

OLCOTT HUNTS FOR A SKELETON.

New District-Attorney Ransacking the Official Cupboard.

Safes and Desks Diligently Searched for Evidence Against His Predecessors.

Says All Indictments That Have Been Pending for a Long Time Will Be Pushed to Trial.

ASSISTANTS' SLATE NOT COMPLETED.

Great Swarm of Applicants to Select From, and Among Them Are Julius M. Mayer and Alfred R. Page.

No sooner was the new District-Attorney, W. M. K. Olcott, sworn in yesterday than he began a personal investigation of the books and papers of the office. The man-

Attorney for twenty years. The last one was Daniel G. Rollins, who filed the unexpired term of Benjamin K. Phelps. It is alleged that nothing of a criminal character against the office has ever been proved because the District-Attorneys have been of the same political faith and presumably equally interested in suppressing revelations likely to be injurious to the party.

Under the old law the indictments were kept in the District-Attorney's office, but now they are preserved in the rooms of the chief clerk to the District-Attorney's office, and only copies are handled by the District-Attorney.

Mr. Olcott has not so declared. It is understood that the chief clerk will be required to furnish a complete list of the pending indictments. Those upon which arrests have been made will be pushed to speedy trials.

ASSISTANTS TO BE EXAMINED.

Indictments that have never been moved—if there be such—will be investigated. The assistants and deputies who handled them will be questioned as to the reason for inaction. Many former officers of the department will be called upon for explanation. The intention is to pursue a rigid inquiry in each case and hold responsible the person or persons proved to have been guilty of irregularity.

Criminal prosecution is hinted at as a possible result of Mr. Olcott's efforts to expose wrongdoing. Mr. Olcott expects to be engaged for a week in his search.

A sensational story was started in the Criminal Court Building yesterday to the effect that the new District-Attorney had recommended, before he took the oath of office, the indefinite postponement of the trials of two men charged with illegal registration. It was suggested that this recommendation had been made out of political motives. When the story was investigated it was found the recommendation for postponement had been made by Special District-Attorney Vernon M. Davis while he was still in charge of the place.

POLICEMEN FLED FOR THEIR LIVES.

The Church Street Station House in Imminent Danger of Collapse.

Foundations Undermined by Digging a Cellar for a Building Next Door.

Walls Were Shattered While Twenty Patrolmen Slept and Their Comrades Ran Away.

CONDEMNED BY THE INSPECTORS.

No More Prisoners Are to Be Confined in the Imperilled Structure, but No Provision Has Been Made for the Safety of Policemen.

The Police Commissioners of this city may have to answer to a charge of manslaughter unless they immediately provide new quarters for the 180 men attached to

awoke to its serious character. One squad of men had come in shortly after 12 o'clock on Saturday morning and most of them had gone to bed. A few, however, remained down stairs in the lounging room at the north end of the building.

Suddenly there was a grinding, crackling noise, the floor sank two inches and the room was filled with plaster and dust. The men ran through the hall to the main back to the room, and at the northeast corner a large crack extending diagonally across the ceiling along the northern wall to the window. It was an inch wide and it has constantly grown larger.

Twenty-two men were sleeping in the room above the crack. They were awakened by the noise and settling of the floors. At first it was intended to order them out of their beds, but this was not done. Yesterday morning at daylight it was seen that the crack was more serious than it first appeared. It was traced nearly the whole length of the building, and one of the patrolmen said he actually saw it widen.

When this was reported to Police Headquarters or to the Commissioners—no one seems to know which—orders were issued not to confine any prisoners in the station house, but to take them to the Oak Street house. Nothing was said, however, about providing new quarters for the policemen. Their safety had to be looked after by the Building Department, and the northern end of the building was ordered to be vacated.

So far as affording any real protection to the men in the building, however, it is fair to say that the order is liable to occur at any time, this order was practically useless, for a crack in the northern corner of the building late last night shows that the southern end is in almost as critical a condition.

