COUNTY AFFAIRS.

First Meeting of the New Board of Commissioners—W. R. Burdick Elected Chairman.

Some Interesting Facts Regarding the Finances of Cook County—Bonded Debt, $3,625,000.

Miscellaneous Matters of Public Interest.

The first meeting of the new Board of County Commissioners was held yesterday afternoon. There was a remarkably large attendance of spectators. The full board was present.

The Clerk announced the first business to be the choosing of a temporary Chairman, and, on motion of Commissioner Conley, Mr. Jones was elected.

After the roll had been called, the Clerk stated he had received the credentials and oath of office of Messrs. Guenther, McCaffrey, Schmidt, Carroll, and Holden. These gentlemen were then formally invited to take their seats.

Commissioner Holden moved they should elect a Chairman by ayes and noes.

Commissioner Crawford opposed this as an unusual procedure. Their constituents elected them by ballot, and he would raise his weak voice against adopting any other method of voting. If his name was favorably used for Chairman, he wished his friends to be unbiased and untrammeled. The motion was evidently to cripple the free will of members by making their action public. The chairmanship might have been arranged, as he heard it had, in other quarters, but by dispensing with the ballot they were setting a bad example to the whole country.

Commissioner Holden said he made his motion in good faith, and maintained it was correct in theory and spirit.

The motion was carried by 11 to 4.

Commissioner Holden nominated William R. Burdick as Chairman. [Applause.]

There being no other nomination, the Chairman was putting the question, when

Commissioner Crawford remarked the proper way was to allow each member to vote for any person he pleased.

The vote was then taken as follows: For Mr. Burdick, Busse, Burdick, Carroll, Clough, Conley, Guenther, Holden, Jones, McCaffrey, and Schmidt, 10; for Mr. Johnson, Crawford, 1; for Mr. Lonergan, Herting, 1; for Mr. Clough, Russell, 2; for Mr. Crawford, Johnson and Lonergan, 2.

On motion of Commissioner McCaffrey, Mr. Burdick's election was made unanimous, amid applause from the spectators.

In taking the chair Commissioner Burdick said it would hardly be proper for him to say their action was unexpected, and that he was entirely unprepared to make a suitable acknowledgment. It was not unexpected, and in view thereof he had taken occasion to pencil a few words in reply. Mr. Burdick then read a paper thanking the board for their spontaneous action in appointing him Chairman. He laid no claim to special fitness, but trusted to their forbearance and co-operation to serve all classes of citizens, without distinction or discrimination. The bonded indebtedness, it might be interesting to state, is $3,625,000, made up as follows: $2,459,000 of 7 per cent. war bonds; $33,000 of 7 per cent. bonds issued to the Treasurer of the Graceland improvement fund; $25,000 7 per cent. public building fund, and $883,000 seven per cent. fire bonds. They were also indebted for a temporary loan of $100,000, which comes due about the 1st of April next. If their expenditures for the various institutions were kept within a reasonable limit, they should be prepared to meet all engagements and soon cease to be borrowers. The finances were not in as good a condition as might be desired, but as good as could be expected under the circumstances. The expenditures for the past year had exceeded the aggregate appropriations by a large amount; the salary system, which went into effect a year ago, had not proved as satisfactory and economical as anticipated, and the change of the law relating to jurors' fees added largely to their expenditures. Another reason was that a much larger amount of taxes for the year 1873 remained unpaid than in former years. When these facts were added together it would be understood why the former board found it necessary to make a temporary loan and leave the treasury low. The appropriations for the current year were made on the basis of last year's expenditure. He felt confident that with judicious and economical management they would be able to report in one year's time an improved treasury. The amount of revenue being extended for the current year is $1,275,290, or 40 cents on $100 valuation, $318,000,000. He recommended some action be taken in providing a code of rules for the government of the various institutions under their control. The County Hospital was the only institution provided with rules adopted by the board. He suggested for their consideration the propriety of abolishing the present contract system in the purchase of supplies. In conclusion he again thanked them for the honor conferred, and said although party organizations are indispensable to civilized government, yet in the management of local affairs party should be secondary to the greatest good of the people. By acting in accordance with that principle they would elevate their party, draw to its support their opponents, and make for themselves a record of which they would not be ashamed.

The rules were temporarily adopted after a short discussion, and suspended immediately afterward to take up propositions and resolutions relating to county affairs.

COUNTY CHARITIES.

