

penitentiary in one of the Eastern States. He is certainly one of the most desperate scoundrels we ever had amongst us. Orlinski was retaken at a pawnbroker's on Commercial street. It appears that he had secreted himself among the sand hills in the immediate vicinity of the Court, and had made several visits to the City in disguise.

DEC. 7.—Judge Freelon delivered an opinion on the Rondo case. R. A. Potter had been convicted in the Police Court under the old law of 1855 for playing the gambling game of rondo, and fined 100 dollars. The case was appealed and brought before Judge Freelon on a Habeas Corpus. His Honor said that he was satisfied there was no repeal of the law of 1855 as to games of chance, and therefore the conviction was rightly had. It was ordered that the prisoner be remanded to custody.

The Fireman's Election, under the Consolidation Act, took place. There were four candidates for Chief Engineer—Messrs Whitney, Nuttman, O'Brien and Lane. The contest was very warm and exciting between the two first named, and the vote stood as follows: F. E. R. Whitney, 400; James Nuttman, 395; O'Brien, 60; Lane, 55. Whitney, having a plurality of five votes, was elected. At a meeting of the Board of Delegates, held on Tuesday evening, Mr. Nuttman gave notice that he should contest the election. The term of service is three years. D. T. Van Orden was elected First Assistant, to serve three years; L. H. Robie, Second Assistant, two years; and Cornelius Walsh, Third Assistant, one year.

The following named gentlemen were elected Directors of the Sacramento Valley Railroad for the ensuing year:—J. P. Crocket, G. C. Johnson, C. K. Goodwin, Wm. Freeborn, G. F. Bragg, T. F. Moss, J. B. Bayerque, G. Touchard, H. R. Payson, W. C. Ralston, J. P. Robinson, H. W. Harkness and S. J. Field.

DEC. 9.—Articles of Incorporation were filed in the office of the Secretary of State in favor of the San Francisco Market Street Railroad.

DEC. 22.—A dreadful murder and suicide took place at the Red House, near the Race Course. The proprietor, Sylvester Murphy, aged 27, a native of Pittsburg, Pa., murdered a servant named Mary Ann McGlynn, aged 23, by shooting her in the head, and then cutting her throat; afterwards he took his own life, by inflicting with a small knife, eight stabs upon his left breast, and also by cutting his own throat. The whole affair is wrapped in mystery.

DEC. 24.—A slight shock of earthquake, was felt in this city, about half past ten o'clock, A. M.

DEC. 25.—Christmas Day was celebrated in an appropriate manner. Service was performed in the various churches throughout the city; business was suspended, and every one gave themselves up to the enjoyment of merry Christmas.

DEC. 31.—Number of applications, in insolvency, during the year 1850, of which 55 were made in the Fourth District, and 75 in the Twelfth District Court. The totals of liabilities are not as large as in the failures of 1856, and not near as large as in 1855, as will be seen by the following tables:

In 1855: Number of applications, 197; liabilities, \$8,377,827; assets, \$1,516,175; balance of failure, \$6,861,652.

In 1856: Number of applications, 146; liabilities, \$3,401,042; assets, \$657,908; balance of failure, \$2,743,134.

In 1857: Number of applications, 130; liabilities, \$2,719,497; assets, \$271,507; balance of failure, \$2,447,990.

Number of divorce suits instituted in San Francisco during the year 1857, 106; of which 36 were commenced in the Fourth District, and 70 in the Twelfth District Court. In 40 of these cases, decrees of divorce have already been granted.

The total number of claims for land under Mexican titles in the Northern District of California is 426. Of these, 211 are finally settled in favor of the claimants. These claims cover in all 2,469,338, or upwards of 11,000 acres each on an average. Of the remainder, 72 have been finally rejected or dismissed; about 70 are yet undecided, and the remainder have been appealed to the United States Supreme Court.

The amount of fines imposed by the Police Court for the thirteen months ending this date is \$34,686, of which \$20,560 was collected.