BUSINESS NOTICES.

☞ The Hat-Finisher's Union are still in the ascendant. The beautiful Hats that they sell—and such only as united interest can produce—are sure to gain the application of the public. This is the only Association of Journeymen Hatters in this city, and they confidently assert that no establishment can rival them in the perfection of their productions. Friends of enterprise and friends of progress, encourage the Union.
d23 6TuWedk&S* HAT FINISHER'S UNION, No. 11 Park Row, opposite the Astor House.]

HATS FOR HOLIDAYS.—Silk, Beaver and Kossuth Felt Children's white and black Beavers, silk-plush and cloth Caps. Now is your time to buy ornaments for the head. Call at the UNION HAT STORE, No. 99 Fulton-st. d27 4t

FURS, FURS, FURS.—YOUNG'S premium fur stores, No. 96 Bowery, and No. 12 John-st., near Broadway. He keeps an excellent assortment, has his goods manufactured right, sells cheap, and recommends nothing but what is good. He got the premium at the late Fair of the American Institute for superior Furs and workmanship. d1 1mMW&S

☞ Hats, Caps and Furs, in their variety, a large assortment of Men's, Boy's and Children's Beaver, Felt and Silk Hats, Cloth and Velvet Caps, Ladies' and Misses' Beaver and Felt Bonnets. One price. d24 7t* J. W. KELLOGG, No. 128 Canal-st.

LEARY'S JANUARY OR FESTIVAL HAT.—The novel experiment of introducing a New Style of Hat for the Holiday Season having met with great favor on its adoption by us in 1851, confirms our intention in its continuance. We will open for sale, on Wednesday, Dec. 17, in connection with our "Original Styles," Hats received per America, made expressly for the Season, by our distinguished Paris Fabricant. To Gentlemen seeking combinations of quality, elegance of outline, elaborate and truthful finish, our offering for the season is respectfully submitted. LEARY & CO., Leaders of Fashion for Gentlemen's Hats, Astor House, N. Y.

SELLING OFF — LADIES' FURS — NEW YEAR GIFTS.—BANTA, No. 106 Canal-st. has reduced the prices on his large and select stock of Furs, manufactured expressly for City retail trade, embracing every variety of Marten, Fitch, Chincilla, Ermine, Mink, Squirrel and Lynx Muffs, Victorines, Boas, Tippets and Cuffs, &c., &c. d27 3t*

☞ Ladies who desire to keep the "Winter of our discontent" at bay by shielding their delicate forms with fur, will find at GENIN'S an immense assortment of Victorines, Muffs, Capes and Cuffs, from the Ermines and Sables to the cheaper but yet elegant sets of Marten, Mink, Chinchilla, Rock Marten, &c. They are all of the new patterns popular in Paris, and ladies will see at a glance that the assortment is complete. GENIN, No. 214 Broadway, opposite St. Paul's.

☞ Ladies desirous of soft white hands for the approaching holidays should purchase a pair of India Rubber Gloves or Mitts at HITCHCOCK & LEADBEATERS, 347 Broadway. They will also cure Salt Rheum, Chapped Hands, &c. All Rubber Stores keep them. d25 6t*

A WINTER'S TALE.—A story is afloat that KNOX, of No. 128 Fulton-st., has supplied and continues to supply, the fair inhabitants of the "West End" with Furs that they will not purchase of any other dealer. We do not vouch for the truth of this, but this we know, that his stocks contains all that is rich, luxurious, and elegant, and that his prices are exceedingly low. Ladies, drop in and inquire of KNOX himself relative to this "Romance of Winter."

CLOAKS AND OPERA CLOAKS.—HITCHCOCK & LEADBEATER, No. 347 Broadway, cor. of Leonard-st., are selling off their beautiful assortment of Parisian Cloaks and Opera Cloaks, at very reduced prices. Their stock embraces every style of the season, and of all the various fabrics in favor with the ladies, as Velvet, Cloth, Silk, &c., &c.

☞ Housekeepers, and all others, in want of Bedding, Bedsteads, &c., would do well to call at M. WILLARD'S old established Warerooms, 150 Chatham-st., corner of Mulberry-st., where may be found the largest assortment of articles in his line, ever offered to the public, consisting of Feathers, Beds, Mattresses, &c. Patent Screw Bedsteads and Cots, wholesale and retail. d23 1mTuThk&S*

NEW YEAR PRESENTS.—Ladies, if you wish to make a suitable present for the Holidays, you will find at Mr. MILLER'S, Gentlemen's Embroidered Toilet Slippers of the most beautiful patterns. Gentlemen, if you wish to return the compliment, you can obtain quilted Boots and Buskins, alpine Gaiters, india rubber Shoes, white kid and satin Slippers, white linen Gaiter Boots and Shoes of all the various styles, at J. B. MILLER'S, No. 134 Canal-st.

