THE CITY.

GENERAL NEWS.

The temperature yesterday, as observed by Manasse, optician, 88 Madison street (TRIBUNE building), was at 8 a. m., 35 degrees; 10 a. m., 35; 12 m., 35; 3 p. m., 34; 8 p. m., 33.

Young Ford, who shot himself last Monday evening, was still alive at 12 o'clock last night, and, as he was then breathing more freely and resting easier than at any time since the occurrence, some little hopes are entertained for his recovery.

A match game of foot-ball was played yesterday on the Chicago White Stocking grounds between the Chicago Foot-Ball Club and the Athletic Club of St. Ignatius College. After contesting for an hour and a half, the result at the end stood one to one. The next game will be played Thursday.

At the last meeting of the Board of Education the subject of geometrical drawing in the schools was discussed and referred to the Committee on Text-Books. At a meeting of this Committee held Wednesday evening it was agreed to report to the Board in favor of laying the matter of "Smith's Geometrical Drawings" over until spring, when the whole course of text-books will be ripped up and put together again, as is the custom. At the same meeting the Committee agreed to recommend that the Board buy certain of the common text-books by the quantity at wholesale rates. If this were done, a saving of 40 per cent on the retail price, or some $40,000 a year, would be effected.

MR. ADAMS' OPINION.

By dropping out a few words in one paragraph of Assistant Corporation Counsel Adams' opinion on Tilley's letter, published in yesterday's TRIBUNE, the meaning of the writer was left somewhat obscure. As printed the sentence read: "However this may be, the agreement upon a plan by the Board of County Commissioners is the substantial thing to be looked to," etc. It should have been: "However this may be, the agreement upon a plan by the Board of Public Works and the Board of County Commissioners is the substantial thing to be looked to," etc.

THE REV. W. M. HOPKINS.

A reception was given to the Rev. William H. Hopkins, the new Rector of St. John's, last night in the basement of that church, corner of Ashland avenue and Madison street. Almost the entire congregation turned out to greet their future spiritual guardian, and quite an agreeable time was spent. Mr. Hopkins was formerly Rector of Grace Church, Watertown, N. Y. He received a unanimous call to St. John's a few weeks ago, and, as that parish offered a wider sphere of usefulness, decided to accept it. His first sermon, which made a very favorable impression, was preached Sunday morning. Bishop Huntington, of Central New York, entertains a high opinion of his character and attainments. In a letter to a prominent parishioner of St. John's, the Bishop says: "He has a fine presence and voice, dignity and ease of manner, is sensible and agreeable, keeps out of difficulty, has no nonsense about him, never intermeddles out of his sphere, and, so far as I know, is not wanting in activity." This does not appear too high praise. Since his arrival in the city considerable interest has been revived in St. John's Parish, and there is great promise of future activity. Mr. Hopkins stays with C. H. Jordan, No. 603 Jackson street, until his arrangements are completed.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO.

It is pleasant to know arrangements have just been made by which the University is relieved of its immediate and more pressing burdens. The Union Mutual Life Insurance Company is the holder of all the bonded indebtedness of the University, amounting, together with accrued interest, to about $82,000, and both Dr. Boone, the financial agent of that Company, and the Finance Committee deny that they are or have been taking any steps to foreclose the trust-deed. The loan to the University was originally $100,000, but part of it has been paid by the sale of land, and the Company announces itself ready and willing to loan more, should the University desire it. At a meeting of some of the Trustees, held to devise ways to meet the floating indebtedness of some $12,000 or $15,000, it was suggested that it might be best to make an additional loan sufficient to cover this amount, but nothing definite has as yet been done in that direction.

The Treasurer of the institution states that he pais the Professors and tutors in full, a few days ago, for their last quarter's salaries, and that there are only due some small balances to certain officers who have not chosen to draw the full amount due them.

THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

THE SECOND MEETING

of the new County Board was held yesterday afternoon, all the members being present.

Mr. Holden presented the report of a Special Committee on Rules for the government of the Board meetings, which was a duplicate of the rules of the past year, with a few immaterial alterations or transpositions.

The report was adopted without dissent.

The Chairman submitted a list of

THE STANDING COMMITTEES

of the Board for the ensuing year, as follows:

Finance—Holden, Lonergan, Herting, Tabor, Johnson.

Judiciary—Tabor, McCaffrey, Cleary.

Equalization of Taxes—Busse, Guenther, Holden, Ayars, Burdick.

Public Records—Mulloy, Holden, Carroll.

City Relations—Carse O, Mulloy, Burdick.

Public Charities—Mc. Caffrey, Lonergan, Holden, Herting, Carroll.

Public Buildings—Lonergan, Schmidt, Conly, Guenther, Johnson.

Hospitals—Cleary, Conly, Schmidt, Busse Mulloy.

Education—Guenther, Herting, Burdick.

Roads and Bridges—Guent. ver, Busse, Tabor.

