New Orleans Bee

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NEW ORLEANS, THURSDAY MORNING, DEC. 31, 1863.

Sales at Auction To-Day

By F. P. Trinchard, at 10 o'clock, at the custom house, No. 42 Gravier street, groceries.

By D. E. Morphy, at 12 o'clock, M., on the Levee, foot of Delard street, coffee, potatoes, beans, apples, &c.; at 10 o'clock, at store 97 Magazine street, 12 half hogsheads same place and hour, pickles; at 11½ o'clock, at 27 Old Levee street, 170 barrels flour; at 10 o'clock, at 47 Magazine street, wrapping paper; at same hour and same place, salmon, mackerel, &c.

By R. T. Montgomery, at 10 o'clock, on the Levee, foot of Lafayette street, apples; at 1 o'clock, at 93 Camp street, 275 bales cotton.

By Phinney & Amory, at 10 o'clock, corner Camp and Common streets, dry goods.

By McCeren & Landry, at 11 o'clock, at their mart, furniture.

Pro Bono Publico, is a motto, "more honored in the breech than in the observance," but attached to Holloway's Pills and Ointment it is significant of their value throughout the civilized world. For the cure of asthma, coughs, colds, cutaneous eruptions, and bankrupt constitutions, they are the sheet anchor of the sick.

Messrs. McCeren & Landry will sell this day, at 11, A. M., at their mart, Masonic Hall, a variety of household furniture. See their advertisement.

F. P. Trinchard, Auctioneer, sells this day, at 10 o'clock, at his auction saleroom, No. 42 Gravier street, a choice assortment of chocolate, coffee, cigars, candles, butter, champagne, coal oil, mess beef, rock salt. See District Court.

Dr. E. Morphy, Auctioneer, has advertised for this day, at different hours various lots of goods well worthy the attention of the trade, which is requested to attend. See his auction advertisements.

By reference to Messrs. Phinney and Amory's advertisement it will be seen that they sell this day, at 10 o'clock, at their salesroom, corner of Camp and Common streets, by order of A. A. Atocha, Judge of the U. S. Provost Court, Department of the Gulf, a large assortment of shoes, hats, dry goods, &c., &c. Speculators will do well to attend.

231 barrels apples will be sold at auction, by R. T. Montgomery, at 10 o'clock, this morning, ex steamer Continental, foot of Lafayette street, postponed from yesterday, on account of the inclemency of the weather. See advertisement.

Superior Cotton at Auction.—Buyers will have an opportunity of making a fine selection at the sale of R. T. Montmorency, auctioneer, at 1 o'clock, this day, at the salesroom, 93 Camp street, 275 bales will be offered, a large portion being of very choice grades, and the whole in excellent condition. Two bales of Sea Island cotton raised in the neighborhood of this city will also be sold. See advertisements.

Removal.—It will be seen that the well known segar store of Jayme Magi, formerly at No. 4 Magazine street, has been removed to No. 37 Common street, between Magazine and Tchoupitoulas streets. The proprietor announces that he will continue to import and keep on hand, as heretofore, all the favorite brands of Havana segars.

The steamship Yazoo, Captain Couch, will sail this morning, at 7 o'clock, for New York, direct, with a full cargo, the United States mails, and the following passengers:

O. Omisele, A. Boulon, J. C. Curren, Mrs. Burroughs' four children and servant.

Failure of the European Congress.

There can be little doubt that the refusal of England to accede to the proposed Congress will have the effect of defeating the project. England, would, for obvious reasons, be an essential link in any chain constructed to bind the nations together upon a basis of an assured reconciliation of rights, and obligations, and interests. Earl Russell well knew this when he peremptorily declined the invitation of the French Emperor. He, therefore, assumed for England the full responsibility for any national collisions or political convulsions which a Congress might have been the means of preventing. Looking through his correspondence on the subject, we find that his argument against the Congress, and his justification for not assenting to it, resolve themselves into one consideration, put interrogatively thus: "Is a General Congress of European States likely to furnish a peaceful solution of the various matters in dispute?" His refusal rests, then, upon a doubt. He rejects this measure of composing the troubles and disputes of Europe, not because he apprehends it may produce any positive evil, but because its possibilities of good are not certainties. It is quite easy to reduce such reasoning to absurdity. According to Earl Russell, the future which, to human vision, is one vast uncertainty, should be closed to the serious contemplation of any rational being, and a magnificent conception, whose consummation promises all that glitters brightest from its obscurity, no matter how beneficent or glorious the reality illumine. But enough of Earl Russell and his paralytic skepticism. He may die, never but too soon, as many another devotee of the practical and immediate has discovered, that the present is but a sphinx muttering riddles, from whose terrors he would be glad to fly to the less dreadful enigmas of the future.