TOYS AND FANCY GOODS.—The subscribers are opening a large and choice assortment of goods suitable for Holiday presents, consisting of every variety of cheap and elegant Toys, India Rubber Goods, writing desks and work boxes of mahogany, rosewood and papier mache, and all other articles suitable for Christmas and New-Year presents, which they offer in large or small quantities at wholesale prices. Purchasers are respectfully invited to call before buying elsewhere. HAWES & HINSDALE, No. 161 Broadway, (up stairs,) below Courtlandt-st. d19 10t*

☞ Mourning Goods of every kind adapted to a lady's wardrobe, as black Bombazine, Alpaca, Canton Cloths, Merino, Cassimere, Canton Crape, De Laine, Calico, Poplin, &c. &c., may be found at HITCHCOCK & LEADBEATER'S, No. 347 Broadway, corner of Leonard-st., where also Shawls, Cloaks, Silks, Plaid Goods, &c., &c., may be obtained.

SHIRTS.—The Shirt-Sewers' Union, No. 70 Bleecker st., are now prepared to manufacture gentlemen's linen of every quality, such as Shirts, Undershirts, Drawers, Collars, &c. Wholesale orders solicited. Retail dealers would find it to their advantage to send their orders to us. Mrs. L. LOVELAND. d21 3TuThk&S*

CHINESE TOYS.—Thirty cases just received of these curious and attractive Toys, at TUTTLE'S Emporium, No. 245 Broadway. Great preparations are making to supply the public with Fancy Articles, Toys, &c. during the Holiday season. Goods sent to all parts of the city, or suburbs, at any time desired, without charge. h

SHIRTS THAT BEAR THE STAMP OF ELEGANCE.—The peculiar method of suiting the style of shirt to the style of figure, pursued at Green's, No. 1 Astor House, is giving universal satisfaction. Orders come in from the remotest parts of the Union. So much for invariable fits, and unvarying punctuality.

☞ Gentlemen's Furnishings, as Fur, Merino, Silk and Lamb's Wool Undershirts and Drawers; Scarfs, Cravats, Pocket Hdk'fs, Gloves, Hosiery, &c., &c., may be found at HITCHCOCK & LEADBEATER'S, No. 347 Broadway, corner Leonard st., and at prices much below the ordinary rate at Gentlemen's Furnishing Stores.

☞ Window Shades, Lace Curtains, Muslin Curtains, Gilt Cornices, Satin De Laines, and all other Curtain materials, for sale at reduced prices by KELTY & FERGUSON, No. 289½ Broadway; store extending through to No. 54 Reade-st. d18 TuThSt J1

☞ JOHN HART, No. 419 Broadway, Importer of and dealer in French, German and Shaker Fancy Baskets; also, of Toys and Fancy Goods, will sell, during the holiday season, his rich and valuable stock at very low prices. Call early, and avoid the crowd of Christmas and New Year Eve.

HOLIDAY PRESENTS.—Persons wishing to make a rich and durable present during the coming holidays, are respectfully invited to call at the Piano-Forte Rooms of Messrs. T. Gilbert & Co., Nos. 323 and 447 Broadway, and examine a large assortment of Pianos, with and without the celebrated Æolian attachment, which will be sold low, for cash. [d23 3t* HORACE WATERS, Agent.

DRY GOODS CHEAPER THAN EVER.—A cheap lot just purchased for Holiday Presents. Only think of it, a beautiful Calico, warranted fast colors, for sixpence a yard; a handsome De Laine for 1 shilling; a beautiful English Merino or Paramatta for 4 shillings; an elegant all wool De Laine for 2s 6d; and every other kind of Dry Goods equally cheap, at HITCHCOCK & LEADBEATER'S, No. 347 Broadway, cor. Leonard st. Just received a large lot of Embroidered Collars, a beautiful article, from 2s. a piece up, just the thing for Holiday Presents to domestics.

☞ The Headquarters of the old Mexican Hero are yet held at No. 76 Fulton st., and Mr P. L. ROGERS is still in command of the department where gentlemen can be furnished with all the requisites to make them despise the severities of the weather. At no house in the city can a person be supplied with more superior or moderate-priced clothing, than at No. 76 Fulton-st.

MEADE BROTHERS' DAGUERREOTYPES OF KOSSUTH.—Pictures from the life picture of the illustrious Magyar for sale by the subscribers, from $3 and upward. Early orders are solicited. MEADE BROTHERS, American Galleries, No. 233 Broadway, next to the American Hotel. d25 3t*

THE CANTON TEA COMPANY are prepared to sell, wholesale or retail, Teas and Coffees in greater variety and at lower prices than any other establishment. Consumers of tea would consult their interests by patronizing this store. Location 125 Chatham-st., (between Pearl and Roosevelt.) No branch stores. d25 4TuThk&S

SUGARS, TEAS, COFFEES, AT REDUCED PRICES.—Stuart's best crushed Sugar only 4s 6d. 7 lbs.; Teas and Coffee, the cheapest and best in the city; best Java Coffee only 1s. 2d. per lb.; good Coffee 10 cts. per lb.; Teas from 2s., 4s. to 6s. per lb.; Hecker's Flour by the barrel, bag, or 7 lbs., Hecker's Farina, 8 lb. or 9 cent paper; also a large assortment of Fruits for the holidays, at PARKER'S Temperance Store, No. 244 Broome, corner of Ludlow-st. New Citron, the best, only 2s. per lb.; new Raisins, only 6 cents; new Currants 7 cents per lb. d26 2*

☞ FOWLER & WELLS, Phrenologists and Publishers, Clinton Hall, No. 131 Nassau-st., New York, and No. 142 Washington-st., Boston.