Town and Town Accounts—Ayars, Guenther, Busse, Conly, Tabor.

Licenses—Burdick, Mulloy, Cleary.

Public Service—Conly, Carroll, McCaffrey, Schmidt, Cleary.

Jail and Jail Accounts—Schmidt, Conly, McCaffrey, Mulloy, Ayars.

Printing and Stationery—Herting, Lonergan, Mulloy, Ayars, Burdick.

The report of ex-County-Treasurer Miller for the past quarter and for the year was read. It made the following exhibit of

THE COUNTY FINANCES

for the year ending Dec. 6, 1875:

RECEIPTS.	
Balance on hand, Dec. 1, 1874	$ 87,361.07
Received from Thomas Mackin, for material around old Court-House	2,639.80
S. L. Rhodes, rent Court-House square	333.31
John Jones, for old matting	9.55
C. P. Perlstat, for boiler	1,710.00
Jacob Cross, Circuit Court fees	16,164.20
Warden County Hospital	871.00
A. J. Doyle, Criminal Court fees	286.28
County Collector, for costs	24,136.26
James Stewart, Recorder's office fees	15,052.22
Herman Lieb, County Clerk fees	15,289.93
T. Bradley, late Sheriff	5,065.95
Bondsmen of J. B. Walsh, tax of 1872	5,014.64
Board of Alford at Insane Asylum	153.71
Mutual Security Insurance Company, insurance on old Court-House	175.00
George Kimberly, Warden Insane Asylum	201.33
For tavern licenses	2,500.00
Peddlers' licenses	50.00
Temporary loans	200,000.00
Tax of 1873 and prior years	9,694.33
Tax of 1874	733,893.40
Total	$1,152,196.14
EXPENDITURES.	
Paid on county orders	$ 881,000.80
Juror certificates, Superior Court	22,241.40
Juror certificates, Circuit Court	19,780.00
Juror certificates, Criminal Court	20,478.95
Juror certificates, Criminal Court	2,176.72
Juror certificates, County Court	7,995.00
Juror certificates, Coroner's inquests	668.17
Witness fees	100,000.00
Temporary loans	12,985.57
Interest on temporary loans	6,826.40
Commissions	
Total	$1,076,567.61
Balance on hand Dec. 6, 1875	$ 85,628.53
BONDED INDEBTEDNESS.	
Seven per cent war bonds, due May, 1880	$1,159,000.00
Seven per cent war bonds, due May, 1885	958,000.00
Seven per cent war bonds, due May, 1890	342,000.00
Public building bonds, due May, 1889	250,000.00
Fire bonds due 1892	1,050,000.00
Bond issued to the Treasurer of the Trustees of the Graceland Cemetery Improvement fund, due May 1, 1892	33,000.00
Total bonded indebtedness	$3,792,000.00
TEMPORARY LOANS.	
Loan of Merchants' National Bank, at 6 per cent, due May 11, 1876	$ 100,000.00
Loan of Merchants' Savings Loan & Trust Company, 8 per cent, due July 11, 1876	100,000.00
Total	$ 200,000.00
Total debt	$3,992,000.00
Amount of fire bonds not sold	$ 450,000.00

Mr. Miller's report as Collector made the following exhibit of receipts:

To amount of tax on real and personal property	$1,270,108.77
To amount of tax of 1873 and prior years, and interest due on forfeited and other property	120,227.75
To surplus tax on real property paid by different claimants	55.68
To amount collected since the list of uncollected taxes was copied	283.02
To tax of 1873 and prior years collected, not charged in tax-warrants of 1874	14,019.86
Total amount charged to County Collector	$1,404,700.63

Among the items of credits the report showed $110,550.05 of the taxes on personal property had been forfeited to the State.

Mr. Holden moved the reference of the report to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. Burdick moved that the Committee be instructed to ascertain from the County Treasurer the amount of moneys that he had received as County Treasurer and Collector outside of his legal salary.

Mr. Holden contended that the motion was out of order, but would properly come under the head of resolutions, etc.

The Chair sustained Mr. Holden, and the report was referred.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A report was read from the Map Department showing the progress of the work. Referred to the Committee on Public Records.

A communication was read from the contractors for roofing the new County Hospital, notifying the Board that they would claim damages for delays. Referred to the Joint Committee on Hospital and Public Buildings.

A communication from Judge Gary, making recommendations as to the necessary clerks for the office of Clerk of the Superior Court, was read and referred to the Committee on Public Service.

Bills and petitions were then read and properly referred, after which the Board adjourned until Monday at 2 o'clock.

POLITICAL.

THE JUDICIAL ELECTION.

