New Orleans Bee.

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NEW ORLEANS:
THURSDAY MORNING, DEC. 10, 1863

SPECIAL NOTICE.—Do your duty to yourselves, pro tect your health, use Holloway's Pills and Ointment. Sore Wounds, Sores, Bowel Complaints and Fevers they are a perfect safeguard. Full directions how to use them with every box. Only 25 cents.

Sales at Auction To-day.

By R. T. Montgomery, at 11 o'clock, foot of Toulouse street, corn in the ear. At 1 o'clock, at 92 Camp street, 175 bales cotton.

By D. E. Murphy, at 11 o'clock, at stores 48, 50 and 52 Old Levee, groceries.

The attention of dealers is called to the sale of sundry consignments to be made this day by D. E. Murphy, Auctioneer, at the stores of Messrs. A. D. Grieff & Co., Nos. 48, 50 and 52 Old Levee street, Second District.

Dealers in cotton should attend R. T. Montgomery's sale of 150 bales or more, this day, the 10th instant, at one o'clock, at salesroom, 92 Camp street. The list consists of desirable grades, and the largest portion are in original packages. Samples for inspection at sale.

Dealers, stable keepers and quartermaster should be present at R. T. Montgomery's sale of 2240 barrels corn in the ear, which will take place at 11 o'clock, ex schooner Bryson, at foot of Toulouse street, and be sold in lots to suit purchasers.

A large assort ment of furniture will be sold this day, at 11 o'clock, A. M., by McCarren & Landry, at their salesroom, Masonic Hall. See advertisement for further particulars.

Financial Agitation.

Some occult influences have been operating for a day or two past upon financial matters in this city. The monetary articles of yesterday morning indicated, without explaining, a feverish tendency to agitation in the gold market. The matter-of-fact gentlemen who consecrate their genius to the interpretation of the monetary thermometer, appeared to be at sea with respect to the mysterious phenomenon. They noted its facts, but the question of its causes was perhaps too deep or too troublous for their plummets to fathom. Be this as it may, the inexplicable agitation continued yesterday with increasing intensity, and before the expiration of change hours financial circles were invaded by a host of rumors as strange as dreams and almost as startling and improbable as the sensational situations of a fashionable play. Coupon, the white sister of the yellow goddess, naturally sympathized with the tumultuous condition of the latter. While some of the brokers in money were holding gold at figures far above the views of ordinary purchasers, and predicting incredible advances in premium, holders of cotton caught the same soaring tendency, and, it is understood, almost closed the market by clapping on impossible prices. Still nothing tangible in the shape of new political, military, or financial intelligence transpired to furnish a solution of the financial riddle. We must leave the theme as we found it, inexplicable.

A NEW COUNTERFEIT ON THE CITY $2 BILLS.—The perseverence of the parties engaged in elaborating *fac-similes* of the city currency is worthy of a better vocation. Not discouraged by the exposure of former imitations, they have attempted to impose still another copy upon the good-natured public. In this last instance, however, their skill does not seem to have been equal to their enterprise. The imitation is palpably imperfect, though the unsuspecting, who in general regard as currency all dingy, quadrilateral bits of paper with unintelligible pictures and illigible signatures on them, may be taken in by the present counterfeit, the *cognoscenti* of pecuniary circles scorn the idea of being deceived by it an instant. The counterfeit bills are on the new $2 notes of the city. They are dated October 24th, 1862, though others may possibly come to light of a different date. While the genuine bills are finely engraved, the imitations are partly engraved and partly printed, and have a roughly executed appearance. They are also neither as long nor as broad as the genuine. There are likewise as essential differences between the engraved pictures on the false and the true bills. A little examination will enable one to detect the counterfeit, and there is no reason why the genuine $3 notes should be refused or taken with hesitation.

The United States Mail steamship Creole, John Thompson, commanding, will leave her wharf this morning, at 8 o'clock, for New York direct, with a full freight, $100,000 in specie, the United States mails, and the following passengers:

Mr. Joseph, lady and two children, Mr. C. H. Offenant, N. Davison, Mrs. Ellen Humphreys and son, Mr. Thompson and wife, J. Cullon, Mrs. Leocora Ferauts, D. Seguin, Mr. M. Crombie.

[From the Memphis Argus.]

The Reported Resignation of Judge Taney.

A few days since the Cincinnati *Enquirer* published, "double leaded," the subjoined paragraph:

We learn from reliable authority that the resignation of Chief Justice Roger B. Taney, is now in the hands of the President. We also learn that the resignation of Mr. Chase, as Secretary of the Treasury, is also in the hands of the President. If Mr. Chase, it is understood, will take the place of the chief justice shortly after the meeting of Congress.

Mr. Lincoln has thus disposed of his only dangerous rival for the nomination for the Presidency by the next Republican national convention. The Radicals will now have to take Mr. Lincoln.