NOTICE.—OVERCOATS, SNOW-COATS, DOUBLE-COATS, &c.—We are desirous of closing out our large stock of the above styles of Coats, as we wish to make room for our whole-sale stock for country trade, now in process of manufacture. These Overcoats &c., combine the greatest warmth with great variety and elegance of styles. As the season is drawing to a close, and our stock much too large, we wish to turn it into money and make room; we will therefore sell the remainder of our Winter stock at, and in many instances below, the cost. D. & J. DEVLIN, Nos. 33 and 35 John-st., corner Nassau. d25 6t*

SELLING OFF.—PETERSON & HUMPHREYS, No. 379 Broadway, corner of White-st., will sell the entire lot of Carpetings purchased at the late large Auction sales, at the following prices: Rich Brussels, 3s. to 10s. per yard; Extra Heavy 3 ply, 8s. per yard; Extra Heavy, super, 5s. to 6s. per yard; Good all wool, 3s. 6d. to 4s. per yard; Oil Cloths, Extra heavy, 4s. per yard. And all other goods equally low. d26 3t*

☞ The Atlas, of to-morrow, will contain a full report of the testimony in the Forrest Case taken to-day; an interesting and exciting Chapter of the Memoirs of Madame Junot; the Opinions of Nicholas Soughist, Esq., in relation to the recent Primary Elections; Custom House rascalities, and a great variety of interesting matters. The Atlas of to-morrow will be a great paper, and should be read by all.

FINE STOCK OF JEWELRY FOR THE HOLIDAYS.—We would call the reader's attention to the stock of rich jewelry offered to the public by J. F. LINSBROOK, No. 409 Broadway. Those who desire to purchase superior articles for presents will find it to their advantage to call at this store, as the prices are much lower than such goods are usually sold for. d27 2TuWedk&S

PIANO FORTES FOR THE HOLIDAYS.—No more beautiful present should be made than one of HALLET, DAVIS & CO.'s Pianos, either with or without Coleman's Æolian attachment. A fine assortment at their New-York warerooms. Also second-hand Pianos and Pianos to let. GOULD & BERRY No. 297 Broadway.

☞ Kossuth Feathers, adapted to our new and popular style of Soft Hats, by the dozen or single bunch. [d26 tf] BIRD, cor. Pine and Nassau-sts.

THE HOME JOURNAL FOR 1852.—The first number of the new series of this popular and valuable Family Newspaper will be issued on the 1st of January. As no more copies will be printed than are absolutely required to supply the demand, those who desire to begin their subscriptions with the beginning of the year, will be enabled to do so on application to the office of publication. Terms $2 per annum. Address MORRIS & WILLIS, Editors, No. 107 Fulton st., New York.

☞ The immense stock of Overcoats at that great central depot of Gentlemen's and Boys' Apparel, the Union Clothing Store, corner of Fulton and Nassau sts., opposite The Herald office, has just been put down 15 per cent. in price, in consequence of the progress of the season. [d27 2t* P. L. ROGERS.

HEADACHE AND NERVOUS DEBILITY.—Thousands who suffer from these complaints are ignorant that the real cause, in most instances, is a weakened and deranged state of the stomach and digestive functions—The Oxygenated Bitters are peculiarly adapted to the cure of these symptoms, and impart a pleasant sensation of health and strength without the least intoxication. Ladies will find them a most agreeable remedy.

For sale by A. B. & D. Sands, No. 100 Fulton-st.; A. L. Scovill & Co., No. 316, and C. H. Ring, No. 192 Broadway; and by Druggists generally in the United States.

☞ A certain remedy for Sore Throat and Hoarseness will be found by using Bush's Magic Cream Liniment.—Principal depots, No. 320 Greenwich, corner of Duane-st.; E. M. Guion, corner of Bowery and Grand-st.; Dr. Newby, No. 184 Canal st., and Philip A. White, corner of Gold and Frankfort-sts. Price 25 cents per bottle. d24 2t*W&S

NEW-YORK TRIBUNE.

NEW-YORK, SATURDAY, DEC. 27, 1851.

☞ Advertisements for *The Tribune* of Monday ought to be sent in before 9 o'clock on Saturday evening.

Topics of the Morning.

The foreign news by the Canada at Halifax will be read with interest, though nothing startlingly new is developed. The "Road to Ruin" yet seems smooth before "The Nephew of his Uncle."