Assuming the project of a Congress to have completely failed, yet few will deny that there is more glory in its failure than in the triumph of the cold and suspicious policy which defeated it. No stronger argument for the measure could be presented than is afforded by the agitation and alarm which overspread Europe in consequence of its supposed abandonment. The glow of expectation which the question first excited has passed away, and in its place there is a suppressed and stifling anxiety. The states of Europe relapse, as if hopeless of better things, into their old system of organized suspicion. They are again confronted by the increasing dangers of an armed peace, whose burthens, constantly accumulating, make it questionable whether open war could be more calamitous. The day of reckoning seems indefinitely postponed. Yet it is hardly conceivable that this contest of warlike preparations can go on much longer without an actual conflict of arms. The nations, at last exhausted by the dreadful exactions of such a peace, will look upon war, perhaps, as the cheapest, if not the only road to a peace founded upon a securer basis, and which would not demand impossible sacrifices.

It has been so often said by sensation journalists and correspondents that Europe was on the brink of a volcano, that the expression now would look tribe and tame with reference to the existing situation. But there can be no doubt that at this moment a dim horror of approbended explosion, convulsion, and conflagration is creeping chillingly into every principal Cabinet of Europe. Earl Russell might not be able to see with certainty in a Congress "a peaceful solution of the various matters in dispute." But where is the European statesman who can point confidently to any avenue for arriving at a peaceful solution outside of a Congress?

Late and Important from Mexico.

By the arrival of the schooner Henry Travers, we have dates from Tampico to the 22d December, and from the interior of Mexico to the 10th of the same month.

The latest and most interesting items of Mexican intelligence will be found in our Tampico correspondence given below.

The Tampico *Iris* of December 3 says that a special messenger from the interior confirmed the reported death of General Comonfort. He was assassinated one day as he was going from the hacienda of Chamucero, near Queratero, and did not fall, as was at first reported, in a fight with a French expedition. His assassins were unknown, but the Supreme Government at the city of Mexico had proclaimed them to be outlaws, to be summarily executed whenever captured.

From the same source we learn that his Excellency the Archbishop Labastada had resigned his office as President of the Regency.

[Correspondence of the N. O. Bee.]

Letter from Tampico.

Accident to the Propeller Sonora—She is Rescued by a French Man-of-war—Affairs in the Interior of Mexico—The French and Allied Troops Occupying the Principal Capitals—San Luis to be in their hands by the 25th inst.—Juarez to take Refuge in Texas—Movements of Uraga and Mejia.

Office of the Iris,
Tampico, December 22, 1863.

The steam propeller Sonora, Hayes, master, from New Orleans the 6th instant, and Vera Cruz the 14th, anchored off this city yesterday at 1 o'clock in the afternoon.

The day after having sailed from Vera Cruz she experienced at sea very rough weather during three consecutive days. All her fuel had been exhausted, and the officers were already despairing of the possibility of reaching the port of destination, when they spoke the French man-of-war Flatterer, Tardieu, Commander, crusing in those waters. The Sonora immediately steered towards the man-of-war for assistance and Commander Tardieu let go a hawser to the propeller to remain in tow, which she did during two days, and the weather subsiding, at last she was supplied with six tons of coal and proceeded on her course.

Our last files from San Luis Potosi are up to the 19th instant. The principal capital had been occupied, Guanajuato by 2000 French troops, and Queretaro, Morelia and Guadalajara by the rest of the combined forces of the French and Mexicans. Agustin Cullueles had likewise been defeated by Colonel Dupin, near a place General Marquez was in Morelia, General Marquez, accompanied by his two brothers and 200 other chieftains and officers had left the City of Mexico to raise a division with which he was to march on Durango.

San Luis was expected to be occupied by the 25th inst., and Juarez, it is said, intended to take refuge in Texas with his family and friends.

Letters from the interior of the country say, that as resistance will be opposed to the occupation of San Luis, Juarez' government being a mere fugitive one, the French will find but two general officers—Grant and Gillmore—spoken of with praise, and the most of our leading Generals criticised in a sufficiently pointed manner. They will discover there none of that official covering up of defeats and exaggeration of victories with which we have been charged so often in Europe. On the contrary, they will answer direct questions which we find no accurate reports, for the first time are brought clearly to light. It is a somewhat singular spectacle in American public life to behold a prominent official deliberately sitting in judgment on most of the leading military men of the day, and dealing out his criticisms with no sparing hand. And it is still another novel experience for the American people, to hear that not one of these distinguished persons, writhing under the public criticism from Washington, is permitted to reply.

