

A CITY SOCIETY'S CHARGE

Institution for Suppression of Vice Criticises Magistrate Zeller.

Other Officials Condemned Without Specifying Names in the Report— Magistrate Zeller's Reply.

The twenty-seventh annual report of the New York Society for the Suppression of Vice was made public yesterday. In addition to giving the details of the work of the society for the year 1900, the report criticises some City Magistrates and policemen for disclosing the fact that warrants had been issued against poolrooms and gambling houses. City Magistrate Lorenz Zeller's name is directly used. This is in relation to the raid on a poolroom in University Place, near Thirteenth Street, "which has the reputation of being controlled by a certain State Senator." In regard to raiding this place by Anthony Comstock, the report says:

"We obtained the evidence and submitted affidavits of reliable witnesses, upon which we secretly secured from City Magistrate Zeller, in the privacy of his chambers, warrants to raid this place. Before we could go from Jefferson Market Court, Sixth Avenue and Eighth Street, to Thirteenth Street and University Place, the parties had been notified and moved their 'layouts' away. Seven gamblers were subsequently arrested. Three reputable and expert witnesses gave positive testimony establishing the guilt of all seven men before the Magistrate, and their statements were neither impeached nor contradicted. Yet this Magistrate discharged six of the seven persons arrested.

"We took the facts to the District Attorney, and he ordered the matter forthwith before the Grand Jury, and all seven were indicted. The one man whom Magistrate Zeller held has since been convicted. Two others whom he discharged, have been rearrested since upon bench warrants, and both have been convicted. The other four we have not been able to secure as yet."

Other instances of warning given to criminals, as alleged by the authorities, are cited. At the time of the raid on the "Black Rabbit" resort on Oct. 5 last, it is stated, knowledge of the true purpose for which policemen were required was kept from the men and their commanders, with the result that all gambling houses received the "tip" to close, and did so.

A plea is made for anti-gambling laws which shall apply with equal force upon, as well as outside, of the race track, and an appeal is made to all teachers for confidential information as to improper literature circulated among their pupils. The report is signed by A. F. Libby, Henry E. Jones, and John C. Martin.

City Magistrate Lorenz Zeller was seen at his home, 326 East One Hundred and Twenty-fourth Street, last night, and shown the report. In answer to the statements made in regard to himself, he said:

"If Anthony Comstock or his society means to insinuate that I gave out information in advance of any raids they were about to make, they say what is false, and if Mr. Comstock should dare make the direct charge I will proceed against him legally, and it will not be a civil action, either. The statement that the men I discharged have since been convicted is not true. I did not hold the men at the time, as the evidence required by law was wanting."

\$55,000 for a Stock Exchange Seat.

A new record price was established yesterday by the sale of a seat on the New York Stock Exchange for \$55,000. The last previous sale brought \$52,000.