"FOREVER FLOAT THAT STANDARD SHEET."

The South-Western.

BY L. DILLARD & CO.

Office—Corner of Texas and Spring Streets,
IN BAIR'S BUILDING—SECOND FLOOR.

SHREVEPORT:

WEDNESDAY ..... DECEMBER 12, 1866.

THOS. MCINTYRE, of New Orleans, is our only duly authorized agent to receive subscriptions and advertisements in that city.

Col. S. D. Woon, of Marshall, Texas, is duly authorized to receipt for subscriptions.

Mr. JOHN C. LOYD, Minden, La., is duly authorized to receipt for subscriptions.

Rev. A. L. HAY is our duly authorized agent to receive and receipt for subscriptions and advertisements.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.—We publish on the outside of this issue, in full, president Johnson's annual message to the second session of the thirty-ninth congress. Its terseness on all the important questions of the day will commend it to the attention of all those feeling an interest in the welfare of our country. It is an able, dignified state paper, bearing little resemblance to the public harangues of president Johnson. It will be seen that on the question of reconstruction the president sticks to his policy, and gives his radical congress some very knotty points to get over. We commend it to the attention of our readers.

THE CONCERT LAST NIGHT.—The concert given by the ladies and gentlemen of this city, for the benefit of the Episcopal church, was decidedly a success. The performers each played well the part assigned. The Gaiety was well filled by lovers of "the divine art," who attested their appreciation of the rare treat by repeated rounds of applause.

HANDSOME PRICES.—The Marshall plantation, situated in Bossier parish, about two miles above this place, sold at auction last week for $100,000 in gold. The tract contains some 4600 acres, nearly all of which is under cultivation. It was purchased by two gentlemen, one taking 2300 and the other 1700 acres. The knowing ones say they made a good bargain. The Dixon plantation, situated in this parish, about twenty miles above this city, containing 623 acres, was sold on the 5th at $80 per acre in currency. From the above sales it would look as though some people had not lost all confidence in dirt.

INFIRMARY.—The medical and surgical infirmary, on Texas street, opposite the court house, in this city, under the management of Doctors Williams, Cutliff and Clay, is now open for the reception of patients, both male and female. Everything in the way of bedding, furniture, &c., is new and of the best quality, purchased expressly for this establishment. To those of our country friends who stand in need of medical treatment for chronic disease, we recommend this infirmary as the equal of any in the State. The physicians stand at the head of their profession, and will use their utmost endeavors to give satisfaction to those who place themselves under their charge. See advertisement.

FIRE.—The out-house attached to Lilman's brewery, on the Texas road, near the corporation line, was consumed by fire last Saturday morning. The origin of the fire is unknown. We did not learn the estimated loss.

By examining our advertising columns it will be seen that Chauncey Ford has become a partner in the house of John P. Manico & Co., cotton factors, No. 64 Carondelet street, New Orleans. Capt. Ford, who by the way is on a visit to this place, is well and favorably known to our citizens, and doubt not will add much to the business of this old and responsible house.

By reference to a notice in another column it will be seen that Jones, Budlong & Co., dealers in all kinds of agricultural implements, have been playing the wild during the past week. They have not only dissolved but moved to No. 3 Milam street, where they have hung out their shingle as Jones & Co., manufacturers' agents for agricultural implements, steam-engine, wassling machines, corn-mills, corn-shellers, hand looms, &c. They furnish Hall & Speer roughs for $6 50.

DEATH OF CAVE JOHNSON.—A Washington dispatch of the 27th ult., says Hon. Cave Johnson, Polk's postmaster general, died at noon, Friday, at his residence at Clarksville, Tenn., aged seventy-two years. He served fourteen years in congress, acquiring a national reputation; was for years president of the bank of Tennessee, under an appointment from governor, now president Johnson. He was in 1861 elected a member of a convention to consider the relations of Tennessee to the Union, which body however never assembled, and was in 1866 chosen to the State senate but refused a seat because of the aid and comfort he had extended to the rebellion.

J. B. Lewis, jr., corner of Spring and Texas streets, is selling the best boots, shoes, hats, etc., awful cheap.

JOH SCHRATT ARRESTD.—Cable dispatches say that John H. Surratt, who was implicated in the assassination of Lincoln, was arrested in Egypt and was on his way to this country under a proper escort.

THE RADICALS AT WORK.—The New Orleans Times' Washington special, under date of the 4th, says that the radicals have remodeled the committee of the senate. Messrs. Doolittle, Cowan and Dixon, who each held the chairmanship of important committees, are to be dropped because they supported the president in his policy of restoration.

A CONGRESSMAN AT LARGE FROM ILLINOIS.—The Metropolitan Record says, as many persons are at a loss to understand why Illinois should elect a "Congressman at large," while no other State does so, it may be well to give a brief explanation. In the distribution of representatives under the act of March 4, 1862, eight States, of which Illinois was one, were allowed one additional representative each. The number of congressmen of Illinois was thus raised from thirteen to fourteen; but the legislature, instead of dividing the State into fourteen districts, decided to let the number of districts remain as it stood before the act of March 4 was passed, and to have the fourteenth congressman elected by the whole State. Hence the title of "Congressman at Large," given to the position to which Gen. Logan was elected on the 6th inst. Gen. Logan's duties in congress will be precisely similar to those of the representatives elected in separate districts.