The following notices have been issued relative to the Convention to be held Monday to nominate a successor to Judge McAllister:

The Republican County Convention that assembled the 19th day of October last is requested to meet at the headquarters, northeast corner of Clark and Lake streets, Saturday, Dec. 11, at 1 o'clock p. m., for the purpose of selecting eighty delegates from Cook County to attend the Judicial Convention called to meet on Monday, Dec. 13, for the purpose of nominating a candidate for Judge of the Supreme Court to fill the vacancy in the Seventh Judicial District. Each delegate to the County Convention is requested to be present.

PER ORDER OF THE COOK COUNTY REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

At a joint meeting of the several County Republican Committees of Lake, Du Page, Will, Kankakee, and Cook Counties,—said counties comprising the Seventh Judicial District of the State,—it was resolved to hold a Republican Convention at the rooms northeast corner Clark and Lake streets, in the City of Chicago, on Monday, Dec. 13, at 1 o'clock p. m., for the purpose of nominating a candidate for Judge of the Supreme Court, to fill the vacancy existing in such district. The number of delegates from each county to be as follows: Cook County, 61; Will, 11; Kankakee, 7.

PER ORDER OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE.

WARD MEETINGS.

A large meeting of the Tenth Ward Republican Club was held Wednesday evening at No. 229 West Madison street. The meeting was called to order by the President, William H. Thompson. After reading of the minutes of the previous meeting by the Secretary, Martin Conrad, considerable miscellaneous local business was transacted, and quite a large sum collected and paid to John Hoffman, Treasurer of the ward fund. The meeting adjourned to Saturday evening, Dec. 18.

Pursuant to the recommendation of the Central Club, the Fourth Ward Republicans have effected an organization, as previously reported. During the past week they have secured the fine store 960 Wabash avenue, south of the Woodruff Hotel, which they will formally open as the permanent headquarters of the Club Saturday evening. Joseph Medill, Franklin MacVeagh, and other citizens will address the meeting, and Frank Lumbard's Glee Club will also enliven the occasion with some of their most popular selections. All interested in the honest administration of our public affairs are requested to be present.

There will be an adjourned meeting of the First Ward Republicans at the Republican headquarters, corner Lake and Clark streets, tonight at 8 o'clock sharp, to receive and act on the report of the Committee on Organization and complete the organization of the Club.

All members of the Club and the Republicans of the Fifteenth Ward are requested to meet tonight at Nos. 274 and 276 Milwaukee avenue, in the basement, at 8 o'clock sharp.

LOCAL LETTERS.

RESULT OF A BLUNDER.

To the Editor of The Chicago Tribune:

CHICAGO, Dec. 9.—It has come to my knowledge that the cause of my incarceration has been so misconstrued as to render some explanation necessary, and, for numerous bona-fide reasons, I ask you to publish the annexed short statement:

In May, 1874, I rented and went to live in a cottage on State street, south of the city limits, but had not lived there many days when I discovered that my next-door neighbors were not such as I should like to have my family dwell beside, and accordingly determined to move from there as soon as I could find a suitable place to rent. In the meantime my disagreeable neighbors were making things as unpleasant as they possibly could, and, as a consequent result, a compulsory appearance before a Hyde Park Justice, and the payment of $15 and costs as a fine imposed on me by that legal luminary for having broken an ordinance of the famous township, was the first coil of the web in which they were encircling me. I moved as speedily as I could to a more friendly location, and considered that the sacrifices of money and time, and the annoyances suffered, more than vindicated the law and satisfied the exactions of my former neighbors. Not so, however, as I was soon after convinced by being summoned to answer in the Superior Court the suit of Isabella Terhune for $10,000 for defamation of character. To this I filed answer by attorney, and thereby put the matter at rest for a time, during which, however, I was approached by plaintiff's attorneys, who offered to compromise the matter for the sum of $300. This occurred at the Stock-Yards, where I was doing some business at the time, and, as the offer was not accepted by me, the suit, of course, went on, and was called up for hearing during one of the terms of this fall, when the plaintiff got judgment by default for $3,166.

When the case reached this stage no further action was taken until my name lately appeared in the city papers as bondsman for the bail of M. J. Cahill on a bond for $10,000. This sum was exactly $2,000 in excess of the bail given for M. J. Cahill's liberation, which was fixed by Judge Rogers at $1,000, with W. K. Maskell as the sworn responsible man on the bond, and I as technical unsworn bondsman to simply comply with the legal requirements of the statute, which makes it necessary to have two men on a bond.

The erroneous addition by the city press of the cipher to the moderately respectable sum of $1,000 at once transformed it into the "solid" $10,000, which excited beyond measure the unjust avarice and legal cupidity of my former neighbors and their lawyers (?). Forthwith they went and swore I was about to leave the country, and obtained a writ of capias for my arrest, and placed the document in the hands of an officer, telling him it was only necessary to apprehend me when I would. Immediately hand over the $3,166 in greenbacks, and, singular as it may seem, one of these lawyers accompanied the officer to my house on Saturday night to receive and count the money and release me from custody in consideration the roof. The greenbacks were not forthcoming as anticipated, and I was torn from my family and lodged in prison, —a prisoner without a crime, an injured man without redress, and a victim of injustice in its worst form. MICHAEL FOSTER.