Of course the above is destitute of truth, there not being the slightest probability that any such change will occur. The paper, however, revives some interesting reminiscences of Judge Taney, who is certainly in many respects a remarkable man. His official career has extended through the average period allotted to a lifetime, he having been appointed Secretary of the Treasury by General Jackson, more than thirty years ago, he had dismissed W. J. Duane from that office because he refused to "remove the deposits" from the Bank of the United States. Judge Taney removed them, and later was renominated by Jackson for Chief justice. The Senate rejected the nomination, the vote being a party one and the Whigs were in a majority. General Jackson, however, re-nominated him at the next session, and the majority being the other way, he was confirmed. Judge Taney is now over eighty years of age, but has always borne the appearance of a man in feeble health, whose span of life was nearly exausted. When he was appointed, the Whigs consoled themselves that he would not live two years. Every President since Jackson has expected the opportunity of appointing a Chief Justice in place of Taney, but he has disappointed them, and will, in all probability, outlive Mr. Lincoln's term of office. It is stated that as long ago as 1810, a gentleman in Maryland having some interest in a disputed land case in which there was considerable more than money to be realized, inquired of his merchant in Baltimore for the name of some able lawyer, to be employed. The merchant gave him the name of Mr. Taney. The gentleman called on the counsel, but after talking with him for a while, declined engaging his services, giving afterwards as his reason, that he intended his case should stay in court at least five years; that Taney would not live half that time, and then he would have to employ new counsel. Fifty years have passed since then, and ten years ago, that individual and all the other parties to the protracted suit, as well as the counsel on both sides, and the judges who tried the cause, were all dead, and Taney was then as hale and as hearty as he ever had been, but still disappointing people with his apparently feeble health.

Speech of the King of Prussia at the Opening of the Chambers.

At the opening of the Prussian Chambers on the 9th November, the speech of the King contained the following passage relative to the political situation:

Gentlemen, we are in the midst of troublous times, perhaps on the threshold of a future still more troubled. It is then in the most urgent manner that I invite you to undertake the solution of our internal questions, with an earnest wish to come to a good understanding. This object can only be attained upon the condition that the royal power independent to the Prussian monarchy shall be preserved intact and that, in the exercise of your constitutional rights, you shall aid me in fulfilling my duties as sovereign.

We must work together for the honor and welfare of the country. It is to this end that all my endeavors are invariably and exclusively addressed, and, filled with unshaken confidence in the fidelity of my people. I hope to accomplish this purpose in such a manner that I can answer for it before God.

Replies of European Sovereigns to the Proposition for a Congress.

We read in *La France* of November 11: It is not correct, as some journals have positively announced, that the sovereigns had already made known their sentiments on the subject of a Congress. That which is certain, is that the Imperial speech has produced generally in the courts of the sovereigns to whom it was addressed, the most favorable impression.

There is no doubt of the adhesion of the majority to the proposition, so eminently pacific, of the Emperor, but up to this moment no official adhesion has reached the French Government.

La Patrie of the 13th November, publishes the following intelligence regarding the Cabinet Council held in London the 12th Nov.:

We are informed from London that a new Cabinet council, attended by all the members of the Ministry, was held yesterday at the official residence of Lord Palmerston.

The question submitted to the consideration of the council was the reply to be made in the name of Queen Victoria to the Imperial letter.

The majority of the Cabinet decided unanimously that the Government of the Queen would accept the proposition of the Emperor in the terms wherein it was made, that is to say of an overture for ulterior arrangements.

After this response, the Cabinet of St. James will specify the questions the discussion of which ought to constitute the order of the day in Congress, and also the limits to which the proposed conference could go in proclaiming the rights and obligations of international powers originally bound by the treaties of 1815.

Frankfort, November 9.—The Germanic Diet has resolved to remit to the consideration of the German sovereigns the letter of the French Emperor inviting them to a Congress.

The Diet has, moreover, appointed a committee of seven members to make a report upon the decision to be taken upon the matter.

Copenhagen, November 12.—The letter of invitation to a Congress intended for the King of Denmark arrived day before yesterday. The *Berlingske Fidende* says that, in the very nature of things, Denmark is called upon to reply by an acceptance.

Guy Fawkes Day in London.

The London correspondence, November 7, of the New York *Tribune*, thus describes the last celebration of Guy Fawkes day in the English capital:

You know that the 5th of November is the anniversary of the attempt of that eminently practical Roman Catholic, Guy Fawkes, and his confederates, to blow up the British Constitution, in the person of that royal pedant, beast, and coward, James the First, with his Lords and Commons; also, that the street-boys of London are accustomed to celebrate the same by carrying about ridiculous effigies of the arch conspirator, the occasion serving as an apology for demanding half-pence. Since the excitement consequent upon the Pope's patitioning England into ecclesiastical departments with Cardinal Wiseman at the head, the anniversary has occasionally assumed a political character, any obnoxious king, kaiser, or potentate for the time being figuring as "Guy." Accordingly, this year, in addition to divers preposterous Emperors of Russias, armed with knouts, with the feet of their jack-boots trampling on scarecrow Poles, there appeared also sundry figures purporting to resemble that worthiest of abused men, Abraham Lincoln. I saw one of these, in the dingy Clerkenwell region, east of what was once Field Lane and Saffron Hill, familiar in imagination to the readers of "Oliver Twist." It was set high upon a cart drawn by a dilapidated donkey or "moke," as its proprietors would undoubtedly have termed the animal, and attended by an organ grinder, a drum, and a rabblement of boys and Londoners. Fancy a monstrous figure, with an absurd, hairy mask for a face, a clay pipe stuck in the corner of its grinning mouth, a battered, wide-brimmed hat, a boy's tight jacket, immensely long legs ending in a muddy pair of high-lows, the entire creation stuffed with straw—and that was the popular London conception of Abe Lincoln. It provoked some laughter and some condemnation. T. B. G.

Experiments Upon Armor-Plates for Ships.

Experiments of an important nature have just been made at the fortress of Carlburg, in Sweden, upon the respective merits of armor plates made in England, France and Sweden. Messrs. John Brown & Co., of Sheffield, sent two plates, one 12 feet by 2 feet 6 inches, and one 6 feet by 3 feet 6 inches. Messrs. Petin, Gaudet & Co., of Lyons, sent two plates, each of 7 feet 6 inches by 3 feet 3 inches. The Montala Iron Works Company, of Sweden, sent two plates of 12 feet by 2 feet 6 inches, and one 6 feet by 3 feet 6 inches. All the plates were of 4½ inches thick-iron, and three bolts of a tenth part backed with iron plating, and supported by a massive stone pier. The two upper plates in the target were the French, and each was secured by 11 bolts. The next plate below was the longest Swedish, and this was secured by 20 bolts. Below this was a tier of two short plates, one Swedish and one English, each secured by 24 bolts, and the lowest plate was a long English, secured by 28 bolts. Each plate received six shots from the ordinary 68-pounder naval gun. The French and Swedish plates broke to pieces, and the English plates remained uninjured, and free from cracks. The shot of Swedish iron and exhibited great toughness, as compared with the shot used in the English service—the core, or centre of the shot, after striking, being of double the weight of the core of the English shot.

Why the Clerkship of the House is so Important.

The New York *Commercial Advertiser* thus explains why it is that the clerkship of the House is so much sought for and so warmly contested:

It is very evident, from the letters and dispatches of Washington correspondents, that the election for Clerk of the House of Representatives is regarded in that metropolis as of more importance than the election for Speaker. To the uninitiated, this may appear somewhat strange, as the Speaker's chair is not only regarded as a highly honorable position, next to that of Vice President, but the salary is $6000 per annum, while that of the Clerk of the House only receives $3500. But those familiar with the business arrangements of the lower branch of Congress know well that to be elected Clerk for two years insures the receipt, in some way, of what most men regard as a competence. It is doubtless a knowledge of this that induces at least four ex-Representatives (two of them already holding lucrative positions,) to now seek an election to this desirable place. The Clerk of the House not only has the appointment of clerks, messengers, laborers and firemen, but he disburses large sums appropriated for a variety of purposes: $12,000 for fuel and lights, $10,000 for furniture and repairs, $7,500 for horses and carriages, $12,000 for stationery, $30,000 for folding documents, and $40,000 for contingent expenses. This sum passes through the hands of the Clerk of the House, and it may be that by common usage a per centage remains. If this is not the case, some of the purveyors and furnishers, judging from published accounts, make exorbitant profits, while if their accounts are thus taxed, they are reasonable enough.

Miscellaneous Items.

SHODDY.—The Hartford (Conn.) *Post* publishes an article on "Shoddy," which, it says, "comes from one of the first business men in Connecticut." We quote from it the following:

"What is shoddy? Shoddy is old worn out, unfelted woollen goods, made of slack twisted yarn, picked to pieces by machinery specially adapted to the purpose. It is mixed with wool of a longer fibre and staple, and is then carded together can be spun finer or coarser, according to the proportion it bears to the new wool making the compound. No small portion of percentage of shoddy can be thus mixed with new wool and made into yarn fit for either warp or wool, or yarn for knitting purposes. Mungo is another name for old and worn out fine unfelted goods and broadcloth clothes, picked to pieces in the same manner. It is the finer article, and when properly prepared can be worked into the finest black cloths to be found in the market. A very large proportion of all the satinet in the market is more or less impregnated with shoddy. The same may be said with hosiery and stocking goods. It is commonly worn by the many, and those who do not get it on in one form or another are the favored few."

GAINING STRENGTH.—We believe we have "got hold" of an original anecdote that never was printed before. A student in one of our State colleges was charged by the faculty with having had a barrel of ale pounded in his room, contrary, of course, to the rules and usage. He received a summons to appear before the President, who said—

"Sir, I am informed that you have a barrel of ale in your room."

"Yes, sir."