Burnside, on his own admission, is shown to have proceeded contrary to the wishes of his superior, in the march on Fredericksburg; the famous blunder of the "pontoons" is put deliberately on his shoulders, and the defeat of Fredericksburg is attributed to the failure of Sheldon Hooker and Franklin in his flank attack. Hooker's unfortunate campaign is quickly placed outside of the responsibility of the General in Chief, from the fact that no reports were rendered to him by this officer. Dix is sharply rapped over the knuckles for his campaign against Richmond. In the battle of Gettysburg, we discover, to our surprise, that an "error" of Sickles nearly ruined us, and Meade himself gets but faint praise for his victory, while the escape of Lee over the Potomac calls out some words of censure, though not directly asserting imply the strongest censure of inaction. Pope is convicted of a gross blunder in his operations against the Indians. Banks receives no praise, and it is intimated that Port Hudson could have been taken much earlier had we known its importance.

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The review of Rosecrans' and Burnside's campaigns for the possession of Tennessee is, of course, severe and searching. If we may take their own statements, the Lightenings were exceedingly dissatisfied with the delay of General Rosecrans after the battle of Murfreesboro, and were constantly urging him forward towards Georgia.

The General-in-chief had at the time a clearer idea of the dangers to which both Rosecrans and Burnside were exposed than either of those officers. Burnside was ordered to connect his right with Rosecrans's left, and if possible, occupy Dalton and the passes into Georgia and North Carolina, that the two armies might act as one body and support each other. Rosecrans was not to advance into Georgia or Alabama at present, but to fortify his position and connect with Burnside. If his weak position in right and the communications with Nashville were threatened, he was to hand over Chattanooga to Burnside, and swing round to cover that flank. At the same time forces were ordered up from Memphis and other quarters, to guard that side as well as the long line of communications. General Burnside, we are early informed, entirely disobeyed or neglected his orders, and did not connect with the army of the Cumberland, leaving a great gap between the two armies, and exposing his outlying detachments, so that several were cut to pieces. It cannot be doubted that had the instructions of the department been strictly followed the disaster of Chickamauga would not have occurred.

Before leaving San Luis the Liberals had imposed a forced loan of $400,000 on the city. Jesus Gonzalez Ortega imposed a similar one of $500,000 in Zacatecas.

General Uraga, who had gathered some 10,000 men for the purpose of fighting the French and Mexican army, in their advance from Queretaro towards San Louis has retired, avoiding an encounter.

General Mejia commands the vanguard of the French and Mexican army, and will likely be the first to enter San Luis. To him has been entrusted the care of sweeping the roads and securing a safe communication between the last named city and Tampico. So it can be expected that the State of Tamaulipas will be entirely occupied by the next month. On one side, the civil State war for Governor dividing the opposition, will materially help General Mejia in his operation; on the other side, it is likely that some of the dissidents will abandon Juarez' banner and join Mejia; of these events we have but too frequent instances in this country.

The New York Express in Litigation.

SINGULAR SPEECH OF COUNSELOR MCKEON.

The case of Clark against the two Brookses, all the parties proprietors of the New York *Express*, the suit being for dissolution of partnership, was before the Court of Common Pleas on the 18th, when it was ordered that the newspaper, which had for some time been in the hands of the defendants as receivers, should be sold upon terms to be settled by a referee.

The plaintiff's counsel, in asking for a sale asserted that the value of the journal was impaired by the editorial course of the defendants, and claimed that the Court had no right to continue the publication of a paper of extreme disloyal political opinions, and proceeded to read several articles in the *Express* since it has been published by the Court, in which the whole policy of the Administration was denounced, and the public incited to oppose it.

