Chicago Tribune.

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 1864.

THE CITY.

BURNING OF A CHURCH.—The Episcopal Church on Twenty-fourth street, between Michigan and Indiana avenues, caught fire last night and was nearly destroyed. Loss about $2,000, of which $1,500 is covered by insurance.

MUSTERING FOR PAY.—Yesterday every officer and soldier in the U. S. Service at Camp Douglas was mustered for pay; the full status of Uncle Sam's family in every department can be calculated from the returns made yesterday.

TWELFTH ILLINOIS INFANTRY.—About thirty recruits belonging to this regiment, arrived in Chicago last evening from Springfield, and were accommodated with lodgings for the night at the Soldiers' Rest.

WILL BE BURIED AT HOME.—The body of John Cecil of company K, 5th Kentucky, a rebel prisoner who was shot while attempting to make his escape from Camp Douglas, will be sent home for interment. Deceased was a son of Judge M. J. Cecil of Lebanon, Kentucky.

A GOOD RIDDANCE.—It is with great satisfaction that we chronicle the resignation of John S. Newhouse as President of Rosehill Cemetery. It is only such pestilent and blatant disloyalty as his that could make the question of political views enter at all into the matter of fitness for such a post.

DEATHS IN COLVIN'S BATTERY.—The following members of Colvin's Battery died in hospital at Knoxville, at the dates indicated: Corporal Henry C. Huston, January 4; Sergeant John W. Miller, February 2; private Edwin W. Ellis, January 16; private William Early, February 16.

PERSONAL.—Gen. Orme, military commandant of this district, has been confined to his rooms at the Tremont House, for the past week, with an attack of intermittent fever. His many friends will be pleased to learn that he is convalescent.

CONTEMPTIBLE.—Two well dressed and apparently respectable men, on Sunday night, pulled down a ladder on which a lamp-lighter was standing. The poor fellow fell upon the sidewalk, quite seriously bruising his face and otherwise seriously injuring him. It was a contemptible trick.

THE RAILROAD MISSION CHAPEL.—The Railroad Mission School occupied its new chapel on Griswold street, for the first time, last Sunday afternoon. Nearly one thousand children and adults were present. The chapel—a handsome brick structure—will be completed in about three weeks, when it will be dedicated.

FREIGHT TO ST. LOUIS.—The Directors of the Chicago & Rock Island Railroad have made arrangements for taking a limited quantity of freight through to St. Louis, in conjunction with the Illinois River Packet Company, from Peoria. The river is now open, and boats run regularly between Peoria and St. Louis.

TOTAL DEPRAVITY.—A darkey, black as the ace of spades, stole a copy of the *Times* from a Clark street counting room on Monday morning. He was seen to pocket the paper, but was forced to disgorge before he had an opportunity to read its precious contents. This is a case of total depravity, and one which will go far towards making us a convert to the doctrine of total depravity. A negro is far gone when he will steal the *Times*.

BAYARD TAYLOR.—This distinguished traveler will lecture in Bryan Hall this evening, before the Young Men's Association. The sale of reserved seats at Sherman's for Mr. Chittenden's was quite lively yesterday, and there is every prospect that they will all be sold before nightfall to-day. Those who wish to secure seats had better do so early this morning. He will lecture on—"Russia and the Russians."

A NEEDED IMPROVEMENT.—At the fire of yesterday afternoon, an appliance was brought into use which was some time since introduced in the Eastern cities, but has not heretofore been seen here. It consists of a bridge to lay along the tracks of the street railway, with holes to admit the hose, which may thus be laid across the street without interfering with the ordinary travel. The machine is about a yard long, and four or five inches high, costing perhaps a dollar.

PRESENTATION.—The employees of Mr. Freeman Bigelow, the contractor for carrying a majority of the mails to and from the Post Office, presented him with a beautiful silver star, appropriately inscribed. The presentation, which was accompanied by a few pleasant and appropriate remarks by Mr. J. Carpenter, one of the employees, took place in the Local Agent's room in the Post Office, yesterday.

ARTISTIC.—We learn that Wm. E. McMasters, Esq., the artist, is about to pay a professional visit to Kalamazoo, Mich., by request, to paint the portraits of several of the leading citizens of that beautiful little city. He has an original landscape by Colos, and a portrait of Washington by Gilbert Stewart, 1797, purchased at the auction of the Madison pictures. After finishing his orders in Kalamazoo, Mr. McMasters will visit our city and give the friends of art an opportunity to see several gems from his own pencil and those of other eminent artists. His many friends will give him a cordial welcome.

