CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE MAYOR'S OFFICE.

That the people may know something of the economical reforms of Mayor Wood, where he has entire authority, we have collected the following account of the expenses (except salaries) of his office for his first two years, and compared them with the same accounts of Mayor Westervelt's administration. The stereotyped excuse of want of power will not avail Mr. Wood in this particular, since his power over his own office—except in salaries, which vary only $250, and which we omit altogether—is supreme and unquestioned. Let the people carefully study the economy practiced by the "Model Mayor."

MAYOR'S OFFICE—CONTINGENCIES.

Westervelt.		*Wood.*	
1853..Expended..	$147 70	1855..Expended.	$3,668 01
1854..Expended..	346 84	1856..Expended.	3,390 36
Total, 2 years...	$494 54	Total, 2 years..	$7,058 37

Wood over Westervelt, $6,563 83, which is only twelve hundred per cent increase.

MAYOR'S OFFICE—PRINTING.

Westervelt.		*Wood.*	
1853..Expended.	$1,200 77	1855..Expended.	$3,449 83
1854..Expended.	3,757 79	1856..Expended.	9,498 00
Total, 2 years..	$4,958 56	Total, 2 years.	$12,947 83

Wood over Westervelt, $7,989 27, or one hundred and sixty-six per cent.

TOTAL CONTINGENCIES.

Westervelt.		*Wood.*	
Miscellaneous....	$494 54	Miscellaneous...	$7,058 37
Printing.........	4,958 56	Printing........	12,947 83
Total......	$5,453 10	Total......	$20,006 20

Wood over Westervelt, $14,553 10, or nearly three hundred per cent for the two years.

WHERE THE MONEY WENT.

We give, by way of explanation, the following details of the "patronage" distributed by Mayor Wood. Mr. Westervelt, we believe, had no carriage bills, and as he used only $500 in the miscellaneous department, the items are not important.

CONTINGENT EXPENSES OF THE MAYOR'S OFFICE FOR 1855.

To penny postage	$1 19
To Mayor's New-Year's cards	7 25
To 1 subscription National Democrat	1 67
To Mayor's box, Post-Office	3 00
To postage stamps	3 00
To cartage on documents from New-Orleans	50
To Mayor's errand-boy, four weeks at $2 per week	8 00
To postage	8 20
To carriage hire, as per bill	57 25
To extra assistance	41 00
To postage	6 63
To four weeks' salary for errand boy	8 00
To Bible for the use of the Office	50
To postage stamps	3 00
To extra assistance in Mayor's Office	102 00
To expenses of various offices, incurred among liquor dealers, as per bill	8 09
To coach hire, as per bill	29 00
To postage paid for Office, Jan. 1 to March 1, 1855	13 23
To Phillips & Manning, for three feather dusters	3 00
To McIntire & Parsons, for publishing Proclamation	12 60
To postage to date	18 31
To expenses incurred in detecting liquor dealers	19 91
To extra assistance in Mayor's Office	168 66
To coach hire for Mayor and Recorder	1 50
To salary of errand boy	8 00
To telegraphic dispatch	75
To bill of Edward Van Ranst for carriage hire	51 00
James Hazen, Gazetteer for the Mayor's Office	6 00
Alexander Ming, taking affidavits	28 13
To coach hire	62 00
To postage to date	21 39
To amount expended by liquor dealer detectives	13 87
To extra services in Mayor's Office	137 49
To errand boy	8 00
To postage stamps	7 00
To sundry postages	5 63
To postage account	3 27
To three reports Liquor Laws and opinions	25
To Mayor's errand boy	8 00
To postage stamps	6 00
To extra assistance in office	137 49
To carriage hire bill	91 00
To Police liquor bills	2 87
To J. B. Butts's postage bill	5 71
To bill paid for cleaning rubbish from fallen building	22 00
William & Brother posting hackney coach bills	20 00
To postage	22 62
To telegraphing to Albany	37
To 1,000 copies of Liquor Law	36 00
To extra assistance	137 49
To carriage hire, as per bill	99 25
To five weeks' pay to errand boy	10 00
William H. Stephens, contingencies of Mayor's Office	521 46
Christopher Long, posting bills for the Mayor's Office	100 00
Postage	17 55
Extra assistance	137 49
Carriage hire as per bill	22 00
Carriage hire as per bill	98 00
Errand boy five weeks	16 00
Christopher Long, posting bills for Mayor's Office	60 00
Postage	9 87
Errand boy two weeks	4 00
Carriage hire as per bill	74 00
Extra help	137 49
Alexander Ming, taking affidavits	33 81
Postage	6 42
Telegraphic dispatch	1 40
Soap	50
Repairing lock	25
Extra assistance	137 49
Carriage hire as per bill	86 25
Postage	9 75
Carriage hire as per bill	64 50
Extra assistance	137 49
New-York Day Book, advertising Mayor's Thanksgiving Proclamation	8 10
New-York Sun, advertising Mayor's Thanksgiving Proclamation	21 00
Sunday Mercury, advertising Mayor's Thanksgiving Proclamation	1 00
Sunday Courier, advertising Mayor's Thanksgiving Proclamation	2 13
Evening Mirror, advertising Mayor's Thanksgiving Proclamation	17 50
Postages, &c	20 09
Extra assistance	137 49
Carriage hire, as per bill	70 50
Total amount for 1855	$3,668 01

CONTINGENCIES OF THE MAYOR'S OFFICE FOR 1856.

W. H. Stephens, for contingencies of the Mayor's Office	413 01
G. H. Giltzou, for postages	10 72
W. H. Stephens, for contingencies of the Mayor's Office	398 11
G. W. Hinchman, books, &c., for the Mayor's Office	4 80
William M. Cooke, copyist, &c	104 16
Wilson Small, Clerk to Commissioners of Police	104 16
George F. Conklin, ass't clerk	83 33
Carriage hire, as per bill	67 75
Postage, &c	18 50
Postage stamps	3 00
Telegraphing to Albany	38
Cartage	38
Postage	10 46
Telegraphing	3 29
Stamped envelopes	3 21
Soap	50
Postage, &c	9 30
Postage stamps	5 00
W. H. Stephens, contingencies of the Mayor's Office	8 30

The following bills are in, but not paid for want of appropriation:

C. Fletcher, services	$306 00
Geo. F. Concklin, "	416 65
Thos. J. Munday, "	416 64
Wilson Small, "	104 16
Wm. M. Cook, "	520 80
Carriage Hire	177 75
	$3,190 36
Bills not in estimated	200 00
Total for 1856	$3,390 36

PRINTING FOR MAYOR WOOD.