Mr. McKeon, counsel for the defendants, in reply to the opposite counsel's remarks as to the falling off in the receipts and circulation of the *Express* on account of the extreme political opinions of the paper, said, as reported in the New York *Times*, that the *Freeman's Journal* was the most violent secession paper in this city, but has made more money than it had ever made before. It takes the ground that the Government ought to be impeached, that the Conscription Act ought to be resisted by force, and that the debt of the United States incurred to carry on this war ought to be repudiated. The *Metropolitan Record* is in the same state, increasing its subscription list, and takes the ground that the United States debt ought to be repudiated, and that the whole currency of the country is mismanaged. I recollect at the beginning of the war, the New York *Times* stated that President Lincoln should be deposed and a new man put in for the purpose of conducting the affairs of the country. I refer to this for the purpose of showing that the articles referred to by the counsel for Mr. Clark, the plaintiff, are not disloyal. Mr. McKeon then referred to an editorial in the *Express*, one of those read by counsel for plaintiff, on the national currency question, which he considered one of the most powerful articles he ever read. I recollect the time when Mr. Adams was turned out of office because the national debt was then $16,000,000. Now it is fourfold. I believe that, as sure as this war ends in the subjugation of the South, the next raid will be on the Catholics of the country. It is decreed that Catholicity and slavery should perish together. Mr. Sumner standing in the Senate of the United States, made a speech in which he said that the twin relics of barbarism were not Slavery and Polygamy, but Catholicity and Slavery. It is denied that Mr. Sumner said so. It is published in the *Congressional Globe*, and reprinted in the *Herald*, of this city. Born and educated a Catholic, I confess a poor one, I see the coming storm, and believe sincerely today that when the knife is taken from the throats of the Southern people it will be turned to the throat of every Catholic in the North. He said he was prepared for the result, come what will. Again, I, refer to a General in command of a Department in the South, General Phelps, who issued an order in which he denounced the Catholics of Louisiana. He has been made a Major General, and approved by the President. He referred to these things because it is asserted here that this paper is to be denounced as disloyal, because it states these facts. But I need not trouble the Court with making political speeches. The Court should consider it as a mere matter of business. I would not have introduced it had not my friend on the other side attempted to prove that the *Express* was extreme in its political opinions, and a disloyal newspaper. The fact that Mr. Brooks being a member of Congress will injure the paper in the conducting of it, is not true.—Mr. Brooks is capable of getting all the information which the Executive Departments can afford him, and is able to communicate to his paper, the *Express*, facts beyond the control of any other newspaper correspondent. So far as Mr. Brooks' political opinions are concerned, we are not able to tell what effect they may have, he not having made any speeches as yet, but had voted with Mr. Stevens, the Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means and leader of the House, and a Republican of extreme political opinions.

[From the New York Times.]

General Halleck's Criticisms.

General Halleck is certainly not a man given to flattery. In his recent pungent report of military operations for the year, the public will find but two general officers—Grant and Gillmore—spoken of with praise, and the most of our leading Generals criticised in a sufficiently pointed manner. They will discover there none of that official covering up of defeats and exaggeration of victories with which we have been charged so often in Europe. On the contrary, they will answer direct questions which we find no accurate reports, for the first time are brought clearly to light. It is a somewhat singular spectacle in American public life to behold a prominent official deliberately sitting in judgment on most of the leading military men of the day, and dealing out his criticisms with no sparing hand. And it is still another novel experience for the American people, to hear that not one of these distinguished persons, writhing under the public criticism from Washington, is permitted to reply.

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[FROM OUR EVENING EDITION OF YESTERDAY]

A Navy Yard in New Orleans.—The *Era* announces that measures are in progress for the establishment of a navy yard in New Orleans, proposals having been already received for constructing a dry dock in the form of a basin of masonry, and a floating dock similar to that which was destroyed at Pensacola.

The New York Times on Financial Fallacies and Public Repudiation.

The New York *Times* of the 18th December has some striking remarks on the question of what constitutes the real security for the payment of national debts. The propositions it advances plainly involve contingent repudiation, and its arguments, if intended for application to a present or approaching financial situation, have a truly portentous significance. The subjoined extracts will show the tenor of the article referred to:

The financial delusion which has brought the Confederacy into its present unhappy plight is one which is well worthy of our attention, inasmuch as it is one in which a large number of people at the North also are rather prone to indulge. It consists in the belief that a nation can pledge its *whole* property for the payment of a large debt, and that such a pledge is a good and substantial security.

* * * *

Delusions of this sort would never gain currency in any community, if people generally were in the habit of bringing their common everyday sense to the discussion of public affairs.

Nobody has probably ever yet heard of all the stockholders in a bankrupt company voluntarily, and without any compulsion, surrendering up all their private property for the payment of the debts of the corporation. Nobody believes for one moment that any corporation exists, or has ever existed in this country, the members of which are capable of any such act of self sacrifice. If any one were to assure us gravely that if this city, for instance, ever got so deeply in debt that it could not meet its bills, the citizens would all sell their houses and goods, and divert the proceeds to the creditors, and begin life anew, who would believe him? Who does not know perfectly well that they would let the municipality repudiate a dozen times over sooner than submit to any such surrender of their property? We see every day proofs of the wideness of the interval which separates us from any such heights of public spirit. We have seen States here, as well as in Europe, refusing to submit even to the moderate amount of taxation necessary to pay some what more than one-half of a mill per cent. of the value of their collective property.