THE SOUTHERN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION.—We publish the following communication at the request of Messrs. Cumming, Morrison Co. It speaks for itself:

NEW ORLEANS, November 7, 1866.

To the citizens of Shreveport and vicinity:

The Southern Hospital Association of New Orleans has sent to Messrs. Cumming, Morrison & Co., a number of tickets, valued at one dollar each, for chances in a distribution of Christmas gifts, to be presented by this association on the Christmas of this year, and we respectfully solicit your influence to assist them to dispose of them. The object of our association is to provide a hospital for all wounded and disabled soldiers, but, especially those whoare not provided for by national or State legislation, and we earnestly pray that the kind-hearted people of the whole United States will assist us in our "labor of love."

The purchasers of these tickets are assured that the gifts will equal in value one half of the amount realized from the sale of tickets, and they will comprise articles of value and vertu, such as pianos, paintings, engravings, sewing-machines, books, &c., &c., according to number and class of awards.

Hoping that we may have your assistance, your smiles and your prayers, we are yours most respectfully,

J. B. HOOD, President.
B. B. BUCKNER, Vice-President.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,
JAMES LONGSTREET,
HARRY T. HAYS,
DABNEY H. MAURY,
} Directors.
M. JUST THOMPSON, Secretary.

The New Question.

Our cotemporaries have had much to say upon the labor question, and we beg to add a few words.

Has freedmen's labor failed us? On this point the answers are as various as the respondents. Few men, knowing the nature of the African so well as our planters generally ought, considered in advance the effect that freedom would have upon men so long constrained to labor despite their inherent indolence. But children in intellect, constrained labor was as irksome to them as long confinement to schoolboys, and liberty, in their dictionary, meant no more than license. This was to have been considered, and is now not to be lost sight of in any honest estimate of the case. Besides, the season has been most disastrous. The heavens have seemed to frown down upon us, even while our cup of defeat and humiliation, of impoverishment and uncertainty, was overflowing. Flooded valleys, scorched hills, or devastating insects, have here or there thwarted the most energetic and hopeful, and these added calamities lend a sombre tinge to the views of all our people, from the Carolinas to the Rio Grande. Again: the variousness of answer to this question is to be found somewhat, albeit we will not say always, in the way the freedmen have been managed. Those planters who most thoroughly realized their condition at the outset, and who have most sensibly and philosophically accommodated themselves to their changed circumstances, have best succeeded.

When the crop of cotton has passed from the hands of producers, we shall have some reliable data upon which to found an opinion as to the measure of success that has crowned the efforts of planters. The number of bales produced will enable the statistician to make an approximate estimate of acres planted and cost of production. Aside from this, let us also consider what might have been the result in the absence of floods, droughts, and all the Pandoran ills that seem to follow war.

And here let us ask our friends if, in view of the gloomy retrospect they take of the year, they are not making unwarranted calculations for the future? We think they are. Without the compulsion of stringent vagrant laws—without meting out the exactest justice to the laborer as well as exacting it—we cannot conceive it more than probable, in the nature of things, that the freedmen will be more than self-supporting. The history of the race in the British West Indies will be their history. A small per centage of them will work fairly; the mass will labor as their necessities impel; but the average result will be of little avail in restoring king cotton to his former prestige. It is due to the freedman from our people, however, not only on the score of past relations, but from wisest secletary and financial views, to do all they can to encourage him in the pursuit of the rewards of labor. His natural position is in our climate—his social instincts bind him here—and we shall do wisely in proving to him that slavery is but the transition state through which all peoples pass from barbarism to a progressive civilization. We say this in view of the repeated declarations of many planters to import white laborers from the north and from Europe.

All the laborers whose labor is worth having perfectly understand our situation. A few weeks ago about 300 Germans landed in New Orleans. Why can we no longer keep these laborers among us? asked a city cotemporary. The humblest man among them would have told him that the existence of slavery heretofore in the south has repelled free labor; that they have hence no friends in the south, but many in western Texas, Missouri, &c. Besides, they generally fear the process of acclimation. It is useless for our planters to turn to Germany. No country in Europe has a peasantry so sturdily fond of social independence. They climbs, but they will not labor in gangs—not even in the west; certainly not in cotton fields. While this is true of the German traditionally attached to his soil, there is a large class of immigrants from that country, of Hebraic descent, who have the keenest instincts of trade of any people upon earth. Come they to this country never so poor, they will soon own a peanut stand or a peddler's pack, and then they quickly possess a corner grocery or a three-story front. Alike industrious, frugal and temperate, were either class to work two years on a plantation, they would be "mighty apt" to own it—especially if its owner carried it on in the flush style of the good old time.

