

Work for Jail Prisoners.

The following special report of a committee of the grand jury of the Criminal Court, to John W. Davis, their foreman, was by him presented to the court, Judge Pinkney, yesterday:

"The committee of the jail acting for the body of the grand jury, September term, 1878, under the special charge delivered to them by the Hon. Campbell W. Pinkney in reference to the non-employment of prisoners confined in Baltimore city jail at hard labor in some useful employment, respectfully report that the committee have maturely and thoroughly considered the practicability of carrying into effect the provisions of the Act of Assembly in this case made and provided, and find that systems of labor now in successful and profitable operation in several other institutions of this State can be readily introduced into the jail at a small outlay, through the introduction of which the demands of the law will be satisfied. Signed John W. Watkins, Walter Dulaney, Wm. Kirk, George Perry, Chas. E. Wright."

Judge Brown and Judge Pinkney have both instructed the grand juries that the law requires prisoners sent to jail to be put to work, but hitherto the grand juries have not taken any decided steps to have its practicability shown. It seemed to have been supposed by some that it would require an appropriation from the city council or possibly the Legislature to make such alterations or put up buildings and supply other things necessary. Judge Brown was very decided that it was practicable; however, and Judge Pinkney and the present grand jury it appears agree with him.

It is asserted that no appropriation will be necessary either for buildings or materials to put in practical operation this law, as a building already exists in the jail inclosure sufficient for such labor, and will not require a greater outlay than \$150 to \$200. There are simple employments which will not interfere with any material interests in the city, requiring not more than from one to seven days in which prisoners may become proficient. It will be remembered that Judge Pinkney in calling attention of the grand jury to this subject, September 14 last, said: "It is impossible to attain a satisfactory execution of the criminal law in this city while this enactment [art. 4, sec. 577, code] remains, as it has so long been a dead letter upon the statute book."

Property Sales.—The property known as "Claggett's Brewery," on East Lombard street, at Jones's falls, was sold yesterday at the exchange sale room by R. W. Bennett & Co., auctioneers, by order of Isaac D. Jones, trustee. The lot is 243 feet on Lombard street, 343 feet on Jones's falls and 822 feet on Granby street, with extensive buildings which were erected for the purposes of a brewery by the Claggetts. The auctioneer first offered the whole property in fee, and obtained a bid of \$25,000. By an arrangement the lot was withdrawn and offered in twenty-six parcels, with the understanding that if the bids realized in this way more than \$25,000, the sales would be so recorded. After offering the parcels it was found that the bids did not reach the figures required, and the property was knocked down at \$25,000 as a whole to the trustee for Mrs. Claggett, widow of the late Wm. Claggett. The brewery was formerly a leading establishment of the kind in the United States. On the death of Eli Claggett it passed into the possession of Wm. Claggett, his son, and John D. Daniels. Wm. Claggett died ten years ago.

The same auctioneers sold yesterday for H. Edgar Johnson, trustee, a lot and improvements on the northeast corner of Burke and Aliceanna streets, lot 60 feet front by 75 feet, improved by a brick dwelling and lager beer saloon, subject to \$15 ground rent; purchased by the Greenmount Mutual Building Association of Baltimore for \$2,500.

Cattle Inspection.—A dozen or more applications have been made to Collector Thomas for the prospective position of veterinary cattle inspector of Baltimore, a post which the action of the British Parliament relative to cattle imported into that country may make necessary. The collector said that recent dispatches received at the Treasury Department from Great Britain seemed to modify the first order, requiring all cattle to have a certificate of health from a veterinary officer at the port of exportation. Collector Thomas says several employes now in the custom-house have, by knowledge acquired in cattle-raising, all the requirements necessary for a cattle inspector, and if allowed by the department he will detail one of them for that duty. The British act goes into effect Jan. 1, 1879, as understood, and several considerable shipments from Baltimore are held back, to the great inconvenience of the shippers and steamship agents. Some arrangement for granting authorized health certificates will be made in a day or two.

New Street Cars.—The Citizens' Passenger Railway Company will to-day commence running new one-horse cars on the route between the West End and Exchange Place, passing around Harlem Square and through other sections not reached by the large cars. Ten of these new cars have been received from New York, and the other two are on the way, making twelve to do the required service. A large or small car will leave the terminal at intervals of about four minutes, but east of Exchange Place only two-horse cars will be run on the old schedule. The new cars will have slaw-on boxes, and dispense with conductors. The car-makers in New York put up a sign in each of the cars of "five cents fare," which one of the directors of the company said led to a misapprehension of people who saw these placards here. He stated that twenty tickets will be sold for \$1, as is done on the through route, with six cents for a single fare. The small cars are lightly built and comfortable.