The following table embraces the items expended among newspapers and job printers during Mayor Wood's first term of two years:

Bills.	1855.	1856.	Total.
Bowne & Co. and Bowne & Hasbrouck	$565 27	$417 00	$982 27
C. C. Childs	355 00	643 25	998 25
G. H. Clark	142 00	130 80	272 80
—— Stimson	15 00	14 25	29 25
N. Y. Tribune, advertising	156 00	203 08	359 08
N. Y. Sun, advertising	195 64	157 45	353 09
N. Y. Times, advertising	96 70	141 08	237 78
N. Y. Evening Mirror, advert'g	107 35	278 58	385 94
N. Y. Day Book, advertising	439 54	878 65	1,318 19
N. Y. Herald, advertising	120 75	243 87	364 62
N. Y. Journal of Commerce, do.	110 81	45 88	156 69
N. Y. Courier and Enquirer, do.	99 89	239 02	338 91
N. Y. Abend Zeitung, do.	130 00	73 00	203 00
N. Y. National Democrat, do.	75 75	....	75 75
N. Y. Reveille, advertising	4 50	....	4 50
N. Y. Shipping and Com'l List	3 00	....	3 00
N. Y. Sunday Mercury	46 10	539 40	585 50
N. Y. Sunday Dispatch	36 17	458 53	494 70
N. Y. Sunday Atlas	22 50	445 24	467 74
N. Y. Sunday Leader	3 60	44 00	47 60
N. Y. U. S. Argus	19 90	....	19 90
N. Y. True American	10 00	....	10 00
N. Y. Dye's Bank Mirror	20 00	....	20 00
N. Y. Thompson's Bank Note Reporter	4 00	....	4 00
N. Y. Daily News	55 00	183 40	238 40
N. Y. Freeman's Journal	34 84	80 86	115 50
N. Y. Courrier des Etats Unis	15 00	....	15 00
N. Y. Belletrisches Journal	14 00	....	14 00
N. Y. L'Estafette	1 00	....	1 00
N. Y. Journal Quotidien	35 22	....	35 22
N. Y. Dutchman	21 50	24 00	45 50
N. Y. Clipper	6 00	....	6 00
N. Y. Atlantische Blätter	6 00	....	6 00
N. Y. Truth Teller	50 00	310 00	360 00
N. Y. Irish American	43 25	305 75	349 00
N. Y. National Monitor	5 00	....	5 00
N. Y. Sunday Times	32 50	414 45	445 95
N. Y. Asmonean	19 50	418 03	437 53
N. Y. America's Own	3 00	....	3 00
N. Y. Pathfinder	7 00	25 00	32 00
N. Y. People's Organ	1 50	....	1 50
N. Y. Police Gazette	5 70	44 11	49 81
N. Y. Young America	1 80	....	1 80
N. Y. Challenge	5 00	....	5 00
N. Y. Evening Post	7 00	41 12	48 12
N. Y. Am. Mining Chronicle	8 00	....	8 00
N. Y. Sunday Courier	42 98	411 72	455 70
N. Y. U. S. Economist	14 00	....	14 00
N. Y. Phrenological Cabinet	16 40	....	16 40
N. Y. National Standard	8 75	....	8 75
N. Y. Brown's Cheerful Visitor	3 30	....	3 30
N. Y. Wide-Awake	1 50	....	1 50
N. Y. Express Messenger	6 00	10 00	16 00
N. Y. National Monitor	5 00	....	5 00
N. Y. Merchants' Ledger	1 50	....	1 50
N. Y. Mercantile Guide	12 50	....	12 50
N. Y. American Times	34 50	....	34 50
N. Y. Christian Intelligencer	2 00	....	2 00
N. Y. Churchman	6 25	....	6 25
N. Y. Chronicle	7 00	....	7 00
N. Y. Honest Truth	17 00	....	17 00
N. Y. Fireside Friend	4 50	....	4 50
N. Y. Pick	6 75	....	6 75
N. Y. American Celt	10 00	39 68	49 68
N. Y. Albion	2 25	55 60	57 85
N. Y. Mercantile Journal	75 00	409 67	484 67
N. Y. Criminal Zeitung	....	62 91	62 91
N. Y. Citizen	....	262 73	262 73
N. Y. Richardson's Journal	....	22 00	22 00
N. Y. U. S. Mining Journal	....	171 67	171 67
N. Y. Irish News	....	143 00	143 00
N. Y. Commercial Advertiser	....	22 66	22 66
N. Y. Picayune	....	52 80	52 80
E. Childs	....	128 50	128 50
U. S. Military Argus	....	5 00	5 00
U. S. Literary Argus	....	10 00	10 00
Bills unpaid	....	1,000 00	1,000 00
Total	$3,449 83	$9,498 00	$12,947 83

All the above expenses are copied from official statements, excepting the bills estimated in the last line. The subject is recommended to the attention of the supporters of the Mayor, and especially of those who desire to give him unlimited control over the financial affairs of the city.

THE WITCHES OF NEW-YORK....No. V

MADAME PREWSTER,

No. 373 Bowery, between Fourth and Fifth streets.

Madame Prewster has long been an oily pilgrim in this vale of tears. The oldest inhabitant cannot remember the exact period when this truly great prophetess became a fixture in Gotham, and began to earn her bread and butter by fortune-telling and kindred occupations. Her unctuous countenance and pinguid form are known to hundreds on whose visiting lists her name does not conspicuously appear, and to whom, in the way of business, she has made revelations which would astonish the unsuspecting and unbelieving world. She is neither exclusive nor select in her visitors. Whoever is willing to pay the price may have the benefit of her skill, as may be seen by her advertisement:

CARD.—Madame PREWSTER returns thanks to her friends and patrons, and begs to say that, after the thousands, both in this city and Philadelphia, who have consulted her with entire satisfaction, she feels confident that in the questions of astrology, love and law matters, and books or oracles as relied on constantly by Napoleon, she has no equal. She will tell the name of the future husband, and also the name of her visitors. No. 373 Bowery, between Fourth and Fifth streets.

