

## Debate on the Tweed Investigation—The Cruelty to Animals Bill.

From Our Special Correspondent.

ALBANY, Tuesday, March 18, 1873.

The special feature of to-day's legislative proceedings was the debate in the Senate on the Tweed investigation. As if to compensate for the dullness which marked the business of the House, the Senate excited itself to a degree which has not been equaled this session, and but rarely in former sessions. The keynote of the debate lies in the fact that Senator Johnson, a Democrat, who is chairman of the Tweed Investigation Committee, has endeavored to spread around the Capitol an impression that the Republicans are trying to stifle the investigation. The majority of the Republican Senators determined, therefore, that whatever the Senator from the Twenty-sixth should represent to be necessary to the success of the inquiry, and ask for to that end, should be granted to him, and all possible help he required should be afforded, however unreasonable it might appear. Remembering this, there will be no difficulty in understanding the proceedings of this morning. The ball was opened by Mr. Lewis, who offered a resolution that the committee be authorized to employ a messenger-clerk and stenographer. This was adopted without difficulty. Mr. Johnson then offered a resolution that Senators Lowrey and Allen be added to the committee, thereby enlarging it to five members. In support of this unusual proposition he made a speech, complaining that as the committee was now constituted his hands were tied; that he could not employ the counsel he desired to have, or any counsel; that the committee seemed so constituted that a thorough investigation by it seemed impossible; and that it was necessary to enlarge the committee before anything could be done by it, for which purpose he proposed to add two gentlemen of unimpeached integrity and acknowledged position. The question on the adoption of this resolution was put by the President and declared carried, while Mr. Lewis was on his feet waiting to speak against it. Mr. Lewis, thereupon, moved a reconsideration of the vote, and after some discussion, the President explaining that he had not noticed the Senator from the Thirty-first, a reconsideration was carried, 13 to 6. The Senate had now been warned up to more earnest work, and when the question was again placed before it by this vote, Mr. Winslow moved, as an amendment, that the Chair appoint the two additional members. The debate on this was earnest, almost fierce, and unusually personal. Mr. Winslow made a speech against the resolution so pointed and able, that it evoked praise from Senators who opposed him. Mr. Lewis also spoke against the resolution with a degree of warmth and excitement, in reply to Mr. Johnson's insinuations, which he never before displayed in this body. The only question, as both Mr. Woodin and Mr. Lewis claimed, was whether the Chairman of the Committee should employ, not counsel, but a particular Mr. David Mitchell, of Syracuse; if he could not have this man he wanted none, and the only object of the resolution was to effect this object in an indirect manner. Mr. Lewis was not in favor of employing a lawyer at all, believing it would only impede the investigation; but if one were employed at all, he was in favor of Mr. Van Cott or Mr. Parsons, of New-York, gentlemen who were thoroughly familiar with the matter at issue. The committee, he said, with this exception, were in harmony on all points. Then speaking of the visit of the committee to New-York, he said one of its members had left his colleagues in the hotel, gone off, and had a private interview with Mr. Tweed, and had reported that the investigation could not proceed till Mr. Tweed had had time to prepare to appear. Mr. Woodin here interrupted to ask if it were possible that the chairman of the committee had done this thing? Mr. Lewis repeated that it was "one of the committee," and on this report they had returned and given Mr. Tweed some time in which to prepare his defense. The covert insinuation of the Senator from the Twenty-sixth, that there were those on the committee who feared they would be investigated by this inquiry, he declared to be an intentional insult, without cause or provocation. Mr. Johnson rose to reply, apparently controlling himself with considerable difficulty. He explained the visit he had made to Mr. Tweed. He had, he said, first sent a messenger to that person to inquire what course he would take; whether he would appear personally before the committee, or by counsel, &c. The messenger returned, saying Mr. Tweed's office was overrun by visitors; he could not see him, and requested Mr. Johnson to come himself. He did so. Mr. Tweed said he was sick, had not had time to prepare for the investigation, and requested delay. Mr. Johnson represented the short time (thirty days) at the disposal of the committee, and Tweed replied: "Go on with your investigation and somebody will be hurt." I reported this, continued Mr. Johnson, to the other members of the committee, and we returned. He concluded by challenging Senators who were in favor of a thorough investigation to grant the requests he had made. At this point of the debate Mr. Lord gave it a more good-humored tone by his nervous opposition to the employment of Mr. David Mitchell as counsel to the committee. For that individual he appeared to have a very cordial hatred, growing out of certain canal cases, and denounced him as at once an incompetent lawyer and a corrupt man. Mr. D. P. Wood, claiming Mr. Mitchell as a constituent of his, defended his character, and the excessive earnestness of both Senators on this disputed point came in as a timely and amusing relief to the heat and harsh feeling displayed in the previous debate. A vote on Mr. Winslow's amendment was then taken, as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Benedict, Bowen, Dickinson, Graham, Lewis, Wagner, Winslow, J. Wood, Woodin—9.