Kossuth's speech at the banquet given him by the citizens of Philadelphia exposes the base attempt made by cowardly enemies to annoy him with forged documents, &c.; but public attention will be most arrested by his remarks on the state of France, the usurpation of Louis Napoleon, and their bearings upon his mission here and the Future of Europe.

The dispatch about Mr. Clay's health will excite the deepest sympathies of our entire people.

Congress has not yet got to the work of the session.

The *Senate* (some third part of its members) got together, with the intention to adjourn till Monday, but the members were too lazy to muster strong enough even to do that. Another informal meeting to-day will lift the mass of inertia constitutionally over into next week.

In the *House*, some talk was had on the recent fire, a report from the Librarian of Congress was received, and the Committee on Public Buildings was instructed to inquire into the origin of the fire. Adjourned till Monday.

The Revenue Cutter Taney is instructed to cruise between Montauk and Little Egg Harbor to succor vessels in distress outside of our harbor.

"New-York to Nineveh," Bayard Taylor's Xth Letter, takes the reader from one quarter of the globe to another. George H. Calvert's Letter from France invites the attention of our readers.

Agriculture and Mining in California are discussed elsewhere.

The Forrest Divorce case still swells out in our columns. The case stands adjourned till Monday.

Statistics of Ship-building in this port will be found on another page.

State Engineer Seymour has returned to Albany.

P. S. 4 o'clock, A. M.—We are still receiving Kossuth's speech, and more Foreign news. We have hardly time to read it as we hurry it to press and hand it at once to our readers.

France.

History has a comic as well as a tragic face, and pours her ridicule and proffers her wisdom with equal lavishness. But never was her satire more poignant than in the present Napoleonic usurpation. In that we see the spectacle of a great nation knocked down in full flight, and bagged by an insolvent and rotten profligate. Louis Bonaparte, a man whose head is scarcely above contempt and whose heart is far below it, makes himself dictator to avoid going to jail! His reckless extravagance had built up a mountain of debt, which threatened to fall upon him the day he should quit power. To turn his back upon the palace was to march straight to prison. He had to choose between Clichy and the Tuileries. Of course a Napoleon, a man of destiny, could not hesitate. And so a proud, mighty people, the arbiter of Europe's destinies, the Power whose boast is that it furnishes all the world with ideas, and that when it moves, the globe trembles in sympathy or in alarm, is confiscated and pocketed by a cheating adventurer who has a genius for nothing but spending other people's money in a manner worthy the corrupt days of the Lower Empire. Such is the fate of France! Is there in history another such stroke of gigantic sarcasm?

To freemen at this distance, the natural wonder is, how such an exploit can be performed, and inferences are drawn not at all flattering to the French as a nation or as individuals. We hear it suggested that they are a race of small force and no solidity, and that their greatness lies rather in talk than otherwise. Such inferences and suggestions are not just. They overlook the truth that men are controlled by institutions, and are such as institutions make them. These differences of race that are so much declaimed about, are the result of different laws and institutions, rather than of any essential superiority in one tribe or nation over another. And we shall find the secret of this fantastic elevation of Louis Napoleon to be in French institutions, more than in any inherent weakness of French character.

The fundamental principle of the French political system is Centralization. Paris is everything and the provinces nothing; and the man or the party that gets possession of Paris thereby has possession of the whole country. This is so because the whole country is used to receiving orders from Paris especially, and becuse the government there is everything, and the people elsewhere nothing. Political affairs, education, religion, all are centralized. There is no such thing as free local administration, or local self-government. Not a petty village elects its own mayor; he is named by the government. Not a commune manages its own concerns by itself. The interference of the central government is felt everywhere. Not a district school is opened or closed but by the government. Not a church bell rings except the central government pulls the rope. Accordingly, there is no such thing as true liberty and true development of the people. All is despotism, as truly as in Russia, no matter what the name by which it is called. The fact is essentially the same whether Louis I. or Lamartine be at the head; there is the same overshadowing central authority and the same resistless administrative mechanism; the difference is solely one of detail or of accident, not of principle. The French nation, with all its boasting, is not of age, politically. It is still in its minority and under tutelage, with this vast machine of a centralized administration, education, and religious establishment for its leading strings. Consequently he who can seize upon the leading strings has the nation in his power. Let him become master of Paris and of the central government, and his orders will nowhere meet with serious or protracted resistance. He is master of the main spring, and, till it is snatched from his grasp, or the machine breaks, can make it go to suit his pleasure. Thus Louis Philippe came to rule France in 1830; thus the Republicans suddenly conquered in 1848; thus in 1851 Louis Napoleon has become Dictator; thus in 1852 he will be Emperor; and thus in due time he will be got rid of and some other party come into possession of the machine. As long as such a machine remains, liberty can exist in France only because the government sees fit to tolerate it, and no constitution and no system of policy will be safe against usurpation. There can be no guarantee of liberty, and no fair chance for the elevation of the people save in the abandonment of centralization and the establishment of the great principle of local self-government instead. Centralization can produce nothing but a nation of obedient subjects; self-government alone can produce a nation of free citizens capable of appreciating the blessings of independence and resolute to maintain them.

