stantly showering benefits. He was forever doing good and begging the beneficiaries not to tell of it. In short he was held up as a heart of gold—and this, if anything apart from cheap photography and prurience was intended by the author, is the moral intent of the drama. Upon this ground the author may possibly justify to his own conscience the cruelty and ruthless greed which strike every fine perception in this serving up, for public amusement and private gain, of a murdered man, scarce cold in his grave, a murderer, yet untried, who lies in prison, and a woman who symbolizes one of the worst pests of society and one of the most loathsome forms of vice. Upon this ground, however, which furnishes his one single pretext of good intention, his play is even more objectionable than upon any other; for, in our time, there has come into prominence, in a way to attract the emulation of raw and shady youth, no character that united so much malignity, sensuality, effrontery, selfishness, and miscellaneous wickedness as were exemplified in Fisk. But, as just intimated, it is not the white-washing of a dead or a living offender that is the mainspring of the play of "Black Friday." What it offers is an exposition of those scenes of alternate knavery and licentiousness through which the unprincipled rich are supposed to wade, and over which,—intensely commonplace as they are, notwithstanding the carnality and the ice on a plate, and the half bottle of champagne, the vulgar mind loves to fling a halo of mystery. And if this sort of stuff is in place upon the stage, the sewer may just as well be turned on at once. They would probably do it at Niblo's, if they thought it would pay.

As a matter of record we preserve here the full cast of this remarkable piece, with the phrases descriptive of the characters:

Rob King. A man who lived and lost.....J. W. Collier
Dash Hudnam. A man who played to win.....G. H. Thorne
Sam Sims. A man of action.....J. K. Mortimer
Philip Rivers. A man who bought fame to address.....H. Morris
Nathaniel Bush. A man of money.....G. H. Morrison
Ary Black. A man with confused ideas of property.....A. H. Davenport
Roland Graham. A weak young man.....Miss Bessie Sudlow
Captain of the Bristol. A man who obeyed orders.....R. Pilsnell
Hiler. A Detective.....W. H. Pope
William. A Colored Servant.....W. Cooper
Winter Spearbrake. A woman of the world.....Miss Jennie Pratt
Rosey Bush. A sweet personal flower.....Miss Jennie Lee
Mary Graham. The sister we love.....Miss Fannie Morrison
Mrs. Graham. The mother we love.....Emma Skerritt

BOOTH'S THEATER.

Mr. Booth, returning from Philadelphia—where he has played to crowded houses, at the Walnut—came forth again at his own theater, last night, and acted *Sir Edward Mortimer*, in "The Iron Chest." The house was full, and the tragedian was welcomed in a sympathetic manner. We have not space for detailed comment on the performance, nor is such comment now needed. Mr. Booth's *Sir Edward Mortimer* is well known for a painfully real portrayal of a terrible mental and emotional conflict, in a sensitive nature strangely warped from manliness and rectitude. Its power and pathos had their due effect, last evening, and the general representation was seen with pleasure, and rewarded with applause. "The Iron Chest" will be repeated to-night and to-morrow night.

MUSIC.

ITALIAN OPERA—MARTHA.

The performance of "Martha" last night was remarkable first for the unusually beautiful singing of Madame Parepa-Rosa, and secondly for the delightful vocalism of Mr. Santley. Though Mr. Wachtel's *Lionel* was enthusiastically applauded, abounding as it did in *tours de force* and lofty flights above the score, it must be admitted that the tenor was not in good voice. He was very often flat, and his share in the various quartets was not remarkable for neatness. In the "Solo profugo" duet, however, the general effect was excellent, and the piece was redemanded. If Wachtel was somewhat below his own standard, Madame Rosa was equally above hers. The part of *Lady Henrietta* has always been a favorite one with her, and we have repeatedly praised the vivacity and grace with which she performs it. We have only to add to these general commendations that last night her voice seemed to be more than commonly pure and sweet, and her delivery exquisite. No one ever sings "The Last Rose of Summer" with delicious refinement of phrasing and such simplicity of style. She makes of it the best specimen of clean, true, honest sentimental ballad singing that can be heard on any stage in America. She was well seconded by Miss Phillipps, though the role of *Nancy* is not one in which the popular American contralto shows her finest qualities. Mr. Santley, however, was almost faultless. He gave a new coloring to the Porter song, just as he did three weeks ago in the "Pilgrim," and in the last act he restored the recitative and aria, "Povero Lionello," written by Flotow for Sig. Graziani, but always omitted in this country. Why so charming a morceau should be dropped from the opera we are at a loss to imagine. It is quite original in form, with a pleasing harp accompaniment. Mr. Santley makes it one of his best songs, and it was rapturously received last night, and redemanded. The chorus and orchestra were not as smooth as usual, but the performance as a whole was bright and agreeable.

PERSONAL—BY TELEGRAPH.

....The President yesterday nominated John Jay Knox, as Comptroller of the Currency.

