

REMOVAL OF THE OFFICE AND DIVISION OF DEPARTMENTS.

Soon after my appointment, I was confirmed in the opinion previously entertained, that the Company's affairs could be much more efficiently managed if the financial and working departments were kept separate—the former to be under the sole control of the Finance Committee, and the latter superintended by a good practical Gas Engineer ; and on my bringing the subject under your notice, it at once received your sanction and approval. I also represented to you that it was both difficult and inconvenient to superintend the Company's affairs while the office was at so great a distance from the City, and that for the convenience of the Public as well as the Directors, it should be removed to town, but an objection was raised on the score of increased expenditure for rent, &c. In order, however, that the experiment might have a fair trial, the objection was soon overcome by the Executors Masson offering the gratuitous use of their office for that purpose, said office containing an excellent fire-proof vault available for the Books and papers of the Company. It is now more than six months since the removal took place, and consumers have repeatedly expressed their satisfaction and approval of the measure.

DEFALCATION OF THE LATE MANAGER, JNO. S. LADE, JR.

It was not, however until the 28th August last that I succeeded in convincing a majority of the Directors of the necessity for the immediate removal of the office as above referred to. The Manager then in charge for the previous two months, and subsequent to the departure of Mr. Falconer, had not met with my entire confidence, and when, in accordance with the resolution of the Board, the Books were on 31st August removed to the town office, it met with a strong opposition on his part. It was full time, however, that the change was made, for on looking over the Rent Led-