Commissioner Holden then moved the following, which was carried:

WHEREAS, The disbursements of Cook County for charitable purposes now aggregate a very large amount, as appears by the following exhibit:

For Insane Asylum, year ending Dec 1, 1874	$93,504.54
For Poorhouse	64,059 02
For County Agent's office	172,639.15
For County Hospital	49,381.14
For out-door relief, outside towns	13,844.33
For State institutions, care of paupers	1,573.42
Making the total disbursements for the year ending Dec. 1. 1874	$395,802.60

And

WHEREAS, In consequence of the large number of men now out of employment, this board, in levying the tax for 1874, was obliged to provide for a larger expenditure for public charities during the coming year; and

WHEREAS, It is the bounden duty of this board to ascertain and adopt that plan in its disbursements for charitable purposes which shall not only prove the most economical, but shall at the same time relieve the unfortunate poor which are thrown upon our hands to care for; therefore, be it

Resolved, That a special committee of five be appointed, whose duty it shall be to examine into the present system of purchasing supplies for the county and the manner of distributing the same, and report to this board the result of their investigation, together with such suggestions as in their judgment will simplify and economize the system, and

Resolved, That the election of county officers be postponed until this board shall have acted upon the report which said special committee may submit.

The Chairman appointed as the committee Messrs. Holden, Clough, McCaffrey, Guenther, and Jones.

BOARD RULES.

Commissioner Clough moved the appointment of a committee of five to report on rules for the government of the board. Carried, and the following appointed: Messrs. Conley, Clough, McCaffrey, Lonergan, and Crawford. The Chairman was added to the committee.

PAY ROLLS.

A report from the old Committee on Finance was presented, recommending the payment of the regular and extra pay rolls of the County Clerk's office for the month of November, amounting to $6,481.93.

After some discussion the report was concurred in, and the board adjourned to Friday at 2 o'clock.

THE ATHENÆUM.

Monthly Meeting of the Board of Managers.

The Board of Government of the Chicago Athenæum held its regular monthly meeting yesterday afternoon in the rooms of the society, No. 114 Madison street. There were present of the Board Messrs. Murry Nelson, Wm. H. Swett, H. B. Cragin, Joseph Stockton, Ferd W. Peck, C. C. Bonney, W. R. Page, and O. C. Gibbs, Superintendent.

The Superintendent reported that the month of November had been a prosperous one for the society. The average daily attendance in the reading and chess rooms was about 250. The free lecture course had been well sustained with an average attendance, (including the lecture of Miss Willard in the First M. E. Church) of about 400. The present membership of the evening classes is as follows: German, 142; French, 44; English literature, 95; phonography, 24; drawing, 16; vocal music, 67; elocution, 37; Latin, 24; Spanish, 7; total class membership, 456; increase during the month, 85; number of pupils upon the piano, 11.

Class instruction in the gymnasium, by Professor Meyers, is given on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, at 12 m. and 8 p. m. A ladies' class in light gymnastics has also been formed, which will meet during the present month on Saturday at 2:30, and after the holidays twice a week.

Sociables had been held regularly on every alternate Thursday evening, with a constantly increasing attendance and interest.

Membership—One hundred and thirty-one additions to membership were made during the month:

The receipts from all sources were	$1,631.40
Expenditures	1,629.35
Balance Dec. 1	$2.05

Of the amount expended about $750 was in payment of outstanding indebtedness, and the balance on account of current expenses.

A report of the Library Committee that in view of the opening of the Public Library, which is free to every man, woman, and child in the city, it is not expedient that the Athenæum should make any further expenditures of money in maintaining a public library, but that its efforts should be expended in other directions, was adopted.

Recommendations of the Superintendent for a public examination of the evening classes at the close of the present term and for the opening of an afternoon lecture course after the holidays, were referred to the Committee on Lectures and Classes, with power to act.

After some discussion of the finances of the society the meeting adjourned.

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS.

First Meeting of the New Council—Matters in the Different Departments.

The new Common Council held its first meeting last night, at which all the old and the newly-elected members were present. The principal business transacted was the reading of the message of Mayor Colvin, a rather voluminous document, which is published in full in another column. The Council re-elected Ald. Arthur Dixon as its presiding officer by a vote of 34 to 1 for Ald. Schaffner. The remaining business done at last evening's session will be found in detail in the official report. At the close of the meeting the entire body adjourned to Race Bros.' oyster rooms, where some time was spent in pleasant converse over wine, oysters, and coffee.

The Police Commissioners have requested Superintendent Rehm to furnish them with a list of all incompetent sergeants, of whom it is said there is a quite a number. It is the intention of the Board to reduce them to the ranks, and promote worthy members of the force to the positions. The Board have also ordered the Fire Marshal to place a red light at all the water connections in the city so that in cases of emergency the water can be found without difficulty and delay.

The Board of Public Works yesterday notified the Chicago and Northwestern, the Cincinnati, Columbus and Indiana Central, the Chicago, Danville, and Vincennes, and the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Roads, that viaducts must be constructed over the crossings at Desplaines street, Halsted street, Milwaukee, Ashland, and Blue Island avenues.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Charles Bradlaugh lectures to-night in the Star course.

Lifeboat Lodge, I. O. G. T., will give an oyster supper at 46 and 48 North Clark street to-morrow evening.

Bret Harte lectures in Farwell Hall Thursday evening. Subject: "The Progress of American Humor."