One agreeable morning our reporter set forth on foot to pay his youthful respects to this ancient human landmark of the city. It rained as if the clouds were working by the job. The driving drops had nearly drowned the sunshine, and through the sickly light that still survived, everything looked dim and spectral. Unearthly cars drawn by ghastly horses glided swiftly through the mist, the intangible apparitions which occupied the drivers' usual stands hailing passengers with hollow voices, and proffering silent invitations with impish finger and goblin wink. Fantastic dogs sneaked out of sight round distant corners, or skulked miserably under phantom carts for an imaginary shelter. The rain enveloped everything with a gray vail, making all look unsubstantial and unreal; the human unfortunates who were in the storm appeared cloudy and unsolid, as if each man had sent his shadow out to do his work and kept his substance safe at home. On this delightful day, our reporter, forced by stern duty to leave the attic where he takes his nightly roost, and disdaining the miserable compromise of an hour's stew in a steaming car, set forth on foot, knowing that his too solid flesh couldn't "melt, thaw and resolve itself into a dew," and firmly believing that he wouldn't be drowned, for proverbial reasons. With bowed head and sturdy step he tramped along, now breaking his shins over a dry goods box, then knocking his head against a lamp-post; now getting a great punch in the stomach from an unexpected umbrella, then involuntarily gauging the depth of some unseen puddle, and then getting out of soundings altogether in a muddy inland sea; now swept almost off his feet by a sudden torrent of sufficient power to run a saw-mill, and only recovering himself to find that he was wrecked on the curb-stone of some side street that he didn't want to go to. At length, after a host of mishaps, including some interesting but unpleasant submarine explorations in an unusually large puddle, into which he fell full length, our reporter arrived, soaked and savage, at the house of Madame Prewster.

A German-silver plate on the narrow door bore the name of the illustrious female who occupied these domains. With dainty fingers our damp reporter pulled the daubed and sticky bell-pull, and was in due time admitted by a greasy girl into the hall, where he stood for a minute, "all dripping from the recent flood," like a fresh-water merman. The juvenile female evidently took him for a thief, and was determined to prevent any depredations. She planted herself firmly before him in the narrow hall in an attitude of self-defense, and squaring off scientifically, demanded his business. Astrology was mentioned, whereupon the threatening fists were lowered, the saucy under-jaw was retracted, and the general air of pugnacity was subdued into a very suspicious demeanor, as if she thought he hadn't any money and wanted to storm the castle under false pretenses. She informed him that before matters went any further he must buy a "ticket," which she was prepared to furnish on receipt of a dollar and a-half. He paid the money, which transaction seemed to raise him in her estimation to the level of a man who might safely be trusted where there was nothing he could steal. One fist she still kept loaded, ready to instantly repel any attack which might be suddenly made by her designing enemy; the other hand cautiously departed petticoatward, and after groping about some time in a concealed pocket, produced from the mysterious depth a card too dirty for description, on which these words were dimly visible:

50 cents.	MADAME PREWSTER, 411 Grand Street.	No. 1.

The belligerent girl then led the way through a narrow hall, up two flights of stairs into a cold room, where she desired her visitor to be seated. She then carefully locked one or two doors leading into adjoining rooms, put the keys in her pocket, and departed. Before her exit she made a sly demonstration with her fists and feet as if she was disposed to break the truce, commence hostilities and punch his unprotected head without regard to the laws of honorable warfare. She departed, however, at last, without violence, though our reporter could hear her pause on each landing, probably debating whether it wasn't best after all to go back and thrash him before the opportunity was lost forever.

This apartment was uncarpeted, and was luxuriously furnished with six wooden chairs, one stove, with no spark of fire, one feeble table, one spittoon and two coal-scuttles. One copy of *The N. Y. Herald* and three of *The N. Y. Sun* were on the table. The view from the window was picturesque to a degree, being made up of cats, clothes-lines, chimneys and crockery, and occasionally, when the storm lifted, a low roof near by suggested stables. The odor which filled the air had at least the merit of being powerful, and those to whose noses it was grateful couldn't complain that they didn't get enough of it. Description must necessarily fall far short of the reality, but if the reader will endeavor to imagine a couple of oil-mills, a Peck Slip ferry-boat, a soap-and-candle manufactory, and three or four bone-boiling establishments being simmered together over a slow fire in his immediate vicinity, he may possibly arrive at a faint and distant notion of the greasy fragrance in which the abode of Madam Prewster is immersed. For an hour and a half by a cheap watch (which, being insensible to the voice of reason and the persuasions of the watchmaker, takes its own time to do its work, and the minute-hand of which generally succeeds in getting round the dial about once in eighty minutes) was our reporter incarcerated in this delectable apartment by the order of the Madame; he would long before the end of that time have forfeited his dollar and a half and beat an inglorious retreat, but that he feared an ambuscade and a pitching into at the fair hands of the warlike servant. Finally, this last named individual came to the rescue, and conducted him, by a circuitous route and with evident feelings of violent animosity, to the basement. This room was evidently the kitchen, and was fitted up with the customary iron and brazen apparatus. A feeble child, just old enough to run alone, had constructed a child's paradise in the lee of the cooking-stove, and was seated on a dinner pot with one foot in a saucepan; it had been playing on the wash-boiler like a drum, but was now engaged in decorating some loaves of unbaked bread with bits of charcoal and splinters from the broom. The fighting servant retreated to the far end of the apartment, where she began to wash dishes with vindictive earnestness, stopping at short intervals to wave her dishcloth savagely as a challenge to instant single combat. There was nothing visible that savored of astrology or magic, unless some tin candlesticks with battered rims could be cabalistically construed.