This is the secret of Louis Napoleon's easy triumph; a hundred thousand soldiers made him master of Paris, and the omnipotent governmental machine made him master of all France. It is not the fault of the nation, ridiculous and shameful as it may appear; they are in the machine, and to resist were useless. All that his opponents can do is to wait till chance and a good plot enable them to seize the main spring, and then, if wise, they will knock the machine to pieces, and emancipate the country from its despotism.

We are well aware that many statesmen and publicists hold the system of French centralization to be necessary for the present crisis in Europe, false as they will admit it to be in principle. It is necesary, they tell us, as an instrument to destroy old institutions, prejudices and ideas, and to insure unity of action against the encroachments of foreign despotism. There is something plausible in this, but it will not stand examination. The cause of freedom in general cannot be served by keeping thirty odd millions of Frenchmen without liberty and without political development. Nor are old ideas destroyed except by new ones. The real power and influence of France in Europe would be increased immensely by the elevation of her people to genuine self-government. Give them the entire management of their local affairs, restrict the central government to be merely a business agency, to keep the accounts and execute the will of the nation, free education, annul all connection between Church and State, establish the right of association, and free the press, and France cannot but gain in power and gain in beneficial influence on the destinies of humanity.

There is no greater mistake in national policy than to look abroad for the acquisition of power. In the affairs of nations or of individuals, to mind your own business is the dictate of wisdom. But that is not the policy France has inherited from the calamitous epoch of the former Napoleon. From him, and indeed from all her past rulers, she has inherited the policy of minding other people's business and of seeking for power abroad. This is a pernicious error, and a worse inheritance than any other she has received from the past. No nation in Europe has meddled so extensively and so constantly in the affairs of other nations; none has lived and ordered itself so much with a view to such meddling. And yet this course has produced nothing but disaster and weakness. All that France has gained or seemed to gain by it has been lost again, leaving nothing but "glory," and military glory, too, by way of compensation. What at this day makes the real power of every country is the industry of its people and the wealth that industry has created. What has given efficiency to French industry is such freedom as exists among the people to associate with each other and to manage their own affairs. Give them more of that freedom, relieve them altogether from the tyranny of centralization, and their labor and invention will become more productive, wealth will grow and become more generally diffused, the power of the nation will become greater, its word will have more weight in the world's affairs, and if forced to interfere, it will do so with more effect. If a mere revolt for freedom at Paris could so rouse the nations, what an influence would be exercised by the full development of liberty throughout all France!

We maintain, then, that centralization is bad, and only bad, and find one proof of our position in the use Louis Napoleon has made of the despotic machinery of the government. But this melancholy farce has a certain alloy of good. It will do much to emancipate the French from trust in families and names. It will thus relieve them of one very stupid political superstition. That is a benefit which we should prefer to see achieved in a more legitimate and honorable way, but still it is a benefit.

FIFTEENTH WARD SCHOOL EXAMINATION AND CHRISTMAS PRESENTATION.—The eighth semi-annual examination of the Ladies' Department of Fifteenth Ward School, No. 20, in Thirteenth-st., near Sixth-av., Miss Sophia S. Cornell, Principal, was held by Mr. Superintendent McKeen, in presence of a crowd of ladies and gentlemen, friends of the pupils, on Wednesday, the 25th inst. There were about 450 pupils present, with Miss Julia Cleland and seven other assistants. This school stands at the head of the Ward schools, and the results of the protracted examination on Wednesday were of the most gratifying character. The class in Arithmetic, taught by the Principal in person, was equal and in some respects superior to anything we have ever witnessed in a Ward school. The manners and general address of the pupils were graceful and easy in the extreme, and left nothing to be hoped for from the more exclusive training of the private school. The main room was tastefully decorated with festoons of evergreens, and on the rear wall the words "Knowledge is Power" appeared, composed of evergreens and flowers. The walls of this room are elegantly painted a pale rose color with some tasteful designs representing various figures in astronomical and mathematical science, placed in such a manner that the eye of the pupils must always rest on some form of beauty or interest. At the close of the exercises, Mr. McKeen made some remarks, in which he expressed himself in terms of commendation. The display of useful needlework and tasteful articles of embroidery was very highly commended, and gave evidence of the most thorough training. There were a large number of paintings and drawings on the walls, some of which were of high merit. The penmanship was natural and elegant, well becoming for the educated woman. Music is taught by Miss Cornell, and the exercises on the piano and in singing were equal to any school efforts it has been our fortune to listen to. The class in history were examined by the Principal in person, upon the present condition of the world, and especially in reference to the history of the late struggle in Hungary, in which a degree of political knowledge was displayed that would have shamed more than one Congressman we know of. The exercises being ended, the scholars were dismissed to meet on Friday morning to arrange for the Holidays and make some Christmas presents to their teachers.