Professor Matthews will lecture on the "Mock Pearls of History" at the Western Avenue Methodist Church this evening.

The sale of reserved seats for Bret Harte's lecture commences this morning at Jansen McClurg & Co.'s, 117 State street.

The ladies of the Educational and Industrial Aid Society will meet this afternoon at 2 o'clock, room 40, McCormick Block.

The Temperance Reform Club will meet at the Washingtonian Home Friday evening, instead of Thursday, as announced.

A regular meeting of the Academy of Sciences will be held this evening at 7:30 o'clock in the Library. Entrance 263 Wabash avenue.

The eleventh anniversary of the Washingtonian Home will be held at the Home, 572 West Madison street, to-morrow evening at 7:30 o'clock.

A series of tableaux and a musical entertainment will be given at Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church, on Indiana avenue, near Twenty-fourth street, Thursday evening.

The lecture at Grant Place Methodist Episcopal Church, by the Rev. C. E. Felton, on "How to Get Rich," announced for this evening, is postponed to Thursday evening, Dec. 10.

The Irish Literary Association will discuss the following resolution this evening: "*Resolved*, That the Latin races have done more for civilization than the German and Anglo-Saxon races."

Lyceum at Y. M. C. A. Rooms, No. 148 Madison street, this evening, "Free Trade vs. Protective Tariff," will be the subject for debate, interspersed with singing and essays and readings. Free to all.

The Lincoln Park Congregational Church Society commences a series of dinners to-day, and close on Saturday with a New England dinner. Ladies and gentlemen will be welcomed by them daily from 12 to 3 o'clock.

John W. Kreamer, whose peculiar history is so well known to many of our citizens, will deliver a free temperance lecture in the Fulton Avenue Church at 7:30 o'clock this evening. Something new and spicy may be expected.

The attention of the public is called to the advertisement, in another column, relative to the fair of the English Lutheran Church. A principal feature of the entertainment is the Scandinavian kitchen, which is managed by young ladies rigged out in the picturesque costume of the Northern European latitudes.

The Chicago Women's Temperance Union will hold a mass temperance meeting at the First Presbyterian Church, corner Indiana avenue and Twenty-first street, at 3 o'clock this afternoon. Addresses will be delivered by Miss Frances E. Willard, President of the association, and Mrs. Beal, Secretary of the Wisconsin State Temperance Alliance.

"The Government of Cities."

"The Government of Cities" was the subject of the lecture delivered by C. C. Bonney, Esq., last evening, to quite a large and a very attentive audience in the hall of the Athenæum, No. 114 East Madison street. The theme was outlined so as to embrace the general thought of government with reference to the charters of such corporations. The necessity of carefully compiling the laws by which centers of population are guided, and the endless expenditures and complications arising out of the inartistic, crude, incomplete, ambiguous style in which for the most part these are done, were shown. The lecturer discussed, as an evil against purity in politics, the assessment of candidates, aspirants for position and office at the hands of their fellow-voters. It was his opinion that, with a revised city charter, there would be no need of a Common Council, with the powers of the body now virtually at the head of the local administration. Their powers should be limited, and be about the same as those of the directors of a bank. This system would make it an object for responsible men to accept a nomination; as it was, gentlemen who were representative in the community preferred to remain outside the political arena. There should be another change: under the present regime no one was at the helm, no one had control of, or was responsible for, any misgovernment. The Mayor of the city should be vested with all the power of a governor and a sheriff, to be subject on the one hand to the Governor as to his superior officer, and on the other to be under the jurisdiction of the courts, in case he exceeded the duties of his office, and a legal process were necessary to enjoin action in any important matter. The lecturer suggested, among other evils needing reformation, the abolition of the board system, with which the city is overburdened. He would erect instead departments, at the head of each of which should be placed one responsible man, who should be held accountable for the conduct of his subordinates. There should be an improvement in the police system. Outside and beyond the present force there should be enrolled men in every section of the city to be called out for service in case of a great fire or a panic, or in any emergency, and these could be mustered and would be able to act as militia, in supporting the efforts of the police to protect person and property; and there should be at the head of the police force a man who could command the respect of all good citizens, who was capable of organizing as the general of an army his men, and whose whole bent and being were indicative of the soldier, the disciplinarian—a man who was not appointed by political influence. The lecturer concluded his remarks with complimenting the city on the possession of a Citizens' Association, believing that its labors were a movement in the right direction.

A New Departure.

Mrs. Harriet C. Spaight is the leader of a new crusade against the social evil. In times past this lady has combated the evil in a sort of negative way, by attempting to raise an outcry against it when the question was being discussed by the Board of Health a short time since. She now proposes to exterminate it, root and branch, if she can, with the co-operation of some ladies who are interested in the redemption of their erring sisters. Yesterday, in company with some ladies, she visited the house of ill fame kept by Lizzie Mo e, on South Clinton street. The were at first refused admittance by the proprietor of the establishment, but at the united request of the inmates the ladies were allowed to enter. Inside, the crusaders commenced to pray with their soiled sisters, sang hymns, and exhorted them to forsake the ways of vice for the paths of virtue. Mrs. Spaight told them of the Good Samaritan Home in this city, where they would be glad to receive them, secure them work, and render assistance in every other way possible. Some time was spent in this way. None of the inmates of the house were immediately converted, or even seemed anxious to alter the course of their lives. A few, however, there were who seemed quite affected at the efforts of their well-meaning and kind sisters.