....The Hon. Henry A. Ford, aged 82, died in Morristown, N. J., yesterday, after a lingering illness.

....The Hon. R. D. Harrison, Chairman of the Ohio Republican State Executive Committee and Commissioner of Railroads and Telegraphs for that State, died in Columbus yesterday.

....Rear-Admiral James Alden, commanding the American squadron now in Marseilles, will shortly visit Paris. The squadron will remain at Marseilles a few days, and then sail for a cruise in the Atlantic Ocean. Crowds of persons are visiting the American fleet.

....The rich Japanese Daimio, who has arrived with his wife at San Francisco, intends to make in Washington, and it is said that a number of marriages from Japan will arrive in the next steamer. The second son of Iwakura has returned to Japan for his health, which has been impaired by hard study in this country.

....The Hon. R. C. Schenck, the American Minister, accompanied by his daughters, on Sunday visited Christ's Hospital (Public Education School). The building was decorated with the British and American flags in honor of the visitors, and the scholars greeted them with songs. Mr. Schenck reviewed the of the boys, and afterward spoke to them in an appropriate manner while they were at dinner.

WEATHER REPORT.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER,
WASHINGTON, April 22—1 a. m.

Synopsis for the past twenty-four hours.

The lowest barometer has moved northeasterwardly from Northern New-York down the St. Lawrence Valley, followed by brisk and high north-westerly winds over the Lower Lakes.

Clear weather is now generally prevailing at the stations east of the Rocky Mountains. The barometer has fallen quite rapidly over the North-West, where the winds have backed to southerly.

Probabilities.

Clear and pleasant weather will prevail very generally on Tuesday from the Lower Lakes to the Gulf, and eastward to the Atlantic; the barometer will continue falling north and west of the Ohio Valley, with southerly winds, veering to westerly, and increased cloudiness.

An area of low barometer will probably move eastward over the north-west and upper lake region. Dangerous winds are not anticipated.

THE INSURANCE INVESTIGATION—A CARD FROM MR. HOUGH.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: I have read the communication of the Hon. William Barnes contained in *The Albany Evening Journal* of the 19th inst., with much surprise, and I feel compelled to notice some of his statements respecting the investigation now in progress of the "Life Association of America." Mr. Barnes says that there was a plot devised to compel him to resign the position of counsel for the Miller Investigating Committee and abandon the investigation, or he or the company in St. Louis with which he is connected would be punished, and that the Presidents of the Continental and International Fire Insurance Companies were the leading managers in this plot.

Nothing in the conduct of the gentlemen referred to justifies in the slightest degree Mr. Barnes's charges. Both of these gentlemen were first solicited by Mr. Barnes himself to become members and trustees of our company. Both were elected directors of the New-York Department upon the nomination of a committee of which Mr. Barnes was one. The three actuaries who visited St. Louis, Messrs. Bryant, Homans, and Wright, were selected by me, because I had ascertained that their examination would give complete confidence to the New-York trustees.

It is true, as Mr. Barnes says, that "the Life Association of America has had nothing whatever to do with and is in no way responsible for my (Barnes's) action as counsel to this Insurance Committee." But I do not believe it is true that "the Company is to be maligned, slandered, and injured, if possible, simply because I (Barnes) am connected with it, and with a view to compel the directors to break their connection with me (Barnes), and in this manner make their peace with Mr. Miller," if thereby he refers to either of the gentlemen mentioned in this communication.

H. W. HOUGH, Vice-President.

Life Association of America, No. 92 Broadway, New-York, April 22, 1872.

THE MIDLAND RAILROAD ACCIDENT.

The inquest in the case of John R. Doremus, who was killed by the accident at Saddle River Bridge on April 10, was concluded yesterday before Coroner Zabriskie at Hackensack, N. J. The only new evidence given was in regard to the condition of the bridge, the building of which was described as careless, and some of the timbers were alleged to be rotten. The jury went out at 3½ p. m., and, after an absence of four hours, returned the following verdict:

That John R. Doremus, an employé of the Midland Railroad Company, was killed at the Saddle River Bridge on April 10, and we the jurors severely censure the company for building a defective bridge, and not having had the bridge properly inspected by a competent engineer.

John C. Blauvelt, who was injured by the accident, was reported yesterday to be dying.

POLITICAL.

LOUISIANA.

PROGRESS OF THE LIBERAL MOVEMENT.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

NEW-ORLEANS, April 22.—The Liberal Republicans of this State, comprising Germans, native whites, and colored people, met to-night to arrange for departure to the Cincinnati Convention. A public meeting was called for to-morrow night, in the State Capitol. Large numbers of people are signing the Cincinnati call. The friends of Grant are now advocating the nomination of some one else at Philadelphia, as a movement best calculated to secure the union of the Republican party. The Cincinnati men are determined to go on with the Liberal movement. A Liberal Republican Central Club is being organized with the object of opposing the Grant family Administration.