WALL STREET REPORTS.

To the Editor of The Chicago Tribune:

CHICAGO, Dec. 9.—Would it not be well for the press of this city to look a little into the character of their financial telegraphic dispatches from New York, both "special" and public? Would it not be well to ascertain if the men who send these dispatches are not paid by stock-jobbers (as I believe) for the circulation of false and damaging reports, affecting the reputation of leading railroads? Otherwise, what is the meaning of the recent reports against the Northwestern? and why have the dispatches been so worded as to throw suspicion upon that road, even after President Keep has shown and proved that the reports were wholly without foundation? "Selling short" is an extensive business in Wall street. Having gotten out a long line of "shorts," the next thing to do is to put in circulation some damaging report, and break down the stock, so that these shorts-dealers or swindlers may cover their contracts at a profit. Some time ago these fellows made a raid upon Lake Shore, and broke that down. Last week they attacked Michigan Central, circulated a report (false of course) that there had been an overissue of stock, and "that great and alarming developments might be expected." Now Northwestern is attacked in the same way and for the same purpose, of damaging the road and swindling the public. Surely such things should not be permitted. If the damage were confined to the Wall street operators no one would care much, but the evil extends outside, and affects many other interests, and checks the growth of confidence in legitimate channels. Certainly the press of Chicago should not allow itself to be used in the interests of Wall street speculators. SUGGESTION.

FIRST COME FIRST SERVED.

To the Editor of The Chicago Tribune:

CHICAGO, Dec. 9.—The renting of pews at McVicker's may or may not be the best way to raise money for the Central Church. That it will not be as popular as the democratic method of charging a small admission fee, with no reserves except to first comers, is attested by the success of the Sunday Lecture course. It is safe to say that Prof. Swing will command a full house at any time, and the fear is that McVicker's will be too small rather than too large a place for all who desire to hear him. Let us make a calculation: Prof. Swing may count on an audience of 3,000, which, at 10 cents each for fifty-two Sundays, would give a revenue of $15,600. Deduct from this Prof. Swing's salary of $7,000, and you have left $8,600, with which to pay rent of hall, music, and other expenses.

This plan accomplishes all that is desired, raises a revenue with ease, and places the entire population on a footing of equality, which was understood to be the crowning excellence of Swing's new church. The only persons who should be entitled to any reserved seats are the fifty gentlemen who have secured Prof. Swing's services by signing the guarantee fund. To all others apply the rule of paying as you go, and first come first served. S.

WASTE OF GAS.

To the Editor of The Chicago Tribune:

CHICAGO, Dec. 9.—Whether the city pays for it or not it is a useless waste of gas to have the street lamps burn for hours at a time in broad daylight. It is no uncommon occurrence for the street-lamps to be ablaze for one or two hours after the break of day, but yesterday morning the gas-lamps on West Washington, West Randolph, and West Lake streets, and for aught I know elsewhere throughout the city, were not extinguished until exactly fifteen minutes to 10 o'clock as timed by myself and another person. If this waste be a loss to the Gas Company the latter ought to know it, and if it be chargeable to the city the proper officer should make a note of it as an offset to the Gas Company's bills.

Presuming that the city has to pay for this surplus waste, I enter my protest as a tax-payer against it. I sometimes think that the companies instruct the lamp-lighters to aid them in running up as large bills as possible against the city. When will the Common Council adopt Mr. Colbert's judicious and economical tables, and when shall we have a Gas Inspector to stand between the people and extortionate gas monopolies? E.

THE COUNTY BUILDING.

Sheriff Agnew yesterday took fifteen prisoners to Joliet, two to the Reform School, and two to the Insane Asylum.

The case of Andrew Johansen, indicted for the murder of Mary Ann Ryder, will be tried the first thing this morning in the Criminal Court.

The work in the Sheriff's office is rapidly increasing as winter approaches. The prospect is that the number of processes of various kinds will be doubled this month over the previous one.

The Grand Jury yesterday found eighteen true bills in jail cases. Several complaints were heard, the principal one being against Justice Eberhardt and a West Side Constable. The complaints will be examined to-day.

About noon yesterday the inmates of the Jail were inclined to raise a howl. The butcher who had furnished the porter-house steaks and rib-roasts failed to send over the daily allowance, owing to the depressed condition of his finances consequent upon having passed through the bankruptcy mill the day previous. The dinner came, however, but it was a little late.

MURRY NELSON CONTESTS.