At the head of the stairway leading to the cells from the lounging room the floor has sunk perceptibly. The steps leading from the cells to the cellar are against the eastward wall. Half way down there is a crack into which a man can easily put his arm. This crack is six feet long and the upper part has sagged in an effort to keep pace with the descent of the foundations.

It is in the ceiling, however, that the real peril can be seen. The big shore timbers are on all sides. After they were put in the holes were broken up. The bricks have now been torn apart and can easily be removed with the hand, while through the immense cracks all along the eastern foundation the electric lights in the street can be seen.

In the cellar there are a number of brick columns and iron beams supposed to rest on solid foundations, but some of them have sunk so far that they have divided almost in the center. One of the columns in the northern corner is the most falling apart, and in the top of one of the arches there is a crack two inches wide. A slight touch of the iron beams loosens the mortar, and the bricks only need a slight jar to make them drop. This arch was supported by some of the huge shore timbers, otherwise it would have fallen.

There are similar cracks along the whole of the eastern supporting wall, and in the hallway on the second floor is a large one on the eastern wall extending from floor to ceiling. Other evidences of the instability of the building can be found in the main room. Cracks can be seen on the ceiling, and at 6 o'clock last night another appeared on the western wall underneath the clock. This extends from window to window, a distance of eight feet.

The policemen in the building are not the only persons in danger, for when the building inspectors completed their examination yesterday they announced that the western wall bulged toward the street fully two and one-half inches, and the eastern wall was bulging the other way a like distance. Consequently, if a collapse occurs, the walls will fall outward and passers-by may be crushed to death.

There are 180 men attached to the Church Street Station, but of whom sleep at one time. There have always been separate beds for policemen, but last night one bed had to serve two men. The men themselves are indignant that they are compelled to stay in the building, while prisoners are taken to a place of safety.

BLIZZARD WEATHER.

Good Coal—Low Prices.

NO. 2 CHESTNUT 3.75 DELIVERED.

KNICKERBOCKER COAL CO., 38th Street, corner First Avenue.

HORNER'S FURNITURE.

HOLIDAY GIFTS.

Those in quest of Gifts that combine utility with beauty—the useful with the ornamental—should visit our store.

Holiday Novelties (foreign and domestic) are here in several thousand dollars, and at all prices. Genuine worth at moderate outlay awaits the buyer at every turn.

R. J. HORNER & CO., Furniture Makers and Importers, 61, 63, 65 West 23d Street (Adjoining Eden Musee).

WAR ALREADY DECLARED!!

AGAINST THE WHOLE ARMY OF THROAT AND LUNG DISEASES BY RIKER'S EXPECTORANT,

the only certain cure for a Cough or Cold, Croup, Bronchitis, Grippe or Pneumonia, Sixty cents a bottle. Money back if it fails. Of your druggist, or at

RIKER'S 6th Ave., Cor. 22d St.

High Class Furs

At Greatly Reduced Prices.

Choice collection of Capes, Collar-ettes, Neck Boas and Mitts, suitable for winter presents. Many exclusive styles.

PERSIAN AND SEALSKIN JACKETS Made to Order from choice skins for \$150.

Russian and Hudson Bay Sables A SPECIALTY.

Seal garments redyed and remade at short notice. Careful attention also given to repairs and alterations at reasonable prices.

SIEME FUR CO., 43 West 34th Street, Between Broadway and Fifth Ave. ESTABLISHED IN 1851.

UNION PERSECUTES HIM?

Wilson Complains to Mayor Strong That He Was Made to Leave a Position Worth \$4 a Day.

Thomas Wilson has complained to Mayor Strong that he is being persecuted by the United Portables Holding Engineers' Union, and asks the aid of His Honor in redressing his alleged grievances. The Mayor has advised him to consult a lawyer. Wilson says that he was one of the founders of the union, but went into the saloon business for a time and was obliged to give up his membership card.