On Friday morning we called and found the higher classes present and engaged in the pleasing task of interchanging good wishes and talking over plans of amusement. The presentations were as follows:—To Miss Carwell, a splendidly bound volume of "Our Savior with the Prophets and Apostles;" to Miss Cleland, a large Bible richly gilt and bound in morocco; to Miss Ferguson, an elegant papier mache Portfolio; to Miss Swift, an alabaster inkholder and watch-case; to Miss Cochrane, a Bible bound in raised Gothic work of elegant and unique pattern; to Miss Gilchrist, a tasteful volume entitled "The Dream;" to Miss Pettis, a fancy box, filled with envelopes and note paper; to Miss Chamberlain, "Burns' Poetical Works;" to Miss Lindsay, "Tupper's Poems." The school was dismissed at 12 M. to assemble again on the first Monday after New Year.

The Primary Department, Miss M. Ashley, Principal, with eight assistant teachers and 699 pupils, was examined by Mr. McKeen yesterday, and passed with much credit to all concerned. The concluding exercises were had in the Boys' Department, J. J. Doane, Principal, with seven assistants and 470 pupils. The classes were examined in the class rooms in the most thorough manner, by Mr. McKeen and the teachers, in presence of E. C. Benedict, President of the Board of Education, and a number of members of the Board, all of whom expressed themselves as being highly gratified at the condition of the classes.

Several improvements have been made in the entrances to this house. The doors now open both inward and outward, a condition that should be universally enforced in the Public and Ward School Houses. No. 20 was pronounced by the examiners as being in the most satisfactory condition, and fully up to its high reputation.

☞ The political existence of the present Common Council is rapidly drawing to a close, and yet, singularly enough, there seems to be no sort of regret among the people in view of the solemn fact. The last great injustice which the Assistants have done to their constituents, in fastening upon them the gas contract, has alienated the few friends who have stood by them through evil, and some good report since they recklessly assumed the responsibilities for which, as the event proves, they were so unfitted. It is too late to urge improvement; too late to offer advice, even if it would be accepted too late for repentance on their part; they have sinned away their day of grace, and all they have now to do is, to gather for the last time at the tea-table, fill their hats with cigars, vote the expense to "County Contingencies," draw their $4 per day, and withdraw into strictly private life. Perhaps it would be unkind to reproach them with promises unfulfilled, or rake up the ashes of past misdeeds; in fact, in view of the unenviable position that the expiring Council holds in public estimation, we might be amenable to a charge of cruelty in so doing. Besides, it is hardly fair to strike a man when he is down, however much he may deserve the bastinado. Let us, then, calmly await the hegira from the City Hall, and bid the fugitives God-speed. But what shall we gain by the change? It seems impossible that any change would not be for the better; yet Aldermen are queer fish; there is no telling which way they will jump; so, the best we can do is to watch in faith and hope the developments of time. The Opposition have it all their own way for the next year. Let us see what valuable lessons they have learned from the inglorious history of municipal legislation.

FATAL EFFECTS OF THE LATE STORM.—*The Cleveland Plaindealer* contains the particulars of the freezing to death of the driver of the stage between this city and Erie, Pa., while on his seat driving during the late storm. Another man was frozen to death in the town of Hamburgh in a barn, whither he had sought refuge from the pitiless storm. We also hear of another death in the town of Evans, that of a lad who perished from cold while walking through the snow to school. [Buffalo Com. Adv.

LATEST NEWS.

By Telegraph to the New-York Tribune.

Southern Telegraph Office, corner Hanover and Beaver sts.

WASHINGTON.

Cold Weather—Mr. Clay's Health.

Special Dispatch to The Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Friday, Dec. 26, 1851.

Nothing here since Christmas Eve but cold weather and egg-nogg.

Mr. Clay sits up and occasionally regales himself with a cigar, but he can engage in no conversation. His cough and expectoration are constant. He is greatly emaciated. J. S. P.

THREE DAYS
LATER FROM EUROPE.

ARRIVAL OF THE CANADA AT HALIFAX.

CONTINUED TRANQUILLITY IN FRANCE.

BY THE NOVA SCOTIA, NEW-BRUNSWICK AND MAINE TELEGRAPHS TO PORTLAND,

AND THENCE

BY BAIN'S MERCHANTS' LINE TO NEW-YORK.

HALIFAX, N. S., Friday morning, Dec. 26, 1851.

The Royal Mail steamship Canada, Captain Harrison, arrived this forenoon, with 32 passengers for Boston, and 10 for Halifax. Left at noon for Boston.

She left Liverpool at 3 P. M. on the 13th December, having been detained beyond the hour appointed for her departure owing to a dense fog.

After the third day out, she experienced a constant succession of violent gales and squalls, and very high seas. At 8 o'clock, A.M., on the 17th, saw the R. M. steamer Asia, from Boston for Liverpool, lat. 51 25, lon. 27 39.

No American steamer had arrived at Liverpool subsequent to the departure of the Baltic, on the 10th inst.