Madame Prewster, the renowned, sat majestically in a Windsor rocking-chair, extra size, with a large pillow comfortably tucked in behind her illustrious and rheumatic back. Her prophetic feet rested on a wooden stool; her oracular neck was bound with a bright-colored shawl; her necromantic locomotive apparatus was incased in a great number of predictive petticoats, and her whole aspect was portentous. She is a woman who may be of any age from 45 to 120, for her face is so oily that wrinkles won't stay in it; they slip out and leave no trace. She is an unctuous woman, with plenty of material in her—enough, in fact, for two or three. She is adipose to a degree that makes her circumference problematical, and her weight a mere matter of conjecture. Moreover, one instantly feels that she is thoroughly water-proof, and is certain that if she could be induced to shed tears, she would weep lard-oil. Grim, grizzled and stony-eyed is this juicy old Sibyl, and she glared fearfully on our reporter with her fishy optics, until he wished he hadn't done anything. She was evidently just out of bed, although it was long past noon, and when she yawned, which she did seven times a minute on a low average, the effect was gloomy and cavernous, and the timid delegate from Spruce street trembled in his boots. At last she took up the cards, which were almost as greasy as she herself, and prepared for business, previously giving one most tremendous yawn, which opened her sacred jaws so wide that only a very narrow isthmus of hair behind her ears connected the top of her respected head with the back of her venerated neck.

She presented the cards to be cut, and then began to speak very slowly, each word slipping smoothly from her fat lips as if it had been anointed with some patent lubricator:

"You have seen much trouble, some of it in business, and some of it in love, but there are brighter days in store for you before long—you face up a letter—you face up love—you face up marriage—you face up a light-haired woman, with dark eyes, you think a great deal of her, and she thinks a great deal of you, but then she faces up a dark complexioned man, which is bad for you—you must take care and look out for him, for he is trying to injure you—she likes you the best, but you must look out for the man—you face up better luck in business, you face a change in your business, but be careful, or it will not bring you much money—you do not face up a great deal of money." (Here followed a huge yawn which again nearly left the top of her head an island.) Then she resumed, "If you will tell me the number of letters in the lady's name, I will tell you what her name is."

This demand was unexpected, but our cool and collected reporter replied at random, "Four." This the she-Falstaff then referred to a book wherein was written a long list of names, of varying lengths from one syllable to six, and selecting the names with four letters, began to ask:

"Is it Emma?" "No." "Anna?" "No." "Ella?" "No." "Jane?" "No." "Etta?" "No." "Lucy?" "No." "Cora?" "No." At last, finding that she would run through all the four-letter names in the language, and that he must eventually say something, he agreed to let his "true love's" name be Mary. Then she continued her remarks: "You face up Mary, you love Mary; Mary is a good girl. You will marry Mary at last; but Mary is not now here—Mary is far away; but do not fear, for you shall have Mary."

Then she proposed to tell the name of our reporter in the same mysterious manner and on being told that it contains eight letters, the first of which is "M," she turned to her register and again began to read. It so happens that the proper names answering to the description are very few, and the right one did not happen to be on her list; so in a short time the greasy prophetess became confused, and slipped off the track entirely, and after asking about two hundred names of various dimensions, from Mark to Melchisedek, she gave it up in dispair and changed the subject, saying: "Now you may wish three wishes and I will tell whether you will get them or not." She then laid out the cards into three piles, and our reporter stated his wishes aloud, and received the gratifying information that he would live to be rich, to marry the light-haired maiden, and to effectually smash the dark-complexioned man. Then she said: "You may now wish one wish in secret, and I will tell you whether you will get it." Our avaricious reporter instantly wished for an enormous amount of ready money, which she kindly promised, but which he has not yet seen the color of. He asked about his prospective wives and children, with unsatisfactory results. One wife and four children was, she said, the outside limit. At this juncture she began to wriggle uneasily in her chair, and our considerate representative respected her "rheumatics" and took his leave. This conference, although the results may be read by a glib-tongued person in five minutes, occupied more than three-quarters of an hour, Madame Prewster's diction being slow and ponderous in proportion to her size.

Our reporter was attended to the door by the bellicose maiden, who seemed disposed to give him battle in the hall, but as he had remarked that she had a rolling-pin hidden under her apron, and as he was somewhat awed by the sanguinary look of her dishcloth, he choked down his bloodthirstiness and ingloriously retreated.

CITY ITEMS.

The weather is slushy, splashy, sloppy. Do we need to say more to give our country readers an idea of the condition of the city? We will add, so that they can fully understand the matter, that our streets bear a close resemblance to a farmer's barnyard that has been much tramped by cattle, in a thaw—horrid to look at, worse to wade through. Broadway resembles a long canal drained of water; and the horses, instead of working along a tow-path, are wallowing through the ooze in the bottom. It is intersected by other canals and lagoons, out of which the aligators and mud-fish are occasionally emerging and splashing the mud each side of their track. It is the first of the January thaw—it commenced on Monday; it grew to what we have described it on Tuesday; it will be—who can tell what, before Saturday night?

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—"Lucia di Lammermoor" is to be produced to-night with rather an unusual attraction in the person of Madame Cora de Wilhorst, a young New-York lady, well known in the fashionable circles of this city, and who has already gained some celebrity as a concert singer. Sig. Morelli will take the part of Ashton, and Sig. Tiberini that of Edgardo.

LECTURE ON GALILEO.—The Rev. John Lord will deliver a lecture on Galileo, one of the early martyrs to science, at Clinton Hall, on Thursday evening. Notices of this lecture in the Canada and Michigan papers are highly complimentary.

Frederick S. Cozzens delivered an interesting lecture last evening before the Mercantile Library Association. The theme was "Wit and Humor."

ANNUAL BALL OF THE NEW-YORK FIRE DEPARTMENT.—The Academy of Music was the scene of great brilliancy on Monday night, the occasion being the annual ball of the New-York Fire Department, in aid of the fund for the relief of the widows and orphans of firemen. The floor extended from the dress-circle over the parquet and stage to the rear of the building, presenting a depth of nearly 200 feet, and width of about 50 feet. At each gas-burner around the second dress-circle was arranged firemen's torches, trumpets and caps, while between these decorations were suspended in festoons, wreaths of roses and other artificial flowers. The third circle was also festooned. Another brilliant feature of the scene was the coat of arms of the Fire Department, constructed of jets of gas, and suspended at the rear of the house between the floor and ceiling. Above the coat of arms was a hemisphere, upon which stood a large eagle, with wings outspread, while above this again was a neat scroll presenting the words,

"New-York Fire Department Fund."

