New Orleans Bee.

Office 73 Chartres street. NEW ORLEANS, WEDNESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 30, 1863. Vol. XVII—New Series. Vol. XXXVI.—Whole No. 12,914.

NEW ORLEANS:
WEDNESDAY MORNING, DEC. 30, 1863.

Sales at Auction To-day.

By McCreen & Landry, at 10½ o'clock, at Nos. 38 and 40 New Levee street, nails, white lead, &c.

By R. T. Montgomery, at 10 o'clock, foot of Bienville street, apples; at 11 o'clock, at the auction mart 87 Camp street, furniture; also, at 10½ o'clock, at Tattersall's Stables, Gravier street, calèche, horses, &c.

By D. E. Morphy, at 10 o'clock, on the Levee, foot of Delord street, First District, coffee, bran, potatoes, apples, hams, &c.

☞ 231 barrels apples will be sold by R. T. Montgomery, Auctioneer, at 10 o'clock, this morning, ex steamer Continental, foot of Bienville street. See advertisement.

☞ To parties desirous of possessing a splendid establishment a fine opportunity is offered by R. T. Montgomery, auctioneer, who will sell at 10½ o'clock this day, at Tattersall's stables, one elegant brette or calèche, and a fine grey horse, after which, at same place, seven fine saddle and harness horses.

The special sale of rich rosewood and mahogany furniture, French plate mirrors, fine cut-glassware, brocatelle, parlor and bedroom sets, &c., advertised by R. T. Montgomery, for sale at auction, at 10 o'clock, this day, on the second floor of the auction mart, 87 Camp street, should attract a general attendance of all those about furnishing their houses. The furniture is mostly new and manufactured in the very best style of workmanship.

ATTENTION.—The attention of engineers, draymen, saddlers, blacksmiths, lumber dealers, &c., and to the trade generally, is called to the list of the numerous materials and utensils, which will be sold at auction on Monday, the 4th January, 1864, at half-past 10 o'clock, at [illegible] Levee, by order of the Board of Directors. See advertisement in auction sales columns.

At Nos. 38 and 40 New Levee street, Messrs. McCreen & Landry will sell at auction, this day, at 10½ o'clock A. M., a large lot of iron, nails, white lead, and one safe, &c., &c.

D. E. Morphy, auctioneer, calls the attention of the trade to the sale of coffee, bran, potatoes, hams, apples, onions and wrapping paper, which takes place this day, at 10 o'clock A. M., at the landing of the steamship Columbia. See auction advertisement.

FOR BATON ROUGE.—The swift passenger packet Time and Tide, J. H. Russell, master, is announced to leave for Baton Rouge and intermediate landings this evening at 5 o'clock.

FRENCH CHESTNUTS—PICKLES HAMS.—E. S. Keep, 62, Poydras street, advertises the receipt, by the steamer Yazoo, and by the steamboat Planet, of shipments of pickled hams and French chestnuts, in fine order.

VALUABLE IMPROVED REAL ESTATE AT AUCTION BY THE SHERIFF.—Particular attention is called to the sale at auction, to be made this day, at noon, at the Merchants and Auctioneers' Exchange, Royal street, by the Sheriff of this Parish, of a two-story brick dwelling house, situate on Elysian Fields street, between Love and Victory streets, Third District. See advertisement.

GRAND MASONIC AND FANCY DRESS BALL.—Hiram Lodge No. 70, F. & A. M., will give a Grand Masonic and Fancy Dress Ball, this evening, at the Masonic Hall, for the benefit of the Widows and Orphans' Fund. The invitation committee by whom we have been politely notified of the affair, will accept our wish that the occasion may equally conduce to festivity and charity.

THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—The monkeys will make their bow and the dogs their bow-wow for the first time to a noon-day audience at the Academy to-day. Who can conceive the delightful appreciation with which the young folk will behold the simian equestrians and the dramatic dogs?

To-night, let it not be forgotten, Sam Long, the celebrated clown and vocalist, will make his debut at the Academy.

THE VARIETIES THEATRE.—Colleen Bawn still keeps the boards at the Varieties, and in spite of certain drawbacks heretofore indicated, has achieved a general success that will doubtless induce its continuance for some time longer.

United States transport Crescent, D. D. Lesham, Commanding, left Brazos Santiago on the 23d instant, touched at Matagorda Bay, and was detained twenty-four hours in that harbor, on account of a heavy Norther. The following is a list of her passengers:

Mrs Perkins, Mrs Lenton, Mrs Saule, Mrs H Perkins, servant and three children, Mrs Gonzelo, Mr Farnberg, wife and child, Geo Hamilton and servant, Dr E V Pike, R C Hickey M H Cockrill, Mr McMannon and two sons, Dr R Dubois and daughter M Nierbonn, Dr Theodore De Bruze, [illegible] and servant, Major E G Beale, Paymaster U. S., Mr Rosenberg, Capt J V Coopland, Lieut C I G W Pannal, Thomas O'Neil, B O'Neil, J Dulac, Capt F P Tenney M Quartermaster, Dr Pleteus, Dr La Lace, Mr Norris, Brockenridge & Bro., C E Orme, Lieut Col H A Stout, S Deane, Acting Master Arthur, U. S. N.