French affairs continued to be the engrossing subject of interest, but there have been no fresh incidents of striking importance. Several additional Departments have been placed in a state of siege.

So far as the vote of the Army furnishes any index of public sentiment in France, it is almost unanimous in favor of the President. The vote of the Army, as far as reported, stands 65,000 in favor of Louis Napoleon, to 3,500 against him.

The total number of arrests, thus far, is stated at 1,800.

M. Thiers, having imprudently declared against the Government, immediately after his liberation from prison, is said to have been a second time arrested, by order of the President. Certain it is that he left Paris in haste, and has passed the Prussian frontiers.

Several legions of National Guards have been disarmed for exhibiting disaffection.

Many of the leading members of the Mountain party have fled the country, and many others, for whose arrest warrants have been issued, are believed to be still in Paris; among the latter is said to be Victor Hugo.

Emile de Girardin has resigned the editorial management of *La Presse*, and it was understood that he would shortly take his departure for the United States.

In the Nievre, the Socialists, during a short ascendancy, had burned the archives of the Department, and destroyed a large amount of property.

The Compte de Chambord, Henri V., had sought an interview with Prince Schwartzenberg, at Vienna, who assured him that Louis Napoleon would receive the countenance of all monarchical Cabinets.

It is said that the President has suppressed the publication of 73 newspapers.

Paris papers contain a letter from Jerome Bonaparte, addressed to the President, in which he advises moderation, and a genuine appeal to the people.

Commercial Summary.

LIVERPOOL, Friday, Dec. 12, 1851.

COTTON—We have no improvement to notice since the sailing of the Baltic, on the 10th. The market has continued dull and has been freely supplied. The sales for the week amount to 39,000 bales—[in another part of our dispatch the sales are stated at 31,780 bales, but this is presumed to be wrong]—of which speculators took about 6,000 and exporters 1,200. The sales to-day are estimated at 6,000 bales. The closing quotations were: New-Orleans fair, 5¼d., middling, 4¾d.; Upland fair, 5¼.; middling, 4¾d.; Mobile fair, 5¼d.

The FLOUR market had been quiet at a reduction of 5d. ℔ bbl.

INDIAN CORN was in good demand at a slight advance.

The Provision Market remained much the same as on the sailing of the Baltic. The advance of 2s. ℔ cwt. for LARD, previously reported, had been sustained.

HAVRE COTTON MARKET, Dec. 10, 1851.—A slight reaction took place at the close of the week, ending on the 6th inst., which was confirmed by an advance of 3 francs on Monday. Sales for the week, 3,400 bales, and the prices of Monday are fully sustained to-day.

FLOUR—The market is again quiet, prices having receded 6d. ℔ barrel since the sailing of the Europa. Buyers act with great caution.

INDIAN CORN is in good demand, and the supply being moderate, prices have slightly advanced.

WHEAT.—Since the 10th inst., the sales have been limited, at a decline of one penny per 70 lbs. In London, holders evince much firmness, but the transactions are very small.

PROVISIONS—Beef remains without improvement, purchasers buying sparingly. Pork, sales are reported of 300 bbls., which have left the market very bare of American. There has been little variation from the rates current at the sailing of the Europa. Hams and Shoulders are inactive at previous rates. Lard—the advance of two shillings per cwt., reported by the Baltic, has been maintained. Cheese is dull; sales of middling have been made at a decline of one to two shillings per cwt.

SUGAR—Refiners and dealers have operated more freely during the last few days, at a reduction in price of six pence per cwt.

COFFEE—Prices are firm, without any quotable change since last week.

TEA—Large arrivals have checked the demand here, while in London a reduction of one half penny per pound has been submitted to, buyers operating with reluctance.

MOLASSES—No sales have been effected here during the week, except at retail. At London, West India meets with an active demand.

RICE—Sales for the week 460 tierces Carolina at 17s 9d to 19s 3d. In London, dressed brings from 21s to 27s per cwt.

METALS—Iron—The market still continues quiet. Copper is firm. Lead in limited demand.

TIMBER—The demand has flattened, and prices are a shade lower; sales of Pitch Pine have been very limited.

STATE OF TRADE IN MANCHESTER—The comparative cessation of violence in France has operated favorable upon business, but the apprehension felt for the tranquillity of Germany had inspired extreme caution in all operations relating to that trade. German and Italian houses are, consequently, acting with the utmost wariness in the execution of small orders; but notwithstanding this, as well as other individual causes of depression, the tone of trade during the whole week has been decidedly healthy. This feeling can hardly be arrested, unless by the recurrence of distractions in France or a sudden outbreak on the Continent, which too many indications would seem to portend.

LONDON MONEY MARKET—Has been rather active for the last few days, and prices have rallied to almost their former point. Consols on the 12th closed at 98¼@98½, and after business hours still farther advanced ¼@½. Even foreign securities sympathized in the rise. Railway shares have also considerably advanced.

AMERICAN STOCKS—There has been more movement during this than the previous week in AMERICAN SECURITIES; the difficulties in France having stimulated inquiries in this department; prices, however, have undergone but slight change since the sailing of the Europe.