Lectures.—Rev. Arthur Foster, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, lectured last night on Irish eloquence, wit and humor, at the Reformed Episcopal Church, Eden and Hoffman streets. Mr. Foster showed very happily the peculiar Irish faculty of bleeding eloquence with humor. He referred especially to the career of John Philip Curran, who, having first to master an impediment of speech, rose to the highest place in the bar, and was also the most notable of the keen wits of his day. He illustrated the lecture with many anecdotes, as when, Lord Clare being on the bench, Curran stopped his speech because his lordship was diverting his attention exclusively to a pet dog, and when asked why he did not continue explained that he did not desire to interrupt the judge when he thought he was holding a consultation.

Rev. Dr. J. E. Grammer, of St. Peter's P. E. Church, delivered a lecture last night in Ascension Chapel, Lafayette Square, on "Lord Macaulay, Poet, Essayist and Historian."

Mr. D. L. Moody spoke yesterday at Entw Place Baptist Church on forgiveness. What a door is to a man's house forgiveness is to salvation. Some people, he said, are willing to forgive, but not to forget. When God forgives He also forgets. When one has bitterness of heart against any of God's creatures he is out of communion. Mr. Moody cited the case of a woman who had been praying a long while for forgiveness, but was not willing to forgive another woman who, she thought, had done her some wrong. She kept on seeking forgiveness without forgiving, until at last she became insane. The world said religion drove her mad, but it was the want of it that did it. To pray and not be willing to forgive is a mockery; it is a farce; it is a sin.

Baltimore Dry Dock Company.—Certificate was filed yesterday in the office of the clerk of the Superior Court of the reduction of the capital stock of the Baltimore Dry Dock Company by the following directors: James Carey Coale, C. Morton Stewart, Decatur H. Miller and Robert Garrett, who were present at a meeting held last Saturday for the purpose. The reduction was from \$1,000,000 to \$600,000, in 3,555 shares of \$100. This action was taken because it was found that the company can be satisfactorily operated with the smaller amount of capital than was at first proposed. Judge Dobbin certified that the reduction was in accordance with the law.

Custom Service Review.—At the custom-house last night Collector Thomas reviewed forty-five customs day inspectors and twelve weighers, lately uniformed. The inspectors, under Surveyor Vernon and Deputy Surveyor Gank, and the weighers, under Chief Weigher Westbrook, went through the evolutions with military exactness. The collector complimented the force on their fine appearance in uniform. He assured them that no one would be removed except for failure in the performance of duty, and he hoped at the close of next year to find every man in his place. He thought it credit for any one to wear the uniform of an officer of the United States civil service. Col. Vernon also made a brief congratulatory speech.

Narrow-Gauge Railroad.—The Baltimore and Delta Narrow-gauge railroad directors, Wm. Gilmor president, met yesterday at No. 52 Lexington street, and awarded a contract for grading, masonry and trestle work of the road from Great Gunpowder river to Delta to Messrs. Haugh & Gantz, of Baltimore, for \$123,000. The contract is that the work shall be completed in the year 1879, and will begin about the first of January. Seventy-two proposals were received for this work. The next step, it is stated, will be for the letting of a contract for the grading, &c., of the road between Baltimore and the Great Gunpowder. Subscriptions to the amount of \$200,000 have been received, of which a percentage has been paid.

Steel Steam Launch.—The United States Lighthouse board has contracted with Messrs. H. A. Ramsay & Co., of the Vulcan Iron Works, in this city, to build a steam launch to be constructed entirely of steel. The vessel is to have fine lines, and given ample power to insure great speed. She will be forty-five feet long, 11 feet beam and 4 1/2 feet depth of hold. Her propelling power will consist of two high-pressure engines eight inches by eight inches, operating twin screws. Her boiler is to be constructed of steel. This firm have also just commenced building a new engine and boiler for the steamer Rotary, of the Roanoke River Transportation Company, of North Carolina.

