The New Orleans Bee.

OFFICE 73 CHARTRES STREET. NEW ORLEANS, THURSDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 20, 1866. Vol. XXVII—New Series. Vol. XVII—Whole—14 002

JOHN SMITH DIMITRY & CO., PROPRIETORS & EDITORS, Office, No. 73 Chartres Street. NEW ORLEANS: THURSDAY MORNING, DEC. 20, 1866.

AUCTION SALES THIS DAY.

By E. M. Jacobs, at 10 o'clock, A. M., at No. 8 St. Ferdinand street—Cotton Goods, drays, wagons, harnesses, etc.

FINE JEWELRY, ETC.—Messrs. A. B. Griswold & Co., corner Canal and Royal streets, advertise for sale an unusual large and elegant assortment of Watches and Jewelry of all kinds, Guns, Pistols, Table Silverware, Vases, etc., to be sold for as low prices cash, as can be procured anywhere, North or South. Messrs. G. & Co. are the successors of the old and popular firm of Hyde & Goodrich, and took the premium at the late State Fair for the "good taste, skill and workmanship" in their display of Silverware. They have also provided for the Holidays a rare assortment of Christmas and New Year's Presents, suitable for all purses.

By an advertisement in another column, it will be seen that the Robinson City Mills, situated at the head of the New Basin, are now offering prepared flour to the public, said to be the very best article for the manufacture of bread. It requires only water to mix it. The public are asked to give this fine flour a trial before purchasing elsewhere. They will be pleased with it.

THE FAIR AT MASONIC HALL.—We acknowledge, as a very pleasant reminder of the fact the fair is going on at the Masonic Hall, the receipt of some very palatable delicacies in the way of wines and other refreshments sent to our office, through the courtesy of Mrs. Nuna Augustin, Mrs. J. R. Conway and Mrs. L. M. Gomes. The fair is for the benefit of the St. Vincent Home for Boys—a most worthy object.

The attention of ladies of the city and country is called to the advertisement of Mr. Felix Saron, whose establishment at 14 Baronne street, near Canal, is an elegant bazaar, where they can have their heads dressed in the finest styles of the coiffeur, and their persons otherwise adorned for any occasion. Mr. Saron announces that he has just received a large assortment of hair of all colors. He has beautiful tetes de jeu on gold and silver, combs, brushes, perfumery, &c., from Paris, and is prepared to supply milliners and flower-makers with everything in their line. He proposes to sell, as heretofore, at 25 per cent. less than at any other establishment in the city, either at his principal store, or the branch, No. 214 Baronne street, near Girod, either of which is in easy access by the cars from all parts of the city. Mr. Saron has, in connection with his chief establishment, a large hair-dressing saloon, which may be secured for ladies, for balls or evening parties by the week or month. He will forward goods promptly by the express when desired.

Thanks to the steamer General Quitman for favors.

Thanks to Mr. Philip May for favors.

We are pleased to notice the return from the North of our distinguished fellow citizen, General Richard Taylor.

THE CRESCENT MONTHLY.—We have received the January number of this Southern Magazine, and are pleased with its contents. The first article, "A Night in the New Britannian," by John R. Thompson, Esq., the Virginia poet, is the best thing in the number. The readers of Dickens' "Tales of an Uncommercial Traveller" will read this sketch with interest. Gen. Wickham's battle report, contributed by John Esten Cooke, Esq., and published for the first time will also be found interesting. There are two graceful and elegant poems by Paul H. Hayne and Will Wallace Harney, and several other original and selected articles. There is also a report of the Sacred Plenary Council of the Catholic prelates in Baltimore, with an ill. lustration. Published by William Evelyn & Co., 82 Baronne street, and for sale at all the bookstores.

The Georgia Legislature have sustained the Governor's veto of the extension of the Homestead Act, but have overruled his veto of the Stay Law.

AMUSEMENTS.

VARIETIES THEATRE.—Manager Floyd, in compliance with numerous requests, has decided to present, this evening, the beautiful drama of the "Marble Heart." Its first representation, a few weeks ago, was a decidedly, artistic treat to all those who attended it. The "Marble Heart," with its story of despised love, and heartless beauty, has always been a favorite in our community; and we look for a crowded house to-night.

The cast is excellent, and embraces, Mrs. Chanfrau as *Mano*—Mr. Cardeu as *Raphael Duchaillet*—Mr. Floyd in his capital part of *Velasco*—Miss Prentice as *Marie*, and Mr. Fiske as that sirrissi of Parisian butterflies, *Vaudevi*.

