

whose humorous treatment of the subject evoked much laughter. Mr. Philip Rosenthal delivered an oration, after which a debate on the resolution "That the death of Gambetta imperilled the existence of the French Republic" took place. The debate was participated in by Messrs. Weinman, Unger, Cohen and Aaron. The meeting was attended by a large number of ladies and gentlemen, who manifested their approval of the proceedings by frequent applause.

Society Notes.

Lebanon Lodge No. 9, I. O. B. B., a lodge which has given to the Order many prominent members, gave an entertainment under the auspices of its intellectual advancement committee at Fernando's Hall, 56th Street and 3d Avenue, last evening.

The Metropolitan Club will give a calico ball and reception at Delmonico's on March 3d.

The Harmonie entertainment for the 24th is awaited with much expectation by its members.

An entertainment will be given by the Progress Club on Saturday evening, the 17th inst., at Delmonico's.

The special committee of the directors of the Y. M. H. A. appointed to inaugurate and manage an entertainment for the Purim celebration is energetically at work in preparing a novelty that will no doubt prove quite a success. As the committee is rather mysterious in its movements, the members of the Association are on the *qui vive*, and anxiously await an announcement as to the nature of the proposed entertainment.

A musicale was given last evening at the residence of Mrs. Jacob Hess, 26 E. 73d St.

A contract by which Adolf Kultroff agrees to sell two lots on Fifty-ninth Street, east of Fourth Avenue, for \$30,000 to the Progress Club, now quartered in West Fifty-second Street, was recorded Friday.

Bowling circle, No. 3, Y. M. H. A., will give its second annual reception and ball on Saturday evening, at Lyrio Hall.

A calico hop at the Lexington Avenue Opera House, on March 10th, will conclude this season's series of entertainments given by Mt. Sinai Lodge, I. O. B. B.

Although several weeks will elapse before the celebration of Purim, speculations are already rife as to the proper night for calling. As Purim occurs on Friday, March 23d, it is highly probable that Saturday night, the 24th, will be selected.

Free Sons of Israel.

The annual meeting of District Grand Lodge No. 1, I. O. F. S. of I., was commenced at Clarendon Hall last Sunday, grand master Julius Harburger in the chair. The proceedings were opened by the reading of the grand master's annual address, which, after congratulating the representatives on the prosperous condition of the order, refers to the Russian persecutions and the amount raised by the district for the relief of the refugees, and concludes as follows:

Our district is splendidly equipped. The younger and older representatives are all banded together for one purpose, and that is, to cement the ties of our Fraternity that they may never be torn asunder. Thirty-three years ago our institution was founded in this city, ever since we have grown, and we are today the friend of the needy and distressed. Our founders stood nobly by our craft; rocked to and fro amidst breakers and shoals, we were steered to a harbor of safety, and from our days of infancy, until we reached our present state, the old helmsmen stood by the ship, ready to do labor for the good of our great cause. And now, a younger, rising generation is called upon to take the rudder from the hands of the older pilots, and I, as one of them, feel justly proud to belong to an institution whose organizers rallied to lay the foundation in behalf of the widows and orphans—in behalf of mankind.

The election for officers resulted as follows: Julius Harburger, grand master; Herman Stiefel, first deputy; J. E. Lowenstein, second deputy; Raphael Lehman, treasurer; H. J. Goldsmith, secretary; M. Dreyfus, warden; G. L. Lowenthal, chairman, committee on appeals; M. M. Goldsmith, finance; I. Schwarzkopf, laws; Aaron Stern, endowment; William Rothschild, intellectual advancement.

After the installation of officers by Isaac Hamburger and David Leventritt, the question of reducing the representation to one delegate for every one hundred members, instead of fifty, as at present, was discussed and voted down, as was also the proposition to hold the election for officers at the close of the session. The endowment question was referred to the executive committee, with instructions to devise a plan whereby the endowment fund can be strengthened, and report to the United States grand lodge, at the meeting to be held in Cincinnati next year. But little time was spent on the scheme for consolidating the orders, which was voted down instantly. The grand lodge adjourned on Tuesday night.

The Estelleville Riots.

The New York and Philadelphia papers have of late often than usual filled their columns with rumors pertaining to matters of the Russian Hebrew emigrants in general and the colonists at Vineland and Estelleville in particular. Matters were magnified to an unmerited importance. Because amongst 15,000 emigrants there have been found sixteen families who appeared to be refractory and boisterous, the war-cry of general condemnation was at once raised, and the faults of a few made a crime of many.