The U. S. steam transport Cahawba, J. B. Baker commanding, arrived off Southwest bar at midnight, and crossed the bar this morning at 5 o'clock, from New York the 18th instant, and Newport, R. I., the 20th instant, with cargo to Col. Holabird, Chief Quartermaster. She received on board at Newport the First Battalion of the Fourteenth R. I. Heavy Artillery, numbering 840 men, Major J. C. Comstock commanding, and brings the following passengers:

Gen Nickerson and staff, Capt Metcalf, Capt Cheney, Lt Vance 1st Fritzen, staff, Lt Col H Sprague, Capt J McLord, Capt J D Phillips, Capt Baxter 1st R Boyer, 2d R Ratcliff 3 H Briggs H V Horton, Dr R W Carroll, Capt S Hutchins, Lt E Manning, Surg Higgins, Lt Foster, Lt F Barker, Capt S F Potter, C E Bowen, Capt J Brown, Major L Rand, A S Cooper, Surg Marlton, J Varis, Dr Dorchester, H Dibble, Lt Pitch, Lt J S Blain, Chas E Marden—49 rabin passengers.

Officers of the Fourteenth Rhode Island Heavy Artillery, Major Comstock commanding; Surg Dwight, Surg Palmer, Capt Metcalf, Lt Briggs, 2d Lt Potter, Capt Rabin, Lt Mumford, Lt Webster, Capt Simons, Lt Bishop, Lt Stafford, Capt Fry, Lt Chase, Lt Gay, Lt Weeden, Quartermaster, Lt Brown, Lt F F Osmond.

United States transport Clinton, Capt. Baxter, arrived last evening, making the run from Pass Cabello in forty eight hours, bringing a number of passengers.

The next steamer due from New York is the George Cromwell, announced to leave on the 21st for New Orleans direct. The Morning Star was to sail afterwards on the 26th for New Orleans, *via* Havana.

THE NEW FRENCH MINISTER TO MEXICO.—We read in the Paris *Patrie* that the Marquis de Montholon, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from France to Mexico had proceeded to London, taking with him, in the capacity of Secretary of Legation, the Vicomte de Chateaubriand, formerly attached to the embassy of Rome, and M. Delaneie, in the quality of private Secretary. The new Minister was to embark on the 24 of December for Mexico, at Southampton, in the La Plata. We are now apprised from Havana that he arrived there on the 24th instant, and started immediately for Vera Cruz.

General News from Richmond.

The Mobile *Tribune*, received by a contemporary yesterday, contains the following from Richmond:

Richmond, December 18—At a late meeting of the executive committee of the Stonewall Jackson Statue Association, President Davis presided, and General Lee, the Governor of Virginia and other prominent citizens were present. In the report the treasurer stated that Volick, the artist, had reached the continent of Europe and had entered upon his work. Fifteen bales of cotton had been shipped to Liverpool to meet the expense of five thousand dollars, which was agreed upon to be advanced to the artist. The statue will cost $25,000 in foreign exchange.

The House instructed the Judiciary Committee to inquire into the expediency of amending the impressment act so as to exempt enough of food for the supply of non producers.

A bill was introduced by the delegate from the Cherokee Nation to appropriate $100,000 to pay the interest of near three years due to that Nation. It was reported that the Cherokees have not been paid by our government as engaged, and large numbers of them have been driven from their homes through design by the chief and traitor John Ross, who left the Nation with the archives and funds, and took refuge behind Federal bayonets, but they were still fighting for Southern independence.

The Military Committee was instructed to enquire why the tax in kind cannot be better collected and garnered by citizens not liable to military duty, and thus send back to the field the able-bodied officers and soldiers now engaged in that work, thus taking the whole matter out of the hands of the Quartermaster's Department.

The Judiciary Committee having considered the many resolutions and bills, heretofore submitted on the subject of impressment, reported as important but not expedient to repeal the act of 27th April last, authorizing the impressing officers, when dissatisfied with the award of local appraisers, to appeal to the State commissioner. It repeals also so much of the original act, passed 26th of March, as allows State commissioners to meet at certain periods and fix prices.

The President, in response to the resolution of the House, sent a communication from the chief of the Conscript Bureau, stating the number of conscripts and the causes of exemption in the States of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. He promised to furnish the lists for the other States as soon as possible in those States mentioned the total number of exempts are 61,830. In Virginia 20,772, in North Carolina 22,807, in South Carolina 5814, and in Georgia 15,837. The number in the same States exempt from disability is 20,205, and for substitutes 13,080.