LIBERAL MEETING IN NEW-JERSEY.

DELEGATES ELECTED FOR CINCINNATI.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

CAMDEN, April 22.—The Liberal meeting in Camden to-night was a great success. Speeches were made by the Hon. Mr. Kilgore, Caleb Needles, and others. Letters were read from Carl Schurz, John Hickman, John A. Mitchell, and others. Twenty delegates were chosen for Cincinnati. The resolutions took strong ground against the arrogance, nepotism, and despotism of the Grant Administration, and pledged the people to plant their victorious standard over the dome of the nation's Capitol, whether Gratz Brown, Horace Greeley, Charles Sumner, Lyman Trumbull, or any other eminent statesman, leads the people in November. The leading Republicans in West Jersey are represented in the delegation to Cincinnati. The list is as follows:

Edmund Brewer,	John Wood, jr.,	William Garwood,
John S. Mitchell,	John R. Hamlett,	John N. Dubil,
Frederick Rex,	Eli Hage,	N. F. Cowen,
Jacob Scurr,	James M. Scovell,	Col. Hollinshead,
Edward Kline,	Clayton B. Tice,	C. L. Lynch,
Jona'n Kirkbride,	Addis Hoyt,	Ralph Lee.
Christopher Smith,		

MISSISSIPPI.

DELEGATES TO CINCINNATI.

JACKSON, Miss., April 22.—A Liberal Republican mass meeting and Convention held at Tickburg, have appointed as delegates to the Cincinnati Convention, Capt. Fish, Judge Speed, Mr. Miller, and others. Judge Jeffords, late of the Supreme Bench of this State by military appointment, addressed the Convention, applauding their action.

THE INDIANA REFORM CALL.

INDIANAPOLIS, April 20.—The following call appears in the Liberal press of the State:

We are in favor of the objects of the Convention to be held at Cincinnati on the first day of May next, and hope that Indiana will be fully represented in that Convention. We, therefore, call upon all Republicans who believe that they ought to favor reforms in Government to meet us at Cincinnati on the day before the meeting of the Convention, to organize that Indiana may be properly represented. We suggest that, so far as practicable, organizations be made in counties, and delegates appointed:

S. A. Tilford,	O. O. Throing,	J. M. Stafford,
Cale Sims,	W. R. Harrison,	E. W. Cullis,
C. F. Sims,	John Clifton,	W. H. Brenton,
John H. Jameson,	Wm. Rifenberick,	Dudley Rogers,
W. Cawley,	I. C. Niven,	Lewis Weik,
W. H. Menson,	G. W. Long,	W. W. Allen,
John D. Defrees,	J. H. Baldwin,	John W. Murphy,
Frank Elston,	David S. Burson,	Thos. N. Stilwell,
Thos. C. Whitecides.		

THE CINCINNATI CONVENTION.

PREPARING FOR THE COMING OF THE LIBERALS—THE REUNION CONVENTION ARRANGEMENTS—GREAT EXPECTATIONS.

[FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

CINCINNATI, April 16.—One and the same committee is serving in the work of arrangements, in this city, for both of the May Conventions. For the deliberations of the masses that are to gather here on the first May day, they have engaged two or three acres of Exposition Hall, and all of Mozart Hall, which falls much short of one acre. If the Conventions fuse into one, or explode into three or four, the hall accommodations engaged will be sufficient for all of them. For committee-rooms, Mozart Hall, with its half-dozen small apartments, the German quarters near the Exposition building, the Exposition building itself, and the hotels, will amply meet the largest probable demand. The Committee of Arrangements have taken rooms in Mozart Hall, on Vine and Longworth-sts., which they style "The Headquarters of the Conventions." This Committee, which is selected from the Executive Committee of the Reunion and Reform organization, which sprang into being about a year ago in this city, is doing its work in a spirit of impartiality. It makes its arrangements for the Conventions as though already confederated. If any preference is shown, the stranger has it. Mozart Hall is spoken of as the place for the Reunion and Reform meeting. For the Liberal Republicans the immense Exposition Hall is set apart.

The Teutonic Reformers have provided headquarters committee-rooms, and have made all necessary preparations for a German reception of visiting Germans, in the very heart of "Over the Rhine," near Exposition Hall. As to hotel accommodations, Cincinnati boasts that she can do whatever is reasonable in that way. If those on land fail, she can resort, as she did once or twice during the Exposition, to calling a few river steamers into requisition. Rooms were engaged weeks ago at the principal hotels, and one of them has been taken exclusively by St. Louis. Quite a number of private citizens have offered rooms in their houses, and many more will follow their example. It is not probable that any one will suffer for lack of accommodations, even should the gathering exceed the most extravagant anticipations. The capacity of the city to make room and improvise accommodations for great crowds has been tested during the Exposition under circumstances not so favorable as those existing at present.