Amongst the people at the Alliance Colony near Vineland, there were about twenty families who were offered lands and houses in that colony, but refused, for the reason that the location of that place did not suit them, and because—having formed a kind of a brotherhood—they liked to be colonized somewhere else in one body. They said if the committee would give them \$2,000 they would take care of themselves and never bother the committee. The Society, always ready to use the moneys

at their disposal for the best of the refugees, accepted the proposition of the brotherhood, but they changed their minds and expressed their desire to be managed by the committee. Just at this state of affairs came the proposition of General Burbridge, which was laid before the brotherhood. A committee, consisting of Mr. H. S. Henry, the President of the Society, Directors James H. Hoffman and Morris Tuska, accompanied by Dr. Julius Schwarz, who had just then returned from Cotopaxi, Colorado, where he has successfully established a colony—went to Vineland to meet Gen. Burbridge and to discuss with him the details of an arrangement for colonization.

This special committee resolved upon accepting the plan of forming a colony at Estelleville, N. J., and at once went to work to select the best material available. The brotherhood thankfully accepted the proposition laid before them, and expressed their wish to be sent at once to Estelleville. The committee, however, animated by the desire that those Russians who were willing to go to Estelleville and to enter into a contract with Gen. Burbridge, should do this of their own free will, and without compulsion or persuasion, advised the "would-be farmers" to go and look at the lands and to study the conditions before they entered into any arrangement whatever. They did so, and sent a delegation of three to Estelleville, who returned with the report that the land was good and the conditions under which they should become freeholders such as to give them a fair start to begin the battle of life.

In consequence of the favorable report of the delegation, ten more families joined the brotherhood of twenty, and the families, thirty in number, started for the colony. Here they were quartered in temporary shelters and work—wood chopping at from fifty to seventy-five cents a cord of marked wood—offered to them. Ten families earnestly went to work and managed to gain a tolerable livelihood. They earned from three to four dollars a week, besides doing some clearing on their lands, which were to be ploughed up by Gen. Burbridge, who also pledged himself to furnish houses with the necessary furniture and cooking utensils, crockery, fuel, seed, goats, and a pair of horses for the colony.

The twenty however who at first were so greedy after the land at Estelleville, suddenly changed their minds and discovered that their lands did not correspond with their taste and that wood chopping is no child's play. One of their leaders traversed the whole State, spreading rumors of cruel treatment, starvation, and homelessness, and of course the rumors found their way to the committee room. To find out the true state of affairs, the committee decided to investigate the matter, and appointed Mr. Julius Schwarz as their agent for that purpose. This gentleman at once proceeded to Estelleville, and found that, though the contract was in many points neglected still there was no truth in the statement of the strikers, and that, if they went to work, they need not fear starvation; nor was the outlook for the future of the settlement less promising than it had been from the start. He tried to bring things into working order, introduced a more business like manner in measuring the day's work of the wood choppers, induced Gen. Burbridge to abolish his system of paying the people with supplies and to pay them their wages in cash, and ordered the people to do their best, promising them at the same time an assistance and to facilitate their situation, fifteen dollars and clothing for each family. Ten of the families continued to do well, received their fifteen dollars, were clothed, and kept on earning wages; the twenty however refused to remain at the colony and expressed their desire to be given one hundred and sixty-five dollars a family as a final relief.

In order to free them from their debts, and to enable them to have a fresh start, the committee paid their debts, so that they owed nothing for supplies or anything else. This generous step of the committee broke the ring of the brotherhood, and about four dropped out of it, leaving sixteen families on the "war path." These sixteen families could not be induced to earn their bread by the sweat of their brows.

As an ultimatum, they begged to be returned to Russia, a demand which was never meant in earnest and was brought up merely for the purpose of impressing the committee with their desperate condition, whereby they would not shrink to fall back into the arms of slavery. "We would rather go to Russia and die than to chop wood in the forests," was their war cry. Mr. Schwarz returned to New York and reported the state of affairs.

The committee delegated Mr. James H. Hoffman and Mr. Julius Schwarz to answer the demands of the strikers, and it was thought best to do so by means of a proclamation, a copy of which was sent to each of the striking families. The proclamation, signed by Lazarus Rosenfeld as chairman of the Colonization Committee, and by Mr. Hoffman, set forth in plain language that it was their own choice to be settled at Estelleville; consequently they could not charge the committee with having compelled them to go there; that anyone wishing to leave Estelleville can do so any time; that their demands as to being supplied with six months' rations cannot be granted, for the reason that it would imply a premium on idleness; that they have opportunities to earn their bread independently, and ought to do so; that, however, if they would decide to remain at Estelleville, the Society would give them \$15 cash per family and clothing, and would teach them the sewing machine, which would open a new field of paying industry to the female members of their families; that if they did not remain they could leave any time and would receive \$100 cash as a final relief; finally, that they could not be sent back to Russia, as able-bodied men cannot be returned merely because they shun work.