This entire piece was constructed of jets of gas, and was the object of much admiration. On the floor, and at either side of this design, was Engine No. 40, "Eagle" Engine No. 13, and "Pearl" Hose No. 28. These machines were decorated with flowers and ribbons, and elicited much attention. Two bands of music were engaged for the occasion, one for dancing and one for promenade. The house, so to speak, was a perfect jam, every available place in the dress-circles being occupied by ladies and gentlemen, who not only countenanced the affair with "material aid" but lent their presence in support of the festivities. So large was the company on the floor that dancing was almost next to impossible; however, the lovers of the Terpsichorian art seemed to enjoy themselves to a great degree.

At the supper prepared in the committee-room, speeches were made and toasts drank. The health of Mr. George A. Coit being drank, Mr. C. briefly responded, and spoke of the noble charity. He remarked that, as one of the Directors of the Academy of Music, he would for his own part have rejoiced to have allowed the house for the use of the ball without charge, but from the nature of their arrangements it could not be done. Mr. Coit returned thanks for the compliment to himself.

Ex-President Belcher of the New-York Fire Department, gave as a sentiment: "The native land of "most of us, England and Ireland;" to which Lieut.-Col. Rowan of the British Army responded.

Gov. Smith of the Alms-House, Ex-Chief-Engineer Anderson and other gentlemen made brief speeches.

The festivities were kept up until near daybreak, when the company separated, every one pleased with the night's entertainment.

It is estimated that there were between five and six thousand persons present during the night, and that, after all expenses are paid, about $5,000 will remain in aid of the "Fund."

DRAMATIC READINGS.—Miss Eloise Bridges gave a reading a few evenings since at Astoria, before a large audience, who were greatly pleased with the entertainment. She is about going to Washington, and other cities and towns in the South and West, to give a full course of poetical and dramatic drawing-room entertainments. Miss B., as the people recollect, appeared about a year ago at the Broadway Theater, and achieved a much greater success than usually falls to the lot of debutantes. Subsequently she played in many provincial towns with uniform success, and received very general commendation from the press. For the past few months she has been in this city, living with her mother, reading occasionally in neighboring places, and thus assisting in the support of a family left without resources on the death of her father. Whether she will return to the stage is uncertain, although her success would seem to warrant such a course. Her readings have always been highly commended, and it may be fairly presumed that the tour now contemplated will be pleasant and profitable, both in fame and the mere tangible reward which perseverance, aided by youth, beauty and talent, rarely fails to achieve.

Owing to the illness of City Judge Russell, the Commissioners of Police were unable to transact any business yesterday afternoon, a quorum not being present. The Mayor being the only member of the Board in attendance, adjourned the further hearing in the case of Capt. Russell till next Friday.

THE FILLIBUSTERS TO BE STOPPED.—We understand that the United States District Attorney has taken measures to arrest several of the more prominent fillibusters who proposed taking steamer for Nicaragua to-day. The warrants were issued at a late hour yesterday afternoon, but it was hoped that the Marshal would be able to arrest some of the parties in the course of the evening, and to get hold of the others this morning.

SPANISH COIN.—It is unnecessary to sacrifice the full discount named in the Government bill on these coins. Brokers will buy quarters at 23 to 24 cents, and shillings for 11 cents; perhaps more for large amounts. Houses in the West India trade are glad to get them at par.

SORE THROAT.—Sweet oil and honey, a tea spoon full of each, boiled on a sheet of glazed letter paper, over a lamp, about three minutes; give a few drops of it well mixed and as cool as the patient can take it—is a great relief for the extreme soreness of the mouth and throat, in scarlet fever. The above is not recommended as a cure for this disease, but in some cases where the throat and lungs were unable any longer to perform their wanted functions, it afforded timely relief and probably saved the patient's life.

THE HUNTINGTON TRIAL.—John S. Voorhies, law-book seller and publisher, has just issued an octavo volume of 480 pages, containing a full report of the evidence, arguments and charge in the case of Huntington, the forger, written out from the short-hand notes of Roberts & Warburton, law reporters. The importance of the trial, growing out of the legal questions involved, render the work valuable for reference.

Iron importers will do well to read the report in our law intelligence of a case that was tried in the United States Circuit Court yesterday.

MECHANICS' REPUBLICAN UNION.—The Mechanics' and Workingmen's Central Republican Union held a meeting at their rooms, No. 267 Bowery, last evening, in spite of the storm. Mr. J. K. Ingalls gave an address on Land Reform and Republicanism, and the Rocky Mountain Glee Club contributed some stirring songs. The Union has here a Free Library and Reading Room, supplied with a great variety of papers, open every evening from 6 to 9 o'clock.

REMARKABLE ESCAPE OF A LADY AT WESTPOINT.—Mrs. Major Delafield, wife of the Commandant at Westpoint, narrowly escaped a fatal accident last week. She was riding down to the ferry wharf, when her horse took fright, rushed down the hill, struck his head against a wall, killing him instantly, and threw Mrs. Delafield, and the orderly who was driving, ten or fifteen feet over into the water, fortunately doing neither any serious harm. The wagon, also, was entirely uninjured. The ferry boat was just approaching the wharf when the accident occurred, and the boatmen promptly rendered such assistance as was required.