No; the remedy is not in immigrations of laborers, but of land-buyers. Not in carrying on large plantations, but small farms, till the result of compact, thrifty husbandry induces liberal offers for the fallow land. Where extensive planting is desirable, introduce gang-plows, corn planters, twinge drills, cotton cultivators, headers—everything that takes the place of the mere labor drudge. So extensive is the use of agricultural machinery in the northwest, that the four States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Iowa kept half a million of her young men in the field, during the late war, and yet constantly increased their crops. Let the south take the example, and substitute the same powerful element of prosperity for the effete one of slavery. Such machinery takes the dull edge of drudgery from farm operations, and would be a powerful incentive to our young men to adopt the sure profits of the farm for the precarious income of commerce or the professions. Our young men have returned from the field of war with honor—they are wanted now in another field. Let them exhibit the same exemplary patience under direction, the same endurance between the plow-handles as on the march, the same eagerness to gather the yellow corn that they did to crop the laurel, and they will not only win wealth but the name of good citizens. Let the old set a good example, and all unite to dignify labor by putting a hand to the plow, and laziness and vice will be shunned as crimes.

In 1850, the census showed the average value of free State lands to be over $12 per acre, to only $5 for our own soil. This was not caused by difference of quality, but by sparseness of population. Don't jeopardise all by cultivating too much; take what of your land you are sure of cultivating well, and leave the rest fallow. Ere long immigration must begin to pour southward, and the average value of land will rise inevitably. To recapitulate—

Don't rely too much on foreign or freedmen's labor. Get as much that is reliable as possible—"piece out" with agricultural machinery. Plant no more than you are morally sure of managing well. Let the rest of your lands lie fallow till they rise to something near their real value.

SUPREME COURT DECISION.—We clip the following from the New Orleans Picayune of the 4th. The decision was rendered on the 19th ult., at New Orleans:

Louisa Moore, appellant, vs. Thos. Moore—Appeal from the district court of the parish of Caddo.—The plaintiff, ill-advised by her counsel, sued her husband for $5000 per annum, as alimony, upon representations of having been abandoned, and herself and three children (by her former husband) left destitute.

The defendant answered in exceptions, that no ground of action existed, as the law does not give a married woman alimony except provisionally, in some cause of separation or divorce, which is not prayed for by the plaintiff, nor was the court asked to compel a return to the matrimonial domicil. There was judgment for defendant, and plaintiff appealed.

Laubaux, Justice.—A married woman cannot sue her husband as long as the marriage continues, except it be to obtain a separation from bed and board, or for the separation of property, or for the restitution and enjoyment of her paraphernal (or personal) property, or in case she holds her property separate from him by marriage contract. See C. C., art. 105.

Except in the cases above enumerated, a married woman cannot sue her husband. A suit for alimony cannot be properly maintained, except incidentally, in a principal demand for a separation from bed and board, or a divorce from the bonds of matrimony. See case Bourdette vs. her husband, XVIII. Ann., p. 41. Judgment affirmed with costs.

THE RADS "RAMPANT."—Press dispatches from Washington to the New Orleans papers, under date of the 4th, state that the radicals have gone wild over the success of their party in the recent elections, and will carry every measure they desire to pass. The president is to be stripped of all power, and Mr. Sumner proposes to abolish all the State governments and prohibit the southern States from voting on the constitutional amendment. In depriving the president of the appointing and pardoning power, their avowed object is to prevent the restoration of confiscated property.

POSTOFFICE AT GRAND CANE.—A Washington dispatch of the 4th, says the postoffice at Grand Cane, DeSoto parish, in this State, has been reestablished, and John Davidson appointed postmaster.

The United States marshall at Louisville, Ky., reports $28,000 as the proceeds of the sales of confiscated liquor. About 7000 gallons of whisky were sold at a little over $3 per gallon.

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

[Associated Press Dispatches.]

NEW ORLEANS, December 10.—Cotton firm; sales, 5,600 bales; low middling 29@30c; middling 31c; receipts 7,059 bales; flour, superfine, $11 ℔ bbl; corn, $1 10@1 15 ℔ bushel; pork, dull and unchanged; bacon, unchanged; lard, 13½c. ℔ lb.; sterling, 45; New York sight, ½ discount; gold, 137½@137¾.

A fire is now burning the large trunk store of F. Bauer, on Camp street. It will probably be checked soon.

WASHINGTON, December 10.—In the house proceedings, a resolution was introduced by Mr. Rollins, instructing the committee on naval affairs to report a bill making appointments of heads of mercantile departments at the various navy yards, subject to the approval of the senate.

By Elliott—a resolution directing the secretary of war to communicate information in reference to the Norfolk riot on April 16th, 1866; also, to call on the governor of Georgia for information as to the murder of Rev. William Fowler, a missionary to the freedmen.

By Barbour—a resolution calling for information as to the pensioners in the rebel States.