Late Wednesday afternoon, after the reporters had quit the County Court, Murry Nelson filed his petition contesting the seats of Michael Mulloy and Patrick M. Cleary in the Board of County Commissioners. A separate petition was filed against each party. They were identical, each alleging the same state of facts. The bills contain sixteen counts, and set up all manner of fraud. The following is the substance of the counts in each petition: First, that in the different precincts 3,500 illegal votes were cast for his opponents; second, that there were votes counted that were not cast at all; third, that in the First Precinct of the Twentieth Ward Republican challengers were refused admission to the polls, these were Lewis L. Wadsworth and George W. Bittinger; fourth, the same was refused to William J. Howland and John Atwater, other Republican challengers, in the Second Precinct of that ward; fifth, that Simon Wallace, Charles P. Hollinburg, and James Donahue were thus refused in the Sixth Ward; sixth, that by such exclusion illegal votes were admitted for Mulloy and Cleary; seventh, that in the First Precinct of the Twentieth Ward the ballot-box was not publicly opened and exhibited before votes were put in; eighth, that in the same precinct ballots of legal voters were refused; ninth, that in several precincts the votes were deposited without being numbered; tenth, that in the last-named precinct there was more votes cast than number of legal voters in the ward; eleventh, that in the First Precinct of the Fifth Ward, 526 Nelson votes were not counted; twelfth, that in the Twentieth Ward, First Precinct, challenged votes were accepted; thirteenth, that in the First Precinct of the First Ward no poll-lists were kept; fourteenth, that in the Fifth Ward one or more of the voting-places were changed without proper notice; fifteenth, that there were various other irregularities, all to the disadvantage of the petitioner; sixteenth, that by a proper count the petitioner would be entitled to the election.

The petitions close by asking that the election of Mulloy and Cleary be set aside by the Court, and that they be required to appear the first day of the next term. Summonses were issued at once in accordance with the prayer of the petitions.

AN IMPORTANT QUESTION.

County-Clerk Lieb received a letter of inquiry from the Secretary of State yesterday, asking why the certificates of election of Commissioners Mulloy, Cleary, and Conly had not been forwarded to Springfield. The inquiry arose from the fact that it is not definitely settled whether Cook County is under township organization or not, and in counties not under township organization county officials have to be commissioned by the Governor. Gen. Lieb read the letter with a jesting smile, fell back into his cushioned chair, and felt that he knew a great deal more than Mr. Harlow on the subject. In other words, he thought he knew the county was under township organization, etc., and that he had done his duty in giving certificates of election.

CRIMINAL.

Michael Mahoney, a notorious foot-pad, was arrested last evening on a State warrant procured by William Healy, who accuses Michael of having held him up and robbed him of $20 while in front of No. 543 Clark street last Wednesday evening.

Mrs. Lloyd, of No. 10 Ann street, thinks it a shame that she should iron clothes for other people, who can find no other business than hanging around her doors and carrying off her clothes-frame whenever her back is turned. This was done last evening.

The case of James Mahoney, charged with uttering and passing $5 counterfeit notes of the National Bank of Illinois, came up for further hearing before Commissioner Hoyne yesterday afternoon. The evidence of guilt was sufficiently clear, and in default of $500 bail the accused was committed.

Mrs. Esther Norden, the keeper of a pawnshop at No. 979 State street, was arrested yesterday for receiving stolen property, on complaints of Robert Forsyth, of Hyde Park. The gentleman said that Nellie Costello stole the watch, and she also was locked up. Justice Summerfield will decide the case to-day.

J. C. Heed, of Prairie City, Ia., who was swindled out of over $3,000 by monte men on a Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific train, has been thrown into bankruptcy by his creditors, and his case is now going through the courts. Mr. Heed expresses himself very strongly about the swindle, and proposes to prosecute the monte men to the utmost extent of the law. The operators are now in confinement at Joliet.

Charles Noftz, the keeper of the house at No. 458 Paulina street, in which took place the bloody affray of last Sunday night, died from the injuries he then received yesterday afternoon at the County Hospital. His injuries becoming more serious, he was taken from the County Jail to the Hospital. Delew, who was so fearfully cut up in the same affray, is recovering, and as the other participants were but slightly injured no more fatal results are anticipated.

Wednesday night, a resident in the Town of Englewood discovered two men gathering up packages thrown from the Rock Island train which passed shortly after 7 o'clock. Since the goods were thrown off the cars above the station, the matter was reported, and the railroad officials are now trying to find out which one of their employes is in league with the band of thieves.

Justice Kaufmann yesterday committed Frank Bingham and David Goggin to the County Jail in default of $1,000 bail. They were captured by Detectives Whalen and Schaack, of the Chicago Avenue Station, and are accused of robbing a German named Charles Kulbe, while passing along Wells street near the corner of Superior street, last Sunday night. They knocked him down, cut his head open with a knife, and robbed him of $16 and a gold watch and chain.

An old gentleman named H. D. Schroffer, hailing from Englewood, was assaulted and robbed by three men last night while passing along Randolph street between Canal and the river. An overcoat, gloves, and $18 in cash was taken from him. With the assistance of two brave little boys he gave them chase until Officer Tompkins succeeded in capturing one of them, who was carrying away the overcoat. He gave the name of Michael Rooney, and was locked up in the Madison Street Station.

