash avenue and Peck court, has since been worshiping in the edifice corner Wabash avenue and Fourteenth street. The congregation has just purchased the church lately used by Trinity Episcopal congregation, at the corner of Michigan avenue and Twenty-sixth street, and will immediately convert it into a synagogue. The price paid was $20,000 in cash for the building, the organ, and all the furniture in the audience-room and onsement, and the lot, which measures 100 feet square.

The sessions of the Methodist Judicial Conference commenced yesterday morning at 9 o'clock in the Methodist Preachers' room, at No. 57 Washington street. The object of the Conference is to hear appeals from decisions of various Annual Conferences. The Conference, or Court of Triers, is composed of seven persons each from the Rock River, Northwestern Indiana, and Wisconsin Conferences. The Court was occupied yesterday in hearing arguments in the case of the Rev. William Rice, of the Michigan Conference. The decision of the Conference, which was adverse to the minister, was sustained.

Herman Memlock, foreman cutter with Rindskopf, Barbe & Co., wholesale clothiers, corner of Washington street and Wabash avenue, while on the fourth floor, lost his balance and tumbled down the elevator-well to the basement. Dr. Purdy, corner of State and Madison streets, arrived immediately after, but found life extinct, owing to dislocation of the neck. In addition, he found, on examination, fracture of the right arm near the wrist, compound fracture of the right leg in two places, and fracture of the left leg and arm. The unfortunate man was about 44 years of age, of Russian extraction, and lived on Butterfield street, where he leaves a wife and two children.

A long controversy involving the title to the Metropolitan Hotel has just been settled by an amicable agreement. Many years ago Isaac Spear, jeweler, had a clerk who made free with his employer's money, and with it bought the land whereon the old Metropolitan Hotel stood and put up the building. Mr. Spear discovered that his clerk was making more money than he, and finally found where the embezzled funds had been invested. By that time the property had been sold to E. H. Haddock, and Spear sued him to recover it. After much litigation, a year ago the latter got a decree, by which the former was ordered to hand over the property and $50,000 in money for mesne profits. A day or so ago Messrs. Haddock and Spear compromised, the latter receiving the property and $12,000 in money.

A gentleman, while eating a stew of oysters in a restaurant not far from Clark street, was interrupted by the entrance of two rough-looking individuals, evidently laboring under the effects of too much whisky. Seating themselves at a table opposite him, one remarked to the other: "Bill, what are you going to have? Let's have a stew?" "I hain't a-goin for to eat no stew," answered the one addressed as Bill; "I know all those rest'rant fellers' tricks; used to (hic) keep rest'ant 'self, 'n I know how it works. They take 'n put all the dead oysers into ther stews 'n throw 'em down ther reglar customers (hic). I used to be in oyster business, 'n know how it is, and I don' want any kilt oysters in mine." The gentleman had been listening, and looking first at his oysters and then at the speaker, until he made the remark about "kilt oysters," when he got up, and, putting his handkerchief to his mouth, bolted for the back door, while the intruders ordered a half-dozen raw.

A benevolent-featured, methodical-looking elderly gentleman, while walking down Dearborn street yesterday morning at a lively pace, was unexpectedly stopped. He came to a place near the Third National Bank where some water spilled on the pavement from the horse-fountain had frozen over during the recent cold snap. His No. 8 boots were suddenly elevated to an angle of 45 degrees; his benevolent countenance disappeared into a new 49 silk hat, and the smothered exclamations that issued therefrom were anything but pious. His fall angered him exceedingly, and he resolved that he would walk over that streak of ice or die in the attempt. Carefully gathering himself up, he made a dash for the other side. The results were exactly the same as before, only a little more pronounced. He came down on his shoulders, and his beaver coat went over his head like a flash; there was an ominous sound of ripping stitches and rended cloth, several released vest buttons striking a laughing bystander in the eye, put a speedy end to his merriment. The old gentleman was badly demoralized, but he had lots of grit, and, picking himself up again, he walked back two or three rods, took a long breath, and, spitting on his hands, again made a rush. As he reached the ice, a happy thought seemed to strike him—he would slide across. He got a splendid start, but just as he got to the edge of the ice his toes came in contact with a chip that was frozen fast to the walk. His noble form arose into the air, and he came down upon all fours, scraping holes through both knees of his pants, while his spectacles went gliding down the street. He arose with an effort, and gazed with a sorrowful expression at the holes in his knees; and, after giving a boy 3 cents for bringing him his spectacles, he retraced his steps and went around the block, evidently thinking he could walk around in less time than he could cross that insignificant stretch of ice.