"Well, what explanation can you make"

"Well, the fact is, sir, my physician advised me to try a little ale each day as a tonic, and not wishing to stop at various places where this beverage is retailed, I concluded to have a barrel taken to my room"

"Indeed. And have you derived any benefit from it?"

"Ah, yes, sir. When the barrel was first taken to my room, two weeks ago, I could scarcely lift it. Now I can carry it with the greatest ease."

A REASONABLE PLEA.—A judge said to a toper, on trial for drunkenness:

"Prisoner, you have heard the prosecution for habitual drunkenness; what have you to say in your defense?"

"Nothing, please your honor, but habitual thirst."

What rifle carries the maximum distance? asked a lady of an officer:

"The Minnie, mum," was the reply.

CITY INTELLIGENCE

Provost Court—Judge Alocha presiding.—John Green, a black man, Ida Nelson a colored midwife, and Anne Costello were brought before the court, charged by Dr. Piquet, of the Southern Press Hospital, with having in their possession stolen government and private property. Ida, the midwife, contrived immediately to show a clean record and was dismissed. The only bad of the black Green, and the white Anne Costello, was charged to have contained government property, besides that a revolver and pistol was found in their room. The women were confiscated and the accused turned out of court.

Another colored man who was found leaving the St. James Hospital, where he is a cook, with a raw beefsteak and some vegetables, to take them home as he said, was sent to prison for 14 days.

P. Devlin, a private of the 9th Connecticut, for stealing a man's chicken, and robbing the owner of $42, and furthermore stealing a revolver from the tent of the sergeant, was sent to the Tortugas for two years.

First District Recorder's Court—H. T. Vennard Presiding.—J. M. Tourné is held to answer the charge of Edward Reville for an assault and battery and threats against the prosecutor.

The colored woman Mary, for swindling an employer, was sent to the Workhouse for thirty days.

Mary Garry brought a complaint of assault and battery against Mrs. Hagan, who turned the tables on her. Prosecutrix was fined $10.

J. B. Zelansy, who did not mind the Mayor's orders and sold liquor after 9 o'clock, was fined $5.

First District Court—Judge Hiestand.—Leone Fazenda was tried for an assault and battery on G. T. Fazenda, whose adopted son he was. A witness testified that the prosecutor was the abusing and assaulting party. Verdict: "guilty."

Daniel Lestapur was tried on the charge of having entered the room of officer Koch, armed with a revolver, and that he then stole a silver watch worth $12. Koch saw him and officer Nagle followed and arrested him. He was found "guilty."

A colored woman named Carmelite, accused of larceny as a shoplifter, was found guilty, and remanded for sentence.

The Coroner's Office. — Dr. Bosch. — This gentleman, who for a number of years so scientifically and satisfactorily performed the duties of Coroner for this Parish, took leave yesterday of his office, to the sincere regret of all, who, in the course of his official business, had come in contact with him, and whose respect and esteem he had successfully gained by his uniform bearing as a gentleman, a professional man and an officer. Dr. Yelse is his successor, and entered yesterday, armed with his commission, upon the performance of his new duties. He formerly was City Physician. He reports the following items:

Antonio Lopez, 30 years of age, a native of Portugal, died at No. 210 Union street, Third District, of "Phlysis Pulmonaris."

Taylor White, f. m. c., 32 years of age, a native of Virginia, died at No. 93 (Banquet street, of "Fiure Pneumonia."

Stolen Articles Found.—On the 8th inst. the store of Nelson Martinke, who keeps on Barracks street, was robbed of a considerable quantity of goods. Lieut. Miller and officer Newberg yesterday went to work, armed with a search warrant. They found at 204 Bourgady street, under the flooring of the building, a quantity of the stolen goods, almost sufficient to set up a small store. The premises were occupied by Nathaniel Gaspard, who has to account for the goods.

[FROM OUR EVENING EDITION OF YESTERDAY.]

THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—Continued success attend the exhibitions of the great circus here, and juvenile enthusiasm regarding its marvelous feats is unabated. To-night will witness all the combined wonders, equestrian, acrobatic, trapeze, vaulting, &c.

THE VARIETIES THEATRE.—Lester Wallack's dramatic version of Octave Feuillet's fine story of the romance of the Poor Young Man will be produced at the Varieties to-night. According to preliminary indications, its production will be attended by splendid scenic views and stage effects, and the occasion promises to be one of unusual brilliancy. Laurence Barrett, Setchell, Baker, Mrs. Baker, and Viola Barrett will appear in the play.

Mexican Rumors.

The *Picayune* of this morning asserts, upon "information from a source worthy of high confidence," that the last rumor (the fifth or sixth, after a series of exploded reports to the same effect) of the recapture of Puebla by the Republicans has been confirmed by advices from Vera Cruz, per schooner Henry Ward, now in the river coming up.

According to this information, the small French garrison retired without resistance, and Generals Berriozabal and Negrete occupied Puebla with about 5000 men; and Gen. Diaz had gone with 3800 men to join Berriozabal, and a division from Oajaco was also to be sent there.