And yet the supposition that either single States, or cities, or individuals should display this sense of public spirit would be absurd, simple and ordinary, compared with the supposition that a whole nation should hand over to its creditors even one-quarter of its possessions. But nobody that lends money to a Government is ever such a simpleton as to expect anything of the kind. The victims of the Confederacy are generally found, as might be expected, amongst the more sanguine and enthusiastic of the borrowers.

What a Government is able to pledge for the redemption of any public debt, far from being the whole real and personal estate of the country, is simply a moderate percentage on the annual income realized from that real and personal estate. More than this is one, in the long run, to bring bankruptcy and repudiation on any country in the world. If the debts become very large, it diminishes production and drives capital abroad; if it threatens the whole income, it stops production, and produces public bankruptcy and general poverty. What would happen if it got to the point of touching the capital itself, it is impossible to assert positively, because no such a thing has ever happened. But we can guess what would happen with tolerable accuracy. The people would tell their creditors that they were very sorry to disappoint them, but that nothing was further from their thoughts than to plunge themselves and their families into beggary in order to pay them.

Nothing, in short, is good security for a public debt except something that can be turned into money. Taxes *that can be collected* are a good security, because they are money, or can be converted into money. Public lands are, because a moderate amount of public lands can be sold every year. Cotton is a good security, if purchasers can be found for it and it can be delivered to them. Anything, in short, is good security which the people are willing to surrender to the Government, and which the Government can find a buyer for and have over to them. But you cannot sell a whole continent; you cannot dispose of the goods and chattels of millions of families at auction. Who would buy them, and what would become of the owners after they were sold? In short, taking of the whole property of a nation as security for its debts, is as wild and senseless as talking of the readiness of a whole people to be slaughtered rather than submit to a conqueror.

Foreign Relations—Superior Diplomacy of the United States.

[From the Richmond Whig, December 24.]

The President treats at great length of our foreign relations. He discusses with boldness the conduct of England, and proves conclusively that her strict "neutrality" is one-sided, and inimical to us. He gibbets her Minister of Foreign Affairs as the pusillanimous instrument of our enemies, exposing his base subterfuges, his unblushing disregard of treaty stipulations, and the enormous advantages gained by our present situation. The unfriendly action of the British Administration is proved strongly—perhaps, unfortunately, too strongly—to be the result of a settled diplomacy hostile to us. The tendency of this information, so presented, is to discourage our people. Argument on this line, too, tends to soothe the antagonism of the British authorities towards Great Britain, sustained an accusation of the English Ministry by the Confederate States is the acquittal of England by the North. Just doubts may be entertained if they are the true exponents of the majority of intelligent Englishmen, or even of Parliament.

What policy does the President disclose in our foreign relations? What efforts have been made to conciliate foreign nations? Two measures of retaliation for their hostile treatment of us, which not depreciated on moral grounds We wish favors from foreign nations. Can we reasonably expect them to be offered gratuitously to us, or even upon merely signifying a desire for them? Sentiment may influence the action of men. Interest only influences of the action of our nations. On the mere plausibility of our claim to be recognized, European nations promptly accorded to us belligerent rights, though in the sentiment of Europe was adverse to us because of our peculiar institutions. Why is the attitude of European Powers, England especially, now so different? Because the greatest diplomacy of the United States has made it appear that it is to their interest to be so. What the argument or the inducement offered, time will disclose; but it has been efficacious to the extent of securing to her a full privilege to obtain, men, munitions and credit to an unlimited extent.

Perhaps the reckoning is anticipated at our expense. It looks so. They have resources of their own to meet it. We have, though each day of the continuance of the war is deepening the embarrassment that overlies, if not seriously exhausts them. Let us then confer on our present commissioners, or new ones, plenary powers to confer with Yankee diplomatists. The House, at a former session, passed a resolution looking forward to such action. Remove the restrictions under which our commissioners have been acting. Let them not appear simply as the representatives of a just cause, and an oppressed people, but as the representatives of a free, united, powerful, and unconquerable people, whose policy is peace, possessing almost bound less territory, vast wealth, and inculculable resources. A judicious resort to the almost inimitable system of Yankee diplomacy therefore might speedily reverse the one-sided neutrality to which we are now so much the victim. Nor even now is it to be despaired of that a similar policy toward our neighbors, and neutral allies of the Northwest will be productive of good results.

It seems that the President did not anticipate war. It is strange that he should not have done so, at least when he ordered General Beauregard to open on Fort Sumter. Perhaps the country at large may be charged with the same want of foresight. Congress, at least, does not appear to have foreseen it from the provisions it made. But the Constitution of the Provisional Government prohibited any expenditure of money, except on estimates sent in by a department. Hence, if the proper expenditures were not made, the fault must rest on the Administration. Yet war seems not to have been anticipated. Larger appropriations, and a more comprehensive financial system would, of course, have been entered upon. It was only during the second session of the Provisional Congress that war was declared to exist between the Confederacy and the United States.