To-morrow, the "Fast Family," temporarily displaced by the "Marble Heart," will be played for the last time.

ST. CHARLES THEATRE.—Lotta appeared Tuesday night, for the second time, as *Little Nell* and the *Marchioness*. The ease with which the little creature passed from one extreme to the other—from the heart-broken devotion of the tender child to her crazy grandfather, to the extravagant humor of the *Marchioness*, surrounded by bare walls and kitchen furniture, and dancing grandly before an imaginary Queen's Majesty—was something, on the whole, astonishing. Her acting in both parts is in a high degree artistic. She makes no compromise in her representation of them. She keeps them entirely distinct. She builds no bridge to connect the sorrows of one creation with the burlesque of the other. We may like her, for our own part, better as the *Marchioness* than as *Little Nell*; but we cannot deny her claims to the divided honors of Thalia and Melpomene. Lotta may have been born, like *Beatrice*, "in a merry hour." No one, we take it, can look at her laughing eye and expressive features without thinking so. But she has, we fancy, studied more carefully to make herself what she is, than the public are generally willing to credit her with doing. If she never before had given proof of dramatic talent, her identification with two characters so contrasted as those of which we have spoken, would alone suffice to invest her with its acknowledged possession.

She appears to-night as "Fanchon" in the play of "Fanchon the Cricket."

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—Certainly, the "Academy" need have no fear of competition, if it continue to present such a combination of amusements and varied talent as at present, and if it hold always, such an assemblage of laughing, light-hearted bodies as are to be nightly seen within its walls.

The ballet pantomime, the "Contrabandist," which closes an excellent entertainment, is a capital afterpiece. The pantomimic action of Frank Lacey, M. Weithoff, and Franklin, is well executed, and Mlle Christine Kwistowski, as *Ida*, affords another proof of her grace in this very difficult art. The nine *Tableaux Vivants*, illuminated with Bengal fire, are, by the way, worth seeing. The precision with which each one takes position—the participants increasing from one (*Cromwell*) to a stage full of contrabandists, soldiers, and female peasants—the gradual development of baffled revenge and retribution—the impressive silence with which all these changes are made—and the music, fitful and gloomy, toning itself appropriately to the catastrophe—all combine to make a picture exceedingly effective.

Miss EVA BRENT.—The accomplished vocalist, Miss Eva Brent, recently arrived from New York, will make, positively, her first appearance at the "Academy," this evening.

Miss Brent is said to have no superior, as a balladist, in the country.

THE NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Bourgeois' "Mesdiante" is to be given to-night with an excellent cast.

THE NATIONAL THEATRE.—A vaudeville, in five acts, entitled *L'Usurpateur*, is to be given in German at this theatre this evening.

The Texas Militia.

The following returns to the Governor have been made by the Assessors appointed under the act of March 23d, 1865, to enroll the number and names of men, white and black, in the Parish of Orleans, liable to militia duty for 1866:

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS.

First Representative District—Whites, 1739; blacks, 740—Total, 2469.
Second Representative District—Whites, 3053, blacks, 919—Total, 3972
Third Representative District—Whites, 4013; blacks, 1402—Total, 5515.
Fourth Representative District—Whites, 1614; blacks, 318—Total, 1972.
Fifth Representative District—Whites, 3477; blacks, 981—Total, 4466
Sixth Representative District—Whites, 2667; blacks, 735—Total, 3402
Seventh Representative District—Whites, 1908; blacks, 858—Total, 2766
Eighth Representative District—Whites, 1499; blacks, 282—Total, 1781
Ninth Representative District—Whites, 1565; blacks, 426—Total, 1991
Tenth Representative District—Whites, 2722; blacks, 1776—Total, 5498.
Parish of Orleans, right bank—Whites, 670; blacks, 665—Total, 1335

RECAPITULATION.