Hollingshead, Fetley & Co.'s Circular.

LIVERPOOL, Friday, Dec. 12, 1851.

There has been comparatively, a moderate amount of business going forward in Cotton this week; spinners have purchased somewhat sparingly, and the export season being nearly over. In speculation, however, there has been a fair extent of business going forward, particularly in Surats; the week's sales, therefore, sum up to 31,780 bales. Confidence having been checked by the state of affairs in Europe, buyers as we has sellers, are disposed to act upon the defensive, and therefore the former take little more than for present use, while the latter are somewhat more anxious to sell. Hence we have had a dull market throughout the week, particularly for qualities of American from middling and upward, and although the real decline in prices is a mere shadow, we find we have to reduce the quotations in our Circular of the week nearly ½d. ℔ lb. In Brazils the demand has been moderate and home held pretty firmly, prices are without change. Egyptians steady as last quoted. In Surats there has been a large amount of business doing daily, notwithstanding which, the prices have been irregular, upon the whole a shade lower. 1,780 bales American and 5,000 Surat had been taken on speculation, with 200 American, 100 Madras, and 1,250 Surat for export, leaving for the trade, 24,120. The sales to-day amount to 6,000 bales, at steady prices. 402 bales sea Island and stained are advertised for public sale on Thursday next, 19th inst.

Passengers

In steamship Canada, from Liverpool for Boston—Mr. and Mrs. Lord, Mr. and Mrs. Sturtiff, Mr. and Mrs. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Byer, Miss Henrico, Messrs. Frame, Sedley, and Smith, Mrs. Lewis, Messrs. Pratt, Morse, Schmidt, Hernan, Gark, Wood, Moore and 2 servants, Lambler, Mellis, Harrison, Condies, Darnett, Henderson, Richardson, Shurtliff, Schmidt, Golding.

Shipping Intelligence.

U. S. SHIPPING.

ARR. from New-York—Dec. 10, Isaac Wright, at Liverpool; 11th, Richard Cobden, at Deal; Independence, off Ronaburtes; Metis, at Gravesend; Hendrik Hudson, do.

Sld. for New-York—Dec. 11, Stadt Harlem, fm. Torbay; Cornelius Grinnell, fm. Deal; 12th, E. C. Lenaman, New-World, Lady Franklin, and Reciprocity, fm. do.

ARR. fm. Boston—Dec. 11, Leopold, at Gravesend.

Sld. for Boston—Dec. 10, Gustave Adolph, fm. Antwerp; 5th, Caledonia, fm. S. Martins, Isle De'e, after repairing.

Sld. for Philadelphia—Dec. 10, City of Glasgow, fm. Liverpool; 12th, Venice, and Hero, fm. do.

Sld. for Charleston—Dec. 12th, Abraham Young, and Sartel, fm. Liverpool.

ARR. fm. New-Orleans—Dec. 10, Anna Rich, Devonshire, Brutus, and Sandusky, at Liverpool.

Sld. for New-Orleans—Dec. 3, Sarah Purington, fm. Havre; Aebs, fm. Deal; 11th, Merlin, do; 12th, James Corson, and Ottomoco, do; 3d, Eliza, do.

CANADIAN SHIPPING.

ARR. from Quebec, since sailing of the Baltic, Dec. 10—Assamage, at the Clyde; Aida, at Deal; Hornbarran, at Gloucester; Richardson and Lodoiska, at Gravesend; Australia, off the Wight; Rose, at Plymouth; Barara, at Deal; Catharine, at Liverpool; Higgins, off do.; Heroine, at Gravesend; Britannia, at Hull; Nelson Annan, at Waterford; Albert, at Shields; Greenville Bay, at do.; Isabella, at Teignmouth; Williams, Ulverstone; Harold Fuger, at Gravesend; Solway, and William Vail, at Gloucester.

NEW BRUNSWICK SHIPPING.

ARR. from St. John—Nov. 21, Eliza, at Belfast; Edwin, at Maryport; 27th, Highland Mary, at Gravesend; Miles, at Grimsby; Dec. 5, Clare, at the Clyde; 6th, Sedulous, at Aberdeen; 7th, Defender, at Falmouth; Elizabeth Holderness, at Hull; Mobile, at Liverpool; 8th, Paragon, at Grimsby; Edinburgh, at Liverpool; 9th, Cosmo, at Bristol; Arve at Deal; Anna Tift, at Gravesend; Commerce, at Gloucester; 10th, Lady Arabella, do.; Prince George, Sir H. Smith, Phœnix Camden, and Queen Pomare, at do.; 11th, Conqueror, at do.; Corib, at Galway; Arve, at Grimsby.

ARR. from St. Andrews—Dec. 9, Norshall, at —.

MEMORANDA.

The T. Gilmore, Williams, of Bristol, from Quebec, was abandoned 25th Nov., in lat. 42, lon. 43; master and six men drowned; mate