But both the Conventions according to their calls are to be mass meetings, not delegate bodies. By the call of the Cincinnati Reformers any one—no matter his political past what it may—can select himself as a delegate to that body, only provided he be in accord with their published declaration of principles. But the German branch of the Reformers in this city have had a meeting and chosen a small number of delegates to the Reunion Convention, and in this they are alone. Their American brethren have done nothing of the kind. Their Committee are preparing a barrier in Exposition Hall to separate the portion allotted to delegates from that which outsiders will be expected to occupy. They work in faith that these two mass meetings will become one delegate Convention. There are indications that the stream will commence to pour into this city this week, and that the real work of the Convention will be done in the last week of April. If these two bodies are to be united and resolved into a delegate Convention, the preliminaries for such consummation can be best arranged here as the mass delegations arrive during the week preceding the first day of May.

THE RIVAL CHARTERS.

ARGUMENTS BY HENRY L. CLINTON AND ABRAHAM R. LAWRENCE, JR., AGAINST THE COMMITTEE OF SEVENTY'S CHARTER.

About two months ago Henry L. Clinton and Abraham R. Lawrence, jr., on behalf of the Reformers, drew a charter for this city, which was introduced in the Senate on the 15th of February, by Mr. Benedict, and referred to the Committee on Cities. It was arranged between Senator Palmer, Chairman, and Mr. Clinton, that the latter should be heard before the Committee in favor of this charter. When the time arrived Mr. Clinton was engaged as counsel for the prosecution in the trial of Mayor Hall, so that he was unable to keep his appointment before the Senate Committee, and consequently no hearing in favor of the charter was had. It is now in the hands of that Committee, no report having been made upon it.

Messrs. Clinton and Lawrence have lately prepared, and submitted to the Governor yesterday, a document which combines a special plea for the charter drafted by themselves, and an argument against the Charter of the Committee of Seventy, which, it is argued, will not secure reform, "but, on the contrary, will cause inextricable confusion, and render the perpetration of frauds far more easy than at present." For the purpose of showing the superiority of their own charter over the present one, over 40 points of difference are cited, and the advantages presented. It is claimed for their charter that it contains all the good with none of the bad provisions of the present one, and that it proceeds on the theory that, so far as the existing law has worked well in practice, it is better that it remain as it is, especially if a change would be productive of no good, but result only in mischief and confusion. The conclusion of the argument is devoted to what are called "Fatal Objections to the Charter of the Committee of Seventy." These are six in number:

I. Cumulative voting, concerning which it is said:

This system of voting is startling, extraordinary, and fraught with incalculable evils. It is so complicated that not one voter in a thousand would comprehend it. Every species of combination might be made by the friends of particular candidates to insure their success, which would depend upon the most intricate and complicated doctrine of chances that could be devised. By this system a man odious to the community, an associate and peer of thieves, one who belonged to and represented what are known as the dangerous classes, could secure an election. It is important to bear in mind, that if a minority of good men could combine in this way upon one of their number, bad men might do the same thing. Under this system Tweed or Connolly could be elected. This mode of election is nothing more nor less than resorting to the doctrine of chances. It would be simply gambling with ballots instead of cards. A worse system could not be concocted.

II. The mode of appointing and removing Commissioners of Public Works, Commissioners of Public Parks, Commissioners of the Department of Public Charities and Corrections, Commissioners of the Department of Finance, is objectionable in the extreme, and destructive to the cause of municipal reform.

The objections raised are, first, the election of Commissioners by the system of cumulative voting by the Board of Aldermen, and, second, allowing the Mayor to remove a Commissioner at pleasure, and thus furnishing no protection against an inefficient or unscrupulous Mayor.

III. The mode of appointing and removing the Controller and the Commissioners of Finance is fatal to reform. The provisions of the Seventy's Charter in relation to the Finance Department are of the most pernicious and dangerous character. Article 9, Section 36, provides that the Department of Finance shall be under the control and charge of the Controller of the City and County of New-York, and four of the Commissioners of the Treasury, who together shall constitute a department, to be called the Department of Finance. The Department of Finance especially should have but one head—namely, the Controller. It would be just as wise and consistent to provide that the executive department should be under the charge and control of the Mayor and four Commissioners of the Mayoralty, who together shall constitute a Board of Mayors, to be called the Department of Mayoralty. It is especially necessary in the Department of Finance that there should be but one responsible controlling head. Such has always been the case with our city Government. Whenever we had a good Controller the financial interests of the city were well protected. Four Commissioners of the Treasury, if honest, would be a clog and a hindrance to an honest and efficient Controller. The proposed organization of this department is absurd and dangerous to the financial interests of the city. To distribute the responsibility among five members of a Board of Finance is practically to destroy all responsibility.

Further objection is made to the provision that the Controller shall be appointed by the Mayor, and shall be removable at his pleasure:

The Controller should be independent; he ought not to be removed during his term, except for inefficiency, corruption or malfeasance in office. Permanence, independence and stability are particularly requisite with reference to this officer.