Richmond, December 19.—There was a short session to day. The death of Senator Peyton, of Missouri, was announced in both houses—No business was transacted on either house. The committees are regularly at work, and important reports are expected in a few days. The chief of the conscript bureau, expresses the opinion that ten thousand fraudulent substitutes papers are held in the country.

REPORT OF THE CONFEDERATE SECRETARY OF WAR.

The report of the Secretary of War is a very lengthy and highly important document. It fully refers to the operations of the army in its several departments, and says that the campaign in Mississippi was certainly disastrous. It is difficult to resist the impression that its disasters were not inevitable. That a court of inquiry to investigate the whole campaign met at Atlanta in September, but in consequence of the vicinity of the enemy requiring the presence of witnesses and judges at other points, it has been temporarily suspended. It is expected soon to reassemble. A deficiency of resources in men and provisions, rather than reverses in battle, caused the withdrawal of the army in East Tennessee. He alludes to desertion, straggling and absenteeism, and says that the effective force of the army is but little over half, or two-thirds of the men whose names are on the muster-rolls. He recommends the repeal of the substitute and exemption provisions, and that all having substitutes be put back into the field, and that the privileges which Congress granted to put in substitutes can be regularly and constitutionally abrogated by the same power. He says that no compact was entered into between the Government and the person furnishing a substitute, as has been alleged, but only a privilege which Government accorded. Instead of complaining of such abrogation, the person ought to feel gratified at what has heretofore been allowed him. He recommends an abridgment of exemptions, and the conscription of them all, making details according to the wants of society at home. He says that the three years' term, when their terms expire, cannot be finally discharged, and should be retained, allowing them to choose the existing company under its present organization, in the same arm of the service. He recommends the consolidation of such companies and regiments as are reduced below a certain complement. He pays a glowing tribute to the heroism, endurance and unfaltering devotion of the soldiers, and of the lamented dead who yielded their lives as sacrifices upon the altar of Liberty, and closes by saying that our very reverses, showing a united and determined endurance of everything for independence, must convince the enemy of the futility of his efforts to subdue us.

Affairs in Texas.

A dispatch from Houston, Texas, November 3d, says: The Legislature of Texas has refused to pass a resolution recommending Congress to declare Confederate treasury notes a legal tender. The Legislature is believed to be under conservative influence, though it is most dearly devoted to the Confederate cause.

General Slaughter, of Mobile, is in this city with his staff.

Reports of the Indian depredations on the frontier are frequent and alarming. I learn that the Indians are armed by the Yankees and sent upon the defenseless frontier to lay it waste.

The small pox has made its appearance in this city.

EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS.—The *Era* of yesterday notes the arrival from New Iberia of 300 exchanged, and 400 paroled Federal prisoners. From this it would appear that exchanges are effected in this Department without reference to the disputes between the exchange Commissioners at Washington and Richmond.

Agriculture in the United States—Abstract of the Commissioner's Report.

The interests of agriculture have not materially suffered in the loyal States in consequence of the war. More territory has been cultivated, and a larger yield received than in any previous year. The great staples for 1863 compare with 1862, as follows:

	1862		1863.
Wheat, bush	189,981,000	Wheat, bush	192,663,238
Oats, bush	172,520,000	Oats, bush	174,463,153
Corn, bush	586,794,474	Corn, bush	587,638,189
Hay, tons	34,000,000	Hay, bush	13,500,000
Tobacco, lb	249,000,000	Tobacco, lb	254,462,618
Wool, lb	60,541,172	Wool, lb	60,000,000

The diversion of labor by the war is compensated by machinery, by young men growing up and by immigration.

The Department has sought information from all sources; among others, by correspondence with Agricultural Societies and Farmer's Clubs, the more general formation of which is recommended.

It is suggested that a system of observation on the weather, to be daily reported by telegraph, be put in operation.

Seeds have been wanted in large quantities. Several hundred bushels of choice wheat and other cereal grains, and several thousands of dollars worth of seeds more valuable for field and garden culture, including flower seeds, were imported from Europe. These and domestic varieties were freely distributed. 1,500 bushels of cotton seed were also sent to Western farmers, and tobacco seed in great quantities.—The whole number of packages thus distributed was about 1200. About forty thousand were quart packages of wheat, etc., 950,000 garden and flower seeds, 120,000 tobacco and the remainder cotton, flax, etc.

The propagating and experimental garden has distributed during the year about 25,000 articles—vines, bulbs, etc.

Correspondence has been carried on concerning vines and vineyards, and valuable facts collected. Something has been done toward establishing specimen orchards of the best fruits to illustrate the best modes of culture, etc. A botanical collection and museum is also desired. Facilities should be supplied for comparing farming tools and methods of cultivation, such as hoeing and thin seeding, the effect of draining and the best modes, etc. Additional appropriations are asked for glass conservatories and propagation houses. Land enough is wanted to test the various grains, grasses and seeds—the practicability of growing different medicinal and textile plants, etc.