CAPTURE OF YOUNG RIOTERS—TWO OF THEM SHOT.—Yesterday afternoon, between 12 and 1 o'clock, six young desperadoes entered the grocery and liquor store of Matthias Wilkins, No. 182 Monroe street, and called for drinks; but as they each exhibited evidence of having already drank more than was good for them, the proprietor of the place refused to let them have more. This course greatly enraged the gang, and one of them named Danl. H. Mahony seized a beer mug and threw it at Mr. Wilkins's head; he also broke the beer pump from the counter, and drawing a knife, threatened to cut out Mr. Wilkins's heart. Another of the gang named Wm. V. Cody struck one of the clerks in the face with his fist, and the whole gang then rushed behind the counter. Wilkins ordered them to leave the store, but they refused, and he discharged a pistol loaded with powder and buck shot at the party, wounding Mahony and Cody. The rowdies then retreated to the sidewalk, where Cody hurled a couple of window shutters at Wilkins. He then ran back into the store and attempted to seize the proprietor, but received for his trouble a gash in the hand which Wilkins inflicted with a knife. The rest of the gang then demolished the sash and glass of the windows, rushing into the store, threw kegs, milk cans, &c., at Wilkins and his clerks. The proprietor then again discharged a pistol at them and Cody was shot in the hand. At this moment Lieut. Blair and Officer Darrow of the Seventh Ward Police arrived, and took Cody, Danl. H. Mahoney, Henry Schiff and Danl. Mahoney, into custody, and they were locked up by Justice Brennan for trial. The two others escaped. The wounded prisoners were placed in care of Dr. Covel, physician of the City Prison.

HONORABLY DISCHARGED.—Justice Connolly granted a hearing on Monday forenoon in the case of the youth Thomas H. Culver, who was arrested some ten days ago on suspicion of having been concerned with a man named Roe in stealing silverware from Mr. Cook, with whom Roe boarded. There being no evidence whatever of Culver's complicity in the robbery, he was honorably discharged.

MORE GARROTING.—On Saturday evening last, about 7 o'clock, as a youth of seventeen years (son of C. W. Clarke, stage manager of the Museum) was leaving his place of business in Front street, and proceeding along Dover street on his way to the cars, he was seized upon by three ruffians, laid prostrate, and choked to insensibility, after which he was robbed of his talma, a valuable watch, and $7 50 in money, and otherwise ill-treated.

The first man who makes a cold and stark example of one of this class of scoundrels will be worthy of public commendation, and the Presidency of a "Protection and Self-Defense Club."

DARING DAYLIGHT ROBBERY IN MADISON-SQUARE.—About 4 o'clock last Saturday afternoon, as a young lady was walking through Madison-square, two fellows came up with her, and one of them whispered in her ear "Make no resistance, or we will kill you." The other said, "I want your muff and tippet," and without further ado he stripped them off. Both of the scoundrels then ran away, leaving their victim almost paralyzed with fear at their threats and audacious conduct.

ANOTHER ROBBERY IN OPEN DAY.—On Saturday morning a young lady while going through Eighth street had her portemonnaie snatched from her hand by a young scamp who got off safely with his plunder.

JAMES DAVIS IN COURT—HIS OPINION OF MINISTER'S MONEY.—James Davis, whom we noticed yesterday as picking the pocket of the parson's wife at the Norfolk-street Methodist Church on Sunday evening, was brought up in the Special Sessions, before Judge Russell this morning. He is only thirteen years old, well-dressed, and has an intelligent countenance. He pleaded not guilty, and persisted in denying the charge, though the evidence against him was as clear as the sun.

The Judge inquired as to his former character, and finding that he was well-known to the police as a professional thief, sentenced him to the Penitentiary for six months. The prisoner watched the proceedings with great composure, with a large quid of tobacco in his mouth.

When the officer arrested this precocious youth, he demanded "by what authority he was to be detained, and with what offense he was charged?" On being told that it was for picking the minister's wife's pocket his self-possession suddenly forsook him, and he exclaimed: "The minister's wife! If I'd known she was the minister's wife I would never have touched a d—d cent of that money—*minister's money is always unlucky!*" [Post, 27th.

REAL ESTATE.—The following sales of real estate were made yesterday by Adrian H. Muller:

1 lot S.E. corner of Broadway and 56th-st., 25.9x97	$4,025
1 lot adjoining, on Broadway, 25.9x91	1,775
1 lot adjoining, on Broadway, 25.9x84	1,430
1 lot adjoining, on Broadway, 25.9x103	1,900
1 lot adjoining, on Broadway, 28.7x97	1,690
1 lot S.S. 56th-st., 97 feet E. of Broadway, 25x75	1,210
1 lot do. adjoining 25x120	1,22
1 lot do. adjoining, 25x118	1,175
3 lots do. adjoining, $1,250 each	3,665

FATAL ACCIDENTS.—Coroner Hills held an inquest yesterday at No. 317 East Eighth street upon the body of John Martin, a native of Ireland, forty-five years of age, whose death was the result of injuries received about ten weeks ago, when a plank fell from one of the upper stories of a new building at the corner of College place and Murray street, on which he was engaged, and struck him upon the head. A verdict of accidental death was rendered.

Coroner Connery held an inquest at the New-York Hospital upon the body of Dennis Corcoran, a native of Ireland, thirty-four years of age, who died from concussion of the brain, caused by being knocked headforemost from the deck of the steamboat Empire State to the pier near which she was lying, a hawser having parted and struck him. The occurrence took place on the 13th inst. Verdict: "Accidental death."

ROBBERY BY A FEMALE.—A woman named Margaret Young was arrested by Sergeant Jourdan of the Lower Police Court, charged with having, on the night of the 17th inst., robbed Francis Vincent, residing at No. 15 North William street, of $78 in gold coin. The robbery was effected in a house of ill-fame at the corner of Center and Canal streets. The accused was locked up by Justice Osborne for trial.

LARCENY ON SHIPBOARD.—James Mackey, an English youth, 17 years of age, was arrested yesterday by officer Smith of the Fourth Ward, charged with stealing clothing to the value of $140 from the schooner Sarah Benice, lying at pier 27, E. R. The clothing belonged to the relatives of Richard I. Winchell, who had died on the voyage and was in charge of the captain. The accused was caught in Dover street with the property in his possession, and he was committed by Justice Osborn for trial.

[Advertisement.]

WHITE TEETH, PERFUMED BREATH AND BEAUTIFUL COMPLEXION can be acquired by using the BALM OF A THOUSAND FLOWERS. What lady or gentleman would remain under the curse of a disagreeable breath, when using the Balm of a Thousand Flowers as a dentifrice would not only render it sweet, but leave the teeth as white as alabaster? Many persons do not know their breath is bad, and the subject is so delicate that their friends will never mention it. Beware of counterfeits. Be sure each bottle is signed

For sale by all Druggists. FETRIDGE & Co., N. Y.