	Whites.	Blacks.
City of New Orleans	24,478	8,645
Parish of Orleans, right bank	670	665
Total	26,068	9,130
Grand total		34,698

The white militia in this parish, it will be seen, outnumber the blacks nearly three to one; although the latter have a slight majority in Algiers. The following exhibits the numbers and proportions of whites and blacks in several of the country parishes:

	Whites.	Blacks.	Total.
Terrebonne Parish	586	1214	1800
St. Tammany Parish	794	776	1570
Washington Parish	383	152	535
East Feliciana Parish	1412	1228	2640
West Feliciana Parish	291	288	579
Caddo	861	580	1441
Lafourche Parish	564	351	2230
Terrebonne Parish	766	702	1476
Jefferson Parish	1260	870	2130
St. James Parish	719	542	1261
Total	9 6	6696	13,790

The persons enrolled are between the ages of 18 and 45 years. The total whites, so far as returned, number 26,811; total blacks 17,136; the remaining parishes will soon be in.—*Evening Times*.

Board of Aldermen.—Meeting last evening. President Bosworth, presiding, and Aldermen Smith, Clark, McCloskey, Whitney, Stith and White, present. The reading of the minutes was dispensed with.

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to contract with Frank Marques for the grading and shelling of First street, from Levee to Magazine street; Eighth street, from Magazine to Apollo street; Ninth street, from Levee to Magazine street, and St. Andrew street, from Prytania to Magazine street, at $0 57 per running foot, was sent from the Lower Board for concurrence. Alderman Whitney objecting to the resolution was laid over.

On motion of Col. Stith, a leave of absence of one month was granted Alderman McKnight.

The 83d section of the license ordinance was taken up, and on motion stricken out entirely from the bill. The license was then on motion adopted as a whole. The bill now only requires the signature of the Mayor to become a law and operative in its provisions.

Col. McCloskey offered a resolution that the Street Commissioner be instructed to ascertain and report to the Common Council the reason why the various railroad companies fail to keep in repair the streets used by them, as required by the contract.

A resolution, that the Mayor be authorize to enter into contracts for the farming of the various markets for one year, except the French market—was considered.

Resolved, That the City Controller sell to the higher bidder the farming of Beef market, Second District, was laid on the table.

Col. Stith offered a substitute to the above, that the Mayor enter into contract with J. G. Brice, as principal and E. Tomatis, as security, for the farming of the Beef market of the Second District, at $57,100 for one year, was adopted on its second reading.

The resolution defining the urban and suburb limits of the city was deferred to another day.

The Board adjourned until next Monday night.

Mr. White offered a resolution authorising the Controller to sell after five days notice the contract for repairing and keeping in repair the paved streets of the 7th Ward for three years, was adopted.

The Board adjourned.

Board of Assistant Aldermen—Meeting last evening—Mr. McCulloch in the Chair.

The Special Committee appointed to investigate the alleged charge of corruption of one or more members of the Board, alleged to have received $1500 from certain butchers of the Beef market, Second District, as an inducement to defeat the proposition to sell the leases of the market stalls separately, reported that Joseph Negovlis, the farmer of the French market, had been arrested and brought before the Committee at 8 o'clock. He related to the Committee very emphatically, that he had received from the different butchers of the French market the sum of $1500 to be used for the purpose in question. He declared that he had paid the money to no one, but had it in his pocket ready for the purpose when occasion offered.

On motion the report was accepted, and the Committee discharged from consideration of the matter.

The ordinance relative to distilleries &c, was taken up by striking out "breweries," and, as amended, was finally adopted.

A resolution to have the delegations of both Boards of the Council to meet Saturday and fix upon the location of the fire engines in the Second District, was concurred in.

The resolution to appoint a Committee, joint with the one from the other Board, to receive the Congressional Committee, was adopted and committee appointed: Messrs. Paisley, Montamat, Higginbothem and Kaiser.

Resolution, making the wharf from St. Philip to Bienville street a steamship landing for coasting steamers, was concurred in.

Mr. Kaiser moved a reconsideration of the ordinance passed last night, for selling the lease of the stalls in the Beef market separately.

Mr. Prague, as a means of bring out the facts of the alleged bribery, favored a reference of the ordinance to the Upper Board as arbiters. Mr. Prados was in favor of all the markets being leased in one manner. Mr. Higginbotham coincided with Mr. Prague, and wanted the ordinance passed.

The motion to reconsider was lost—6 yeas, 8 nays.

Mr. Prague gave notice that at the next meeting he would introduce another ordinance relative to the lease of the stalls in the French Market.

The market adjudications were then taken up and approved, finally, excepting that of the French Market, which had been adjudicated to A. G. Brice at $57,100, which Mr. Kaiser proposed to have approved.

A substitute resolution was adopted, finally, to resell the same after 5 days notice, and sent up for concurrence.