SPECIAL DEPUTIES.

A few days ago a law firm in this city went to Sheriff Agnew, stated that it was the last day of service, and that they knew that his officers could not serve the paper, and requested that one of their clerks be specially deputized. The Sheriff informed them that he had been advised by counsel that there was some doubt as to his power to appoint a special, and he must decline to make such appointments until the question had been settled by the courts. They tendered the fees for service, and reiterated their request, with which he refused to comply.

They then applied for a rule to require him to show cause before Judge Rogers yesterday why he should not appoint a special. On argument, Judge Rogers refused the rule, on the ground that it was a matter of discretion with a Sheriff as to whether he should appoint one or not, or who he should appoint. The question as to his power to appoint, he reserved to be submitted to the whole Bench.

EIGHTH WARD FIRE-GUARD.

The Eighth Ward Fire-Guard, an association of citizens formed for local protection in cases of fire and outrage, and recognized by the Fire and Police Commissioners, held a meeting last evening at No. 325 Blue Island avenue.

Mr. Adolph Mims, foreman of the Company, presided. He stated that there were fifty-three men on the roll, and that at an early day a system of exercises would be instituted, with a view to making the Company effective workers. Badges were then furnished to the members, and, after the transaction of some routine business, the meeting adjourned.

This movement on the part of the residents of the Eighth Ward is highly commendable, and if the example were followed in the other wards of the city probably the immense expenditure called for by Gen. Shaler would be unnecessary.

FADING AWAY.

What does it mean—the apparent apathy among the members of the Industrial Aid Society? Twice within the past fortnight have attempts been made to hold meetings, at which it was expected that matters of importance, matters affecting the very existence of the Society, would come up. Yet not more than five members (and they were enthusiasts actuated by earnest wishes for the accomplishment of the purpose for which they united) could be gotten together. Mrs. Sandford Lewis, a very prominent member, has tendered her resignation, and Mrs. Fernando Jones, it is said, intends to withdraw from the Society, having become tired of the twiddle-twaddle character of the proceedings. It will be a reproach to the ladies who inaugurated this industrial-aid movement with so much success, if it die by reason of their want of energy.

GOOD SAMARITANS.

The regular meeting of the Good Samaritan Society was held yesterday afternoon at Board Room 4, No. 51 LaSalle street, the President, Mrs. Annie E. Walbert in the chair.

Reports were given from the Home, Finance, and Visiting Committees. The Committee for Christmas dinner to be given Wednesday, Dec. 23, reported abundant donations of turkeys, canned fruits, meats, and etceteras for the occasion. On the evening of the same day a vocal and instrumental concert will be given at which several well-known professionals will assist. The ladies extend a cordial welcome to all friends of the institution to visit the Home on that day.

The President, Mrs. Walbert, and Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Raster and Mrs. Bluthardt, were appointed a Reception Committee.

Thursday evening of this week a parlor concert will be given at the Home. Preparations are making for a charity social to be given Jan. 15.

Among the donations to the Home was an elegantly bound Bible from a friend of the institution. The donations reported through the office were: Clothing, provisions, and cash, $47.93; to Mrs. Baker, cash and books, $45.75; to Mrs. Bluthardt, cash, $21; to Mesdames Spaulding and Buffum, dry goods, $15; to the President, $100.

Five new members were added: Mrs. Floyd Cooley, Mrs. Wheeler, Mrs. Willis Young, Mrs. Platt, and Mrs. Fannie Wheeler Wood.

DR. J. V. Z. BLANEY.