Meantime Comonfort, tired of waiting for an attack, was marching from Queretaro upon Mexico at the head 20,000 men, with Generals Uraga, Doblado, and Ortega under him, and well supplied with all materials of war.

The roads are said to be in possession of the guerrillas, and supplies could only reach the French under heavy escort.

Tampico is reported in a state of seige, cut off entirely from the interior, and afflicted with the yellow fever, which had destroyed 800 of the French.

We give the foregoing without either endorsement or unqualified dissent. It is certain that the Mexican news *via* Havana papers to the 3d instant, brought by the Morning Star, contained nothing to confirm and much to discredit the advices by the schooner Henry Ward. There being steam connection between Vera Cruz and Havana, and between the latter and New Orleans, the probabilities are, *prima facie*, against the supposition that a sailing vessel from Vera Cruz would bring later advices than could be received by steam conveyance *via* Havana.

From Panama.

ARRIVAL OF THE NORTH STAR.

The steamship North Star, from Aspinwall November 17th, with $229,978 in treasure, and 180 pa-sengers, has arrived

[Correspondence of the New York Sun.]

Panama, November 17.—The steamer Falcn arrived from Guayaquil 12th, bringing dates from Quito to October 31st, which fully confirm the news that we have from New Granada that Ecuador is inevitable. The latest from Quito states that the Ecuadorian Congress had authorized the Government to declare war against Mosquera. General Flores (Ex-) is reported on the frontier with 5000 men, and Mosquera is said to be at Pasto, or Ipialas (on the frontier) with a force of 3000. Rumors have reached this city, but not from any reliable source, that hostilities have already commenced.

The United States sloop-of-war St. Mary sailed from Panama 15th, bound south. The Cyane arrived on the 5th from San Francisco. British war steamer Barracouta is at Aspinwall, where she arrived on the 14th.

The United States mail steamer Salvador, from Central America, arrived here yesterday morning, bringing very important news. The war in San Salvador has come to an end. Barrios evacuated the city of Salvador on the 26th of October. The Guatemalians immediately took possession of it. This, no doubt, will end the war for the present in Central America.

Extracts from Richmond Papers.

THE FEDERAL PRISONERS AND THE GOVERNMENT NATIONS.

An article in the *Herald*, which appeared a few days ago, headed "Brutal Action of the Rebel Government—a New Crusade for the Union Prisoners," draws forth the following statement from the Richmond *Examiner*, of November 24:

General Meredith, on the 12th, enclosed to our Commissioner the following letter, ad dressed to "Captain Edward A. Fobes, Libby Prison:"

Fortress Monroe, November 12, 1863.

Captain Edward A. Fobes, Libby Prison, Richmond, Virginia.

SIR:—I sent by flag of truce this day twenty four thousand rations, the distribution of which I authorize you to superintend. You will please forward me receipts for the same. Should the Confederate authorities allow this course to be pursued in subsisting our prisoners, I shall consider your receipts as evidence of the fact, and I will keep up the supply.

Very respectfully, your ob't servant,

JOHN E. MEREDITH,
Brigadier General and Agent of Exchange.

Judge Ould promptly returned it, with the following indorsement:

Respectfully returned to Brigadier-General Meredith. This letter will not be delivered to Captain Fobes. I have, to-day, in a letter, informed you that the rations, including candles, will be served to your soldiers. The manner in which that is to be done will be governed by our regulations, not yours. If you are not satisfied with those regulations, you can take back your rations and withhold in future

RO. OULD, Agent of Exchange.

Another letter written by our Commissioner on the 15th, assures General Meredith that while our authorities would not allow prisoners to issue from Fortress Monroe to a Federal prisoner in Richmond to attend to the distribution of rations, yet the provisions would be distributed in conformity with such regulations as would be established by the prisoners themselves.

These letters were delivered to Lieut. Col Irving, the officer in charge of the boat that brought the rations to City Point. After some considerable hesitation, he concluded to take the provisions back to Fortress Monroe, and immediately, from that seat of lies, issued the report, which seems to have inflamed all Yankeedom, that the Confederate authorities had refused to receive the rations destined for the starving prisoners of Richmond.

The fact of the case is, that the identical provisions carried back to Fortress Monroe by Lieutenant-Colonel Irvine were immediately dispatched by the same hands to City Point, to be received upon the terms proposed by our Commissioner, and at the very time of the appearance of the *Herald's* editorial were helping to fill the greedy stomachs of the Yankee prisoners. It seems the steamer that conveyed the rations back to Fortress Monroe remained there just about long enough to allow this monstrous lie to be hatched.

It may be well enough here to state that we have been officially informed that the Federal Agent of Exchange notified Judge Ould that, if the rations sent to the Federal prisoners (to be distributed under the direction of Captain Forbes) should not be received the rations of our prisoners in the hands of the Yankees would be reduced.

An Alleged Plot to Burn the City of Richmond disclosed by a Federal Prisoner.

[From the Richmond Examiner of Nov. 2.]