The same objections are made concerning the provision in relation to the four Commissioner of the Treasury.

IV. The manner of appointing and removing the Commissioners of Public Safety, is fatal to the cause of reform, and fraught with great danger to the safety of the community.

The arguments advanced against this portion of the Charter are: *First*, the method of election by cumulative voting; *second*, giving to the Board of Aldermen the power of removing any or all the Commissioners; *third*, that no provision is made for filling vacancies in case the Board of Aldermen should remove all the Commissioners.

V. The manner of appointment and removal of Corporation Counsel, proposed by the Seventy's Charter is objectionable. By this section the Mayor may appoint and remove at pleasure the Corporation Counsel. The Law Department ought to be or far independent of the Mayor that, if the Mayor be corrupt and enter into a conspiracy to rob the City Treasury, the City Counsel may be relied on to find a ground on which both of them may stand, that there may not be conflict but rather cooperation on the part of intelligent and good citizens. [Applause.]

Although I did not keep the Lord's Day according to the catechetical instructions I received, but indulged occasionally in a sinful giggle, I still bear witness that a certain moral sensibility, a certain poetical element, was derived by me from a strict Puritanical observance of the Sabbath, which I shall ever be thankful for; and if I thought that any steps we take in advance would take from men the thought that on that day the Lord was more especially near to men in their thoughts, though not in fact; if I thought it would subtract one particle from the stimulation of the noblest and best parts of our nature, I would never utter a word, nor by any means whatever endeavor to abate the rigor with which our Puritan fathers observed the Sabbath. I love and honor the day, and I say that there must be not less but more made of the Sabbath; not that there must be less of sanctity, but that the sanctity, taking to itself humanity, must be broader and deeper.

I do not believe we have received the Sabbath on account of the Lord's absolute command. Certainly the Jewish Sabbath is not ours. It was only a day of rest—the one joyful day of the Jews. The only thing that was forbid was work. It was forbidden a man to walk on the grass with heavy nails in his shoes, lest he might thresh out some of the seed, and that would be equivalent to threshing; and many other such nice distinctions were made. It was not distinctively a religious day, but simply a day of secular rest. We have no command in the New Testament as to the manner in which the day should be observed. We have derived our Sabbath from our Puritan ancestors, who made it so exclusively a day of moral teaching and self-restraint that it comes down to us with bars and bolts and prisons that did not belong to the primitive Lord's Day, and which reason does not, in our day at least, justify. I know of no other way of determining the question than this. It is the Lord's day; who is the Lord? It is that Jesus who healed the sick on the Sabbath, and the Jews thought it was professional work and rebuked him for it. Christ declared that it was lawful to do good on the Sabbath day. The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. Wherever the Sabbath day is so administered that any part of the community is oppressed by it, they have a right to rise up and break through that observance, because the Sabbath was not made to keep down humanity—it was made to lift it up; it was not made to take away liberty, but to increase it; it was not made to circumscribe man's thought, feeling, or conduct, but to augment them. In short, the Lord's day is a day for a larger humanity. [Applause.] It is bad to bring up children with such notions of the sanctity of the Sabbath that they feel not sweetly and pleasantly impressed with its gentle restraints, but feel that it is a terror, a yoke. It is God's day of bounty, and children ought to be made to feel it. It should be a day of physical rest, affording an opportunity for mental and moral improvement. It is a good thing to attend Sabbath services. I hold also that it should be a day in which religion should be helped by the social element. I do not believe in solitariness in religion. There are thousands of young men who come to New-York from warm-hearted home circles. Here I go among strangers, they are worked hard during the day, and they either sleep at the store or roost in a boarding-house, (laughter), as the case may be. When the Sabbath day comes what are they going to do? There is no special church of which they know anything. If they go into a church they are met with a stare, as much as to say, "What under heaven are you here for?" Perhaps an usher takes them around to the furthest seat in the corner, and they sit there for a few minutes, looking at each other, and then get up and bolt. Or if they remain, they are told that the ministry has been handed down from the Apostles. They are glad to learn that it is so, but there is no special nourishment in it. In another church they are informed that "in Adam's fall we sinned all"—a very comforting doctrine. [Laughter.] But there are 250,000 more men and women in the City of New-York than can possibly be accommodated in all the churches. Hecatombs of young men are destroyed in this city without mourners; thousands are going the way of death and nobody cares for their souls. Fellow-citizens, I say that the young men, the mechanics, clerks, and laboring men of New-York, ought to have something on the Lord's day that shall be a home, a place of resort for them. Our Christianity has done much; there are noble and self-denying laborers in some of our churches, but there are things that need to be done that are not yet done, and there ought to be places opened on Sunday which shall make a young man without excuse if he wanders into forbidden paths for the sake of company.