Now he has retired from business and wants to get back into the organization, as he can get employment at \$4 a day the moment he takes out his card; but the union has rejected his application.

"I assisted in organizing the union in 1884," said Mr. Wilson, "and remained in it up to 1893, when I bought a saloon at No. 97 Clinton avenue, Hoboken. The venture showed me my mistake, and I sold out. On September 23 last I returned to my old employers, Edelmeier & Morgan, at No. 333 West Forty-ninth street. I had been with the firm for eight years, and had no difficulty in getting reemployed.

"The union agreed to let me in as a new member and three days after I went to work I paid Delegate Gibbons \$10 on account of my initiation fee, which was \$50, the balance to be paid in installments. After paying in \$30 I was returned \$20 and told that I was not wanted in the union.

"Then the delegate went to my employers and told them to discharge me, as I did not belong to the union, and I was let out. I could make \$4 a day and get steady employment if it were not for this action of the union, and as I have a family to support, it works a great hardship on me. I will sue the union for damages, but have not the money now to hire a lawyer to take up my case."

John Edelmeier speaks in high terms of Wilson as an engineer, and says he was very sorry to be obliged to part with him. He says he would give him steady employment if the union did not object. The union complains that Wilson went to work without permission, and, further, that he is a non-resident of the city, living at No. 393 Clinton avenue, Hoboken.

Special Notices.

When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria.

When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria.

When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria.

When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

THE NEW YORK RED CROSS BEGS TO ANNOUNCE THAT ALL GOODS REMAINING UNSOLD AT ITS BAZAAR WILL BE DISPOSED OF IN THE DINING ROOM OF THE HOTEL WALDORF ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, AND TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, COMMENCING AT 1 O'CLOCK.

THE STOCK INCLUDES THE FINEST GRADES OF RUGS AND CARPETS (IRANS, SENA, ROYAL SILK, ETC.), MARBLE STATUARY, OIL PAINTINGS, VIENNA, DRESDEN AND SEVRES WARE, AND FURNITURE FOR THE DRAWING AND DINING ROOM.

EXCLUDE THE COLD: USE ROBERG'S WIND-STOPPING DOORS, for sale or applied by Roberg, 172 Fulton St., New York, 14th St. and Hamilton Ave., Brooklyn. Telephone 117.

MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP FOR CHILDREN teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic, 25c.

NO CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S TABLE should be without a bottle of DR. SIEGERT'S ANGSTURTA BITTERS, the world-renowned appetizer of exquisite flavor. Beware of imitations.

Marriages.

SMITH-TAILOR.—Thursday, Dec. 17, at Grace Church, by Rev. Bishop Potter, assisted by Drs. Huntington and Grant, Sydney J. Smith of New York, and Fannie Robert Taylor, of New York.

Deaths.

COPIN.—On Thursday, December 17, Josephine, beloved wife of Frank Copin. Relatives and friends are invited to attend the funeral on Monday, December 21, from her late residence, No. 487 West street, West Hoboken, N. J., at 9 a. m. Mass to be read at monastery at 9:30.

CASSERLY.—On Friday, Dec. 15, 1896, Rev. Martin J. Casserly, C. S. P. Funeral from the Church of St. Paul the Apostle (Palmer Parish) on Monday, Dec. 21, Divine Offices at 9, solemn requiem mass at 10 a. m. The clergy and friends of the community are respectfully invited.

HERRMANN.—Suddenly, on Dec. 17, 1896, at Salamanca, N. Y. (en route), Professor Alexander Herrmann, in the 53d year of his age. Funeral services will be held in the Masonic Temple, corner 4th ave. and 22d st., on Sunday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock. Interment at Woodlawn.