The plot to liberate the prisoners, overpower or murder the guards, and burn as much as possible of Richmond—which plot was published in these columns yesterday—it seems was first disclosed to the authorities through one of the Yankee prisoners, and an investigation, immediately instituted, disclosed the startling fact that such a plan was really on foot, and that its timely discovery alone prevented the attempt being made.

The first revelations were made about the 27th of October, and again about the 31st. Additional and more positive evidence was brought to light through various combinations early in November. Soon after the plot was deemed serious enough to squash before it came to a heading, and it was accomplished in such a manner as to indicate the ten or twelve thousand conspirators that their game was in our own hands, and that the authorities were "masters of the situation."

It is very positively asserted that the Yankee commander at Fortress Monroe was in the secrets of the conspirators, who were to receive very material aid from men who are seen [not known] upon the streets of Richmond every day, and who are not to be detected by any disclosures that have followed the denouement have fixed the Argus eyes of the Government upon such, and, true as daylight follows darkness, they will one day be brought to a stand to an ignominious light before the public, if not to hang in a state of suspension between heaven and earth at Camp Lee.

General Foster, commanding the Department of North Carolina and East Virginia, was undoubtedly aware of such a plot, and gave it aid and countenance, promising to have a force of cavalry ready to protect the rear of the released prisoners and to supply them with arms to enable them to cut their way to Fortress Monroe.

The plot, it has been further learned, included the destruction of the arsenals, Government works, the important bridges across the James, and the gunboats at the navy yard at Rocketts. We will not intimate that this destructive programme could have been carried out, but would rather congratulate the citizens of Richmond on their delivery from the barest possibility of such frightful scenes as must have ensued had the plot ripened into open revolt.

Few who slept soundly in their homes at night were aware or even dreamed of the volcanic demon that feigned slumber in their midst, only waiting for the signal to burst the cords of military restraint and riot in flame and blood.

Thanks to a providential interposition, the authorities, forewarned, are forearmed, and the day or night when such a revolt could have been successful is past.

The Present U. S. Congress.

According to the estimates of the New York *Tribune*, the vote of the border States in the House will be 15 for the Administration, and 14 against it, that of the free States, 86 for, and 70 against it. The *Tribune* infers from these figures that the Administration will elect their candidates for Speaker and the other offices in the House by 17 majority, large enough to be a handsome working majority even if it should suffer some deductions from unexpected causes.

Another New York journal believes that no positive party, owing to the modifications, if not dissolution, of the old parties, can hope for a fixed majority in the new Congress, and that it will therefore be more conservative than the preceding, while its members will exercise more personal independence and more latitude in debate.

Garibaldi has addressed a letter to the Workingmen's Association in Havana, in which he declares that Napoleon is the great enemy of Italy, and that it should be the aim of every Italian to "pan-Bonapartize" his native land.

[From the New York Sun, November 26.]

The Next Congress.

The approaching session of the new Congress is likely to be extremely stormy and animated. The old political organizations are so evenly balanced that neither can command a decisive majority on any purely party question. In fact, the old parties may be almost regarded as having ceased to exist. The Republicans have abandoned their name, and are anxious to be known by any other, and as for the Democracy, it is difficult to trace in it the principles that formerly rendered it so triumphant. It is still weakened by the want of sympathy with the free labor instincts of the people, which it yielded for a ruinous alliance with slavery. If the Democracy had had, at the commencement of the war, the courage and sagacity to cut away from the dead past, and conform to the irresistible logic of events, it would now be, beyond doubt, the ruling power in the nation. As no positive party can hope for a majority in the new Congress, it will therefore be more conservative than the last.

Grave and exciting questions are more likely to be decided on their merits, and not according to the preconceived views of tricky politicians. This will induce greater personal independence on the part of members, and lead to greater latitude of debate. The questions of finance, and legislation will be more interesting and important than were ever before presented to any deliberative body. The return of the Southern States; the question of war and peace; the investigation of the management of the war; the national finances and paper currency; the revision of the Conscription act, and the foreign policy of the Government form but a few of the topics that will arise. In the meantime, it will be the earnest prayer of every loyal American that the new Congress may be animated by a spirit of true patriotism and exhibit an earnest determination to lift their heads above the mire of party politics, and reach only for the reward that a faithful performance of their duty will secure for them at the hands of the people.

The New York Municipal Election.

The municipal election of New York took place on the 1st instant. The last New York papers received show that the canvass for the mayoralty was animated and that the contest promised to be a close one. Mr. Boole, the Tammany-Mozart nominee, and also claimed by the *News* as a peace Democrat, had two opponents, Mr. Gunther, a Democrat, but running as an independent citizens' candidate, and Mr Blunt, brought into the field by the Republicans and unconditional war and Union men. Though the vote of the city was acknowledged to be anti-Republican, yet the supporters of Mr. Blunt had strong hopes of electing him through the division of the Democratic party between Boole and Gunther.