A petition to change the route of the proposed Chartres and Royal streets Railroad, owing to the delay in opening those streets. The change is to run the road on Englein to Greatmen streets, thence to Poland, Love, Louisa and Cascalvo up to Englein, was referred.

The accounts of the Freedmen's Charitable Association were approved.

A resolution amending a former resolution, giving certain orchard privileges to the Liverpool Steamship Company, was amended so as to insert the British and American Steamship Company instead of the above, and, as amended, was adopted.

The Board adjourned.

The Grabor Murder Trial—First District Court—Judge Abell.—A. S. Herron, Attorney General; C. H. Luzenburg, District Attorney. December 19th.

The Attorney General stated to the Court that the case of McLaughlin and others, charged with the murder of J. Fred. Grabor, was fixed for trial. The jury was called, and fifty-two members reported absent.

The prisoners, Michael McLaughlin, Dave Hennessey, Stephen O'Donnell and Richard Murphy, were called to the bar. The witnesses for the prosecution were called, when twenty-nine were found absent and twenty-two present. Capt. Rhoden was reported absent, having left the State after service. Col. Herron was granted an attachment. Capt. Rhoden asked for attachment for all who were absent. The request was granted. Some additional witnesses who had not been called were added to the list. Col. Herron stated in the Court that he could not go on to trial without Capt. Rhoden, who, he thought, could be found in the city on Monday next, he anticipated. Not in Basin, or at Soniat Station (Jackson Railroad.) The Court concluded to await the return of the Sheriff to see if Capt. Rhoden could be found.

Messrs. A. P. Field, C. Castellon, Jules Lambert and John S. Tully appeared as the regular counsel for the accused. Judge Dooley was present assisting, Sam. Smith, J. C. Rogers, Gen. Humphrey Marshall, who appeared as one of the counsel for the defence, when the case missed trial on the 16th of last May, on account of the illness of the old gentleman, being taken so sick during the trial as to be unable to go through with the case, was not present for some cause not stated.

With the exception of some trivial cases of assault and battery, larceny and carrying concealed weapons, disposed of in the recess between the terms, the case of the murder of Fred. Grabor will be the first case disposed of.

The panel was exhausted in challenging 12 jurors without acting, and a total of 150 additional jurors was ordered; the case being consequently continued.

The N. O. City Railroad Company—The President, Mr. Cole, reports 131 cars owned by this Company, of which 14 are on the Canal street line, 29 on the Magazine, 17 on the Prytania, 22 on the Bayou Road, 30 on the Dauphin, and 19 on the Levee and Barracks streets line. There are about 700 mules employed. The receipts of the Company this year are in excess of those of last year about $150,000. A dividend of 2½ per cent. has been declared this year and a large portion of the stock is owned by widows and minors. The project to open the Barracks and Levee street line through the Cotton Press below Elysian Field street, it is thought, will be accomplished, as being likely to cost the city over $100,000. The road will probably be connected with the Dauphin street line below Elysian Fields street.

The Eugene Torre case—Jackson Fire Company No. 18 was the successful contestant for the fine engine horse "Joe Johnson," awarded by vote at the late fair in the Moresque building.

BY TELEGRAPH.

[To the New Orleans Bee.]

Washington, Dec. 19.—Charles O'Conner is here looking after the interests of Mr. Davis. He had a consultation with Judge Black to-day regarding his case.

The appropriation to pay the pardon clerks has been stricken out.

SENATE.—Mr. Catlett presented a petition from the New Jersey silk manufacturers to increase the duties on silks, which was referred to the Finance Committee.

The Judiciary Committee has reported the House bill fixing the time for the meeting of Congress.

The Printing Committee reported several resolutions ordering the printing of documents, laid over.

The District Committee reported a resolution directing engraving and painting for the deaf and dumb, which was passed.

Mr. Fessenden presented a petition from railroad men, asking the reduction of the tariff on iron and steel.

Mr. Wade introduced a joint resolution relative to the Government of the States lately in rebellion. Tabled.

The Committee on Foreign Relations was instructed to inquire into the expediency of prohibiting the importation of Chinese.

The Nebraska bill was taken up. In the argument, Mr. Howard took the ground that the Committee on Reconstruction did not understand that States should be admitted on the adoption of the amendment.

HOUSE.—Mr. Upson introduced a bill increasing the pensions of revolutionary soldiers.