The following is the action taken by the Faculty of Rush Medical College in reference to the death of Dr. Blaney:

The Faculty of Rush Medical College desire to express to the family of the late Prof. J. V. Z. Blaney their sense of the loss which they, in common with the medical profession and society at large, have sustained in the death of their lamented friend and lifelong colleague. Associated from its commencement with this institution, and for many years the leader in its councils, the memory of his inspiring presence will be ever cherished by the host of students who, in past years, have been profited by his instruction; but by none can his uncommon gifts be more thoroughly appreciated than by his survivors here.

Wherever he went, in camp or court, the central figure; here, as at home, he was more than honored—he was loved. A pioneer in the province of scientific instruction, his work was no mere rudimentary touch; it extended to the highest departments of research. Adapting himself without effort to the necessities of the humblest beginner, his versatile talents made him easily the equal of the farthest advanced in the paths of science. An accomplished physician, a celebrated teacher, a beloved associate, his work is done; he has been promoted to that higher station for which he was so completely prepared. For him there can be no regret; for his survivors alone are the depths of sorrow reserved.

Joseph W. Freer, M. D., Professor of Physiology, and President of the Society.
J. Adams Allen, M. D., LL. D., Professor of Principles and Practice of Medicine.
De Laskie Miller, M. D., Professor of Obstetrics.
R. L. Rea, M. D., Professor of Anatomy.
Moses Gunn, A. M., M. D., Professor of Surgery.
Edwin Powell, A. M., M. D., Professor of Military Surgery.
Joseph P. Ross, M. D., Professor of Clinical Medicine.
Edward L. Holmes, A. M., M. D., Professor of Diseases of the Eye and Ear.
Henry M. Lyman, A. M., M. D., Professor of Chemistry.
James H. Etheridge, M. D., Professor of Materia Medica.

THE ADELPHI.

The work upon that chaste temple of high-toned amusement into which Mr. Grover is converting the Post-Office building is progressing with great rapidity,—with perhaps too much haste to allow everything to be finished off in perfect good taste. The critical public—about fifty of them daily—are coming in person to this office, or writing long communications, complaining of the small size of the panes of glass—picayune panes one alliterative person called them—which Mr. Grover has stuck in his window-sashes. They assert that they are so small as to be out of proportion with everything else, and that they resemble the windows of a cottage rather than a grand theatre. Of course, these people have been argued with, and told that Mr. Grover does not own the Comstock lode yet, and cannot be expected to indulge in French plate glass and similar luxuries. Moreover, the acting will not be materially affected by the windows, since nobody would try to look through them under any circumstances.

When they got convinced, as they sometimes do, they begin the attack in another quarter, and want to know if Mr. Grover should follow at a distance the example of Semiramis, and plant a grove of trees—dry pines—on the top of his theatre, making, they say, a mass of firewood, which, if ignited, would ruin the walls, the best in the city, which are worth $50,000. The answer generally made is that, if Grover had the money, he would build with iron, or the cedar of Lebanon, or mahogany even, which is a pretty incombustible wood; but as a man who has not money wherewith to buy a dinner goes a-free-lunching, so Grover is reduced to dry pine.

Then they ask whether the Board of Education, when it rented this bit of school property to Mr. Grover for the purpose of giving him a chance to educate the masses after his fashion, took any bond of indemnity in case he damaged those walls. They say the Board did not, but certainly it could not have been so heedless. If it did not get one, the only way is to fall back on the old answer, and say Mr. Grover had not the money.

THE CITY-HALL.

Ald. Woodman and R. B. Stone of the Fire and Water Committee have changed places. Hereafter Ald. Stone will be Chairman of that Committee.

The renowned and illustrious German member of the Hairpin Society, at present employed in the City Clerk's office, may hereafter be found sitting on the wall in "Humpty Dumpty," initiating "Mooses" by the hundred.

Thursday afternoon at 3 o'clock the Committee on Streets and Alleys for the South Division will make its debut in the room connected with the City Clerk's office. Ald. Stone in Ald. Spalding's shoes will be the chief attraction.

The Board of Police yesterday commenced the work of reorganization in the Cottage Grove Avenue Station, by transferring a half-dozen patrolmen to other stations. Sergt. Tom Barrett yet remains in command, but is momentarily expecting his execution.