CO. E, 7TH KANSAS CAVALRY.—This company, recruited in Chicago, are now in the city spending their furlough. On the record of honor which belongs to this gallant regiment, none stand more conspicuous than this company, and their gallant commander Capt. Gregory. It was this company which made the celebrated charge upon the rebel column in the early part of November, 1862, which resulted in its discomfiture and forced it to turn back from the march from Holly Springs towards Grand Junction, near Lamar, Mississippi. These men, the type of the true jayhawker, are by no having swiftly, and give one a correct idea of the conduct and bearing of the 7th Kansas Cavalry.

THE FENIAN FAIR.—From all parts come advices of the most encouraging nature to the committee and friends of the Irish National Fair, to be held in Chicago in the latter part of this week. Large meetings have been held and co-operative committees appointed in all the principal cities in the Union, and now the word comes from California that the people there are bestirring themselves, and that a solid brick of gold and several bricks of silver are on their way from San Francisco. The executive committee of the meeting of to-night will appoint collectors, who will call on the citizens of Chicago and solicit material aid for the work. Season tickets for the fair will be now ready, one dollar each, which will entitle the holder to a chance in the Grand Distribution of Gifts, one thousand in number, valued in the aggregate at thirty thousand dollars.

THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE IN LEGAL DIFFICULTIES.—The library of the Mechanics' Institute has been a bone of contention since 1861. About the first of January the more valuable reference books were sold under the hammer, and the remainder advertised to be sold to-day. The lawyers have had something to say in the matter, however, and yesterday the Sheriff laid violent hands upon them, by virtue of a writ issued out by James Larmon, who claims a balance of four hundred dollars due for unpaid rent. Between the lawyers and creditors the Institute will likely not have a hard time of it. The proverb that "when a man is running down hill, every loafer gives him a kick," is fully illustrated in the experience of the Mechanics' Institute.

EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS.—The public will be glad to learn that a ladies department is this week opened at Bryant & Stratton's College, in which our young ladies can by a short course of study, learn the methods of business and fit themselves for responsible situations in commercial life. The popularity which this institution has already acquired with the business community will be sufficient guarantee for the success of this department. Already Mr. Bryant has connected with his commercial course a preparatory and a high school department, both of which are marked improvements upon the course pursued by most institutions of this kind; and the addition of the new department renders his institution the most complete of any in the West.

FIRE.—The alarm of fire last evening was caused by a large quantity of smoke rolling in dense black clouds, from the upper stories of the brick building Nos. 38 and 40 Lasalle street. The steamers were quickly on the ground, and in a few minutes the fire, which had broken out between the ceiling of the fourth and the flooring of the fifth story was speedily extinguished. The room in which the fire occurred was occupied by a tailor, and the damage sustained by the inmates in the neighborhood of $100. The balance of the building was badly damaged by water, which poured down through the various storys in a perfect torrent. The lower floor of the premises, occupied by J. B. Shay as a dry goods store, was so badly drenched that all the goods had to be removed, fortunately with but little damage. The building belongs to Fred Letz, and is insured.

BOARDING HOUSE INFELICITIES.—Yesterday a somewhat complicated case appeared before Justice Moore requiring adjudication. A Mrs. Woods applied for a writ of replevin, to be issued against Mary Hathway alias Summerfield, a boarding-keeper on Wells street. Mrs. Woods stated that she had been boarding with the defendant for some days, but on discovering that the character of the house was considerably below par, attempted to leave; to which arrangement Mrs. Hathway objected, detaining her luggage. While the writ was being made out the defendant appeared and claiming a cloak Mrs. Woods had on, attempted to take it by force in open court; for which offence she was fined $5 and costs. At the same time the women left, Mrs. Hathway returned and applied for a warrant to be issued against the plaintiff on the last case, for the larceny of her cloak. The warrant was issued and the trial will come off this afternoon.

THE MINISTRY AT LARGE.—The committee of this valuable institution have presented their annual statement of their labors. The objects of the association are to provide homes for children who have lost the protection of parents, or whose parents though living are too intemperate or too thriftless to properly care for them, and also to visit and as far as possible provide for the sick and worthy poor. By the formation of a free intelligence office, situations are provided for all applicants of a suitable age. During the past year there have been 108 of such applicants—63 girls and 40 boys; most of these have been provided with homes or places of employment. Sight is not lost of the children, even when they are scattered throughout the country, but communication is kept up whenever practicable. Most of them, even from the first sent out (seven years ago), are doing well. During the last year the association has distributed 487 articles of clothing, viz.: 74 pieces of new and 328 of second-hand; 4 dozen slates, 1½ dozen copy books, and a large number of school books. The number of visits received has been 1,500, and the expenses of the year are $4.5.

COMMON COUNCIL.

REGULAR MEETING.

New Bridge Needed at Randolph Street—Report of Police Commissioners—Mortality Registers—Salaries of Police Commissioners.

The Evanston Railroad Ordinance Declared Illegal and Killed—Important Order—The Police Authorities to Report Progress.