By Kelly—a resolution declaring the proposition that the war debt of the country should not be extinguished by the generation that contracted it, is not sustained by sound principles of national economy, and does not meet the approval of the house.

By Spalding—a resolution directing the reconstruction of a committee to inquire into the expediency of proposing a joint resolution, declaring the purpose of congress to admit the rebellious States, on the ratification by them of the constitutional amendment, and the establishment of a republican form of government.

By Alley—a resolution calling for information as to the mismanagement of the Brazilian steamship line.

By Ritoneine—a resolution directing the committee on commerce to report additional legislation for the security of persons in United States vessels.

By Cromall—a resolution calling on the committee of ways and means to inquire into the expediency of abolishing the five per cent. internal revenue tax on manufacturing, &c.

Mr. Ross offered a resolution instructing the same committee to report a bill prohibiting the diminution of the national legal-tender currency, and discouraging the issue of bank bills under national and State laws, which was laid on the table by a vote of 94 to 60.

The select committees were announced as follows: On the New Orleans riot, Elliott, Shellabarger and Campbell; on the murder of United States soldiers in South Carolina, Pike, Woods, Worth and Cooper; on southern railroads, Maynford, McClung, Mercer, Washburne, of Indiana, and Chandler; on internal revenue funds, Darlington, Beaman, Eggleston, Myers and Trumbull.

The house bill fixing a regular term for the meeting of congress, passed by a vote of 124 to 29.

MONTREAL, December 10.—The cabinet held a protracted sitting on Saturday, but nothing definite transpired in regard to their proceedings.

There is no doubt that John H. Surratt is implicated in the Lincoln assassination affair. He was concealed in this city for months. No amount of money would induce his protectors to give information regarding him.

NEW YORK, December 10.—The bank statement announced a decrease in loans of $2,331,641; decrease in specie $374,957; decrease in circulation $400,804; decrease in deposits $5,212,353; decrease in legal tenders $538,601.

LIVERPOOL, December 10.—The Cotton Brokers' Circular reports an active market to-day at full prices, though not quotably higher. Sales thus far will reach 15,000 bales. The stock on hand of American cotton is very light.

NEW YORK, December 10.—Cotton unchanged; sales to-day 28,000 bales; uplands 33c, Orleans 34½@35c.

WASHINGTON, December 10.—It appears from official documents, communicated to the house to-day, that the government had information as long ago as September, 1865, that John H. Surratt was implicated in the Lincoln assassination, and that he had escaped from Canada to Europe. Months elapsed before he could be properly identified for arrest, which was accomplished early this month at Alexandria, Egypt. A person who crossed the Atlantic with Surratt makes affidavit that Surratt acknowledged his own as well as his mother's complicity in the assassination.

The president has replied to a resolution of the house, asking whether any portion of Mexican territory has been occupied by United States troops; if so, by what authority, and for what purpose. A letter is enclosed from Gen. Grant, who says no official information has been received at his headquarters, and that no authority had been given either by the major general commanding the department of the Gulf or himself for any movement of troops into Mexican territory.

Mr. Perlone reported a bill relating to persions. Adopted.

The house then went into a committe of the whole on the state of the Union, and at 3 o'clock P. M adjourned.

The time specified for the meeting of congress is the 4th of March.

In the senate quite a lengthy discussion ensued on the suffrage bill, particularly on the clause disfranchising those citizens who left here to join the Confederate cause. This proposition was strenuously opposed by Wilson, of Massachusetts, who said it was too small a matter to make a difficulty about.

Mr. Cowan said that every citizen of the District who joined the Confederate army was guilty of treason. He did not apply this to the people of the southern States, but there was no doubt of the form of government, and no one could doubt where his allegiance was due. He moved to extend the privileges of the bill to females, and contended if negroes had a right to vote women had also.

The senate adjourned without a vote on the amendment.

NEW YORK, December 10, P. M.—The Royal Insurance company of this city, was robbed this morning of a large amount of government bonds. Gold 137¾.

NEW ORLEANS, December 10, P. M.—Brownsville papers defend the action of Gen. Sedgwick's occupation of Matamoros. They say it was best for all concerned; if he had not done so, Canales and his troops would have sacked the foreign stores. Canales is not under arrest as reported, nor is he likely to be sent to Tehuantepec to answer for his course before Juarez; on the contrary, it is reported he will soon start towards San Luis Potosi at the head of the imperial command. There has been no important change in the situation since our last advices. Gen. Sheridan arrived from the Rio Grande to-day. A letter from El Pablo to Matamoras, states the French evacuated San Luis Potosi, leaving Mojia less than one thousand. The liberals are encamped 8 to 10 miles around the city. The money train is expected out from that city soon.

NEW YORK, December 11, noon—Gold, 137¾; cotton firmer.

LONDON, December 11, evening.—Many of the delegates of the British-American provinces, having in view the final settlement of the confederation scheme, and having organized, appointed Mr. McDonald presiding officer.

PARIS, December 11.—It is rumored that Field, the eminent French minister, will soon resign.