[Advertisement.]

GAS, GAS—GAS FIXTURES.—Several new and beautiful patterns just completed. Call at our great manufacturing depot, No. 376 Broadway.

ARCHER, WARNER & Co.

[Advertisement.]

COLBY'S WET GOODS are drawing crowds from all parts of the city, and it is not to be wondered at, for such bargains as he is offering might not occur again in a lifetime. See advertisement under head of DRY GOODS.

[Advertisement.]

HERRING'S PATENT CHAMPION FIRE-PROOF SAFES, Nos. 135, 137 and 139 Water-st., and No. 5 Murray-st., New-York.

BROOKLYN ITEMS.

THE MURDERER LAYMAN.—This man, now confined in Kings County Jail for the murder of Cornelius Carman, preserves the same indifference he did immediately after his arrest. His mind, he says, is haunted by spirits, and for some days past he has imagined himself to be a theatrical actress who recently played in one of the theaters of New-York. He gives the same details of the murder he did on his examination, but appears to regret that his victim had no more money. He thought him to be a farmer who had been to the city with produce, and supposed he must have considerable money about him. The spirits, he thinks, deceived him, in order to bring about his ruination; and since he has been confined he imagines they have taken all the flesh from his body through his toes, leaving nothing but skin and blood. In answer to some questions put by a public officer the other day, he did not like the idea of being executed exactly, and thought he should plead Not Guilty on the trial. It is doubtful as yet whether he will be tried for murder. A medical examination will first be made as to his sanity.

THE NEW POLICE BILL.—A bill relative to the Police Department of this city has recently been noticed in the Legislature at Albany. Its principal provisions are as follows:

A Board of Commissioners to be appointed, to be denominated "The Brooklyn Police Commission," consisting of three members, who shall hold their office for a term of six years each, except that the Commissioners first appointed shall hold, one for two, one four, and the other for six years, to be determined by lot, under the direction of the City Judge.

The Board shall be authorized to appoint all officers and members of the Police Department, including the Chief of Police, Captains, Assistant Captains, Sergeants and Doormen, and the said Board shall have power to try all officers for offenses, and the decision of the majority shall be final and conclusive.

Every officer, policeman and doorman, by this act to be appointed, must be a citizen of the United States, of the State of New-York, and a resident of the Ward for which he may be appointed; and previous to his appointment, shall present to said Board of Commissioners a certificate signed by twenty-five respectable freeholders residing in said Ward, certifying that they have been personally acquainted with the applicant for five years last past, and that during that time said applicant has borne a good character for honesty and morality, and is of sober, temperate habits. He must also establish to the satisfaction of said Board that he, the applicant, can read with ease and write legibly the English language, and that he is a proper person to appoint to said office.

All vacancies shall be filled by the Commissioners in like manner as appointments are made in the first instance. The members of the Department shall hold office during good behavior.

The Police Commissioners shall have power to prescribe rules for the discipline and government of the Department, which rules shall be binding under penalty of removal or suspension.

In case of suspension by the Chief of Police of any policeman, he shall, within twenty four hours thereafter, notify said Police Commissioners in writing of the same, specifying the ground of suspension and the names of the witnesses to establish the charge, and the Clerk of the Commissioners shall give written notice to the accused to afford time and opportunity to be heard in his defense.

The Commissioners are empowered to issue subpenas, and compel the attendance of witnesses.

The Mayor, Chief of Police, or any member of the Commission, may receive complaints against policeman from any person, and forthwith communicate the same to the President of the Commission, to the end that the accused may be brought to trial.

Witnesses are to be examined under oath.

The Chief of Police shall from time to time detail so many and such policemen as said Board shall direct, to act as messengers of the Mayor and Common Council, to attend the meetings of that body, and preserve order in courts and public assemblies.

The Commissioners shall fix and apportion from time to time the number of policemen for each ward, in like manner and with like effect as the Common Council may do.

The Commissioners shall have power to appoint a clerk, whose duties are defined, and who shall receive $800 salary per annum.

The members of the Police Commission shall receive an annual salary of $1,000.

The members of the Police Commission shall be appointed by the Governor of the State, by and with the consent of the Senate.

The compensation of policemen to be the same as heretofore.

The Board is authorized to swear into office an extra number of policemen, to be denominated "special police," whenever occasion shall require.

The present police force shall be disbanded, and all the present terms of office of all members thereof shall cease on the first Monday of April 1857, at noon.

There is some probability that this bill will become a law.

The murder of Mr. Carman is yet enveloped in mystery. The Irishman arrested at Cypress Hills remains in custody. The reason for his arrest is that on the afternoon of the murder he was lurking about our streets, in company with another man. They were inquiring for a Poor-Master, and left the village to go to Springfield in search of one. The direct route to Springfield is over the road where Mr. C. was murdered.

When arrested he was refractory, and since has not seen fit to disclose his whereabouts at the time of the murder. He told, however, several stories, which have been ascertained to be false. He disclaims all knowledge of the name or person of his companion.

The report published in the New-York papers that a German had been arrested in Oyster Bay charged with the murder of Mr. Carman, and that he was identified as the person who called at a wagon maker's shop in this village, on the afternoon of the murder, and procured a club wherewith to keep dogs at bay, and that the club found near the deceased was identified as the club procured on that afternoon from that shop by this German, is incorrect in every particular. No such arrest has been made, and no such club was procured from a shop in this village on the day of the murder or at any other time. [Jamaica Dem., 27th.

A NEW PROPOSITION.—A communication was presented to the Common Council at the last meeting by Roswell Graves, City Surveyor, in which he proposed to relieve the crowded state of Fulton street by widening Bridge street one hundred feet wide its entire length; then to transfer the ferry boats from Main street to Bridge street, to run to Roosevelt and Gouverneur streets New-York. Or, to widen Joralemon street one hundred feet from Fulton avenue, and abolish the South and Montague Ferries, and to run the same boats from Joralemon street to their present landings in New-York. The communication was referred to a special committee of five, consisting of Aldermen Kalbfleisch, Fowler, Walsh, Pierson and Van Brunt.