Mr. Maynard, of Tennessee, made a personal explanation to the effect that he had the authority of Gov. Brownlow for making the statements, the correctness of which were disputed by the Governor of North Carolina.

The Committee on Ways and Means is instructed to inquire into the expediency of amending the tax law so as to dispense with the tax on gross receipts.

Mr. Stevens introduced a resolution calling for the information in possession of the President regarding Col. Geo. St. Leger Grenfel, charged with complicity in the attempt to release the Fenian Burgdorf from jail.

Mr. Julian introduced a resolution which was agreed to, instructing the Public Lands Committee to inquire into the expediency of amending the homestead law so as to require the applicants to make oath that they had given no aid and comfort to the Confederacy.

The House went into committee of the Whole on the appropriation bill.

New Haven, Conn., Dec. 19.—The Democratic State Committee has issued a call for a State Convention at New Haven, on the 8th of January, for the purpose of considering the revolutionary acts of the present Radical Congress. They say this Convention will also determine upon the propriety of making nominations for State officers, and of recommending to the people of the thirty States the necessity for a National Convention, to adopt such measures as will thwart the schemes of the traitors who are endeavoring to subvert the Constitutional Government of our fathers.

Washington, Dec. 19.—The North Carolina Commissioners had a long interview with the President, who communicated his decision to them regarding Gen. Sickles' order and the interference of the officials of the Freedmen's Bureau, in nullifying the indentures of colored children. The President decided that the officers were in error in both cases. Secretary Stanton has ordered Gen. Sickles to rescind his order prohibiting judicial punishments. Gen. Howard has also issued orders instructing his subordinates to cease interference with the laws of North Carolina where they bear equally upon the whites and the blacks. Governor Worth, armed with these documents, leaves for home to night.

Washington, Dec. 19.—The Texas Senators and most of the other excluded members of Congress leave in a day or two, as their longer sojourn at the Capital promises no good to their constituents.

Washington, Dec. 19—Hon. C. V. Culver, who was in jail at Old City on a civil suit, arrived to-night in custody of the officer of the House. The Judiciary Committee will investigate whether his imprisonment is not a violation of the privileges of Congress.

Richmond, Dec. 19.—Judge Meredith, of the Circuit Court of Richmond, issued a writ of habeas corpus to-day for Doctor James L. Watson, which he declined to produce. Watson, assigning his reasons in writing to the effect that the act of Congress of July 16th, 1866, requires the Commissioners of the Freedmen's Bureau to exercise military jurisdiction over all cases involving the right to the equal benefit of the laws affecting personal security to all citizens without respect to race or color. This act having been officially published to the army by the President through the War Department, Gen. Schofield says it is his duty as an officer of the United States Army and Commissioner of the Bureau to decline compliance with the writ of the honorable Court.

Philadelphia, Dec. 19.—A fire occurred today in 227 North Broad street, by which Allen and Davis, S. W. Head and James Ralston were burned out. The loss amounts to $50,000. It is feared Mr. Ralston perished in the flames.

Oil City, Pa., Dec. 19.—The express train from Pittsburg, to Oil City, was thrown from the track by a broken rail. The smoking car was thrown over an embankment sixty five feet into the river—but the ice supported it. The car inside and the express matter were badly burned. The coupling fortunately broke, leaving the remainder of the train on the track.

Cincinnati, Dec. 19.—The steamer Petrel was burned at her wharf, yesterday morning, a loss of $20,000.

New York, Dec. 19—night—Money is easy at 5 to 6 per cent. on call. Gold 136¾ to 136⅞. Sterling closed steady. Coupon Sixes of 81, 112¾ to 112⅝; ditto of '62, 107¾ to 107⅞; do. do. of '64, 106¾ to 106⅝; 10-40's, 99¾ to 100.

The dry good market is firm with light stocks.

The jury in the case of Weaver vs. the First National Bank of New Orleans returned a verdict in favor of the Bank.

Mr. Henry Grinnell, one of the oldest Merchants, died on Monday.

Vicksburg, Dec. 19.—Passed down, Sam. Gaty at 9 A. M., McGill at noon, M. S. Mepham and W. H. Osborn at 5 P. M. River rising. Weather clear.

The coal packet Grand Lake, with one hundred and seventy four thousand bushels passed this point this morning, bound for New Orleans.