Under the circumstances, I say that if there be well-lighted reading-rooms, comedy halls and libraries, galleries where no licentious art solicits, but where there is an appeal to the sense of beauty, where there is liberty and concert for virtue, where young men can meet, I say, in the name of that Master whose resurrection or rebirth we commemorate on that day, in the spirit of that Master I say try it, try it! [Applause.] I beseech all those conscientious men who are opposed not to misrepresent the intent of those who seek to open these reading-rooms and libraries, who say they do not care anything for Sunday, and are going to break down the bars and destroy the Sabbath. We are stepping in to endeavor to supplement the noble work of the churches, to do some things that the churches were not made to do, and cannot perform. There are thousands and hundreds of thousands in this city of New-York who on Sundays need to have something else done for them than is now done. They have no homes; they cannot under the circumstances attend the churches. "Well," it is said, "they will not go to reading-rooms." Some will not, but it will be worth opening the reading-room if there shall be so to attend it. Some say, "You have no right to use the Lord's day except for the purposes of religion." I say we have a right to use the Lord's day for every purpose of humanity, religious, moral, or social. It is objected, "If you begin you cannot stop." Fellow-citizens, we are not children; we are competent for self-government, we are trying to make an experiment in good and virtuous earnest. We mean good; we mean virtue and humanity; and if when the experiment is fairly tried it be found that it does no good, or that it shall prove mischievous rather than beneficial, I pledge myself and these gentlemen joined with me that the door shall be shut just as promptly as it is now proposed to open it. To those who say, "If you begin it you cannot stop it," I say we can stop it. An intelligent community can go to the right or left as by experience they find the right or left to be beneficial. It is said that young men will withdraw from the churches, and reading and intelligence will be substituted for religion. My reply is that it will withdraw ten from the street to every one withdrawn from the churches, and by stimulating the moral sensibilities of the people it will be likely to send many more young men to the churches than are now drawn to them. Others say, "If you open the reading-rooms and libraries no one will go." Very well, if no one goes there is no harm done. Some say, "It is a very risky and perilous thing. You have never tried it, and do not know what the result will be." The thing has been tried. [Mr. Beecher then read a letter from A. C. Hallowell of Philadelphia, stating that the Mercantile Library of that city had been open to the public on Sundays for two years, and the average attendance had risen steadily from 300 per day during the first year to 700, nearly all of whom were young men, and that both the President and Librarian expressed themselves entirely satisfied with the working of the arrangement. Mr. Beecher continued:] They should be opened, I think, on Sunday, from noon day at least 10 o'clock at night. Let the rooms be well lighted and made attractive, and I believe that experience will show, after a few years, that New-York never did a wiser thing in her Christianity than to provide these homes and places of resort for the young men of this great city.

A resolution was then adopted requesting the managers of the Cooper Union, the Mercantile and Astor Libraries, and all the other great libraries, not only of New-York but in every large city in the country, to open their reading-rooms upon Sunday, under such regulations as they may deem advisable. Mr. Hewitt then announced that the library and reading-room of the Cooper Union would, at the beginning of the Fall season, be opened on Sundays from 2 till 10 p. m., and kept open thus for one year as an experiment. If it turned out ill, the place would then be closed; if well, it would be permanently kept open.

A PAPER PRISON.

ESCAPE OF TEN PRISONERS FROM THE QUEENS COUNTY JAIL.

About 8 p. m. on Sunday, as Jailer Stringham of the Queens County Jail, at North Hempstead, was making his usual rounds, he was surprised on reaching the door leading to the lower corridor of cells to find it open, and soon ascertained that ten prisoners had escaped. He at once sounded an alarm by ringing the Court-house bell, and in a short time several parties of armed men were in pursuit of the fugitives, but at a late hour last evening none of them had been recaptured. The jailer had been in the habit of giving prisoners who were confined in the lower tier of cells the freedom of the corridor during the day, and of locking them up in the cells only at night. They had unlocked the door leading from the corridor to the main hall with a piece of wire wrenched from a cell wicket, and, on reaching the main hall, it was the work of a moment to gain the yard. This is surrounded by a board fence, 20 feet high, which they scaled by means of a rope fastened outside by a bag filled with sand and stones. This proves conclusively that they were assisted in their escape by confederates outside. Among the prisoners confined in the lower tier of cells was Frederick Seath, awaiting trial on a charge of assault with intent to kill, and greatly disliked by the other prisoners, who were afraid to trust him. On Sunday morning he was found dead in his cell, and as he was in good health the previous evening, it is now thought that he was poisoned by some of the escaped prisoners lest he should divulge their plan to the keeper. His body was taken, yesterday, to Jamaica, where a post-mortem examination will be held. Among the prisoners who escaped were Henry Willis, awaiting trial on a charge of murder; Anthony Walloc, Wm. Crooker, John Wiseman, and Frederick Brooks, burglary; Adam Miller and Christopher Schenk, assault with intent to kill.