Attention has been given to entomology, an experienced entomologist employed, and his collection placed on exhibition in the Departments; also his collection of facsimiles of all the fruits of the country, and a complete herbarium. More space is wanted for these and other purposes of the Department.

Congress, last session, appropriated $20,000 for investigations into the culture and preparation of flax and hemp as a substitute for cotton. A report of results hereafter.

Consuls abroad have been applied to and have procured seeds and plants, and much valuable information.

The expenditures from 31st December, 1862, to the 30th November, 1863, for all purposes, amount to $87,792 98, leaving an unexpended balance of the appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1864, of $52,883 02. An increased appropriation is recommended for the ensuing year.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Suspected Characters—Bill Bruce and Chas. Sacket were up as dangerous and suspicious characters. Bill proposed to enlist and went with a recruiting officer. Sacket said he had returned, was sick, and supported by his wife; so he was discharged.

Provost Court—Judge Atocha presiding.—A soldier who ordered a nice supper without the means or intention to pay for it, was sent for three months to the Workhouse with loss of pay.

John O'Conner, for insulting a lady, lost two months pay. A white haired recruit was found drunk and indecently exposed. He was workhoused for sixty days.

L. Kasspar was employed by a Mr. Vogt by with five others to cut wood on Bayou Labranche. He was prosecuted for doing so without authority, but his employer testified that he employed second, and thought he had a right to the wood so cut. Accused was discharged, and the employer was sent to prison for thirty days.

Eight persons were arrested night before last, and goods of considerable value seized on the suspicion that the prisoners were veteran blockade runners, and that the goods and letters were intended to go beyond the lines. Four of them were discharged. A paroled, not exchanged, Confederate, Port Hudson officer was sent to the Provost Marshal, subject to the order of the Commanding General. Blakely was sentenced to pay a fine of $250, or six months' imprisonment, and his boat was confiscated. The others to three months' imprisonment.

Judge Houghman went to see an uncle beyond the lines and returned without having a pass to go or to come. He was ordered to the Provost Marshal to comply with General Orders. He then claimed to be a British subject. As accused violated the American regulations upon that prerogative, the Judge ordered him to pay a fine of $200, or to go to prison for a term. Application to have the sentence commuted to bail for good behavior was entered by friends of the man.

A Murder Suspected—The coroner was called to the house No. 195 Tchoupitoulas street, where a colored woman met her death under circumstances which raised the suspicion of her having been murdered by her husband.

Inquest—The coroner held an inquest on the body of a colored woman at No. 146 St. Peter street, who died of consumption.

Second District Recorder's Court—Chas. Leaumont, Esq., Presiding.—Wm Washing and Jas Quarted individually charged the imputence to disturb the vestalin peace of Burgundy street, and got off with the light sentence of "sixty days Workhouse."

J. W. Flannagan and the colored woman Mary Jane had a tender row on the Levee to the horror of the peace officers Cspin and Wagner. The result was, that the Recorder fined the colored woman $10, and the male individual $5.

Oster Portier was arrested by the police, who did not weigh him, but found his bread too light. He was fined $10.

Tom Bowen, a boisterous sailor, was fined $10.

Jenny Lewis and Mrs Martin were drunk again, and sent to the Workhouse for sixty days.

Jacob Vine, for beating his wife, paid $5.

G. W. Daniels, for being drunk, got off with a fine of $5.

Mrs. Kelly, for beating a sick boy, was required to furnish peace-bonds and pay a fine of $5.

S. McCabe, for a fight with Sarah Mason, was sent to prison for four months.

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Up Again.—Ch. Miller caught another victim and Lieutenant Miller caught Ch. Holly for it. The accusation is, that the accomplished pair, who dishonored the name of 'a merchant' so often, had obtained from Mr. Mesier an invoice of valuable goods, under false pretenses and with intent to swindle. A good thing that Mr. Mesier is able to stand it, but bad for good the newspapers he would never have trusted Mr. Ch. Holly as he did.

Miscellaneous Items.

The Kentucky House of Representatives has passed resolutions that Kentucky will assume the pecuniary of losses incurred by Citizen men from Union soldiers, and look to the General Government for reimbursement. It will pass the Senate.

The President has issued a proclamation, removing the discriminating duties heretofore imposed on Prussian and Nicaraguan shipping and merchandise within the United States, in return for reciprocal favor.

General Sickles has asked for a Court of Inquiry to investigate his conduct at Gettysburg, and exculpate him from the censure cast upon him by General Hallock in his annual report, for alleged want of generalship on that occasion.

Adelina Patti will soon be in the condition of Alexander and have no more worlds to conquer. She says she will now weep over it as did the Macedonian. Her last compliment was at Madrid, the city in which she chanced to be born, and her first appearance there the Queen "assisted." Every lovable seat was taken for days before, and the crowd in the pit began to collect at ten o'clock in the morning. "La patitina" made her debut and achieved her first triumph in Madrid as Amina, in "La Sonnambula."