A man named Harris, a shipcarpenter, while going home Wednesday night was assaulted about 11 o'clock near the corner of Thirty-first and Halsted streets, by a rowdy named Anton Simon, who relieved him of $10. A policeman arrested Simon and took him in tow, when he was assaulted from behind by the thief's pal. Several other policemen were attracted by the noise, and the two were lodged in the station. Yesterday Simon was held in $500 bail to the Criminal Court, and a man named Hartford was fined $20 for interfering with an officer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The sale of seats begins Monday for the reading by Mrs. Scott-Siddons Tuesday evening.

The Cook County Principals' Association meets at 1:30 p. m. to-morrow at No. 113 State street.

The State Microscopical Society meets this evening at the rooms of the Academy of Sciences, No. 263 Wabash avenue.

A meeting of persons interested in Fulton street property, west of Western avenue, will be held at the corner of Washtenaw avenue and Fulton street, Saturday evening.

The sale of seats for the eloquent lecture on "The Life of George Stephenson," to be given next Monday night at Plymouth Church by the Hon. William Parsons, begins this morning at the box-office of the Star Course at Jansen, McClurg & Co.'s.

The Welsh Presbytery is to convene at their church, corner of Monroe and Sangamon streets, this evening at 7½ o'clock, when the Rev. William Hughes, of Racine, Wis., will preach. There will be preaching also Saturday evening at the same hour, and Sunday at 10 a. m., 2 p. m., and 7 p. m. Several ministers from Wisconsin are expected to be present. This Presbytery meets here only once every three years.

The Committee of Nine have determined upon a general plan for the renting of the sittings for the coming year in Prof. Swing's Central Church, which it is believed will meet the approval of all interested, and provide in a liberal way for all who may desire to regularly attend the services. The scale of prices will range from $5 per sitting for the entire year up to $20,—a very large proportion of the seats being under $12. As there is no need of more than enough money to pay actual expenses, the Committee having the matter in charge have been able to fix upon this low range of prices, and yet it is believed that enough money will be secured to pay the current expenses and no other call be made upon the public or any appeal even be made through that church nuisance—the contribution-box. Those who desire to secure seats for the year can see a plan of the sittings in McVicker's Theatre at Jansen, McClurg & Co.'s today and to-morrow, the sheet having marked on it the price of the sittings. The sale of seats will begin Monday morning at 9 o'clock at Jansen, McClurg & Co.'s, and "first come first served" will be the democratic principle adhered to,—not a seat being allowed to be marked off the sheet in advance.

THE CITY-HALL.

The City Collector took in about $3,000 yesterday.

The City Treasurer paid out $51,000 on the city indebtedness yesterday.

The Committee on Finance meets in the Comptroller's office this afternoon at 3 o'clock.

Water-rents yesterday were $3,394.88, and real and personal property tax collections $3,095.73.

The Board of Public Works issued vouchers for $12,444 to Cox Brothers toward the construction of the Milwaukee avenue viaduct.

It would be to the interest of every property-owner to see that his water-tax is paid before the 15th of the month, for thereby the 10 per cent penalty will be avoided.

The Mayor yesterday revoked the saloon license of William Murray and A. Conley, doing business at No. 124 East Van Buren street. The place has lately become the resort of thieves, and, moreover, the proprietors have repeatedly done business in a manner contrary to the city ordinances.

Certain Aldermen who were prominent in introducing the ordinance whereby all coal sold by dealers must be weighed by a responsible weigher before delivery, were fuming around the City-Hall yesterday morning because the ordinance is not being enforced, although it was not vetoed by the Mayor. The law is one the need of which has been strongly felt, they say, on account of the short-weight robbery which has been and is still practiced to some extent, and was introduced in good faith. The only reason for its nonenforcement is the excuse that it was not duly published in the corporation paper, showing a gross neglect on the part of those whose business it is to attend to such matters.

WEDNESDAY'S CONFERENCE.

The report of the conference between the city and town officers published in yesterday's TRIBUNE made Mr. Frank Adams differ from Mr. Tuley on the question whether Collectors could levy on personal property for the taxes due on real property. The report was erroneous. Mr. Adams does not think lawyers can differ on the question, as the statute is plain that such a levy can be made. He was also reported as saying that, after deducting $1,500 from 2 per cent of the taxes collected, the balance of the 2 per cent was to be paid into the town or district treasury. His opinion was precisely the reverse of that, viz., that no part of the city tax could legally be paid into a town or district treasury.

GUBERNATORIAL INAUGURATION.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 9.—Gov. Irwin was inaugurated to-day with the usual ceremonies. In his inaugural he urged the Legislature to bring the influence of the State to bear on the General Government to procure a modification of the treaty with China with a view to the restriction of Chinese immigration. Also that the State should demand the return of the country to specie payments at the earliest possible moment.