Memphis, Dec. 19.—The stern-wheeler Memphis hence for Little Rock, struck a snag in the Arkansas river on Monday night. The boat and cargo are a total loss. She was owned by Dan. Able and Wait of this city. She was valued at $30,000 and is insured in Cincinnati and St. Louis for $14,000. This is the second time this season she has been sunk.

The council passed a resolution last night requiring property holders to pave the streets with the Nicholson pavement.

The weather is warm and cloudy to-day. Business was, however, fair. Cotton active at 31 to 32c.; receipts 1740 bales; exports 790 bales.

Memphis, Dec. 19.—A special to the *Avalanche*, from Little Rock, says a joint resolution has passed both Houses to appoint a committee of fourteen, including the President and three from the Senate, the Speaker and six from the House and three citizens, to be appointed by the Governor, to proceed immediately to Washington for conference with the Government as to the political situation of the country, and report on the re-assembling of the Legislature on the 10th of January.

The river is rising rapidly. The Arkansas is falling with five feet in the channel to Little Rock. Up: Cora S., and Liberty for Louisville, Sam Hall, for Cincinnati, Charleston and Prince Rupert, for Erin, Down: Lady Lee, Mississippi and Alice Dean, for New Orleans. In port: Silver Moon, Nick Longworth, Silver Spray.

Junction City, Kansas, Dec. 19.—The Commissary building at Fort Dodge, was burned today. It contained seventy-five thousand pounds of flour and a large amount of goods, clothing &c. The fire was accidental.

Secretary, Canada, Dec. 19.—Six witnesses were examined to-day without serious delopment affecting the prisoners.

Savannah, Ga., Dec. 19.—Cotton stiffer; holders ask an advance; sales 500 New York Middlings at 32c.

Charleston, S. C. Dec. 19.—Cotton has advanced ½c to ¾c; Middling 33¼c.

Augusta, Ga., Dec. 19.—The market is lively and advancing; strict to Good Middling 32 to 33c.

Cincinnati, Dec. 19.—The baggage car on the Cincinnati and Chicago express train ran off the track to-day, killing J. W. Thomas, the American Express messenger, and severely wounding others.

Galveston, Dec. 19.—Arrived steamship Tybee from New York, and sailed steamship Wilmington for New York. The Enterprise discharging. The Lodona has been lightered off and is all right.

A large detachment of recruits for the ninth United States Cavalry, enlisted by Gen. J. S. Wrodin, left to-day on the steamer David White for New Orleans.

Cincinnati, Dec. 25.—Flour unchanged. Sales 200 bbls. Wheat dull and steady; No. 1 Spring $2 40, do. Winter $2 85. Corn in fair demand at 55c. for ear and 60c. shelled.

Chicago, Dec. 19.—Flour quiet; good to choice spring extra $9 90 to $12. Wheat declined 2c.; sales at $2 06 to $2 11 for No. 1 and $1 85 to $1 88 for No. 2. Corn declined 1 to 2c, closing at 79 to 80c; small sales. Oats declined 1c; sales at 38c. Rye closed at 127c. B. S. 5-20's now 108¾, 10-40's 100, treasuries 105⅜. Flour steady, sales 400 bbls Southern at $11, $15 to $16 for Wheat dull. Corn is lower. Pork easier—sales 5400 bbls new Mess at $20 50 to $21. Lard heavy—sales 600 bbls at 12 to 13c, Whisky quiet, Naval Stores steady. Groceries quiet. Wool firm—Texas 28 to 36½c. Freights dull.

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Nashville, Dec. 19.—Cotton active at 28 to 29c; holders are anxious to sell.

Liverpool, Dec. 19, evening.—The Breadstuffs and Provisions markets are quiet but unchanged.

Frankfort, Dec. 19, evening.—United States 5-20's 75¾.

Paris, Dec. 19.—The Petroleum market is firm at 54 francs.

Paris, Dec. 19.—This morning a party of thirty Hanoverians were arrested in Hamburg, while endeavoring to evade serving in the Prussian army. They were on the point of embarking for America on a steamer.

Vienna, Dec. 19.—The Diet has decided to recommend a separate administration for Croatia.

Paris, Dec. 19.—A telegram from Berlin states that the Federal army will be under the command of Prussia.

Liverpool, Wednesday, Dec. 19—P. M.—The Cotton market is very active to-day and closes firm at the advance of ¼d. reported at noon. The sales to-day have fully amounted to 30,000 bales. Middling Uplands 14¾d.