Serious difficulty is apprehended in Rome after the withdrawal of the French troops. It is said that pre parations are being made by the authorities to meet the worst.

The departure of the French fleet for Vera Cruz is now fixed for next week. These vessels, fully manned and provisioned, are expected to reach their destination by the middle of January.

LONDON, December 10.—A Hanover telegram reports the commencement of oppressive measures against the people by the Prussian authorities.

PARIS, December 11, noon.—The evacuation of Rome by the French troops will be virtually completed to-day.

LONDON, December 11, noon.—U. S. 5-20s, 71; Illinois Central R. R. shares, 77½.

BUFFALO, December 11.—Snowing hard since 4 A. M., 20 inches fallen; still snowing; trains on various roads more or less delayed. To all agents—Send a weather report as quick as possible.

NEW ORLEANS, December 11.—Tampico dates of the second give accounts of the deplorable condition of northern Mexico. No business doing, and the future too uncertain to permit any attempts to revive trade. Tampico is in the hands of the Juarezites. Onerous forced loans are levied on the people. The same condition of things prevailed at San Luis Potosi, which is in the hands of the imperialists; $55,000 had been exacted from the inhabitants of that city. Gold 137½@137¾.

NEW ORLEANS, December 8.—The radicals in this city are forming Ben Butler clubs. One has been organised in the fourth district and as such reports to the republican central committee. They declare Butler the only commander this city has had in whom Union men had a friend and could rely on.

Cotton active and firm; low middling 29c., middling 31c.; receipts 5645 bales; sugar firm, fair 10c., prime to choice 11½@12½c.; molasses dull and 5c. lower, fair 55c., prime to choice 60@65c.; flour firm, superfine $10 75; corn lower, $1 15; oats 45c., hay better at $27 50@29; pork unchanged and dull; bacon unchanged, lard dull at 13@14c. Sterling 50; New York sight ½c. discount; gold 137½.

NEW YORK, December 8.—Cotton dull and declining; sales 700 bales at 35@35½c. for middling uplands.

WASHINGTON, December 8.—The house resolution looking to the abridgement of the executive pardoning power promises to give the whole subject of pardon granting a thorough ventilating. Several senators will defend the president in reference to pardons already granted, showing, among other things, that all political pardons granted to persons applying under any other than the first and thirteenth exceptions of the proclamation of amnesty, were approved at the urgent solicitation of prominent radicals.

Gen. Eastman has been appointed governor of the western military asylum at Harrodsburg, Ky.

BALTIMORE, December 8.—Reports have reached this city of disaster to the steamer Thos. Kelso, from this city for Norfolk. The reports are that one of her boilers exploded when near the Rip Raps this morning, killing three persons.

LONDON, December 8, evening.—Consols firmly held to-day at 88⅞@88¾; railroad bonds firm; U. S. 5-20s of '65, 69¾@70.

NEW YORK, December 10.—Arrived—Rising Star from Aspinwall. She brings one million two hundred and sixty-three thousand one hundred and thirteen dollars in treasure. Also arrived—Morning Star from New Orleans.

Several notabilities attached to Maximilian's government arrived yesterday by the Manhattan from Vera Cruz. Among them the British minister and staff on their way back to England.

BURLINGTON, Vt., December 10.—Eight hundred men were thrown out of employment by the burning of the Woolen Company's dye-house last night.

NEW YORK, December 10.—The steamship Iowa, from Glasgow, is now coming up the bay, having in tow the steamship Britannia, from Glasgow, which on the 3d had been given up as lost.

Panama dates to the 2nd were received per Rising Star. There was much talk in official circles of making war on Spain. The allied squadron was still at Valparaiso, preparing to go to sea. It is believed that the destination of the fleet is Manilla, there, if possible, to intercept some of the Spanish vessels that put in for repairs after the defeat at Callao. A slight shock of an earthquake was felt at Valparaiso on November 9th. No damage was done.

From Peru but little of interest. The dictator seems to be conducting the affairs of that republic with great ability.

Col. Bolton and other expatriated Peruvians have taken up their residence in Santiago.

The Cyclone, which was reported to have been captured by the Spaniards, arrived at Valparaiso on the 6th of November.

LONDON, December 10, noon.—The Times in an editorial this morning, says the Fenians have been fairly checkmated, and that it would be madness on their part to attempt a rebellion. Cardinal Cotton has issued a pastoral address, urging the Irish people to be obedient to law, and avoid all secret societies. Arrests will continue to be made, and more artillery will leave for Ireland soon.

PARIS, December 10.—The new minister to the United States, M. Berthemy, sailed for New York on Saturday.

ROME, December 10.—Some of the French troops are still here, and will remain until the end of Dec.

LIVERPOOL, December 10, noon.—The cotton market opened active at Saturday's prices; sales to-day promise to reach 15,000 bales; middling uplands 14d.

LONDON, December 10, noon.—Money quiet; consols 88¾; ex-dividend fives 71¾.