Floating Fire Engines.—The recent destructive fire among the shipping in the port of New York has directed attention to the utility of employing floating fire engines for harbor and river use. The efficiency of such engines is attested by a writer in the *Journal of Commerce*, who says:

During the recent terrible conflagration at the foot of Perry street, when a fierce north wind communicated the burning element from boat after boat despite the efforts of the engines on shore, a small harbor tug moved audaciously to the south side, and opened no less than four powerful streams, either more copious than any thrown by a land steamer. Within half an hour, this single steam pump, delinging boat after boat with remarkable rapidity, completely arrested the progress of the flames in that direction. It appears that this harbor tug, the "Louisa," commanded by Captain Crossley, whose opportune arrival was of such signal advantage, is a private enterprise, constructed by an ingenious engineer, to supply a deficiency in harbor protection, too long neglected. The power of the tug's steam pump is discharging 3000 gallons of water per minute, and the ease with which they worked, was remarkable.

Steam with Brazil.—The New York *Journal of Commerce* says:

The recent elections in Brizil have terminated in the complete success of the Liberal party, the leading members of which are earnestly in favor of forming closer relations with the United States, and will introduce the same proposition which was only defeated in the old conservative Chambers last year by a vote of five majority, viz: to subsidize a line of steamers belonging to some North American company to ply monthly between the United States and Brazil. Let our merchants move, so that our government will reciprocate this important step. Such a line would touch at St. Thomas, West Indies, which is a grand centre for the steam communication that already exists to the principal West India Islands and to the northern part of South America. From Rio Janeiro there are bi-monthly lines of steamers to the river Plate. It is the only link wanting between Europe and Brazil (touching at St. Thomas) to put our merchants on a footing with those of England and France.

Bills are to be reported in the present Congress to bring Utah, Nebraska and Colorado into the Union as States.

The decision of the Court of Appeals of New York, affirming the constitutionality of greenbacks as a legal tender, has been appealed by Judge Roosevelt, of New York city, to the United States Supreme Court, and the case is now being argued in Washington.

[From the Toronto *Leader*.]

A Vessel Carried Over Niagara.

An obliging correspondent at [illegible] sends us an account of a melancholy [illegible] which took place on the Niagara [illegible] time since, which resulted in the de[illegible] man by being carried over the falls. [illegible] imminent peril to five others, as well as the loss of a small vessel. About eleven o'clock in the morning the steam tug A. D. Griffin, of Buffalo, reached that port, having in tow the scows Abby and the A. Murray, of Port Robinson. The captain of the steamer, not knowing the depth of water, kept too far into the river with not sufficient steam to keep headway on the scows. One of the latter, the A. Murray, striking against the "spiles" at the entrance of the harbor, swung around with the current almost into the jaws of the mighty cataract.

The captain and four men who were on board, seeing the hapless position into which the vessel had got, and the great peril with which they were threatened—being within less than five minutes distance—at once at fall—leaped from the vessel and boldly struck for the shore. Four of them, the captain included, succeeded by great exertions in maintaining themselves above the surface; but, sad to relate, the fifth sank among the leaping and boiling waters and was carried over the cataract. In the meantime, a boat manned by two brave men shot out from the mouth of Welland River, to the assistance of the helpless beings in the scow. The oarsmen, Messrs. F. Lauzon Jr., and George Moore, pulled lustily and swiftly out, rescued the men from their perilous position and succeeded in reaching the shore, just above the first rapid. One minute more and they would have been carried over the falls to the great gulf below. The scow glided along the stream till it reached a rock almost on the brink of the cataract, where its course was stopped, and where it will probably remain till broken up by the ice in the spring.

A Social View of Washington.

The under extracts are from a recent Washington correspondence of the Cincinnati *Commercial*:

PERSONAL ADVERTISEMENTS.

The following is a sample of many advertisements which have appeared in the Washington papers since the opening of Congress, under the head of "Personal:"

A GENTLEMAN OF REFINEMENT AND EDUCATION would like to make the acquaintance of a Senator or Foreign Legation. Address, Post-office, FLORENCE SENTON.

GAMBLERS IN WASHINGTON.