AMUSEMENTS.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

Frank Mayo commenced an engagement at the Academy last evening and was greeted with a bumper house. The audience was very enthusiastic over "Davy Crockett," a natural consequence of the beauty and freshness of the play itself, the excellence of the acting, the superb scenic accessories, and last, but not least, the beautiful music composed for the play by Loesch. We cannot now enter into the merits of the piece, owing to the pressure of other matter, but would heartily commend it to the attention of play-goers as one of the finest products of the modern American playwright.

M'VICKER'S THEATER.

John Brougham produced his "Lottery of Life" last evening to a moderately good audience. It is a sensational piece, eked out with a good deal of "variety business" to make it go. The concert saloon scene is the most attractive part of the affair, the play itself being composed of the ordinary high-colored effects.

HOOLEY'S THEATER.

Robertson's charming comedy of "School" was given last evening by the stock company. It will be on the boards till the end of the week.

THE MINSTRELS

repeated their great specialty of "The Grand Duchess" last evening and had a good house.

CITY BREVITIES.

Santa Claus finds his sweetest charms and novelties at Gunther's.

The Water Works Investigating Committee did nothing yesterday. They are waiting to have the pumps properly packed.

The Coroner held an inquest last evening on the body of Marie Buker at No. 469 South Clark street, who died from the effects of a dose of morphine administered by herself. Verdict accordingly.

The number now applying at the Employment Bureau, 145 Fifth avenue, for work is largely in excess of the employers demanding their services. Much good can be done by engaging help at the above office.

A young man named John A. Bryan, a "drummer" for the house of W. W. Kimball & Co., was held in $1,000 bonds by Justice Haines yesterday to the Criminal Court. He is charged by Leonore Cook, a resident of Ashley, in this State, with seduction.

While Officer Carson was patrolling his beat at noon Sunday, he discovered the front door of No. 158 South Clark street standing open. The premises are occupied by J. J. Spaulding & Co., dealers in printers' materials, and the absence of loss to them is due to the timely discovery of the officer.

About 4:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon a carpenter named John Gibbons, employed on "Aiken's Theater," at the corner of Monroe and Dearborn streets, was struck on the head by a falling timber and seriously injured. He was taken to the Mercy Hospital and his injuries attended to.

The alarm bell on engine house No. 16, at the corner of Thirty-first and Burnside streets, is entirely out of order and needs reconstruction. It is asserted by citizens near to strike the alarm incorrectly and often fails entirely to strike. The attention of Superintendent Chandler is directed to the trouble.

Emma Jackson, a depraved resident of Fourth avenue, was arrested yesterday on a charge of perjury by Officer Longergan. She will be arraigned before Justice Boyden this morning. The charge is based upon the testimony given by her in a case before Justice Boyden recently, that Londergan had accepted her hospitalities, which was proven to be false.

The many friends of Howard Priestley, a prominent member of the Board of Trade, will be pained to learn that he is seriously ill from an attack of brain fever. Some six weeks ago he left for Europe, for an extended tour, but his sudden illness necessitated his immediate return. He is expected home to-day or to-morrow.

The Coroner held an inquest on the body of Milton C. Munger yesterday afternoon at the Eldridge House, corner of Washington and Halsted streets, who died early in the day, and returned a verdict that death resulted from paralysis of the heart. He had taken a dose of chloroform to quiet his nerves, and before aid could reach him he was too far gone to revive.

There are at present 3,200 families on the roll of the County Agent, and supported by his office. The applications average 140 daily, and the agent says the number is much larger than usual, though two-fifths are turned away. On Saturday, 311 bean tickets, 955 for meat, 3,650 loaves of bread, 5 cords of wood, and 46 tons of coal were issued.

John McMahon and William O'Neill will answer to Justice Scully on to-morrow morning the interrogatories he will propound as to why they depredated upon the goods and wares of M. Kane, who resides at the corner of Paulina and Indiana streets, on a recent occasion; what disposition they made of a gold locket, a revolver, and a quantity of cigars, and other facts pertaining to the felony.

At the annual assembly of Siloam Council, No. 53, R. S. E. and S. M., held Saturday evening, Dec. 5, 1874, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: John O'Niel, Th. Ill. G. M.; C. L. Foerster, D. Ill. G. M.; I. M. Terwillager, P. C. of W.; the Rev. H. G. Perry, Chaplain; Moses Gray, Treasurer; James A. T. Bird, Recorder; Levy D. Van Gelder, C. of G.; E. P. Hall, Conductor; I. P. Hatfield, Sentinel.