NAYS—Messrs. Adams, Chatfield, Cook, Johnson, Lord, McGowan, Murphy, Palmer, Perry, Robertson, Scoresby, Tiemann, Winslow, D. P. Wood—13.

The motion was then put on Mr. Johnson's resolution, which was adopted, Mr. Lord only voting in the negative. Those voting in the affirmative were Senators Adams, Allen, Chatfield, Dickinson, Foster, Johnson, Lewis, Lord, McGowan, Murphy, Palmer, Tiemann, Wagner, D. P. Wood, Woodin—16.

Mr. Lord voted in the negative because an amendment he proposed, that the committee should employ no counsel living west of Albany, was voted down.

### THE CRUELTY TO ANIMALS BILL.

Mr. Bergh's bill, for the prevention of disease and cruelty, was the special order in the Assembly this morning, and the House went into committee on it immediately after the reading of the journal. The seventh section had been reached in committee previously, and the discussion opened on an amendment to that section, proposed by Mr. C. G. Cornell, to strike out the clause which gave the society's agents authority to arrest any person found violating the provisions of the law without warrant, the same as if engaged in a breach of the peace. Against the retention of this clause Mr. Clarke made some pointed remarks. He claimed that while he, in common with the majority of the citizens of New-York, was in favor of the bill, it was likely that by stretching the power of the society too far popular sentiment would turn against it, and the very objects which all sought to promote would be defeated. Mr. Husted took up the

question on the other side, and a very lively passage of arms between that gentleman and Mr. Clarke took place, which caused much amusement. Mr. Husted showed that this same power of summary arrest was now conferred on the society's agents by existing law; it had been so held by the courts; but as there was a possibility of doubt, the provision was put into the bill to anticipate an adverse decision from a higher court. The effect of adopting the amendment, he said, would be to repeal an existing law. The discussion was continued by Mr. Prince and Mr. Batcheller against the amendment, and Mr. Pierson in favor of it; but there was more speaking against the proposed change than for it. The House was evidently in its favor, and the obnoxious clause was finally struck out by a vote of fifty-three to thirty-four. This being disposed of, the reading proceeded till the bill was finished, and general amendments were in order. Mr. Ray then moved that the first section be stricken out. This section provides that the slaughtering of animals shall be concealed from public view, and that no child under twelve years of age shall be employed in any abattoir or slaughter-house. This section, Mr. Ray thought, was an insult to a very respectable class of the community, and "an invasion of the dearest privileges of our butchers." This same section was opposed in the Senate on nearly the same grounds; but it was vigorously defended there, and Mr. Prince defended it with like energy and earnestness on this occasion. Mr. Patterson, who might be said to speak for the butchers, he being in that business, settled the matter by making a few observations in favor of the section. The motion to strike out was at once withdrawn, and after the adoption of two other amendments, one making the society responsible for any wrongful exercise of its powers, the other subjecting all incorporated villages, as well as cities, to the operation of the bill, it was ordered to a third reading. The bill will go back to the Senate on the amendments, but they are not such as to provoke any opposition from that body.

### MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS.

The "Insanity" bill was ordered to a third reading. Under its provisions any prisoner acquitted of a capital offense on the ground of insanity is to be confined in a lunatic asylum for not less than fifteen years, and shall be discharged only on competent proof of his sanity. The Governor may discharge such prisoner at any time, but only after twenty days' notice has been given the District-Attorney of the county in which the prisoner was convicted, of an intention to apply for such release.

The bill to secure consumers gas of a definite standard of illuminating powers has been reported from the Committee on Trade and Manufactures, and is now awaiting its third reading. The bill was favorably reported by that committee, and the chairman of it, Mr. Wells, will endeavor to push it through as speedily as possible.

The Jury bill introduced in the Senate by Mr. Robertson is still in general orders in the Assembly. It has not been passed yet, as erroneously reported in some journals.