Suits for Damages.—An action was instituted in the Superior Court yesterday by Nathan Hess, trustee, and Moses Hess against Higgins, Cobb and Co., for damages, laid at \$10,000, for laying an attachment on a stock of goods which Moses Hess had assigned to Nathan Hess. In the City Court H. Murray Hagan and Richard Roman Vernon sued J. G. A. Jones and Jacob Reider for \$5,000 damages for ejecting them from the premises 224 West street, and breaking up their business there at manufacturing the "domestic compound fluid."

Coal Oil Again.—At nine o'clock last night a gasoline lamp accident took place in the basket-making shop of Caspar Leosch, 243 Eastern avenue, caused by filling the lamp from a demijohn while burning. The lamp, demijohn and contents were thrown into a tub of water and carried blazing into the street. The only damage was in loss of oil and destruction of the tub.

Steamship Movements.—The steamship Moravia, Capt. Graham, of the Baltimore and Liverpool line, left Locust Point yesterday with Capt. Curry, Daniel Mosher, E. W. Kennedy, Gustav Richter and wife and O. S. Halloway in the cabin. The Ohio, of the Baltimore and Bremen line, will leave here to-morrow.

Counterfeit and Tiquis Case.—John Mills was committed to jail for a hearing Saturday by Commissioner Bond on the charge of passing counterfeit counterfeit coin. William Draper, of Goldsborough, Caroline county, was held for a hearing Saturday, charged with retailing liquor without having the special tax.

Street Opening.

Commissioners for opening streets yesterday made their first return for the opening of Lawrence street from Port Avenue to Clement street, as follows: Damages—Estate of John J. Meyer, \$7,878; estate of Wm. C. Robinson, \$6; Baltimore and Ohio railroad, \$4; mayor and city council, \$2; Peter Zell & Sons, \$500; expenses, \$890 56—total, \$8,781 56. Benefits—Estate of John J. Meyer, \$2,721 75; estate of Moses Shepherd, \$300; S. M. Johnson and C. J. Baker, \$12 50; M. P. Smith, \$120; Miss Schley, \$39; John Curlett, \$7 50; mayor and city council, \$4,890 81—total, \$9,781 56.

New Year's Gift for the Poor.—The Seventh Ward Democratic Association, John Cox, president, has given \$150 for the purchase of provisions to be distributed to the poor of that ward on New Year's day at the rooms of the association, corner of Chew and Eden streets. The committee to superintend the matter are James H. Lyos, E. P. Vincente, Edw. Weber, Michael Conkley, John Cox and Adolph Nachman. Tickets for distribution to beneficiaries will be placed in the hands of Cap. Aaron, of the northeastern police station.

Tourists.—A special train with 400 excursionists from Williamsport and Wilkesbarre, Pa., reached Union depot, Baltimore, last evening, en route for Washington. A number of them stopped over and registered at Baltimore hotels.

School Holidays.—The public schools will be closed for the Christmas holidays from Friday next, 20th instant, to reopen Thursday, January 2.

Local Briefs.

Judge Richard Grason, of the Court of Appeals of Maryland and of the Circuit Court for Baltimore County, who has been seriously ill at his residence in Towson town for some time, is improving, and is now considered out of danger.

Special Advent services were begun last night in the Protestant Episcopal Chapel of St. John the Baptist, on Barre street. Rev. James Chipchase, missionary. Rev. Dr. Leeds, rector of Grace P. E. Church, delivered an address.

Two dollars were received by THE S. V. office yesterday, through J. W. Bevan, postmaster, at Lothian, Md., for the benefit of the orphan children of Memphis.

Capt. Thomas R. Tyler, of Onancock, Accomac county, Va., died yesterday morning at the residence of his nephew, John S. Tyler, No. 120 Edmondson avenue, aged 60 years.

The net proceeds of the recent Hebrew Orphan Asylum fair, at the Concordia, amounted to \$29,202.

There were doubts yesterday of the recovery of Wm. Forney, who shot himself in the side last Friday, to "quiet his nerves."

The fifth anniversary sociable of the congregation of St. Paul's English Lutheran Church, Rev. A. Clutz pastor, took place last night.

LOCAL MATTERS.