The Common Council met in regular session in the Council Chamber last evening. There were present his Honor the Mayor, and Aldermen Hahn, Shimp, Tittsworth, Roberts, Barrett, Gallup, Kann, Sheridan, Walsh, McDonald, Comiskey, Ulbrich, Clark, Brown, Himrod, Holden, VonHoffen, Bond, Gatfield, Armstrong, Ruh, Hottinger, Conlan, Sullivan, Shufeldt and Woodman. The minutes of the preceding meeting were read and approved.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

The ordinance annulling the assessment for opening the alley through the N. E. ¼ of blk. 45, Sec. 7, T. 39 N., R. 14 E, passed Feb. 15, 1864, was returned without the approval of the Mayor.

Ald. Comiskey moved to reconsider the vote by which the ordinance passed. Carried.

Ald. Walsh moved that it be returned to the Judiciary Committee and the corporation counsel.

A communication from E. Taylor, complaining of improper assessment, was on motion referred to the Finance Committee.

Also a petition from sundry citizens of Chicago remonstrating against the payment of assessments for dredging the river was read and referred to the Committee on Finance.

The petition of L. Meyer asking the Council to refund taxes had the same reference.

The petition of T. F. Brown asking that he be allowed to peddle in the city without license. Referred to the Mayor with power to act. The Mayor said he did not like this idea of *leaving* this kind of business on the Mayor.

Petitions of Daniel Downey and R. M. Graves for abatement of taxes were appropriately referred.

A petition was presented from residents of Larrabee street remonstrating against the occupation of Larrabee street by the Chicago and Evanston Railroad Company. Laid on the table temporarily.

A petition from residents of the 5th Ward was read complaining of the nuisance caused by Wahl's "glue and stuck factory" was referred to the Board of Police.

The petition of Casper Charleston for remission of fine against his son was referred to the Finance Committee.

The petition of the Pastor of St. Joseph's Church asking for remission of taxes. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

The petition of hackmen and draymen asking for a reduction in the price of licences, was referred to the Committee on Licences.

Remonstrances were presented from residents on sundry streets objecting to the occupation of the streets by the Evanston Railroad Company. Laid on the table temporarily.

A communication was received from the Corporation Counsel asking to be relieved from the duty of revising the City Ordinances. Referred to the Judiciary Committee.

The petition of J. W. Remedy asking for the remission of personal taxes, was referred to the Finance Committee.

The Board of Public Works presented an ordinance for the extension of Wolcott street which was referred to the Committee on Streets and Alleys and ordered published.

The same body reported the fact that Randolph street bridge is broken and in a dangerous condition and likely to fall at the opening of navigation and recommending that an ordinance be passed providing for a new structure, and also providing for the levying of $5,000 in order to pay for the same.

Referred to the Committee on Harbors and Bridges.

Ald. Comiskey moved that the West Division Street Railroad Company be requested to contribute their proportion of the expense, and that the Committee consult with them, learn what they will do and report at the next meeting.

The Board submitted an ordinance repealing the ordinance passed Sept. 7th, 1863, directing the planking, curbing and paving with Nicholson pavement, Wabash avenue, from 14th street to 22d street. Referred to the Committee on Streets and Alleys, South Division.

An ordinance repealing an assessment for opening an alley had the same reference.

Ordinances for sidewalks on Bonefield street, Harlow street, and Hickory street, referred to Committee on streets and alleys, South Division; for sidewalks on West Twelfth street, West 16th street, West Greene street, and North Robey street were severally referred to Committee on Streets and Alleys, South Division.

Also an order for a sidewalk on North Division; referred to the Committee on Streets and Alleys of the West Division. The following report of the President of the Board of Police Commissioners was presented and ordered to be laid over and published:

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor herewith handed a copy of a resolution adopted by your Board Feb. 18th, 1864, in the following words:

"IN COMMON COUNCIL, Feb. 1, 1864.

"Resolved, That the President and Secretary of the Board of Police Commissioners be, and they are hereby required, in pursuance of the power vested in the Common Council of this city (Section 1, Chapter 4, Private and Local Charter) to report to the Council at the next regular meeting, the amount of money received by and paid or given to the Board of Police Commissioners, or to any member of the police force, including the Superintendent and his staff or detectives, for or on account of services rendered in the recovery of lost or stolen property, the prevention of crime, the detection and arrest of criminals, the recovery and return of lost children, the arrests of deserters, and the granting of liquor permits authorized to keep and continue to keep houses of ill fame, and also what disposition was made of all moneys so received (if any), and if any such moneys, and the proceeds of the sale of any such articles other than money, was paid into the city treasury, the date when and the amount of each payment so made since the organization of the Board of Police Commissioners, in pursuance of an act of the General Assembly of the State, approved February 21st, 1861, to date; also, by whom and to every person paid