[FROM OUR EVENING EDITION OF YESTERDAY]

THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—Cooke's troupe of trained dogs and monkeys, in addition to the regular circus attractions, drew an overflowing and enthusiastic crowd to the Academy last night.

The performances of the troupe were varied, including equitation in which they won no laurels from the human equestrians of the circus, and several passages of comedy and burlesque in which they acquitted themselves with an eclat threatening to eclipse the comic glory of Satchell and the wonderful antics of Kingsland.

In truth the dramatic proficiency of these canine and simian artists imparts a certain degree of melancholy to the contemplation of human beings, whom no amount of education, experience, or advice can convert into actors or actresses.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH PRESCRIBED BY THE PROCLAMATION.—An order appears this morning from General Shepley, Military Governor of Louisiana, authorizing the several Registers of voters in the State, to administer to all, except the disqualified, desirous of taking it, the oath prescribed by the late Proclamation of President Lincoln, and by which the juror, in addition to the obligation to support the Constitution and the Union, is sworn to abide by and faithfully support all Acts of Congress and Proclamations of the President, passed or issued during the rebellion, having reference to slaves, so long and so far as not modified or annulled by the Supreme Court.

This order is not to interrupt the registration of voters as already commenced, but the Registers are required to keep a separate record of the oaths taken under the Proclamation. The juror must repeat the oath after the officer administering it, and then subscribe it in duplicate, he keeping one copy, and the officer entering the other in a book, which, on or about the 15th of February, shall be deposited in the Executive Department.

SPAIN AND THE OBJECTS OF THE PROPOSED CONGRESS.—The Queen of Spain, in her letter accepting the French Emperor's invitation to a Congress, says that, if such an assembly convene, Spain will participate therein, and "cause her voice to be heard in words of justice, peace and concord, contributing within the limits of her conciliatory counsels to the pacific solution of the serious questions which the Congress has in view, *in order to consolidate peace and tranquility in the Old and New World.*"

OUR HAVANA PAPERS.—We only received this morning our file of the Havana *Prensa* to the 25th inst., but our copies of the *Diario* have not come to hand.

The *Prensa* contains no news from Mexico, and hardly anything worth mentioning from San Domingo, except the usual accounts of Spanish victories and destitution and desertion among the natives. The number of proclamations, we observe, is not as large as heretofore.

The triumph at Azua, says a correspondent of the *Diario* of Santiago de Cuba, has dispelled all doubts as to the crushing out of the Union and the dark days are over.

Fortifications were being erected wherever there was a probability of the Spaniards being attacked.

The natives have stuck to the policy of falling back and seek shelter in the woods whenever no material advantage is to be gained by resistance.

Late Southern News via Mobile.

The *True Delta* issued an extra at 11 A M this morning, containing news taken from the Mobile *Tribune* of the 29th, the important portions of which we give:

Federal Movements in Tennessee.

"Ora," the special correspondent of the *Tribune*, telegraphs as follows:

Dalton, December 17—The rumored advance of the enemy's cavalry on Athens, Ga., is unfounded. Our cavalry forces have pr ceeded to Eliza, a town forty one miles east of Dalton and sixty five east of Lafayette, and discovered no enemy. A small force of the enemy had advanced to the Georgia line, but returned. A scouting party of the enemy's infantry were reported at Red Clay town, near the Georgia line. There was a terrific thunder storm last night with heavy rain.

General Johnston to Command the Army of Tennessee.

Dalton, December 18—General Joseph E. Johnston having been appointed to the command of the army of the Tennessee, is expected here in the early part of next week.

Major General T. C. Hindman has arrived, and resumed command of his old corps.

Sherman's corps has fallen back from Knoxville. It passed through Cleveland day before yesterday on the way to Chattanooga.

Heavy Fighting—Federals Repulsed—Capture of 70 Wagons.

Bristol, December 19—The late raid on Salem produced an intense excitement here.

Johnston's division attacked a force of mounted infantry, about four thousand, at Bean's Station, on Monday, and gradually drove them back, after a stubborn resistance and heavy loss, in the direction of Knoxville. The pursuit was continued throughout Tuesday and Wednesday, during which time we captured a train of seventy wagons loaded with stores and clothing, and many prisoners. Our forces are moving in the direction of Kingsport, to which place the Yankees have fled. Our loss in killed and wounded is about 800. General Gracie, who was slightly wounded in the arm, is here, *en route* to Mobile. Two hundred and twenty-five prisoners have arrived here.

From Richmond and Charleston.

Charleston, December 18—Ten shells were fired at the city to-day, five the morning and five the afternoon, but no damage was done. Twenty-nine vessels, including the Ironsides and four Monitors, are inside the bar, and the usual number in Stono and off the bar.