There are more gamblers in Washington at present than there have been at any time within the memory of the oldest inhabitant. Within fifteen minutes walk of Willard's there are not less than twenty first class establishments, where money is lost and won in thousands nightly—principally lost, so far as outsiders are concerned. Blacklegs from every city in the Union are here—from New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Cincinnati and St. Louis, and every game known to Hoyle, and many not known to that distinguished authority, are played with vigor from dark in the evening until day light in the morning. Faro is considered the most statesmanlike medium of ridding a Congress man of his cash on hand. New arrivals from the West confine themselves to poker for awhile, but soon graduate into the higher branches of the strategic science of tiger fighting, and before they have served half a term at the National Capital are abundantly qualified to emulate Mr. Green in an exposition on the subject of gambling, having learned by dear experience that it is one of the easiest ways to lose a fortune of the age.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Wife Murder.—William Turner, alias Joe, a dark stout negro, was brought before Recorder Vennard this morning, to whom he confessed in the most contrite and tearful manner that he was so unlucky as to have killed the wife of his bosom, whom he would not have given for 10,000 other women, by throwing a stone at her with the intentionally to scare her into the house.

The parties lived on the corner of Felicity road and Tchoupitoulas street, and had a matrimonial storm, which continued out of doors by the wife following him with torrents of abuse, drawing the attention of the neighbors. The unlucky stone, it appears, hit the woman in the breast and caused her death. The coroner's jury found a verdict of murder against accused.

A Dirty Villain.—Antoine Sylvester, a filthy mulatto, has carried on for a number of years in the most indecent manner, to repugnant for taking improper liberties with a white female. He had an introduction to Louise Adams, Jr., twin Recorder, for having committed an indecent assault on a white child, and his character is that he continued the insults to white females since that time. He is remanded for trial.

First District Recorder's Court—H. T. Vennard, Presiding.—Mary, a darkey, for stealing $30, was sent before the First District Court.

Joseph Logan, Jno. Gager and Joe Roberts, as chicken thieves, were sent to the Workhouse for four and six months.

Fanny King and James Flynn went for four months to the Workhouse as vagrants, and Jane Gettes for sixty days. Sundry persons paid the usual penalty for supplying liquors.

MONETARY AND FINANCIAL.

SEE OFFICE,
Wednesday Evening, Dec. 30, 1863.

It has been raining with but little intermission, all day, and while it has been too dark for any thing to be done satisfactorily in our leading staple, operations have been to a great extent suspended. Large sales of cotton are not taken place and the Exchange Sales have, nevertheless, been moved to a fair extent at a further improvement in the latter, as will be seen from the details below.

In Domestic Exchange we noticed a moderate amount of business on New York Sight at ¼@¾ per cent. discount for drafts, and other west-ern exchanges signatures. Some of the former was sold at ¼, but this was for favorite bills. Good names, but second-class were offered at last ¼ discount, and sales of the latter were as low as ½. Five and ten days' gold were offered at 1¼@1½, and thirty days' sight at 2. The Banks continue to buy here at par, but one of them showed a disposition to accommodate its friends at a discount, while another sold small amounts at a premium. With the exception of these, it fairly irregularities we observed no more change in the market.

Although there is a steamer to-morrow, the counter demand was generally limited, parties apparently awaiting the regular weekly packet, but at once the banks in sales were to a fair extent. Foreign Exchange was stiffer. The banks, as before, were willing to draw, sold Sterling at 17. For legal tender notes, or for their own notes, which pass at par with other currency. A private bill, at 3 days' sight, sold at 157, and others were held at 157¼@170. Hence, the outside market cannot be quoted under 155@170, with but little to be had under 157¼. The Banks hold France at 5.40 up to 5.25, payment in their own notes. Francs bills are offered to-day at 5.30, although we have noticed sales at 5.35.

The Specie market was buoyant and with a continued good demand, both Gold and Silver commanded higher figures. In the former we noticed sales of round sums at 54¾, 54¾, 57, 57¼ and 57½ per cent. premium, the higher rates prevailing towards the close. Dealers paid 55, 55½ and 56¼ for the small sums offered at their counters. While some holders were willing to meet the demand at 57½ others refused to sell under 58. Silver partook of this upward tendency. A round lot of half dollars sold at 47 premium and dealers paid over the counter 45 and 46, the holders generally asked 47 and 48. There is a good demand for American dollars, we presume, for duties, and some round lots changed hands yesterday at 54¼ and 54¾ per cent premium. Yesterday there were sales at 52. But few Mexican dollars have made their appearance. While Gold is freely exchanged for them at par, there are buyers at 1 and 1¼ ¾ cent. premium.

Legal Tender Notes when wanted for special purposes command ¼@¾ per cent premium, but generally circulate at par with other currency. Citizens' Bank notes rule at 1@1¼ per cent premium. Dealers offer 1¼ per cent premium for Canal, but ask 2@3. Creevers' City are still in request at 2@2¼, per dollar. Dealers ask 65c. Bank of Louisiana rule at 50@53c. and Merchants' at 55@57½.