SICK OF "THE TWO ORPHANS."

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Dec. 9.—The McKee Rankin combination, which has been playing "The Two Orphans" at the Opera-House, has come to grief, their baggage and effects being attached to-day by the landlord of a hotel, a newspaper establishment, and a bill-poster, thus bringing their engagement to an end.

Dr. Howe.

This is the last day but one to get advice and an examination of your lungs "free of charge" by Dr. Howe, proprietor of the Arabian medicines, now at the Matteson House. His medicines are sold by our leading druggists.

Musical Boxes,

richly bound music books, music folios, music racks, piano stools and covers, and other musical goods, suitable for holiday presents, at Lyon & Healy's, State and Monroe streets.

Just Think, 20 Per Cent Lower

than the prices of any other house in Chicago. Our new scale of prices for well made, stylish garments we know will induce you. Ordway & Newland, 209 West Madison street.

For Holiday Presents,

combining taste, utility, and ornament, go early to J. M. W. Jones', No. 101 Madison street.

Pianos and Organs.

Hallet, Davis & Co.'s Grand, Square, and Upright, and Smith's American Organs, can be found only at W. W. Kimball's, corner State and Adams streets, Chicago.

The Genius of Man

was never more successful than when Dalley's Magical Pain Extractor was discovered. It is the panacea for pain and skin diseases. 25 cents per box. 26

Lundborg's California Water

for toilet and bath; delightfully fragrant and refreshing

THE INSANE ASYLUM.

Story of a Man Who Escaped from Its Walls.

What He Has to Say About the Treatment of Patients.

Quality of the Food Given Them---How the Keepers Amuse Themselves.

The Way in Which He Escaped.

Many rumors have been current of late in regard to the management of affairs at the County Insane Asylum at Jefferson. The Medical Superintendent has been accused of neglect of duty, and the attendants of general brutal behavior toward the patients. It is difficult to obtain a correct view of the inner working of the institution from visits thereto. When county committees have determined to investigate matters, and have apprised the reporters of such determination, on visiting the asylum everything is found shipshape, and the officials seem to vie with each other in solicitous attention to the unfortunates under their charge. But there is something about the establishment which gives rise to the suspicion that this air of cleanliness and gentleness is assumed for the occasion, and that affairs are not so agreeable when visitors are not expected. A TRIBUNE reporter yesterday had an interview with an escaped patient, which strengthens this impression. This person is not insane, but was unfortunate enough to become an inmate of the Asylum. He is subject to epileptic fits, and while in one some four months ago was taken to the station by a policeman ignorant of his ailment, brought up for examination at the County Court next morning while still suffering from its effects, and remanded to the County Asylum. His experience is an interesting commentary on the treatment the patients receive, and may furnish food for the reflection of those Commissioners who make the institution a refuge for their political supporters, regardless of their qualifications or character. The interview was as follows, the name of the party being suppressed for obvious reasons:

GETTING IN.

Reporter—Mr. A., have you any objections to telling me your experience in the County Insane Asylum?

Mr. A.—None whatever, sir. I am subject to fits, and several months ago dropped down on the street in one. A policeman took me to the station, and next morning I was taken to the County Court and ordered removed to the Asylum. I was taken to Jefferson in the County 'bus, and on arriving at the institution was put into the bath-tub. This was my first experience of rough treatment. I was perfectly scoured by the attendants [the speaker has the appearance of a cleanly man], one of them scrubbing me with a hard brush. I was placed in Ward B, and next morning I asked Kennedy, the ward-master, to get me some liniment for a sprained ankle. The only answer I received was a blow on the head, which knocked me on the floor, and almost stunned me. I made up my mind then to escape on the first opportunity. The following day I was taken out for a walk with some other patients. I saw

A CHANCE TO RUN AWAY.

but was overtaken and brought back by one of the ward-masters. Two of them took me to the house, beating me all the way. Another ward-master came up, and saying "So you have been running away, have you?" struck me a violent blow on the face. This man then attempted to kick me in the stomach, but in defense I seized a chair and knocked him over, an act, I believe, which saved my life, for the fellow seemed very savage. Another attendant came and threw me on the floor, and then kicked me several times. After this I was handcuffed, and although I was sick from the ill-treatment I had received, was compelled to lie upon the floor of ward C, where they removed me.

R.—What class of patients occupy that ward?

A.—The worst and most violent cases. It is enough to drive a man mad to be put in there. It is nothing but screaming, and howling, and cursing all day long, enough to drive anybody out of his senses. I was put there to punish me, and it was as bad a punishment as I ever had, both because of the noise and because I had to see the poor crazy fellows beaten, and abused, and knocked around when they had not the sense to know whether they were doing right or wrong. I have seen a keeper jump on to a man and pound and kick him almost for a word. The window of the cell I was in faced the graveyard, and next day I could not help thinking that if I had died under their brutality I should have been dragged there with a yoke of oxen, and that would be the last of me. I was very sick, and could not help those gloomy reflections. I was in such a state that I thought I was dying. I was not permitted to lie on the bed, and was kept tightly handcuffed.