BIBLE SOCIETY ANNIVERSARY.—The Twelfth Anniversary of the North Brooklyn Bible Society, which includes Williamsburgh and Bushwick, was held at the Reformed Dutch Church in Fourth street on Monday evening. Short addresses were made by the Rev. Dr. Brigham and the Rev. W. W. Holloway. Extract from the Annual Report:

During the exploration made one year ago, 2,117 families were found in the Eastern District without a Bible. Of these, 1,250 families refused to receive one on any terms. Out of 22 Churches 12 have contributed to the Society during the past year. The whole amount contributed is $800.

From the Bible Depository in Fourth street 462 Bibles have been given out and 110 sold.

LECTURE.—Theodore L. Cuyler will lecture before the Young People's Literary and Christian Union of Greenpoint this (Wednesday) evening.

THE SNOW ON THE TRACKS.—The moderate state of the weather yesterday caused the snow heaps along the streets to diminish in size, much to the relief of storekeepers. In some parts of Fulton street and Myrtle avenue the heaps are scattered so as to dissolve with more ease and rapidity. In Court street, however, near Atlantic, the snow was piled upon the railroad track to such a hight as to put an effectual stop to the progress of the cars. The police interfered and a passage was made.

FAST DRIVING.—Yesterday Charles Haist was brought before Justice Smith on the charge of furiously driving through Fulton street, to the danger of pedestrians. At first, it appears he obstructed the passage of other vehicles by driving very slow, there being snow banks on either side to prevent teams from passing. When remonstrated with by a policeman he urged his horse on a run. He was arrested and fined $5 for the offense.

A NEW GAS COMPANY.—A new association entitled the Brooklyn Consolidated Gas Light Company, duly incorporated with a capital of $500,000, sent a communication to the Common Council at the last meeting, offering to contract with that body to furnish the city with gas, and asking authority to lay mains, pipes, &c., throughout the streets. The communication was referred to the Gas Committee.

THE CIRCUIT COURT.—The Kings County Circuit Court was opened for the term yesterday before Judge Strong, presiding. The calendar contains 49 cases. The first on the list is the case of Lockett and wife against the owners of the steamboat Henry Clay. The plaintiff's wife was seriously injured by the explosion of the boat some years since, and this suit is brought to recover damages, which are laid at $10,000. The case has been twice tried before the same Court, and the jury failed to agree each time. It will probably occupy the whole week. The Court of Oyer and Terminer will be opened after this case is disposed of.

NEW-JERSEY ITEMS.

CHARGED WITH STEALING MILK.—Yesterday morning a man was arrested in Jersey City, on the charge of stealing ten cans of milk from the New-York and Erie Railroad Depot on Monday morning.

STABBING AFFRAY.—The clipper ship Comet, for San Francisco, being unable to proceed to sea on Monday, on account of the ice, several of her men visited Jersey City, and during the afternoon a difficulty arose between them and several young men belonging in Jersey City. It commenced in a drinking place and ended with a fight in Greene street, near Essex street, in which seven or eight were engaged. One of the sailors, named James King, was stabbed, but not dangerously, in the breast. William Kane was arrested for the offense.

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

IMPORTANT REVENUE CASE.

UNITED STATES CIRCUIT COURT—JAN. 27.—Before Judge INGERSOLL.

SPRING STEEL NOT GERMAN STEEL UNDER THE TARIFF OF 1846.

John Wilson Holdsworth et al. agt. Heman J. Redfield.

The plaintiffs sue to recover some $2,500 as the amount of over-duty paid under protest at various times. The final decision of the question on which the parties are at issue probably involves several hundred thousand dollars.

The article imported is tilted steel made from blistered steel at Sheffield, England, where it is known as German steel. The plaintiffs claim that it comes under schedule F of the Tariff of 1846, which imposes a duty of 15 per cent upon "steel in bars, cast, shear or "*German*." The defendant contends that it more properly falls within schedule E, which imposes 20 per cent duty on "steel not otherwise provided for." The plaintiffs affirm that its proper designation is German steel; the defendants, that it is spring steel.

Most of plaintiffs' witnesses were agents of English manufactories, where the article in question is universally known, according to their testimony, as German steel. Some of the defendants' witnesses, on the other hand, swore that they had never heard it spoken of as German steel in this country, till after the passage of the Tariff of 1846. The Jury were instructed that the only question for them to pass upon was whether the steel in controversy was generally known in the domestic as well as foreign trade, in 1846, when the act of Congress was passed, as German steel. If so, they should find for the plaintiffs, though it might have been equally well known at that time as spring steel. The Jury returned in a moment with a verdict for the defendant. For plaintiffs, Mr. McCullor; for defendant, Messrs. McKeon and Joachimsen.

SUPREME COURT—CIRCUIT—JAN. 27.—Before Judge DAVIES.

CASTLE GARDEN IN COURT AGAIN.

Philip French and Christopher Heiser agt. The Mayor, &c., of New-York.

This suit grows out of the old Castle Garden troubles, of which the public heard so much in 1854. On the 1st of May of that year the term of eleven years, for which the plaintiffs, who had used the premises as a theater, leased them, expired. They had been proposing and preparing to remove the appurtenances of their establishment when, on the 15th day of April, 1854, an injunction was granted by the Supreme Court at the instance of the Corporation, restraining such removal on the ground that the property was intended as improvements on the freehold, and therefore belonged to the Corporation as landlord. Subsequently this suit was discontinued, the gas-fixtures, stage-flooring, &c., being retained by the Corporation, after the expiration of the lease. The present suit is for the value of this property, the plaintiffs claiming $4,200 damages, with interest.

The Corporation now say that it was the intention of the parties in this lease that the tenants should fit up Castle Garden as a place of public entertainment, that it might continue to be employed for that purpose, to which appeared at that time the most profitable use to which the city could put it. By the lease the tenants engage to surrender with the premises "all the improvements that may have been placed therein by "them."

The property in controversy are described as "gas