The alarm from box No. 213 at 5 o'clock on Sunday morning was caused by a fire being discovered in the two-story frame building at No. 669 West Madison street, owned by G. W. Newcome, and occupied by Rikop & Bros. as a carriage manufactory. The flames extended to No. 671 adjoining, owned by the same party, and occupied in part by the dry goods store of Tiffany & Co., and by the owner as an office. Total damage estimated at $6,000. Fully insured in the Globe, of Chicago, Western, of Toronto, and Illinois Central.

The suit of the former stockholders of the Printers' Co-operative Association against the *Tribune* for $8,000 has been compromised in favor of the stockholders for $5,000. The facts in the case are these: Before the fire an association was organized in this city called the Printers' Co-operative Association. After a year or so of prosperity it was consolidated with a concern of which Richard Edwards was President. Edwards then assumed control, and sold the material, etc., to the *Tribune*. Some of the stockholders of the former corporation, believing the transfer fraudulent, brought suit against the *Tribune* for $8,000, with the above result.

A meeting of the congregation of the Church of the Messiah was held last evening with the design of electing a successor to the Rev. Robert Laird Collier. On full deliberation, however, a postponement of the important choice was decided upon till soon after the time of the annual meeting at New Year's. Among the names prominently mentioned last evening for the vacant pastorate were the Rev. Dr. Hosmer, of Quincy; Dr. Dudley, of Baltimore, and Professor Swing, of the Fourth Presbyterian Church.

The New Sheriff and Coroner.

Yesterday Frank Agnew, escorted by a numerous train of deputies and bailiffs expectant, entered the Sheriff's office, which was surrendered without a struggle by Sheriff (now ex-Sheriff) Bradley, who gracefully turned over the keys and books and things, and then was appointed first deputy by Sheriff Agnew. Mr. Agnew began by making the following appointments:

Deputies—T. M. Bradley, A. J. Corrigan, G. Korn, Joseph Lawler, Charles Varges, Ole Lindergreen, T. C. Tierney, P. H. Smith.

Clerks—M. J. Gallagher, chief clerk; Charles Bradley, associate; Luke Agnew, clerk of the jail.

Jailer—Peter Hand.

Bailiffs—Adelbert Probston, C. A. Farnsworth, N. Hill, George Cooper, George Vocke, W. H. Longley, G. A. Dunham, G. B. Hutchinson, Henry Ostermann, Seth F. Hanchett, Edwin B. Langley, James C. O'Neill, Thomas Hood, Michael O'Brien, H. H. Scharenberg, James Bonfield, John McGovern, Jacob Nielson, —— Billings, James Dooley, Thomas Kearns, W. K. Morris, Joseph Conley, Ernst Hummel.

Mr. Bradley's appointment, as he stated to an INTER-OCEAN reporter last evening, is *not* temporary. He expects to remain throughout the term of Sheriff Agnew, to whom his long experience in the office will render him an almost invaluable auxiliary.

At noon Peter Hand took charge of the Hotel de Lockup, beginning with 215 boarders registered and more to arrive.

Coroner Emil Dietzesh also entered upon the lugubrious duties of his office on yesterday, Coronor Stephens turning over the books, etc., of the office immediately upon concluding the inquest in the Munger case, and Mr. Dietzsch now wears the silver star bearing the legend "Coronor of Cook County."

There are yet four vacancies among the deputies in the Sheriff's office to which appointments will be made to-day.

The Temperance Cause.

A regular meeting of the Women's Temperance Union was held yesterday afternoon in the Methodist Church block. The usual religious exercises at the opening were conducted by Mrs. Dr. Beale, of Janesville. Mrs. Charles Chase then took the chair in the absence of Miss Willard, who is confined to her home by serious illness. Mrs. Hall having read the minutes, which were approved with a few amendments, Mrs. F. S. Rounds, Treasurer, presented the following report: Total amount received since the organization of the Union in last April, $345.81; amount expended, $309.87; balance in the treasury, $35.94. This exhibit did not include several considerable collections made at temperance meetings and handed over direct to Mr. Murphy and other speakers.

The report was accepted. An amendment to the constitution was then moved, and, after full discussion, adopted. It creates a central committee of three, one from each division, who in emergencies have all the powers belonging to the Executive Committee of fifteen. When feasible, the President and the two secretaries of the union are to act with the new committee. An election of ladies to constitute the committee resulted in the choice of Mrs. Hobbs, from the North Side; Mrs. Case, from the West Side, and Mrs. Purington, from the South Side. On motion of Mrs. Jones, who feared the union was neglecting prayer in consuming so much time in matters of organization, it was resolved to revive the central weekly prayer meeting in the Methodist Church Block. The time for this was fixed on Thursday, that being the temperance prayer day all over the country. It was also decided to hold devotional meetings in each division every Monday. Mrs. Hobbs was elected Second Vice President, to fill a vacancy, and the meeting adjourned.