KULAWSKI.—Pauline Kulawski, wife of Tomi Kulawski, native Portland; age, 23 years. LEHNING.—Fred, beloved son of Charles and Carrie Lehning, in his twenty-fifth year. Funeral on Sunday, December 20, at 2 p. m., from No. 632 East One Hundred and Forty-fourth street. Truismen's Relief Association and Manhattan Tribe, I. O. B. M., No. 172, are invited to attend the funeral services.

Religious Notices.

CUBA LIBRE.—Academy of Music. Rev. Thomas Dixon, preacher, 11, "Cuba and Our Navy" subject. Doors open 10:30. Evening service, 8:05 5th ave.

EPISCOPAL GRACE CHAPEL, 14th St. and 1st ave. Sundays: 8 a. m., Holy Communion; 11 a. m., morning prayer and sermon; 8 p. m., evening prayer and sermon. Fridays: 8 p. m., evening prayer and address; all sittings free; strangers cordially welcomed.

SPIRITUALISM.—Chimney Corner Hall, 25th St. and 6th ave.; afternoon at 3, evening at 8; Medium Beatrice Stroud; tests and manifestations.

Business Notices.

No Christmas and New Year's table should be without a bottle of Dr. Siebert's Angstura Bitters, the world-renowned appetizer of exquisite flavor. Beware of imitations.

New Publications.

JUST OUT: THE KNEIPP CURE, BY REV. SEB. KNEIPP. The popular American edition of the famous water and herb cure. One million copies sold in Europe. 450 pages. 200 illustrations. All diseases treated. The best popular medical book. Price, 50 cents, or 60 cents postpaid. KNEIPP CURE PUBLISHING COMPANY, 410 Broadway, New York City.

Our Youth's Friend Magazine is an illustrated for boys and girls. It is bright, spicy and contains stories, romances, historical, social, etiquette, games, puzzles, etc. Price only 40 cents per year. Handsome premiums and Cash Contests. Free to all subscribers. Send your name on a postal card for a FREE SAMPLE COPY, or send the name and address of 10 boys and girls and I will send you the magazine three months FREE. Address P. W. Ralabough, 200 Central Union Block, Chicago, Ill.



District-Attorney Olcott Kisses the Bible and Takes the Pledge of Office.

eline Republicans, who are anxious for a proper excuse to sweep clear the District-Attorney's office of the Tammany staff, say that all sorts of sensational discoveries will be made. If irregularities, perhaps illegal acts, can be charged against the Democratic administration of this office, the Republicans think their struggle for success at the polls next November will be materially aided.

Mr. Olcott was sworn in yesterday morning in Part II of the Supreme Court, Judge Roger A. Pryor administering the oath. Commissioner of Jurors Ellimley accompanied Mr. Olcott, who, after being sworn in, went to his office in the Criminal Court Building. The Assistant District-Attorneys went out of office by virtue of Mr. Olcott going in, and Messrs. McIntyre, Weeks, Davis, Lewis, Osborne, Townsend, O'Hare, Miller and the deputy assistants were sworn in by Recorder Goff. All of them, with the probable exception of Lewis and Edward Lauterbach, Jr., will be removed as soon as their services can be dispensed with.

Immediately after lunch Mr. Olcott began his personal inquiry. He began systematically, going from room to room and examining the system of registering and filing, which was busily at work until 6 o'clock.

During the progress of the examination Mr. Olcott was seen by a Journal reporter and asked as to his intentions, particularly those relative to suppressed indictments.

"It is impossible for me to make a statement now," replied Mr. Olcott. "I am just beginning to familiarize myself with the system of the office. The indictments that have been pending for a long time will be examined immediately. To my mind they require investigation to learn the reason of not having been prosecuted. What will develop no one can forecast."

Mr. Olcott is the first Republican District-

END OF RED CROSS FAIR.

Unsold Articles to Go at Auction at the Waldorf.

The Red Cross Fair at the Waldorf, which has been society's Mecca the past four days, and its favorite place for buying Christmas gifts, closed last night. So successful has it been that it may be regarded as the best yet.