A singular feature of this canvass was the absence of accusations to the personal discredit of any one of the candidates. On the 27th ult. a Boole ratification meeting took place at Cooper Institute. According to the reports of the people it was an imposing demonstration. A letter was read on the occasion from Governor Seymour, a document of cautiously worded hostility to the party in control of the Federal Government, and which concludes as follows:

I am animated with hope and confidence for the future. The utter failure in practice of all schemes for the centralization of power will place the true principles of our system more upon firmer and stronger grounds. The end of the contest which is now going on in the public mind will not only prove that the principles of government held by the democratic party many our country great and prosperous, but that the antagonistic doctrines of consolidation are inconsistent with peace, with Union, with the national existence. Let us, therefore, bear patiently by the trials of the day, for we are to triumph in the permanent establishment of the political views held by our party organization.

The Muscovites have at last left the festive scenes of New York for the rather bleak wintering quarters of Hampton Roads. It is reported that one of the Russian officers had time before leaving to enter into a marriage engagement with a lady of the Fifth Avenue Aristocracy.

Miscellaneous Items.

UP AND DOWN.—A schoolboy being asked by his teacher how he should dig him, replied, "If you please, sir, I should like to have it upon the Italian system of penmanship, the heavy strokes upwards, and the down ones light."

FINISHING LESSONS.—Peace can do a good deal towards making a gentleman, but war is more likely to finish him.

The first National Bank of Washington has refused to receive its notes as printed and dressed by the National Bank Note Company. It protests that the notes are wholly unprotected against counterfeiting.

The admirers of George Sand will be gratified to learn that the celebrated authoress of Lelia, Consuelo, and Mauprat, has just finished a new romance, Mademoiselle La Quintine.

From the best data at hand a Washington correspondent estimates the receipts from customs for the year ending June 30, 1864, will be between $70,000,000 and $75,000,000, at least enough to pay the interest on the public debt. This estimate is based on the supposition that the war continues, and that the tariff is unchanged.

Dr Cullen, R. C. Archbishop of Dublin is stated resolutely to condemn the Fenian Brotherhood, of which we have been lately hearing something in this country.

Mr. Levi B. Short, the inventor of Greek fire, has died suddenly at Philadelphia. When this destructive compound was first used at Charleston, he was there superintending the use of his invention, since which time it has been much improved by him.

One of the younger sons of President Lincoln is quite ill at the White House with scarlet fetine, and Mr. Lincoln himself is reported to be ill.

Secretary Chase does not consider the new postal currency a failure, but thinks the bills excellently gotten up, and secure against counterfeiting. The notes of the new National Banks will be established by the 20th inst., and will then put on the currency. While on the backs will be engraved reduced copies of the historical pictures in the rotunda of the Capitol, which will cover nearly the whole surface of the note.

Life's Journey.

Father, I here would dwell, the dawn is fair,
The summer sea is whispering to the shore,
And happy birds are singing in the air,
Pain would I linger here and ever more—
"Not there."

My Father, see, I have observed thy best,
My feet are wearied with the toilsome way,
Behold the sunset splendor in the west,
And smile my life in happy dreams away.
"Not there."

Father, the evening shadows gather fast,
The day is dying, the chill night draws near,
Hath not my journey's ending come at last?
My Father, say, may I not rest me here?
"Not there."

Father, the way is dark, there is no light,
And thou hast promised "dry bed" to rest;
Say, must I journey through the lonely night?
Oh, let me find repose upon thy breast.
Yes, here!

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Fire.—About midnight, last night, the foundry on Port street, near Kloppenburg's rag establishment, was found in flames. The whole establishment was destroyed.

MONETARY AND FINANCIAL.

SEE OFFICE, }
WEDNESDAY EVENING, Dec. 9, 1863. }

The money market has been even more quiet to-day than yesterday. Notwithstanding there being a steamer for New York to-morrow morning there was very little remittance demand for Exchange. The banks continued to check at New York at par, and dealers at par @ ¼ discount for Sight, and ¼@¾ discount for one day's sight. We also noted some few sales to banks at ¼ discount. The ordinary run of cotton bills, if presented on buyers, could hardly have sold better than ¼, if at that. On the whole the market was not only dull, but rather weaker. Foreign Exchange was without any quotable variation. One of the banks will sell Sterling at 162¾, but for its own notes exclusively, which may set equal to about 167¾ for currency. Another asks 170 for currency. Others again will only draw to accommodate customers. A strictly first class private banker's bill was offered in the street at 163. Private bills may still be quoted at 160@165. Nothing farther transpired in France. One of the banks will draw at 8.35 francs, and another at 8.30 francs for currency. The outside market is nominal at 3.55@3.49.

The lively demand for Gold noticed yesterday appeared to have subsided, but the market was if any thing firmer. In fact to holders higher prices were paid, but operations were on a moderate scale. Dealers bought at 50 ₱ cent. premium and sold at 50½. There were some transactions at 51¼, at which more might have been purchased. The last sales reported of Spanish Doubloons was at $24.25. Silver was held higher than yesterday and could not be quoted under 49@49¼ premium. Nothing as reported in Mexican dollars, for which gold is freely exchanged at par.