Another Artesian Well.

Myer's artesian well at the Stock Yards reached the dept of 1,220 feet yesterday when it struck water. The well is six inches in diameter, and four months were occupied in its boring at a cost of $4,105. The well was bored for the convenience of four packing houses, and gives entire satisfaction. The work was completed under the superintendence of James Caulfield, and flows 450 gallons per minute. He furnishes the following record: 33 feet to the rock; 235 feet of white lime rock, soft drilling; 113 feet of slate rock, very soft drilling; 45 feet of gray lime rock, hard drilling; 105 feet of slate rock, very soft drilling; 325 feet of gray lime rock, close, hard drilling; 110 feet of white sand rock, very soft drilling; 130 feet of white lime with white flint (mixed); 5 feet of white sand rock, very soft drilling; 60 feet of lime and flint rock, hard drilling; 8 feet of white sand rock, very soft; 27 feet of lime rock, flint rock, crystal rock (mixed); and at this depth, 1,196 feet, the flow of water was reached.

More Commercial Irregularity.

Yesterday Henry T. Thomas, of the commission firm of Reynolds, Corbett & Thomas, No. 203 Kinzie street, turned up missing, carrying off with him, as is alleged, a considerable sum of the funds of the firm, to which he leaves an individual indebtedness of $11,000. The firm suspended for $29,357, with assets, besides the amount charged against Thomas, of only $2,009. Consignors, Mr. Reynolds states, have, however, been paid in full where sales were made on their account, or by certified checks by him remitted them. Where sales had not been made the consignments were turned over to the commission firm of Bartholomew & Bryant, No. 191 Kinzie street, and assignment has been made to James Goggin, who will wind up the affairs of the firm. The liabilities so far as ascertained are $5,000 due the Union National Bank, $18,000 due Joseph P. Bonfield, and $1,500 due James P. Doran. Besides these there are a number of warehouse receipts issued, fraudulently it is claimed, by Thomas to various parties.

Attempted Suicide.

A woman named Fannie Zellahopie, residing at No. 116 West Taylor street, committed suicide last night by means of arsenic. About 10:30 o'clock she visited the apothecary store of Reifschneiber Bros., at No. 528 South Jefferson, and by false representations succeeded in procuring the deadly chemical. With this she returned to her boarding-house, where she administered it, and afterward repaired to No. 118, adjoining, and awaited its effects. They were not long in coming. As soon as it became apparent to the inmates of the house what she had done, they dispatched a messenger to Dr. Goll, who responded immediately, and exerted every means to counteract the effects of the poison, but without delaying her death, which occurred at nearly midnight. No cause is assigned for the deed, save that it may have been done while deceased was under the influence of liquor, to the use of which she was addicted. She was about twenty-three years of age, German by birth, and dressmaker by occupation. Nothing is known of her or her relatives, as she was unacquainted at the house where she boarded, and left no letters or papers to indicate any trace. The Coroner will hold an inquest this morning, when the cause of her rash act and other facts may appear.

Rational Medication.

Medication is only successful when it is rational, and it is rational only when it begins at the beginning. In other words, to cure a malady, its cause must be removed. Weakness, either general or local, is the origin of the great majority of diseases. Reinforce the vital energies, regulate digestion and secretion by strengthening the organs which perform those all important functions, and dyspepsia, constipation, kidney and bladder complaints, uterine difficulties, impure circulation, and the thousand and one ailments which are the consequences of debility, are completely, and in most cases permanently, removed. The best, safest and most agreeable tonic and alterative that can be employed for this purpose is Hostetter's Stomach Bitters. The experience of twenty-five years during which time it has outlived perhaps ten times that number of ephemeral preparations which have entered into competition with it, has proved to be unequaled as a remedy for all disorders accompanied by or proceeding from weakness.

Good News for the Million.

Yesterday afternoon the Elgin National Watch Company announced to the managers of the University Free Educational Fund, in the interests of which the children's mass meeting was held on last Saturday at Farwell Hall, that they would donate one of their elegant gold watches, to be given to the child raising the most money for the fund, the award to be made at the exhibition to be given Dec. 19 at Farwell Hall. Within an hour afterward the well-known house of N. Matson & Co. also made the brilliant offer of a splendid diamond ring for the same purpose. It has therefore been determined to give the child or youth getting the most money the choice between these two articles, the second largest amount taking the other. The exceeding liberality of these offers will be appreciated by all.

Cloaks and Velvets.

We shall open this morning a large, fresh importation of Lyons cloak velvets, from $10 per yard up. A very elegant velvet at $12, same as sold last year at $18. We have also a splendid line of laces and cloak trimmings, and have now open 200 Paris cloaks, which we will sell at half importers' price. They were bought cheap, and will be sold cheap. We have also a very large stock of cloaks of our own manufacture, from $5 up. A splendid fur beaver jacket for $10. Hotchkin, Palmer & Co., Nos. 137 and 139 State street.