The Court house has been enlarged, repaired, and repainted, recently, at an expense of several thousand dollars, but nothing has been done to make the prison more secure; and it is now totally unfit for the purpose for which it is used. Upon several occasions when the jail has been filled with criminals, Sheriff Henry has employed additional guards at his own expense in order to prevent the escape of prisoners.

THE BARRY INQUEST—VERDICT AGAINST MURPHY.

David Barry of No. 1,009 First-ave., during a quarrel in a liquor saloon at Sixtieth-st. and Second-ave., on Wednesday night, was shot and killed by David Murphy of No. 315 East Fifty-ninth-st. An inquest was held yesterday by Coroner Young. David Cummings of No. 1,136 Second-ave., James Ryan, the saloon keeper, Michael Blute of No. 300 East Sixtieth-st., John Murphy, the prisoner's brother, and Capt. Gunner, gave the particulars of the assault substantially as they have been published. David Murphy testified in his own behalf as follows:

I am a car-driver on the Belt road; early in the evening I was in Wolfe's saloon, and had several glasses of lager; I afterward went to Ryan's and saw my brother drinking there with Barry; I said to him: "What are you drinking whisky for when you know you have to go to work to-morrow morning?" Barry stepped up to me and said: "And what business is that of yours?" I replied that he was my brother, and therefore it was my business; Barry then struck me, we clinched, and were separated; Barry went out and brought in Cummings and three or four others; as I was leaning on the bar Barry struck me and three others attacked me; I said, "If you don't let me alone some one will be hurt;" Barry went out as I came in a second time; then I pulled out the pistol; I fired it out of the door, with no intention of hitting any one; Barry was on the platform, and I thought I would scare him; I had no intention of shooting Barry; I then went to the station-house.

The jury rendered a verdict that the deceased had come to his death from a pistol-shot fired by David Murphy.

THE TUG-BOAT EXPLOSION.

The inquest on the body of James Caulfield, and of the victims of the Davenport explosion, was continued, yesterday, before Coroner Burns and a jury in Jersey City.

Peter J. Darling testified: I was sole owner of the tug-boat Davenport; purchased her at a United States Marshal's sale about a year ago, paying $1,700; I had her repaired at an expense of $1,000 but did not repair the boiler, which I supposed was in good condition; the tug was employed by Baxter & Richardson, and I received from them $50 a trip; I had used several; I was not able to pay for insurance; two or three years ago the tug was run on the rocks at Hell Gate, and took fire; I had never heard any complaint from the engineer in regard to the boiler; it had been tested and certified by Mr. Matthews; the pumps were new.

Henry Erwin testified: I am a boilermaker; a year ago Darling asked me to examine the boiler, and if necessary, to repair it; I went to make them; I found no defects and no necessity for repairs; I did not go inside, and there might have been defects without my knowledge.

James F. Easton, Wm. McCanny, and Hiram Taylor gave unimportant testimony. Coroner Burns stated that he had been to New-York and examined the Inspector's books and seen the records of the inspection, but had not been able to see Inspector Matthews. He asked the jury whether they were prepared to give a verdict upon the evidence, or would prefer to wait until they could examine the documents of the boiler. The latter course was decided on, and the inquest adjourned indefinitely. An effort to raise the wreck will soon be made, as it obstructs navigation.

ANOTHER DEFEAT FOR THE ELIASES.

A temporary injunction was granted March 4, in the Superior Court, to the American Watch Company against the "Great Geneva Watch Co." restraining the Elisses from infringing on the trademarks of the former Company. Yesterday the injunction was made perpetual, and a referee appointed to determine the amount which was illegally derived from Elias's trade, and must be paid back to the plaintiffs. The injunction is substantially as follows:

It is ordered, adjudged, and decreed, that the said defendant, the Great Geneva Watch Co., Henry Brown, Henry Lee, Jacob Bilhard, J. W. Bilhard, jr., Henry F. Elias, John Lee, and Richard Roe, their and each of their attorneys, clerks, workmen, agents and servants, be and they are perpetually enjoined and restrained from directly or indirectly selling, or causing to be sold, or offering for sale, any watch movements manufactured by any person or corporation other than the plaintiffs, under the designation of "William Ellery," or "John Ellery," or whereon is engraved, stamped, pressed, or in any manner made apparent the words "William Ellery," or "John Ellery," or any colorable imitation of the same, and words "William Ellery," being a trade mark of plaintiffs, and it is further ordered, adjudged, and decreed, that the said defendants pay to the plaintiffs the amount of profits made by said defendants on the unlawful sale of watch-movements made by plaintiffs, and having thereon the said trade mark of plaintiffs or colorable imitation thereof, and that a reference be had to G. Holmes Crawford, referee, to ascertain the amount of said profits, and to report the same to this Court. And it is further ordered, adjudged, and decreed, that the said defendants pay to the plaintiffs their costs and disbursements in this action, to be taxed by the clerks of this Court.

BROOKLYN'S GOVERNMENT.