We have no change to note in Legal Tender Notes which are received and paid out at par, in trade, but occasionally, when wanted for specie purposes, command ¼ ₱ cent. premium. The dealers offer only 1¼ ₱ cent. premium for Canal Bank notes, but there is no demand again this morning at 5c. The round sum which we referred to as taken yesterday for which buyers paid as high as 3 and 3¼, amounted to some $7000 or $8000. It included one amount of $3400 at 3c. There were trifling amounts in the firmer condition of our market, but there are so few of these notes remaining in circulation, that they now are considerable items. Citizens, Bank notes commanded 1¼@1¾ and 1¾ ₱ cent. Crescent City are wanted at 57¼@60c. ₱ dollar. Bank of Louisiana may be quoted at 49@50c, and Merchants' at 55@60c. There is very little in any description. We noticed a sale of some South Carolina Bank notes at 30c.

Nothing was reported in Stocks and Bonds. Gas Light is held at 128 per share. City Consolidated Bonds are quoted at 82@84. Insurance Scrip is occasionally wanted for investment, the usual 6 per cent interest declared paying a very handsome interest in the ruling rates. It commands 32½@40c. per dollar, according to the date and company.

COMMERCIAL.

OFFICE OF THE BEE, }
WEDNESDAY EVENING, Dec. 9, 1863. }

COTTON.—There was considerable enquiry to-day, but at prices below the views or holders, the former offering 58c. for Strict Low Middling or Liverpool Middling, and they not selling, while nearly 59½@60c was bid. 59c. for Middling, while nearly 60½@60¾c was bid. 60c. for Strict Middling at 70c., and higher. The only sales reported were 50 bales Strict Middling at 70c., which cannot be regarded as a fair index of the market. There may have been other transactions towards the close, which were not reported. There was some offered at a decline.

SUGAR.—The supply is fair and in excess of the demand, which is fairly good, at sterling prices; to-day's sales embracing 500 hhds., in various lots, at 7½@7¾c for Fair to Fully Fair, and 8c. for Middling, while barely 8½@8¾c was bid, and 9c. for Common, 9¼@9½c. for Fair to Fully Fair, and 10¼@10½c. for Prime to Choice old crop. There has been rather a decline of at least ¼@¾c. ₱ lb. since Monday.

MOLASSES.—There was a brisk demand to-day, the sales embracing 1000 bbls. at sterling prices; 1000 bbls. for Common, 39@40c. for Prime, and 56c. for Choice new crop, and 47½c. for old crop rebolled; showing a reaction and an advance since yesterday of 1c. ₱ gallon.

SALE ROPE.—Sterling sells in small lots at from 8½@9c. ₱ lb.

COAL OIL.—A lot of 35 bbls. sold at 77½c. ₱ gallon.

BACON.—A few shoes since, not previously reported, a lot of 14 casks county Clear Sides sold at 8c. ₱ lb.

HAY.—We notice the sale of 194 bales Eastern, inspected, at $35 ₱ ton.

CORN.—About 500 sacks sold, in several lots, at 91 @94c. for Louisiana Yellow, and 91 @ 96 ₱ bushel for Western white.

FLOUR.—To-day's sales are confined to 300 bbls. Extra on private terms, and 500 bbls. good Extra, in several lots, at $9 25 ₱ bbl. The market is very dull, and the stock is accumulating.

POTATOES.—Sold on the landing to-day at $3 ₱ bbl.

FREIGHTS.—There is very little doing. We quote as the rate, by steamships for New York, 3½c. ₱ lb. for Cotton. By sailing vessels 4c. ₱ lb. for Cotton, $1 50 ₱ bhd. for Sugar, and $5 ₱ bbl. for Molasses.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Sales at auction to-day:—40 casks Bran at 91 15 ₱ cask; 20 bales very badly damaged Hay at $2 ₱ bale, and 2000 feet Lumber at $30 ₱ 1000.

Cattle Market.

JEFFERSON CITY, December 10, 1863.

No arrivals. Amount of Stock sold was 180 Beeves, 70 Hogs, 120 Sheep and 20 Cows. Stock remaining on hand 1100 Beeves, 772 Hogs, 25 Veals and 35 Cows.—We quote:

Western Beeves, 1st quality, ₱ lb net..... —@— 10
Western Beeves, 2d quality, ₱ lb net..... —@— 9
Western Beeves, 3d quality, ₱ lb net..... —@— 8
Texas Beeves, 1st quality, ₱ head..... 30 00@35 00
Texas Beeves, 2d quality, ₱ head..... —@30 00
Veals, 1st quality, ₱ head..... 20 00@22 00
Veals, 2d quality, ₱ head..... 15 00@18 00
Hogs, ₱ lb, gross..... 6 50@— 10
Milch Cows, ₱ head..... 60 00@80 00
Cows