NEW YORK, December 10, noon.—Money active at 6 ℔ cent; gold 137¾; exchange 9¼@9¾; stocks active; cotton quiet at 32@33½c for middling uplands.

[FROM OUR EXTRAS.]

NEW YORK, December 5.—The Post's money article has the following: Stock market unsettled; governments firm without much activity; railroad securities depressed on account of rumors of probable stringency by disinclination of the public to operate in stock. Gold has sold down to 137¼, making and to be made by government; loan market more active at 6@7; not so much business on change, however, not very much positive discount; dull at 7 per cent. for choice.

NEW ORLEANS, December 5.—Gov. Wells has issued warrants of election to fill the vacancies in the legislature.

Cotton active and firm; sales 4500 bales; low middling 31c., middling 32c; receipts 1190 bales. Sugar better; prime to choice 11¼@12½c; molasses active; prime to choice 65@72c; flour advanced 75c.; superfine $10 75; corn dull and 5c. lower, $1 20@1 25; oats in fair demand at 75c.; hay dull and lower, $25@27 50; sterling 52, New York sight ½c. discount; gold 139½@140.

GALVESTON, December 4.—By the arrival of the steamer Blackbird, Capt. Cole, and the Elizabeth Read, Capt. St. Clair, we have Mexican advices up to Saturday evening, 1st inst. The Read left Brazos at 5 P. M. and the Blackbird at 6 P. M. on Saturday. At 11 o'clock on the 28th, a pontoon bridge was thrown across the river from Brownsville to Matamoros, on which a detachment of United States forces, under Col. J. Perkins, crossed, and took command of Matamoros. It was alleged that Canales' forces were to sack the city, and Sedgewick sent his troops to protect American citizens. Sedgewick then escorted Carbajal out for an interview with Escobedo, but no terms were agreed upon. Sedgewick took Canales back to the city at half past five. Next morning Escobedo opened on the city. His forces then charged fort Manterey, and were repulsed and pursued by Canales. Escobedo lost 450 killed and wounded and three hundred prisoners. Canales lost 25 men killed. Late in the afternoon the Americans withdrew outside the city. M. Canales, brother of the general, was killed.

We are without information of the operations on Thursday, the 29th, but private information states that a telegram was sent to Brazos that on Saturday, at 3 P. M., Escobedo and Canales met as friends, and that Escobedo is now in command of the city. The special bearer of dispatches on the Road arrived on the 30th ult. at Brazos, and it is rumored that the federal troops were subsequently withdrawn to the American side. On the morning after the battle Gen. Albino and Penoza, who were fighting with Escobedo, died of wounds. A Washington letter of La Voz, an American, of Matamoras, says: "I have seen the instructions of minister Campbell. They contain the following points: 1st. That the United States does not recognise, neither will it recognise, any other government in Mexico than that of the constitutional president, Juarez; 2d, That they do not propose, neither do they wish, to acquire any part of Mexican territory; that they do not recognise in any manner the claims of France, and that they are willing to extend to Mexico any aid with the object to quell serious disorders, whenever required by the constitutional government of Mexico or her authority, without proposing to interfere in any manner in the differences of the country."

CHARLESTON, December 4.—The steamer Swan, which cleared from New York for Brazos Santiago, was lost off Cape Romano on the 4th. A small boat with the captain and fifteen persons has not been heard from. Two other boats, in charge of the first mate and chief engineer, were picked up by the brig Potomac and carried into Georgetown, N. C. Fifteen persons in all, so far as heard from, have been saved, who were brought here to-day and leave for New York to-morrow on the steamer Moolcke.

NEW ORLEANS, December 7.—The Orleans theatre was totally destroyed by fire this morning at five o'clock.

Cotton—demand good and prices firm; low middling 28@29c.; middling 30@31c; sales of the week 22,900 bales; receipts 25,290; stock 190,319. (The quotations above assimilate with those of Liverpool.) Sugar advanced ¼c.; molasses dull and declined 2½c., good 64c; corn firm at $1 20@1 25; pork dull and unchanged; bacon—shoulders and ribbed sides 13c.; sterling 50½@51; New York sight ½c. dis.; gold 139.

LIVERPOOL, December 7.—All depots of arms in the city have been placed under armed guards, which has excited a great deal of feeling. Distrust of the Irish population renders these precautions necessary.

WASHINGTON, December 7.—It has been decided that a large delegation from the northwestern Indian tribes are to be sent from the United State as a contribution to the Paris exposition. They will carry with them their various costumes, wigwams and agricultural implements, in response to a request from the imperial commission that such a representation of our aborigines should be made.

In the case of the Fenian convicts in Canada who are to be executed on the 13th inst., and whose application for new trials have been refused, the secretary of State thought proper to ask an explanation of the present purposes of the Canadian authorities. In reply, Frederick Bruce writes that the sentences will not be carried into effect on that day, but will be reserved for further consideration.