London, Dec. 19, evening.—Consols closed at 89¾ for money. The market for American Securities closes steady. The latest official figures are 5-20's 74; Erie Railroad shares 48; Illinois Railroad shares 77¾.

Berlin, Dec. 19, 1 P. M.—A number of Prussian naval officers are about starting on a visit to the United States to look at the naval yards there.

Berlin, Dec. 19, 1 P. M.—The German Parliament will be voted for almost universally throughout Germany.

Paris, Dec. 19—1 P. M.—The scheme for the reorganization of the French army is very unpopular. The French people cannot see the necessity for such an immense standing army when France and Europe are at peace.

Paris, Dec. 19.—It is reported in semi official quarters that Marshal Bazaine has opened or attempted to open negotiations with the United States in reference to the establishment of a new government in Mexico after the withdrawal of the French troops.

London, Dec. 19, P. M.—It is reported that Gen. Sherman, after keeping himself from the country since his revolutionary attempt last winter, has returned to Spain having been pardoned by Queen Isabella.

Berlin, Dec. 19—1 P. M.—Count Von Bismark has resigned the presidency of the Conference.

Florence, Dec. 19.—The report is current here that Maximilian is dethroned in Mexico in consequence of further lessons known to the Austrian Government that the Austrian army wish him to become immediately the successor of Francis Joseph.

[Last Evening's Dispatches.]

Memphis, Dec. 19.—A fire broke out in the basement of the Speech & confectionery, on Madison street, at 3 o'clock this morning, resulting in an appalling disaster.

Sixteen persons sleeping in the fourth story were awakened by the alarm of fire to a sense of their situation, and, escaping through the windows, were crushed on the pavement below.

Wm. Jabis, wholesale notion dealer, and his son-in-law, and Specht, his wife and child, were asleep.

Capt. Waldraven, Chief of the Fire Department, ascended by a ladder to the room, found the wife dead and Jabis lying on the floor, who had just strength left him to point to the cradle where the child four weeks old was, and dropped lifeless.

Waldraven seized the child and escaped through the window, the blankets over its face having saved it. Joseph Bartle, an employe, jumped from the fourth story and escaped with slight injuries.

Several others attempted to save themselves in this manner, but were dashed to pieces on the rocks below.

Nine negroes employed in the establishment were burned to death, and of nineteen residing in the building, only one, Bartle, escaped.

The engines were promptly on the spot, and extinguished the fire with little damage to the building.

New York, Dec. 18—Arrived, steamer San Salvador, from Savannah.

Gold opened at 137⅜.

(COMMUNICATED.)

THE STATE LEVEES.

A new tack! The financiers are again at work! More scheming under a new design—ostensibly to help our tottering levees, but in *reality* to entangle a few more hundred thousands in the "meshes" of modern financiering supply with the delectable design of providing the requisite ways and means of holding on to office.

But the people can't see it in that light, owing to the following reasons:

It would seem that certain parties who failed properly to digest a few unpalatable remarks submitted some days since, for their benefit, through the columns of the *Times*, touching the violation of law through measures proposed to authorize the Auditor of public accounts to emit "bills of credit" or "State scrip," to be redeemed by appropriations of the State Legislature, are now on another tack, applying to "His Excellency the Governor," with a "theory poem" proposition to issue several hundred thousand dollars of scrip, based upon certain mythical securities; ostensibly with the proceeds thereof to pay the old levee contracts, which were never carried out and to supply the ways and means of carrying out certain levee works while the State at large will be left to the peregrinations of Micawber, waiting for something to present itself against the invading floods of the "waters of the Mississippi."

It would also seem that by the new device recently concocted, the State levee bonds—which were hawk'd about Wall street, until it was plainly inferred they would not be touched, without the guaranties of "Uncle Sam"—are to be again tried on the market with certain specious seductive adjuncts.

It therefore becomes us, in the name of the people of Louisiana, to again ask some "astute jurist" to point out to us the precise law authorizing any officer of the State to emit "bills of credit" or State scrip, also the precise law empowering the Legislature to provide for the redemption of said "bills of credit" or State scrip.

The emission of "bills of credit" by a State or by any State authority is a palpable infraction of law. See Constitution of the United States and comments thereon in Story on the Constitution, page 57.

If said "State Scrip" is to resolve itself into certificates of indebtedness to be issued by the Auditor, subject to appropriations of the Legislature, we think the scheme is exceedingly precarious.