A number of beautiful things still remain unsold, including jewelry, lamps, bric-a-brac and fancy goods. These will be disposed of at auction in the banquet room of the Waldorf on Monday and Tuesday afternoons, beginning at 1 o'clock each day.

The proceeds will be used for the benefit of the Red Cross Hospital and Training School for Red Cross Sisters.

Hanna Gives Up His Library Bill. Washington, Dec. 19.—Mark Hanna has written to Mr. Bell, Executive Chairman of the Inaugural Committee, in a strain which amounts to an abandonment of the Congressional Library, and will lead to the selection of the Pavilion Office for the Inaugural Ball. In view of the opposition in Congress and among citizens, Mr. Hanna leaves the choice of the ball building entirely to the Executive Committee.

John Randolph Tucker Better. Lexington, Va., Dec. 19.—John Randolph Tucker is better to-night, and his physicians think he will recover.

For Christmas the new Games, "Wide World" and "Pillow-Dex."

Hood's Pills advertisement with image of a pill bottle and text describing its benefits for various ailments.

THE CHURCH STREET STATION HOUSE.

This house is apparently on the verge of collapse, and its dangerous condition has been recognized by the officials of the Building Department, who have ordered the northern end of the building to be vacated.

This action was taken yesterday after a hasty survey of the structure, during which the inspectors showed unmistakable signs of their eagerness to get into the street. It did not need any minute examination to show them the dangerous condition of the building, and, as one of them remarked, "It is the greatest wonder in the world that it has not fallen long before now. It is original to force men to stay in such a building, and under no circumstances would I accept the responsibility for doing so."

The Church Street Station House is an old one, and the city outgrew it years ago, but it has always been considered safe until the erection of a modern building adjoining it on the east was begun. In digging for foundations for this structure the walls of the station house were thrown out of plumb.

Efforts were made at once to remedy this, and huge timbers were used as shores. They were put in every place where a hold could be secured, and for a time it was thought they would suffice. But as the caissons next door were sunk, the foundations of the station house followed them at first slowly, and later at a more rapid rate, until now the east side of the station is separated from its foundations and its entire weight rests on the shore timbers.

The policemen attached to the station laughed and joked about their danger until early yesterday morning, when they

awoke to its serious character. One squad of men had come in shortly after 12 o'clock on Saturday morning and most of them had gone to bed. A few, however, remained down stairs in the lounging room at the north end of the building.

Suddenly there was a grinding, crackling noise, the floor sank two inches and the room was filled with plaster and dust. The men ran through the hall to the main back to the room, and at the northeast corner a large crack extending diagonally across the ceiling along the northern wall to the window. It was an inch wide and it has constantly grown larger.

Twenty-two men were sleeping in the room above the crack. They were awakened by the noise and settling of the floors. At first it was intended to order them out of their beds, but this was not done. Yesterday morning at daylight it was seen that the crack was more serious than it first appeared. It was traced nearly the whole length of the building, and one of the patrolmen said he actually saw it widen.

When this was reported to Police Headquarters or to the Commissioners—no one seems to know which—orders were issued not to confine any prisoners in the station house, but to take them to the Oak Street house. Nothing was said, however, about providing new quarters for the policemen. Their safety had to be looked after by the Building Department, and the northern end of the building was ordered to be vacated.

So far as affording any real protection to the men in the building, however, it is fair to say that the order is liable to occur at any time, this order was practically useless, for a crack in the northern corner of the building late last night shows that the southern end is in almost as critical a condition.

At the head of the stairway leading to the cells from the lounging room the floor has sunk perceptibly. The steps leading from the cells to the cellar are against the eastward wall. Half way down there is a crack into which a man can easily put his arm. This crack is six feet long and the upper part has sagged in an effort to keep pace with the descent of the foundations.