The republican senators to-day held a caucus, at which they agreed to urge the passage of bills for the admission of Nebraska and Colorado into the Union. The radical congressional delegations are now here.

NEW ORLEANS, December 8.—Rio Grande dates to December 2nd are received.

On the 30th Gen. Sedgwick commissioned a citizen, J. S. Sheridan, to demand the surrender of Canales of his forces as prisoners of war to the United States. Canales preferred to surrender to Escobedo and did so, Sedgwick approving.

SAN FRANCISCO, December 7.—The defenders Mexico organisation, in the Juarez interest, which held a meeting here yesterday, organized a battalion, elected officers, and proposed to sail for Mexico on the 11th December, fully armed, to offer their services to the liberal government.

NEW YORK, December 8, evening.—Cotton dull and lower at 32@32c.

Congressional Proceedings.

WASHINGTON, December 3.—In the senate the oath of office was administered by the president to the newly elected members. On motion a committee was appointed to inform the house that the senate was organized.

Mr. Sumner moved to proceed to the consideration of a bill to regulate the election franchise of the district of Columbia. It had been introduced the first day of the last session, and extensively discussed; had been referred to a committee, however, and had not been acted on.

He hoped it would be acted on now. Mr. McDougal objected to it as out of order. The president decided.

A message was received from the house of representatives announcing that it had organised, and that a committee of three had been appointed to act with a similar committee of the senate to inform the president that they were organised and ready to proceed to business.

On motion of Mr. Trumbull, the senate then took a recess till 1½ o'clock.

Mr. Anthony, from the committee appointed to wait upon the president, announced that they had attended to that duty, and that the president had informed them that he would communicate with them in writing.

A message was received from the house, announcing that they had passed a bill, entitled a supplement to an act to prevent insurrection. To the consideration of the bill, Mr. Saulsbury objecting, it was laid over.

The president's message was then received and read.

House.—After a prayer by the Rev. Dr. Boynton, the chaplain, the members from Tennessee were admitted.

On motion of Mr. Washburne, the speaker was requested to assign a seat on the floor of the house, to the reporter of the United States and European news association.

Mr. Elliott, of Massachusetts, offered a resolution that a committee be appointed to be called the committee on freedmen, to consist of nine members, to have charge of all matters concerning the freedmen that may be committed to them by the house. Referred.

Mr. Elliott introduced a bill to repeal the 13th section of the act entitled "an act to punish rebellion and for other purposes," being the section which confers upon the president the power of granting amnesty and pardon to rebels.

On Motion of Mr. Boutwell, of Massachusetts, a resolution was adopted directing the secretary of State to lay before the house all the correspondence had by the State department relative to the discovery and arrest of John H. Surratt.

Mr. Boutwell introduced for reference a bill to provide for the sale of gold, by directing the secretary of the treasury to sell $2,000,000 of gold every Monday morning in New York, in parcels not to exceed $100,000 each, and providing that no sale of gold be made in any other way, and that no sale shall be made when the amount of gold in the treasury shall not exceed $20,000,000. Also, that public notice at the time and place of each sale shall be given in one newspaper in each of the twelve principal cities of the United States, also providing that the secretary may allow a commission to the person making such sales not to exceed one-fifth of one per cent. of the amount sold. All that the secretary shall from time to time invest the proceeds of such sales in interest bearing bonds of the United States, and that the bonds so purchased shall be marked negotiable, and the interest thereon shall be invested in other bonds to be held and treated in the same manner.

The fourth section provides that no collector of internal revenue or other public officer shall deposit the funds of the United States in any banking institution whenever his office or place of business is within two hundred miles of the treasury of the United States, or of an assistant treasury, or of any designated depository of the public money. The bill was referred to the committee on ways and means.

Mr. Schenck, of Ohio, introduced a bill to fix the time for the regular meetings of congress at 12 o'clock noon on the first Monday in December, the first Monday in January, and the second Monday in November next preceding the end of the term for which the congress is elected.

The second section of the bill provides for the amendment of the act of July 2nd, 1864, making appropriation for sundry civil expenses, etc., so that no member shall receive mileage for traveling to the place of the meeting of the congress to which he is elected.

Mr. Kelley, of Pennsylvania, introduced a bill to create and organise a department of internal revenue. Referred to the committe on ways and means.

Mr Stevens, of Pennsylvania, introduced a bill to regulate the removal from office.

Mr. Warner, of Connecticut, offered a resolution inquiring of the president whether any postmasters still held office in violation of the act for the organization of the postoffice department.

Mr. Farnsworth and Mr. Stevens both moved in succession that the house adjourn, but the motions were lost, and the house remain in session until the reception of the president's message, which the clerk proceeded to read.

Mr. Stephens moved to postpone the further reading until to-morrow, which was lost.

Stevens presented a bill to regulate removals from office. It provides that in all cases of appointment where the consent of the senate is necessary, the president shall not make removals while the senate is in session, unless concurred in by that body.

Appointments made during the recess of congress, must be submitted under the provisions of this bill within ten days after the senate assembles, for confirmation. The bill was made the special order for Friday next.