Mr. Chesbrough, City Engineer, exhibits in his office a fossil of what is known as an Orthoceratite. The fossil is imbedded in rock which has been cut square and polished. The block is split in two parts, disclosing the exposed half of the fossil. It is a present to the Academy of Sciences from Mr. Singer, of the Singer & Talcott Stone Company.

Whatever dissatisfaction there may have been among certain Aldermen who were displeased with the new Committees, all such sorrows were completely displaced on hearing that a very proud Alderman, who found himself without a Chairmanship, was going around calling his Presidential brother nasty names. And yet the Alderman in question is on three of the very best Committees of the Council.

The Engineer Committee of the Citizens' Association have completed their labors for the present. They have not yet made known the results of the trial, owing to restrictions placed upon them by the rules of the Citizens' Association. From what can be learned from persons outside of that Committee, it is thought that they will report favorably on the pumping capacity, and will limit their imprecations to the small water-mains.

WABASH-AVENUE STREET-RAILWAY.

The following communication was yesterday sent to President Dixon:

CHICAGO, Dec. 15, 1874.

SIR: In response to a resolution of the City Council passed Monday, Dec. 8, inviting offers for the right to build and operate street-cars on Wabash avenue, from Lake street to the city limits, the Chicago & South Atlantic Railroad Company make the following offer, viz.:

First—To lay a double track from Lake street to Twenty-second, and single track from Twenty-second to Thirty-second street, and double track thence to city limits.

Second—To be constructed on or before the 1st of September 1875, unless restrained.

Third—To build and keep in good order said street from curb to curb.

Fourth—To run palace-cars of the same class and finish as those used on Third avenue, New York.

Fifth—To run cars every hour after 12 o'clock at night until 6 o'clock p. m.

Sixth—Fare, whole distance, 5 cents; commutation tickets, 4 cents per ride.

Seventh—To pay 1 per cent of its annual net earnings into the City Treasury, to be appropriated for such purposes as the Council may direct.

The resolution required bond in the penal sum of $100,000; this we are ready to give within the time prescribed in said resolution, or by said Council.

If our offer is accepted, it saves to the taxpayers owning property on said avenue the sum of about $125,000. This estimate is verified by bids made by three of the most responsible street-paving firms in this city, whose names were furnished us by the Clerk of Public Works.

J. CAVENDISH ROBINSON, Secretary.

THE BOARD OF HEALTH.

The regular weekly meeting of the Board of Health was held in their rooms yesterday afternoon, all the members being present. The Sanitary Superintendent's report shows that during the past week there were 97 deaths, two less than during the preceding week. Of these there were 24 under 1 year of age. Colored, 1. Males, 46; females, 41; married, 39, single, 53. During the week there was but one case of small-pox reported, and the patient was immediately carried to the Small-Pox Hospital. Lunt's smelting works, against which numerous complaints had been made, were reported as closed and in the hands of the Sheriff.

Dr. Williams, Sanitary Inspector, reported that during the week he had examined the pupils of the following schools with the following results:

Newberry School, 1,480 pupils, 47 unsafe.
Franklin School, 1,150 pupils, 81 unsafe.
Elm Street School, 735 pupils, 65 unsafe.
Ogden School, 632 pupils, 70 unsafe.

Dr. Mannheimer reported that he had examined the pupils of several schools in his district, and that nearly 20 per cent of the whole number needed revaccination.

The Health Officer's report shows that there were 275 nuisance notices served, and 200 nuisances abated. He called the attention of the Board to the sewer on the south side of Halsted street bridge. The subject was referred to the Sanitary Committee, and the Board then adjourned.

CRIMINAL.

The room of L. H. Clapp, at No. 328 West Madison street, was entered night before last and robbed of a pair of gold ear-rings and $25 in currency.

Officer Scott arrested Peter Stevens, on Canal street yesterday, on suspicion of having stolen some harness and an overcoat, which were found in his possession and of which he could give no satisfactory account.

Edward Christian and Henry Rumeboder were arrested last evening on the charge of larceny, in stealing a volume of Shakspeare and one of Sir Walter Scott from the library of the Young Men's Christian Association. They were locked up in the Armory.

Between 11 and 12 o'clock on the 13th inst. William Brown, of No. 708 Centre avenue, struck his wife on the side of her neck with a scoop-shovel, inflicting a severe,