Charleston, December 19—Nothing new. The enemy has been silent for the past 24 hours, and Sumter remains undisturbed. Battery Simkins has kept up a slow fire on the enemy's working parties at Gregg and Wagner.

Orange Court-House, December 18—There is no change in the military situation on either side.

The War Spirit in France.

The Paris correspondents of the London journals note the growth of a warlike spirit in France towards England, and confirm the assertion by significant extracts from the Paris newspapers.

In the article by M. P. Limayrac in the *Constitutionnel*, denouncing the refusal of England to adhere to the proposed Congress, it is said:—"If troubles and conflagrations ensue in Europe, which is but too likely, will not the responsibility fall entirely on those who repudiate an overture of peace and conciliation."

M. Girardin in the *Presse* is, if anything, more startling in his remarks. He says:

On the desk of the Emperor of the French, by the side of the initialed with which he wrote the speech of November 5, there is a chronometer. This is what the sovereign to whom he addressed a last appeal should know. Napoleon III will not childishly turn the key of this chronometer to put it forward, but when strikes the hour he will be ready.

The same writer thinks England is too apt to forget that she is an Island, and to estimate too highly her claims to exercise an influence on the continent. He adds that he does not go as far as the first Napoleon, who said that England "was destined by nature to be a French Island, just like Corsica or Oleron," but he believes the "insolent answer of England to the Emperor's proposal for a Congress ought to be met by a diplomatic blockade." In another article M. Girardin remarks that the "impression impossible to be resisted, after reading the dispatches in the *Moniteur*, is that the policy of France is about to be pushed by the logic of events into a new path. Let us be prepared." Referring to this language, the Paris correspondent of the London *Evening Post*, says: "This means war with England, and in appreciating the value of the menace, it must not be forgotten that the writer of it sees Prince Napoleon nearly every day, and is an invited guest at Compiegne."

Of the general feeling in France regarding England, the correspondent just quoted, observes:

There seems to exist a feeling in Government circles that England somewhat desires to avoid the friendship of France; that her statesmen at least are disposed to have as little as possible to do with this country touching continental questions. The feeling in France, ever, I am sorry to say, hostile to England, takes up her refusal of the Congress as almost a national offense, and I fear it will cool the relations of the two Governments. Russia can only witness with delight such a state of things, and the King and actual Government of Prussia are not less satisfied. Austria will be pleased to find England and France no longer together, at least giving their 'moral support' to the new kingdom of constitutional Italy. Ever since Napoleon came to the throne the despotic and military Governments of Europe have sought to divide England and France, or at all events to prevent too great an identity in their foreign policy. Perhaps ere long they may congratulate themselves on the accomplishment of their wishes.

The view thus afforded of the warlike temper roused in France, would hardly be complete without one more quotation from M. Girardin. The war which he contemplates as a probable necessity arising from the inexorable logic of the situation, will not be merely an armed protest against the murder of Polish nationality, but "a gigantic war for the cause of peoples all over the world."

Alluding to England, the *Opinion Nationale* says: "Let our good neighbors and allies have plenty of time to quaff their ale and porter; they will soon see a black point on the horizon which at present they have no suspicion of."

In view of these tokens of unfriendly feeling, the London *Daily News* remarks:

These are indications, joined to the less insolent but equally hostile articles of the more authorized semi-official journals, which it would be wrong to despise altogether. They show that we have an enemy who is watching his opportunity and will do us a mischief as soon as he can. We cannot do otherwise than be ready for him whenever he chooses to come.

The London *Times* of the 5th December, speaking of the unassuring character of the signs in France, says:

At no time since the Italian war have vague anticipations of coming change been more general than during the last fortnight. Since the refusal of England to join the Congress, the disquiet has increased. The refusal is in itself a rebuff, and Lord Russell has not the art to make disagreeable communications less unpleasant by any sweetness of diction. People have therefore been ready to see in all that takes place the first gusts and drops of the coming storm. It is presumed that the Emperor is offended; that he must turn from England to some more accommodating ally. Hints of a reconciliation with Russia are given; Baron Budberg is said to have been invited to Compiègne in terms of especial distinction, and General Fleury is to pay a mysterious visit to St. Petersburg. What is to be done, or why anything should be done, no one pretends to know; but every one fancies that the present state of affairs cannot last. There is oppression in the silence—a sense of pain in the uneasy peacefulness of the hour.

Increase of Emigration from England.

[From the Liverpool Mercury, December 2]

Yesterday, the Government emigration officials at this port completed their usual monthly emigration returns. From this report we learn that during the last month there sailed to the United States 26 ships, "under the act," having on board 6637 passengers, 2279 of which were English, 327 Scotch, 3389 Irish, and 636 from other countries; to Victoria there were 3 ships, with 854 passengers, 228 of which were English, 79 Scotch, 421 Irish, and 66 from other countries; making a total of 29 ships and 7511 passengers, 270 of which were cabin passengers. The total number of emigrants sailed before, for the month was 8421, being an increase over the same month last year of 4075 souls. The total number of emigrants which left the port of Liverpool last year was 61,341, and on a comparison of the figures in the report before us, we find that already the increase for the eleven months of the present year over the whole of last year amounts to 71,687, the increase itself being double, or nearly 7000 more than the total exodus from the Mersey for 1862. Nor does the approach of winter appear to check the tide of emigration. Vessels continually leave the port, laden with living freights, for the United States—the country which, above all others, appears to attract the great majority of the emigrants.