It is in the ceiling, however, that the real peril can be seen. The big shore timbers are on all sides. After they were put in the holes were broken up. The bricks have now been torn apart and can easily be removed with the hand, while through the immense cracks all along the eastern foundation the electric lights in the street can be seen.

In the cellar there are a number of brick columns and iron beams supposed to rest on solid foundations, but some of them have sunk so far that they have divided almost in the center. One of the columns in the northern corner is the most falling apart, and in the top of one of the arches there is a crack two inches wide. A slight touch of the iron beams loosens the mortar, and the bricks only need a slight jar to make them drop. This arch was supported by some of the huge shore timbers, otherwise it would have fallen.



USEFUL CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR SMOKERS.

\$9 value for \$3.75

Oak zinc-lined Moistener, regular price \$2.50, containing a Box of 50 Gladiator, Sumatra wrapped, Havana filled Cigars, regular price \$2.50. Russia Leather Cigar Case, Sterling Silver mounted, regular price \$1.50. A genuine Meerschaum Cigar Holder, in case, regular price \$1.00. A 14-Karat Gold plated Match Safe, regular price \$1.00. A genuine French Brier Pipe, 2-inch Amber, regular price \$1.00. Total value, \$9.00.

THIS ENTIRE COMBINATION, BEAUTIFULLY MOUNTED, FOR 3.75.

We will save the same combination, with 50 Agnes Booth Havana 10c. Cigars instead of 50 Gladiator Cigars, total value \$11.25, for 5.00

Every article sold separate, if desired, at one-half of above regular prices.

Mail orders promptly filled on receipt of price. Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded.

FRISCH & CO., TWO 60 CORTLANDT S STORES, 11 PARK ROW, OPEN SUNDAY. NOTE THE ADDRESS. BEWARE OF FRAUDULENT IMITATORS.

PRECEDING REORGANIZATION.

GREAT SALE OF WEBER PIANOS AT AUCTION.

On MONDAY, DECEMBER 21st, beginning at 10:30 A. M., and continuing every day thereafter until the sale is completed, the undersigned, RECEIVER of the WEBER PIANO COMPANY, will offer at PUBLIC AUCTION by MARLIN F. HATCH, Esq., AUCTIONEER, at the WEBER WAREHOUSES, 408 Fifth ave., cor. 10th st., the ENTIRE STOCK of about ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY (180) NEW AND SECOND-HAND

comprising a varied assortment of GRANDS, UPRIGHTS and SQUARES, in all woods and of all styles. The distinguished characteristic of the WEBER PIANO is its sympathetic TONE. That is because it is constructed from the musician's standpoint, and in this respect it differs from any other make.

Sale Absolute and Without Reserve. WEBER and other PIANOS.

The Chairman of the Reorganization Committee will represent the interests of the New Company at the Sale. The Stock may be examined at the Weber Warehouses every day this week between the hours of 8 A. M. and 6 P. M.

A large number of second-hand WEBER Concert and Parlor Grand in perfect order, and especially suitable for Churches, Schools, Halls, Lodges, etc., is comprised in this offering.

While the Receiver is unable, for legal reasons, to issue guarantees for the Pianos to be sold under the terms of this advertisement, he begs to state that the Chairman of the Reorganization Committee, Austin B. Fletcher, Esq., has authorized him to announce that the new

WEBER-WHEELOCK CO.

will, on and after January 1st, 1897, give the usual guarantees, for Five Years upon all pianos disposed of at this sale, except such as may be specifically excepted by announcement of the Auctioneer on the day of sale.

Pianos will be delivered to purchasers free of charge within a radius of twenty miles from the City of New York.

Terms 10 per cent in cash on acceptance of bid and balance before delivery of the instruments. Catalogues will be mailed on application to any address.

WILLIAM FOSTER, Receiver of the Weber Piano Company, 108 Fifth Ave., New York.

HAVENS & BEEBE, Attorneys for Receiver, 18 Wall St.