Pottery and the Ceramic Art.—Mr. Beni W. Putnam, of Boston, delivered the first of his lectures on "Pottery and Ceramic Art," in Peabody Hall, last night, to a large audience, the subject for the evening being "The Potter's Wheel and its Products." The lecture was illustrated by a potter's wheel in operation on the platform making pottery, by the blackboard, and by samples of pottery. Mr. Putnam at once engaged the close attention of the audience by his attractive manner of address, and held them deeply interested until the lecture closed. The true clay for pottery, the kaolin of the Chinese, was found in its purest state in the coal beds. The archaeologist had ascertained that the annual overflow of the Nile raised the soil about Memphis about 3/4 inches in a century; and the British government went to work to determine the age of the pyramids by this rule. It was ascertained that it had taken 13,400 years to build up this valley, and at the bottom of the borings too anger had brought up pottery, showing its ancient use and indestructibility. Ceanola's explorations in the soil of Larica, a seaport of the island of Cyprus, and long the reputed site of the ancient Carium, was referred to, and the collection in New York, showing three distinct periods of civilization. A few weeks ago the speaker was in that room of the collection devoted to glass vessels and images, and found them all iridescent; not the fashionable kind, but time, picking out the soda, had left the silica almost alone, and the substance was perishing, but across the passage way the rows upon rows of terra-cotta could be seen, with the finger points even upon them still, and in as indestructible a state as when first made. An assistant of the lecturer made samples on the potter's wheel of the stage of various pottery utensils, from the most simple cylinder and gourd-shaped jug to the more artistic work of civilized times. The lecturer exhibited a copy of the celebrated Portland vase given him by a grandson of Wedgwood, the inventor of the ware which bears his name. The Portland vase once contained the ashes of Alexander Severus. It dates from the third century. A. D. It was found in a rich sarcophagus in the Monte del Grand, about three miles from the city of Rome. Wedgwood was years in perfecting these copies.

Attempted Highway Robbery of a Lady.—An attempt was made Monday afternoon by a colored man to rob Mrs. E. A. Robinson, No. 236 Linden avenue, as she was walking on Lauvate street. The man tried to snatch her pocket-book, containing some \$45, from her hand, but she held on so tightly to it that the fellow forced her down to the sidewalk. She held on to her property, however, and called for the police. The highwayman in the meantime beat a hasty retreat. He was followed by an accomplice, who seemed to have been near at hand. The lady pursued them for some distance, but both men made their escape. Yesterday Richard Dixon and Geo. Thomas were arrested. Mrs. Robinson failed to identify them, and they were dismissed from the charge of attempted highway robbery. A razor was found on Thomas, and he was fined \$10 and costs for carrying a concealed weapon. In default of payment he was committed.

Organ Concert.—A grand organ recital and concert was given last night at Mount Vernon M. E. Church, by the church choir and several volunteer amateurs. The concert consisted of solos on the organ, singing by the choir, and two solos by Miss E. L. Pomplun, who sang "Bel Reclaire" and "Salve Maria." The audience was much gratified with the success of the evening, and the music, both vocal and instrumental, was of a high grade. The fine organ of this church has been undergoing repairs for some time, which were completed about two weeks ago. It has been re-voiced, had pneumatic action put in, new stops, new clarionette, &c., and generally overhauled. The air is forced up through a pipe from below, and is perfectly noiseless. The amount realized by the concert is to be devoted to paying the cost of the organ repairs.

Milkmen's Ball.—The West Baltimore Milkmen's Association gave their first ball of the season last night at Germania Maunierchor Hall, which was largely attended. The master of ceremonies was Wm. Singleton, assistant John J. Kelly, committee of arrangements, W. V. Cook, chairman and Messrs. J. P. P. Goss, Jas. Sadler, Jacob Keckler, and Wm. Klinefelter, floor managers; Messrs. D. O. Stanfield, J. J. Leppert, Henry Kender, E. R. Bond, reception committee, Messrs. J. E. Moriarty, D. K. Larkin, Chas. Williams, Wm. J. Walters, Wm. Hoy, B. Verney, George Gore, Thos. E. Gill, Fred. Wain, Jas. Black, Geo. January, Wm. Smeak, Wilmer D. Hyas and Henry D. Wilkins.

Received at the Penitentiary.—Prisoners have been received at the Maryland penitentiary from Washington county, as follows: John Wolf, 5 years; Daniel Barnes, colored, 18 months; Henry Johnson and David Young, 4 years each; William Smith, 5 years—all for larceny. Smith was a pickpocket, caught operating at the county jail.