THE FOOD.

R.—What kind of food do they give the patients?

A.—In the morning we got a piece of poor boiled beef, some dry bread, and a cup of strong, miserable coffee. At dinner-time they gave us soup and bread, and for supper we usually got nothing but dry bread and a cup of tea. Sometimes they gave us dried apples, without sugar or sweetening. No salt was furnished us, although I understand it was in the establishment. Sometimes we got a little hominy.

MALTREATMENT.

R.—How did the Wardens afterwards treat you and the other patients?

A.—Their treatment was cruel enough to make the sanest man mad. Some of the patients were afraid of them, and used to get on their knees to speak to them. I saw more knocking down and kicking there than ever I saw in my life before.

R.—How long did you stay in that ward?

A.—About two months altogether, but I was not handcuffed all the time.

R.—What kind of a place is it?

A.—Miserably dirty, and the habits of the patients, who are the worst in the asylum, are disagreeable in the extreme.

R.—Did they give you any employment?

A.—Yes; I made the beds and did the cleaning up.

R.—Where were you placed during

THE LATTER PORTION OF YOUR STAY?

A.—In the upper ward, which is where the best patients are kept, and which is comparatively comfortable. There is a reading-room attached, but it is little better than a saloon all day. There are no books or papers, and no minister ever goes there to talk with the patients. The attendants make this room their resort, and play cards and curse and swear at a fearful rate all day long.

R.—Do the attendants drink?

A.—They do, but not openly. I attended to the ward-master's beds and saw empty bottles, dirty glasses, and the other signs of liquor-drinking every morning. Once a week they have a dance, which is attended by a number of females in the neighborhood, and a regular spree takes place.

DR. CUNNINGHAM.

R.—Does Dr. Cunningham devote much attention to the patients?

A.—No; he very seldom visits them. If a man is dying medicine is sent him by the ward-master. It is very difficult for the sick patients to get medicine.

R.—Did you ever tell the doctor of your own case?

A.—Yes, but he would not listen to me. I was kept miserably clothed, but when one day my brother-in-law came to see me, they fixed me up nice. But as soon as he left they made me put on the old, dirty rags again.

THE ESCAPE.

R.—How did you manage to escape?

A.—I had been planning an escape for several weeks. While the Wardens were playing cards and amusing themselves Sunday evening, I got out of the window of the bath-room in the fourth story, which had no bars on it, and slid down to the ground by means of a tin spout. I cut across the fields, and made for Chicago.

R.—Suppose a sane man is in there, how is he to get out? Will the doctor listen to him?

A.—It is a hard matter to get a word with him. If a man gets there he must stay. Besides, the longer a man stays the more liable he is to become insane in reality, for the treatment is enough to make any one crazy.

R.—How many persons have they in Ward C?

A.—About thirty-five or forty, all of the most violent kind.

R.—Do they put people in there to punish them?

A.—I suppose so; I was put there for running away.

R.—Were you beaten at any other times than those you have mentioned?

A.—No; I had to keep very calm and quiet. They could not speak civil to me, and regarded me as if I was a criminal.

VIOLENT CASES.

R.—How are the violent cases treated?

A.—Shamefully. They are not permitted to lie on their beds during the day, and any one transgressing this rule is kicked, handcuffed, and his food kept away from him.

R.—When a man is downright sick, do they leave him in his cell, or have they a hospital ward?

A.—There is no hospital, and he must remain in his cell. If the doctor wished, however, he could easily find a room in which to treat sick persons. The noise in the worst wards has a bad effect on those who are not well.

R.—Do they

WORK THE PATIENTS

who are in good health?

A.—Yes; a number of them work in the garden and as many more are kept carrying bricks. I think a great many patients are kept for their labor.

R.—Are the physicians aware of the manner in which the patients are treated?

A.—Undoubtedly. The time I was maltreated, Dr. Lawless was present, and did not interfere, but rather seemed to take a delight in what was going on.

THE WARD-MASTERS

are sporting gentlemen, and keep their boxing-gloves for practice. They like to deal with the crazy patients, as they can cuff them around to their heart's content.

R.—What kind of food do the patients receive Sundays?

A.—About 10 o'clock they get breakfast, and at 3 dinner, which are all the meals they get that day. A little hominy is all they get beyond the ordinary fare.

This man's statement seems to establish the fact that a poor quality of food is supplied the patients, that they receive anything but humane treatment at the hands of their attendants, and that the medical Superintendent is remiss in his duty. With regard to the first item, there is a strong suspicion of a steal being perpetrated