To enable the State to secure a suitable and uniform system of Levees, we incline to the opinion adroitly expressed by "His Excellency, Governor Wells," in a recent letter addressed to the old Board of Levee Commissioners, to-wit: "That in order to remedy the complicated embarrassments and evils attending those who failed to annex themselves efficiently the work of repairing and reconstructing the levees to a degree commensurate with the requirements of the State, it would seem to be clear, that we should look to the United States Government to come to our relief with the requisite national aid to repair and to rebuild our levees, in time to protect us against future inundations."

This kindly advice given by "His Excellency, the Governor," to said Commissioners, is pointedly suggestive, and though it may not be palatable to them, will, we think, be concurred in by a large majority of the people of Louisiana.

In accord with these views of the Governor, the people's Special Commissioners, viz: Col Jas Edmeston, Henry T. Rivers, Esq., Gen. F. Brett, Esq., Hon. Wm. Hawes Harris, M. W. Wetmore, Esq., and T. Shailer, Jr., will at the proper time submit to Congress the people's memorial and bill, asking national aid to repair and rebuild the levees of Louisiana, aided by an additional memorial from some of our most distinguished citizens in behalf of the important measures therein proposed.

We learn that an effort will be made to draw the wind out of the sails of the people's Commissioners of Levees, viz: Col. Edmeston, Hon. Wm Hawes Harris, H. T. Rivers, Esq., L. P. Seelye, Esq., Gen. F. Brett, Esq., M. W. Wetmore, Esq., and T. Shailer, Jr.

But as they have failed in that before, so it is presumed they will fail now.

ESTADOS UNIDOS.

MONETARY AND FINANCIAL.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, Dec. 19, 1866.

With the exception of an improvement in Flour and Cotton we have no change of moment to notice in the general market, although the movement has been characterized by a fair degree of animation throughout the day. Operations in our leading staple have indicated increased activity, and under the favorable influence of an advance at Liverpool factors have been enabled to establish a further improvement of ½c per lb; the market closing with a hardening tendency. The sales to-day comprised 12,500 bales, the largest business of the season, which will no doubt materially add to the supplies of Exchange.

There has been little movement in the Coin market. Gold opened this morning at 136¾ to 137⅛, against 136¾ to 136⅞ last evening, but the tendency from New York being unfavorable, it declined and closed weak at 136⅜ to 136½. There was no sale at the morning Board ($10,000), deliverable in five days, seller option, at 136¾.

At the evening Board $2,000 sold at 136⅞, $5000, $5000 and $10,000 at 137⅛, and $3000 at 137¼. Outdoors the transactions comprised $29,000 at 136⅜, $5,000 at 136⅞, $5000, $10,000, $20,000 and $30,000 at 137⅛, $5000 at 137¼, $10,000, $10,000, $15,000, $10,000, $5,000 and $10,000 at 137⅜, $20,000 at 136⅝, $5000, $5,000, $10,000 and $20,000 at 137⅜, $35,000 at the same, and $1000 early in the day, at 138. In Silver we have noticed a sale of $900, in American bullion, at 133; also, a sale of 5000 Mexican dollars at ¾ per cent. premium for Gold.

The New Orleans City Railroad Company declared a dividend to-day of five per cent from the profits of the past three months. The previous dividends paid this year were six per cent January 15th, fifteen per cent. March 17th, six per cent. June 20th, and five per cent. October 20th. In the annual report submitted to the Stockholders by the President, Mr. Josiah Cole, on the 12th inst., the opinion is expressed that it must be under very adverse circumstances, that the amount of the Coupon will be less than — per cent. per quarter. Of course, under an unusually favorable state of affairs a larger dividend may be anticipated, but it would seem that Stockholders may reasonably expect at least twenty per cent per annum in the par value of their shares. The following is the result of the recent election for Directors:

F. Wintz, A. Fenn, Josiah Cole, H. Yally, J. F. Conlon, James Jackson, P. B. O Brien, R. Bisco, C. Kohn, Sam. Smith, J. C. Rogers and C. H. Slocomb. To day Mr. Josiah Cole was unanimously re-elected President, and Mr. William P. Sinnott Secretary.

In Uncurrent the only noticed sales at the Board, of $5000 City Treasury Notes at 91¾c per dollar, $3000 at 95¾, $10,000 State Tre