STARTLING FROM IRELAND.—The Cork *Examiner*, a well informed paper, publishes some rather startling news. It says: "A rumor is being spread through various parts of the country, that Ireland is on the eve of a revolution or rebellion. The signal for the rising is to be the landing in some of our bays or harbors of an armament from America, provided with an ample supply of arms and all the other munitions of war for the use of those who may come to throw off the 'yoke of the Saxon.' It is also believed that there is at this moment existing in Ireland a secret society, having its headquarters in Dublin, and branches in Cork, Tuam, and all the other principal towns of the kingdom. This society, it is said, is at this very moment actively engaged in organizing the people and preparing them for the anticipated invasion, having them taught military drill wherever practicable. Thus they will be fitted to await themselves of the arms that shall be placed in their hands by their foreign friends. It is further hinted, in mysterious language, 'that certain persons whose present position holds them back, will assume leading parts in the struggle when once it has begun.'

MELANCHOLY DEATH.—William H. Graham, brother of George H. Graham, some ten years ago the editor and publisher of Graham's Magazine, and himself connected at that time with that monthly in a literary capacity, died yesterday at a boarding house in Ann street from the effects of intemperance. He was found unconscious about Ann street, when he was taken sick, and died soon after being taken into the grocery store.—*N Y Com. Advertiser, Dec 19.*

The *Round Table* is the title of a new paper just issued in New York, and of which the *Journal of Commerce* says:

The first number of this new paper has appeared, and justifies expectations. It is an able, dignified, and at the same time lively and readable paper, altogether in advance of anything of the kind that has heretofore been attempted.

WHIT BROWNLOW HAS—AN WAR meeting, held in Cincinnati on Wednesday last, Parson Brownlow was present, and made the following statement respecting his recent "greyhound performance":

I understand that this is a war meeting, and that you are assembled here for the purpose of beating up volunteers. In this matter I am in somewhat awkward position, having recently taken to my heels like a greyhound, and made three hundred miles in short time. In the last two years, as you well know, I have done some talking, which I wish the rebels remember. Were I not sure that I should not be treated as our soldiers taken by them are—incarcerated in their lousy prisons—their Libbys and Castle Thunder, I should have stand, for I could endure the lash, but I did not run out of cowardice, but I well knew that if they took me I would have to pull hemp without a hothold.

The estimated strength of the Federal army for the ensuing year, including regulars, volunteers and drafted men, is 925,000, of the navy 85,000 men.

CITY INTELLIGENCE

Mortuary Report—The following is the weekly report of deaths in the city of New Orleans, from the 20th day of December to the 26th of December, 1863:

Diseases—Apoplexy 3, asphyxia 2, disease of brain 1, bronchitis 2, burned 1, cancer 2, casualties 1, congestion of brain 3, congestion 15, convulsions infantile 2, croup 2, debility adult 2, debility infantile 2, delirium tremens 1, diarrhœa chronic 18, dropsy 4, dysentery 3, dysentery chronic 3, diphtheria 3, epilepsy 2, erysipelas 1, fever bilious 1, fever brain 1, puerperal mania 1, fever remittant, 1, fever scarlet 1, fever typhoid 2, fracture of skull 1, gas enteritis 1, disease of heart 3, inflammation of the brain 3, inflammation of the lungs 19, inflammation of the stomach 1, inflammation of the throat 1, disease of kidney 1, marasmus adult 1, marasmus infantile 1, old age 4, palsy 2, pneumonia typhoid 4, rheumatism 1, stillborn 7, scald 1, tetanus 2, tetanus traumatism 3, wounds gunshot 1, not stated 2. Total 137.

Ages—Under 1 year, 8, between 1 and 2 years, 6, between 2 and 5 years, 12, between 5 and 10 years, 6, between 10 and 15 years, 0, between 15 and 20 years, 1, between 20 and 25 years, 8, between 25 and 30 years, 9, between 30 and 40 years, 20, between 40 and 50 years, 9, between 50 and 60 years, 9, between 60 and 70 years, 5, between 70 and 80 years, 9, between 80 and 90 years, 3, between 90 and 100, 2, 100 and upwards 1, unknown, 29. Total, 137.

Nativities—Belgium 1, England 2, France 4, Germany 5, Ireland 14, Prussia 2, Switzerland 1, United States 53, West Indies 1, not stated 54. Total 137.

Whites 91, blacks 33, mulattoes 13. Total, 137. Males 93, females 43.