Nothing has transpired to establish quotations for Gas Light Stock since the declaration of a 3 per cent dividend. City Railroad is held at 121. Nothing further has been reported in Canal Bank Stock since the sale at 46½. There is still some in the market which is held at 50. Owing to the storm, the auction sale of Insurance Scrip advertised, was postponed until Saturday. It may be quoted at 32½@40c. per dollar, according to the date and the company.

COMMERCIAL.

OFFICE OF THE BEE,
Wednesday Evening, December 30, 1863.

A heavy and protracted rain storm has prevented any thing being done to-day, excepting in one small list of Cotton, which had been inspected previously, embracing 83 bales, classed Strict Ordinary, which brought 58c. There is no more offered at auction. We see no disposition to give way on the part of holders. The rain prevented operations on the landing, and nothing was done in Sugar, Molasses or Provisions.

Cattle Market.

Jefferson City, December 31, 1863.

No arrivals. Amount of Beef brought in, 50 head. Sales of Hogs, 87 Shoats, 90 Veals and 10 Cows. Stock remaining on sale is 192 Beeves, 283 Hogs, 496 Sheep, 42 Veals and 75 Cows. We quote:

Western Beeves, 1d quality, ⅌ lb net	—@—	20
Western Beeves, 2d quality, ⅌ lb net	—@—	18
Western Beeves, 3d quality, ⅌ lb net	—@—	15
Texas Beeves, 1st quality, ⅌ head	30 00@45	00
Texas Beeves, 2d quality, ⅌ head	—@—	00
Veal, 1st quality, ⅌ head	20 00@25	00
Veal, 2d quality, ⅌ head	16 00@15	00
Hogs, ⅌ lb gross	9 00@—	11
Milch Cows, ⅌ head	60 00@90	00
Sheep, ⅌ head	3 00@—	4

Sales.

This morning, at half-past 10 o'clock, CESAIRE OLIVIER, aged 53 years. The friends and acquaintances of the Olivier, Lavergne and Vilaret families are invited, without further notice, to attend his funeral, THIS DAY, at 11 o'clock, A. M., from his late residence, on Esplanade street, between Dauphin and Burgundy streets.

Notice.....Removal.

THE undersigned has removed his Cigar Store from No. 4 Magazine street to 37 Common street, between Magazine and Tchoupitoulas streets, where he will be constantly on hand the usual assortment of GENUINE HAVANA CIGARS, such brands as Cabanas, Partagas, Intimidad, Meridianas Nabajas, Imperial, Flor de la Habana, &c., &c.

dec31 1m JAYME MAGI, Importer.

Hall of Young Men's Benevolent Association,

New Orleans, December 30, 1830.

THE officers and members are hereby notified to attend next MONDAY, 4 January 1864, at half-past two o'clock, P. M., at the Hall on St. Louis street, for the purpose of attending the annual meeting and electing officers for the ensuing term.

And also to meet on MONDAY, January 4th, 1864, at half-past seven o'clock, P. M., to attend the regular monthly meeting.

Functual attendance is requested.

By order of the President:

dec31 3t F. SCHUMACHER, Secretary.

Citizens' Bank of Louisiana,

New Orleans, Dec. 30th, 1863.

THE Stockholders of this Bank are hereby notified that an election for seven Directors for the ensuing year will be held at the Banking House on MONDAY, 1st February next, between 10 and 3 o'clock.

dec31 8taw E. ROUSSEAU, Cashier.

NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS.

Gas Light Company,

New Orleans, December 28th, 1863.

THE Board of Directors of this Company, at their meeting held on the 26th instant, declared a dividend of three per cent., payable to Stockholders or their legal representatives, on and after the 10th of January next.

dec29 10t WM. S. BROWN, Treasurer.

Paragon Sugar Works.

FOR SALE, a lot of White Refined Sugar of the above brand, in hands, for family use, at 22c. ⅌ lb.

dec18 3t

MARINE NEWS.

New Orleans, Dec. 31, 1863.

CLEARED YESTERDAY.

Steamship Continental, Cook, for New York, Warneken & co, and others, Salisbury, for Baton Rouge, Master

ARRIVED YESTERDAY.

Steamship Dictator, Shaw, from New York, 10th inst, via Havana, in ballast, to master—2d district

Bark W. E. Anderson, Reed, 25 days from Bangor, (Me) to master—point

Bark John Wesley, Pulsan, 28 days from New York, to O A Fosdick—1st district, 17

Brig Newbury, Taylor, from Cherryfield, to master—pt

Schr E. J. Talbot, Amesbury, from Camden, (Me) to O A Fosdick—point