On the 30th of December, a delegation of two arrived in New York, waited on the committee, and declared their intention of accepting the propositions and of remaining at Estelleville. Mr. Schwarz arrived at Estelleville on the 4th of January, and was received with much respect. He spoke to the colonists in the kindest terms, and expressed his conviction that, if they continue to behave themselves, the committee would not forsake them, and in case of real want be always ready to extend its helping hand.

As Mr. Schwarz was on his way to the house where he stopped, one of the settlers belonging to the original ten, accosted him and told him that the sixteen strikers had entered into a conspiracy to deceive the committee, that they accepted the propositions only to get money and clothing, and that they had decided to leave Estelleville, go to Vineland, and take forcible possession of the barracks at the Alliance Colony. They thought that by such a policy they might compel the Society to yield to their demands, and that the shown leniency of the committee would again be exercised.

Mr. Schwarz at once—it was late in the evening—appeared amongst the conspirators,

and reproached them for their treacherous conduct. He gave them then two hours time to reconsider their resolution; but as they clung to it, he left Estelleville early in the morning, hastened to Vineland, consulted Mr. House, the Vineland attorney of the society, and rode the next morning to the Alliance colony. The barracks were found windowless and doorless. He therefore ordered them to be boarded up, which was promptly done. Then he convened the colonists at Alliance and informed them of the treacherous intention of their brethren at Estelleville, forbidding them to receive any rioters in their houses, and asking them to ignore them. The strikers arrived on Monday, and at once marched to Alliance, tore down the legal notices but abstained from trespassing. At the moment however that they heard that Mr. Schwarz had left Vineland, they at once broke into the barracks and took possession. In order to make the quarters more comfortable, they demolished one of the barracks and used the lumber to fit up the one barrack which they chose to make their abode.

Mr. Schwarz returned to New York, and reporting what has occurred, asked for further instructions. A meeting of the Executive Committee was called and it was resolved to resort to legal means to evacuate the barracks which were needed to place seventy sewing machines for the use of the colonists at Alliance, and to instruct Mr. Schwarz to carry out the resolution. The secretary of the Society, Mr. S. H. Mildenberg, was also delegated, and both gentlemen left New York and at once proceeded to Alliance. The strikers were found in the barracks and began to raise their habitual war cry of starvation. The two gentlemen kindly warned them to leave the barracks, as they otherwise would be ejected by law, but every effort to persuade them in this direction proved fruitless. They then rode to Centerton, appeared before the Justice of the Peace, signed a complaint and obtained notices to the strikers, whereby they were requested to leave the barracks and the grounds of the Alliance colony by the 22d of January, or if not to show cause on the 31st of January why they should not be removed.

It can be seen that the Society took the mildest course, namely civil proceedings, whereby the society as landlord complained the strikers as tenants, the chief object being then not to punish the rioters, but to get possession of the barracks.

Two officers, accompanied by Mr. House, the attorney, rode to Alliance and served the notices on the parties, whereupon they left for a place called Leaches Mill, to await the arrival of Messrs. Schwarz and Mildenberg, who in the meantime rode to the house of the colonist Peter Tolcinsky whose wife was dangerously ill and whom they wished to help and console. Scarcely had the officers of the law left the barracks, when the rioters proceeded to the house of Tolcinsky, surrounded it, and demanded that Messrs. Schwarz and Mildenberg come out at once, and nullify the act of the constables. They ran around the house with rolling eyes, threatening and heaping upon the two besieged gentlemen the choicest Hebrew profanities. "We must have you," they exclaimed, "dead or alive!"

The sick woman in the house fell from one faint into the other for fear that the rioters might break into the house and injure its inhabitants, while the two gentlemen tried to console and quiet her. They sent Tolcinsky and another colonist out to the rioters, asking them to have pity on the sick woman, and to leave the place, but they answered with threats and curses.

The gentlemen made another attempt to disperse the crowd by sending the man Opalinsky out, to try whether he could not reach Leaches Mill, where the constables and the attorney were waiting, and give them notice of the critical situation. But the man was not permitted to pass the line, and had to return. Had the two gentlemen remained in the house, the poor sick woman would have died with terror, so they concluded to leave and go out to the wild and excited emigrants.