MONETARY AND FINANCIAL.

OFFICE OF THE SUN,
TUESDAY EVENING, Dec. 29, 1863.

There was only a moderate degree of activity in the money market to-day, without any quotable change in the rates of either specie or exchange, the former, however maintaining yesterday's improvement. Our stock market was unusually quiet, partly from the attention of the trade being confined to the auctions sales, partly because buyers are unwilling to go on at the high rates claimed by holders. Parties who hoped to buy Middling at 72c. found none under 73, holders asking 73@74; others withdrew for the moment to await further developments. The next steamer from New York will probably be the Cromwell. Her departure was in the first instance deferred to the 21st inst., and, we now hear, was further postponed to the 23d. She may make her appearance to-morrow night. We notice that the Yazoo, to sail on Thursday, has filled up at 24c. for cotton, and the Columbia for Saturday, at about the same. This gives the cotton buyer an advantage of 4c. over previous shipments. We also notice a shipment of 100 bbls Flour by a sailing vessel for New York at 25c. @ bbl—the first from this port for the North for some time.

In Domestic Exchange there was a fair amount of business done at ½@¾ pm. discount for New York Sight, (mostly at 1 pm. ¼ and 1 for one day's sight, and 1½ pm. at 2 days' sight. We also noticed some good one days sight at ¼@½ pm. There were several certified checks at par. The rates of deposit in New York Banks in the morning, were brought ¼ and 1 pm. discount. At one of the Banks we noticed a fair counter demand for checks at par, but very little elsewhere. The Banks continue to check at par, and dealers draw at par@¼ discount for sight and 1 day's sight. In Foreign Exchange we noticed some unexceptionable private Sterling bills offered at 164 and 165. The market may be quoted at 162¼@162¾. One of the Banks will draw at 165 for its own notes, which makes the sale equal to 167¼@170 for Currency. Francs may be quoted at 5.40@5.30 for private bills, and 5.35@5.25 for bankers. One of the Banks drew to-day at 5.30, accepting payment in Legal Tender notes.

The Specie market was firm but not very active—We notice some round sums of Gold sold at 56¾ and 56¾ @ cent. premium. Dealers paid 55 for the small sums offered at the commencement of the day, but ranged from 55@56 premium, dealers paying 55@56 and 55 and selling at 56. We met with no Mexican dollars, excepting a small lot for which 56 was accepted.

Legal Tenders were enquired for and when wanted for special purposes commanded ¼@¾ @ cent. premium, but generally circulated at par with currency. Citizens' Bank notes rule at 1@1¼ @ cent. premium. Dealers offer 1¼ premium for Canal Bank bank notes—Crescent City are still in request at 60@62½c. @ dollar. Dealers ask 65. Bank of Louisiana notes rule at 50@55c. and Merchants' at 35@37½c.

We notice that the Ole Eight Company has declared a dividend of 3 @ cent., payable on the 15th proximo.—This will disappoint some who have anticipated as high as 4 @ cent. We hear of no further Sales. City Railroads is quoted at 120@121 @ share. We heard of a small sale of Canal Bank Stock at 46.50. Nothing has transpired in Insurance Stocks. It may be quoted at 33¼@34c. @ dollar according to the date and Company.

COMMERCIAL.

OFFICE OF THE SUN,
TUESDAY EVENING, Dec. 29, 1863.

COTTON.—There was less inquiry to-day, and the little looking about was for lots at easier prices, which could not be found. The general appearance of the market, however, indicated that the movement will hardly be resumed with any degree of spirit until holders are more stringent in their pretensions. The sales at auction comprised 300 bales, at irregular prices, extreme rates being paid in some cases, while in others the advantage was on the side of the buyer. The transactions were as follows: 6 bales at —, 1 do Pickings at 25½c., 5 bales Pickings and Refuse at 26½c., 1 Speckled at 50½c., 3 do at 51½c., 1 do Speckled and 1 do Mixed at 54½c., 1 do Speckled at the same, 11 Speckled, Good Ordinary at 61½c., 1 Speckled at the same, 11 do at 63c., Strict Ordinary, part speckled, at 62½c., 14 Strict Ordinary at 63c., 2 Mixed at 51½c., 1 bale Samples at 63½c., 1 do Ordinary at 54½c., 7 do Mixed at 55½c., 1 do Ordinary at 56½c., 1 do Strict Low Middling and 1 do Related at 65c., round, 1 do Samples at 65½c., 17 Mixed Low Middling, 1 do Strict Ordinary, 1 do., 16 Good Ordinary, of which were rebaled, at 68½c., 13 Low Middling at 68½c., 22 Strict Good Ordinary at 69c., 20 Low Middling at the same, 9 strict Good Ordinary to Low Middling at 70c., 4 Low Middling, Seedy, at 70½c., 24 Strict Good Ordinary at 70½c., 11 Strict Low Middling at