The following measures were also introduced and referred to the appropriate committees: A bill to provide by the general law for modes of procedure in trials of impeachment before the senate. A bill calling on the president for information relative to the application of Confederate Gen. Pickett for pardon.

Mr. Elliott asked leave during the session to introduce a bill to repeal the 13th section of the act of July 17, 1862, which section authorizes the president to extend by proclamation, to persons who may have participated in the rebellion, pardon and amnesty, with such exceptions, at such times and on such conditions as he might deem expedient for the public good.

Pinch objected to its introduction. The rules were suspended, and the bill passed by a vote of 111 to 29.

The day was occupied entirely by the introduction of bills and resolutions until the arrival of the president's message, before which Stevens made an ineffectual motion to adjourn.

Thirty-seven senators were present at the opening. The first business was the presentation of the credentials of the following senators: Pollard, of Vermont, elected to fill the unexpired term of Collamer; Cattell, of New Jersey, elected to fill the unexpired term of Stockton; Frelinghuysen, of New Jersey, elected to fill the unexpired term of the late senator Wright; Edmonds, of Vermont, to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Foote, and Fogg, of New Hampshire, appointed to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Clark. These took the oath of office and were sworn in. The credentials of Messrs. Burnett and Roberts, of Texas, were laid on the table.

The postmaster general's report shows that the liabilities for mail service in the Confederate States for the year ending June 30th last, were only $76,353 in excess of the new revenues for postages in that section.

A reception was given to the republican members of congress this afternoon, on the eastern portion of the capitol. The procession which proceeded thither was composed more than one half of negroes.

Speeches were made by justice Carter, speaker Colfax, senator Yates, and representative Kelley. Their remarks were ultra radical, and were received with great favor by the mixed assemblage.

WASHINGTON, November 5.—The senate was called to order at 12 o'clock. Prayer was offered by the chaplain. The journal of yesterday was read and approved.

Mr. Stanage gave notice that on some future day he would introduce a joint resolution in regard to reconstruction, declaring the jurisdiction of congress over the rebellious States as of the representation of the loyal rebellious States in congress.

Mr. Wilson presented several petitions from army officers, asking for an increase of pay, which was referred.

Mr. Patterson offered a bill for the relief of certain widows, which was referred to the committee on pensions when appointed.

Mr. Chandler offered a resolution calling upon the secretary of the treasury for information relative to the amount of money expended in advertising since May last in the District of Columbia, also in regard to the character of such advertising and circulation of the journals in which it was published. The resolution was adopted.

The resolution calling upon the president for information relative to the occupation of Mexico came in order, and was, on motion of Mr. Sumner, referred back to the committee.

A supplement to the bill in regard to the suppression of rebellion and preventing insurrection was then debated at some length. The senate, by a vote of thirty-one to twenty-one, refused to proceed to its consideration. On motion, the clerk proceeded to read the bill, when Mr. Hooper, who moved to suspend its further reading, withdrew his motion, to recommit it, and moved that the bill be postponed until the third Tuesday of December, which was agreed to.

Afterward the senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—The house met at 12 o'clock. Prayer by the Rev. Dr. Boynton. After the reading of the journal, Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, from the committee on rules, reported an additional rule, that there shall be appointed at the commencement of each congress a standing committee on freedmen's affairs, to consist of nine members, whose duty it shall be to take charge of all matters concerning the freedmen that shall be committed to them.

The speaker presented a report from the secretary of war in reference to the Indian hostilities, which was ordered to be printed.

The house then took up the bill amendatory of the act on banking and currency. Mr. Hooper, of Massachusetts, moved to recommit the bill to the committee on banking and currency.

Mr. Randall, of Pennsylvania, said that the bill had occupied the attention of the committee for nearly six months during the last session; it had been matured after full consideration, and he feared that if it were now recommitted it would lose its present status, the reforms which it seeks to introduce would be thereby defeated, and he hoped it would not be recommitted. On motion the clerk proceeded to read the bill, when Mr. Hooper, who moved to suspend its further reading, withdrew his motion to recommit and moved that the bill be postponed until the third Tuesday of December, which was agreed to.

Mr. Thomas Williams, of Pennsylvania, from the committee on the internal revenue reported a bill to establish a new bureau, to have charge of the issue and regulation of the national currency, secured by United States bonds, the chief officer of said bureau to be appointed by the controller of the currency by and with the consent of the senate, and to have a salary of five thousand dollars a year. Mr. Stevens, of Pennsylvania, moved that the bill be ordered to be printed, and that the consideration of it be postponed until Thursday of next week, which was agreed to.

Mr. Cobb, of Wisconsin, offered a resolution providing that, inasmuch as the 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th sections of the act to provide for the payment of additional bounties, etc., were passed in great haste, and without sufficient consideration, therefore, that the committee on military affairs be requested to consider the propriety of so amending said act as to provide for the payment of additional bounties to those soldiers of the volunteer forces who served fa