On their appearance, they were at once surrounded and separated from each other. A large crowd took hold of Mr. Mildenberg and another of Mr. Schwarz. The two gentlemen, flanked by the emigrants, proceeded slowly towards the barracks, hoping that when once there they would be able to get into their carriage and drive away. But they were mistaken. The rioters surrounded the carriage, preventing them from getting near to it, and backed their two victims up to a large wagon that stood alongside the barrack. Here they formed a ring around them, and began to negotiate. "We shall kill you both if you do not yield to our demands," said the men. "The situation was anything but pleasant. Give us \$50 and we will let you go," said the ringleader, "and if you will not do as we want you to do, you shall not leave here alive." It was to be expected that, unless the money was paid, the two gentlemen could not leave uninjured, and common policy dictated them to yield to their demands. They therefore borrowed \$50 from Mr. Chas. Nyman, late storekeeper at Alliance, and counted it over to one of the ringleaders as ransom for their lives.

Mr. Mildenberg then ascended the carriage, but Mr. Schwarz was kept back by the crowd that demanded of him the withdrawal of the legal proceedings. This gentleman, however, managed to break through the crowd and reached the carriage safely, without being compelled to yield to the mob in that respect. They then drove to Vineland, returned to New York, reported their adventures, and were instructed to return to enforce the law, to pay those that would show penitence one hundred dollars per family as final relief, and to prosecute the ringleaders.

This was done. All of the rioters came in to Vineland begging forgiveness and promising to behave better in the future, at the same time declaring that their actions were a consequence of outside influences, and they were victims of wicked ringleaders. They left the barracks, signed a paper setting forth that they will never bother the committee anymore, took their hundred dollars and quitted the place. Three ringleaders, however, continued in their wicked actions, and a word to the gentlemen, while standing at the door of the house wherein they were, that if they did not yield to their demands they could not leave Vineland alive. This action sealed their doom. The gentlemen had come to Vineland with a strong determination to avoid pressing for severe punishment, but in the face of such impudent behavior, they did not think that they were right to condone a felony, and called on the constables to apprehend the leaders. This was promptly done. Frachtenberg, Perlzweig and Isaac Pressman were arrested and arraigned before the Justice of the Peace at Centerton, Salem County, N. J., and after having a preliminary hearing were committed to jail in Salem, to be held there till the third Monday in May for trial.

Their families have been taken care of, and the leaders will have ample time to meditate upon American laws. The example set forth will not fail to have the very best influence on the minds of those of the colonists that were less demonstrative in their ways, but not less possessed of preconceived notions, and those who thus far were ignorant of the fact—will henceforth know that there is a law in this country and men to enforce it.

Local News.

IN TOWN In Brief.

Saturday's storm reduced the attendance at most of our up-town synagogues to a select and devoted few, and sermons in several of the shrines were omitted.

A fund of \$500 is being raised for the widow of the murdered pedler, Z. Marks. Mr. Judelsohn, 65 Bayard Street, will be pleased to receive contributions.

Rev. Mr. Friedlander, formerly of Kingston, Jamaica, has returned to New York. He was selected minister of the German Congregation, but in consequence of the destruction of the synagogue and the impoverishment of the community by the recent fire, has resolved to seek a position in the States.

Hebrew Emigrant Aid Society.

At a meeting of the executive committee, held last week, a special committee was appointed to take the necessary steps towards the disbandment of the society. As soon as its affairs are wound up, the residue of cash on hand will be turned over to the United Hebrew Charities.

Sons of Benjamin.

The annual convention of the Independent order Sons of Benjamin will be held on Sunday next, at 9 A. M., at Minot Hall, corner of Washington and Springfield Streets, Boston. The order consists of sixty one lodges, with 2,891 members, being an increase of 1,591 during 1882. There are thirty-eight lodges in New York city. During the year, \$27,836.40 were paid for endowments.

Purim Association.

Those of our coreligionists who desire to obtain choice boxes for the Purim Ball, should not fail to attend the sale, which will take place in the vestry rooms of the temple Emanu El, next Thursday evening at 8 o'clock. There is no doubt, judging from the enthusiasm already displayed, that the ball will be a greater success than ever.

Y. M. H. A.

The Literary Society of the Y. M. H. A. held a regular meeting at the Association Rooms last Sunday evening. The exercises were opened by the reading of an essay on "Veal," by Mr. William G. Oppenheim,