The Brooklyn Board of Aldermen met yesterday afternoon, Alderman McGroarty in the chair. A resolution was passed requesting the Legislature to defeat the bill providing for the widening of Lorum-st. from Fulton to Atlantic-ave. on the ground that the improvement had not been asked for by the property-owners. The property-owners in Fourth-st., E. D., between South Fourth-st. and Broadway, petitioned the Board to authorize the widening of that thoroughfare by taking two feet from the west sidewalk and nothing it to the carriage-way. Granted. Property-owners in the Nineteenth Ward petitioned for the repeal of the ordinance granting permission to the South Side Railroad Company to run steam dummies in South Eighth-st. from Bedford-st. to First-st. Referred to the Railroad Committee.

The Finance Committee presented a resolution forbidding that the City Treasurer shall deposit city funds in city banks that are willing to pay 3½ per cent a year, and with the Trust Company at 4 per cent. Alderman Ropes offered a substitute distributing the deposits among the banks in proportion to their capital and surplus, and claimed that some banks had received a preference, one of them having been credited with $1,500,000, or one half of the whole amount. After considerable debate the whole matter was laid on the table, that it might be ascertained from the City Treasurer in what banks he had deposited the city's funds. Adjourned.

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS.

The Board of Aldermen received, yesterday, a petition from a large majority of the owners of property in South Fifth-ave. for permission to pave it, at their own expense, with trap-rock Belgian pavement. After a long discussion, such permission was granted, Alderman Conan alone voting in the negative.

The Board of Assistant Aldermen received a communication from the Controller stating that the whole amount expended on the Eighteenth Ward Market is $356,162 29; that the receipts are $12,063 75, and the expenses $10,242 93. He also sent a communication stating that the appropriation from Jan. 1 to April 30, 1872, for the Common Council is $73,666 66; that the amount paid to April 20 is $46,056 36, and that there is a balance to credit of $27,610 31. In answer to a resolution of inquiry, the Controller informed the Board that the only officer connected with his office who receives fees is Thomas Dunlap, Collector of the City Revenue; and that during the last three years he has received the following amounts:

1869.....$17,216 38 | 1870.....$13,073 92 | 1871.....$14,413 56

THE FERRY LEASES.

The Commissioners of the Sinking Fund adopted, yesterday, at the request of ex-Mayor Kalbfleisch of Brooklyn, a resolution postponing the sale of ferry leases till Wednesday, May 15. Mr. Kalbfleisch says that he is forming an association for the purpose of competing for the ferry leases with the present lessees, and that the association will soon be able to do so successfully.

The Commissioners received a communication from the New-Jersey Railroad and Transportation Company stating that, for ten years, at a rent of $1,000 per year, it has operated the Desbrosses-st. Ferry to Exchange-place, Jersey City, at a considerable loss, but that it is willing to renew the lease on the old terms; and that if it can be had at private sale, $1,200 a year will be paid for it.

CHAMBERLAIN PALMER'S STATEMENT.

The following is Chamberlain Palmer's statement of receipts, payments, and balances, for the week ending April 20, 1872:

	Balances, April 13.	Receipts.	Payments.	Bal., April 20.
	$	$	$	$
City Treasury..	2,209,266 43	1,087,613 20	432,925 84	2,864,155 89
Sag. Nt., coupons.	19,351 24	12,211 51	.....	31,562 75
Sag. Fd., interest.	294,067 36	4,978 25	.....	299,045 61
Int. on City Stks.	36,147 13	.....	1,587 50	34,559 63
Bd. of Apportment.	40,966 00	.....	.....	40,966 00
County Treasury..	36,917 29	1,119,332 40	77,005 12	1,079,244 57
Totals.....	$2,636,714 49	$2,237,135 36	$511,523 46	$4,360,324 49

LOCAL BURGLARIES.

A party of burglars, on Saturday night, broke into the residence of Wm. Corsa, at No. 300 Canal-st., during the absence of the family, and stole velvet cloaks, wearing apparel, and jewelry, worth $600.

The wine and liquor store of J. B. Freed, in the basement of No. 71 Hudson-st., was entered by burglars, who gained an entrance from the hallway of the German School, and stole $100 in money and $300 worth of wines, liquors, and cigars. The thieves escaped by tearing open the grating in front of the store. The patrolman who failed to discover the open grating will be placed on trial by the Police Board.

THE FOURTH-AVE. RAILROAD NUISANCE—WHAT VANDERBILT PROPOSES.

The sub-Committee of the various East Side associations which have been discussing the proposed rapid transit schemes and the use of the Fourth-ave. for railroad purposes met, last night, at East Side Hall, Mr. M. R. Martin in the chair. Mr. Hedden reported that Mr. Vanderbilt had proposed that the sinking of the tracks should begin at Forty-eighth-st., so that the road might be completely underground from Fifty-fifth-st. to One-hundred-and-third-st. and arched throughout, with openings 20 by 150 feet. A majority of those present were willing to accept this compromise, though one or two residing in the immediate vicinity