Marvelous Beyond Precedent

is the effect of SOZODONT upon the whole economy of the mouth, keeping the gums rosy and healthy, the teeth in perfect order, giving to the breath a balmy fragrance.

If people knew how good Dalley's Magical Pain Extractor is for Sore Eyes, they would soon buy a box.

MURDERED.

A New York Journalist Assassinated on Saturday Night.

NEW YORK, Dec. 7.—George Hunter, one of the editors of the *Scotsman*, was murdered Saturday night in Thirteenth street near Fourteenth avenue. No arrests.

BANKRUPT.

Extensive Failure in Springfield, Mass.

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., Dec. 7.—Josiah Cummings, trunk manufacturer, has failed, with liabilities estimated at $120,000; assets unknown.

The ticket office of the Keokuk and Des Moines Railroad at Farmington, Iowa, was robbed of $400 while the agent was at supper Saturday evening. No clue to the burglar.

MORE TROUBLE.

An Encounter Between Negroes and Whites at Vicksburg, Miss.—About Twenty of the Former Killed.

Special Telegram to the Inter-Ocean.]

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Dec. 7.—The excitement here over the Vicksburg riots is intense. One dispatch says the negroes are marching upon the city from various directions, and that white troops have gone to meet and engage them. In one skirmish the leader of a negro squad was captured, and two others killed. The same dispatch anticipates fighting all over the county, and it is not unlikely it will be carried into the interior of the State, as well as adjoining counties. Numbers of tax-payers are flocking into Vicksburg from the country to assist the whites, and companies are being organized. Other counties will go to their assistance. The reports, however, are considerably exaggerated, doubtless, and the thousands of negroes marching upon the place will dwindle down to a negro funeral procession, headed by a fife and drum.

To the Western Associated Press.]

NEW ORLEANS, La., Dec. 7.—The reports at Vicksburg, Miss., in circulation last night, that large bodies of armed negroes were on their way to the city to take possession of the Court House, were confirmed this morning at 9 o'clock. The alarm bells were rung to warn the citizens. Business houses of all kinds were closed, and the whites, under arms, were marching out on the various roads to meet the enemy. The Court House is in possession of the whites, and the negro Sheriff is a prisoner. Great excitement prevails.

NEW ORLEANS, La., Dec. 7.—The following telegram was received at General Emory's headquarters:

JACKSON, Miss., Dec. 7.

Major E. P. Platt, Adjutant General Department of the Gulf, New Orleans:

Adjutant General Packer reports to Governor Ames, from Vicksburg, by telegraph, that a riot and fighting began at 9 o'clock this morning, that the militia are powerless to maintain order: that a mob has possession of the Sheriff's person and holds the Court House with an armed force. The extent of the fighting is not yet known.

ARTHUR W. ALLYN,
Captain Sixteenth Infantry.

The following is a special to the New Orleans *Bulletin:*

Our citizens were called under arms at 3 o'clock this morning. The negroes advanced on the city in three columns, and commenced attack on the Cherry street outskirts. They were driven back with the loss of four killed and quite a number wounded. One citizen was slightly wounded. The negroes are now advancing on the Warrenton road, and another conflict is momentarily expected.

VICKSBURG, Miss., Dec. 7.—There has been some trouble brewing between the Tax-Payers' Association and citizens and the county officials. The Sheriff was acting without legal bond, and the Board of Supervisors refused to order a new one, though the time for paying the taxes had arrived. Two or three other officials were under indictments for forgery and embezzlement, and the citizens, despairing of any relief from partisan courts, last Wednesday held a meeting, and in a body proceeded to the Court House to demand the resignation of the Sheriff, Chancery Clerk, Treasurer, and Coroner. All fled except Sheriff Crosby, a negro, and he signed his resignation. On Saturday a card appeared on the streets, signed Crosby, calling on all the citizens of Warren County, Republicans, white and black, to come to his aid and support him in his position. Crosby publicly and through the papers denied the authorship of the card, yet this morning an armed body of negroes appeared advancing on the city from six different roads. The alarm was sounded about nine o'clock and the citizens gathered en masse, armed immediately, and advanced to meet the negroes on Baldwin's Ferry road. The negroes were met just outside the city, on Grove street, about 200 strong. The commander of the citizens warned the negroes to disperse, but they refused, and immediately firing commenced on both sides. The negroes retreated about a mile and again made a stand in the old breastworks and house, but were soon routed. The loss in this engagement was one citizen, Oliver Brown, killed, and about twelve or fifteen negroes killed, several wounded, and about twenty prisoners. On Hall's ferry road about 250 negroes were found and routed after a short engagement, with several killed and wounded. Andrew Owens, who commanded the negroes on Baldwin's Ferry road, was captured and committed to jail. In an interview with a *Herald* reporter, Owens said he was ordered by Sheriff Crosby to come to the city to-day, with all the armed men he could get together. Alex Stockhouse, from Newton, one of the captured negroes, says the order for all the negroes to come to Vicksburg this morning was read in church Sunday. Crosby, who is under guard at the Court House, denies that he gave such orders. It is reported this evening that the negroes are committing depredations in the country. The intense excitement that prevailed this morning has subsided to a great degree, yet many citizens are under arms, and all the roads picketed. At a public meeting this evening the following was adopted:

Resolved, That while we are fully satisfied that Peter Crosby has caused armed negroes to march on the city, and should therefore be held mainly responsible for all the blood that has been shed, we recommend all good citizens to abstain from inflicting any personal violence upon him, and that we will use still further efforts to have him removed from office in some legal manner.

The latest evidence, just received, renders it absolutely certain that Governor Ames and his Attorney General, George E. Harris, incited and advised the invasion of this city by the negroes to-day. This evidence has been laid before the ablest lawyers of the city with a view to arresting and bringing these parties to this city for trial.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

FRANCE.

A NEW MINISTRY.

PARIS, Dec. 7.—Information has been received from sources which are entitled to credit that President MacMahon has decided to form a new ministry at the end of January—one which will give hearty support to the Constitutional bills. It is intimated that the Duke de Broglie will become a member of the new cabinet, and General Cissey, Minister of War, will resign when the bill on military cadres is passed.

THE ASSEMBLY.

The idea of a partial renewal of the Assembly by periodical elections is gaining ground among all parties, and a motion to that effect will probably be soon introduced.

The Qurian of the Assembly charged with investigating the validity of M. Bourgoing's election in the department of Nievre have requested M. Tailhand, Minister of Justice, to furnish documents in his possession relative to the Bonapartist election committee. This the Minister refuses to do. Should he persist in his refusal the bureau will refer the matter to the Assembly, which would produce a Cabinet crisis. It is reported that General Cissey, Minister of War, has reconsidered his intention of resigning, a compromise having been effected in the matter of military cadres.

LONDON, Dec. 8.—A Paris telegram to the *Standard* says the Assembly will adjourn on the 19th inst. until Jan. 11.

REPORT OF A COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY.

A committee appointed to inquire into the operations of the army in the east of France during the late war, reported to the assembly to-day. They condemn Garibaldi for quitting his command toward the close of the war without leave, and say if he was a French General he should be tried by a court-martial.

SPAIN.

A FAINT-HEARTED BISHOP.

MADRID, Dec. 7.—The Bishop of Urgel, until lately an adherent of Don Carlos, has written a letter announcing his abandonment of the Carlist cause, and stating that he has advised Don Alphonso to take the same course. He declares he will remain in his diocese, even if the Republican troops regain possession.

THE WAR.

SANTANDER, Dec. 7.—Advices from the Carlist general headquarters have been received. General Dorregaray has returned there, and been appointed to the command of the Army of the Center. General Tristany commands in the North. It is expected that Marshal Serrano will order a general attack on the Carlist lines in Navarre.

GREAT BRITAIN.

THE INTERNATIONAL LAW CONFERENCE.

LONDON, Dec. 7.—The *Times* states that England, in reply to Russia's invitation to attend the international law conference to be reopened at St. Petersburg, has declared her willingness to do so, but regrets that she is unable to anticipate any practical result of its deliberations.

STRIKE OF MILL OPERATIVES.

The operatives in the Dundee jute mills, to the number of 3,000, struck work in consequence of a reduction in wages.

GERMANY.

THE ALSACE-LORRAINE DEPUTIES.

BERLIN, Dec. 7.—The Reichstag has decided to ignore the refusal of the Deputies from Alsace and Lorraine to serve in the Committee on Budget and Loan Bills for those provinces.

MEXICO.

PROMULGATION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION.

CITY OF MEXICO, Dec. 3.—Articles of amendment to the Constitution making changes in Congress and creating a Senate having passed Congress, were solemnly promulgated as the law of the land, with firing of cannon, ringing of bells, and a grand military review by the President.

CHURCH AND STATE.

Debate is now progressing in Congress on a bill restricting the powers of the Roman Catholic Church. One clause provides for a complete separation of church and state, and another for the expulsion of the sisters of charity from the republic.

THE NETHERLANDS.

TRANSFERRED.

THE HAGUE, Dec. 7.—M. Bernhard de Westenberg, Minister Resident of the Netherlands at Washington, has been transferred to the Dutch Legation at Rome.

CHINA.

THE FORMOSA DIFFICULTY.

HONG KONG, Dec. 7.—The Japanese troops retired from the island of Formosa on the 3d inst.

RAILWAY NEWS.

THE ATCHISON, TOPEKA, AND SANTA FE.

NEW YORK, Dec. 7.—A suit has been brought by Henry W. Depley against the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad Company, George Opdyke & Co.,