NATIONAL CAPITAL TOPICS.

GENERAL GRESHAM AS A REFORMER.

LOOKING INTO POST OFFICE CONTRACTS—A NOVEL TESTING MACHINE.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, Aug. 12.—The investigations which the Postmaster-General is making into the envelope and other contracts cannot fail to be of benefit to the general public, and possibly they may teach Congress some lessons. For instance, the law as to the lowest bidder is one which does not furnish adequate safeguards for the public service. The lowest bid must not only be accompanied by a bond as to which there can be no doubt, but there must be an executive officer competent and willing to make the contractors live up to the spirit and letter of their contract. In this very contract for envelopes the difference in the bids was 28 cents a thousand, which covers much more than the ordinary profit of the contractors in a contract honestly executed. The old firms which have had the contract for envelopes for many years bid $1.08 and $1.09 respectively. The new firm, which secured the contract beginning with July 1 last, bid 81 cents.

The test which has been made by the novel machine which has been adopted for the purpose continues to show two results as to a considerable line of goods delivered. The Postmaster-General is not to stop at the envelope contracts, but will look into the postal card contracts, as to which there is some complaint. It is said that the cards furnished flow when ink is used, and that it is almost impossible to write upon them with a lead-pencil. Third Assistant Postmaster-General Hazen, who has charge of this branch of the contracts, thinks that Congress would do well to authorize two classes of cards, one for ink and another for pencil, and that much more satisfactory cards could be furnished on such a plan. The machine by which the defects in the paper were discovered is a new invention and is now for the first time applied to the testing of the strength of paper.

The method of operating is as follows: The sample, about three inches in diameter, is first clamped by an embossing ring and a rounded punch connected with a delicate balance thrust under it. The weight on the scale beam is slid along until the latter falls through to the edge of paper which has been burst by the pressure. It is thus automatically liberated and registers the number of pounds strain at which the rupture took place. A second attachment to the machine is a balance, which is an adaptation of the one now in use to determine the number of pounds to the ream. The thickness of the sheet is shown to 6-1000th part of an inch in another part of the apparatus, which works with unvarying accuracy. A card contains a scale by which on the presentation of the smallest sample of paper, the possession of one of the machines can tell just the kind of paper required, whether in note, letter cap, or demi size.

ORDERS TO ARMY OFFICERS.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 12.—During the temporary absence of the Chief of Engineers, Colonel John G. Parke, Corps of Engineers, will act as Chief of Engineers and perform the duties. First Lieutenant George W. Goethals, Corps of Engineers, will be relieved from duty as engineer officer of the Department of the Columbia, and will then proceed to Cincinnati and report to Lieutenant Colonel W. E. Merrill, Corps of Engineers, for duty under his orders.

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 12.—Paymaster Edwin Putnam has been ordered to duty at the Portsmouth, N. H., Navy Yard. Passed Assistant Surgeon P. M. Pixey has been detached from special duty at Washington and ordered to the Lancaster, European station, per steamer, September 10, from New-York; Paymaster John McMahon from the Portsmouth, N. H., Navy Yard, and ordered to settle accounts and await orders. The practice ship Constellation passed Cape Henry this morning bound in. All well.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 12, 1884.

IMMIGRATION.—The Chief of the Bureau of Statistics reports that in July there arrived in the customs districts of Baltimore, Boston, Detroit, Huron, Minnesota, New-Orleans, New-York, Passamaquoddy, Philadelphia, and San Francisco 35,952 immigrants.

CONTRACTS FOR LOCK BOXES.—A controversy having arisen between the Yale and Town Company and the Scovill Company over the award of contract for supplying lock boxes to the post offices throughout the country, the Secretary of the Treasury has decided to appoint a committee to investigate the matter.

TRANSFERRED.—Mr. De Meissner, the second secretary of the Russian Legation here, has been transferred in the same capacity to Switzerland, and will be succeeded at the Legation in this city by Alexander Greer. Mr. De Meissner married a daughter of Rear-Admiral Radford, of this city.

A POST OFFICE OPEN AGAIN.—William Simpson, Post Office Inspector, telegraphed from Bamberg, S. C. to-day that the post office at that place was open, and that he would report the cause of the trouble by mail. The postmaster of Bamberg, T. G. Robinson, telegraphed yesterday that his life had been threatened, and that he had closed the office.

GREELY RELICS.—The acting Secretary of the Navy has instructed the commandant of the Navy Yard, New-York, to receive from Commander Schley the relics of the Greely expedition, and to turn them over to Lieutenant Buckingham of the Navy, to whom they will be transferred to the Louisville exposition.

THE COURTS.

MR. STARIN MUST OBEY THE INJUNCTION.

Charles McNamee, in behalf of the Independent Steamboat Company, applied to Judge O'Gorman, in the Supreme Court, Chambers, yesterday, for a modification of the order temporarily restraining the corporation from carrying passengers and freight between Pier No. 18 North River and Staten Island. The lawyer urged that the corporation had not yet fixed the rates. Judge O'Gorman denied the motion, and at the suggestion of Assistant Corporation Counsel Wickes stated that the company must fully comply with the injunction at once, or it would render itself subject to punishment.

BITS OF COURT NEWS.

Judge Ingraham, of the Superior Court, refused yesterday to continue the injunction obtained by the Metropolitan Telephone and Telegraph Company, restraining the Colwell Lead Company from interfering with its poles in front of the lead company's premises at Exterior and Thirty-ninth st. The poles enter the works of the lead company's building now being erected. Judge Ingraham holds that the Legislature's control of the streets is limited; that it had no power to authorize a structure inconsistent with street use, and that the poles in question are an improper invasion of the street.

Gerald L. Tuite, who was arrested on charges of embezzling some $60,000 from the Preston Banking Company, of Preston, England, applied to the Supreme Court yesterday for his liberal on from Ludlow Street Jail, alleging that he is unlawfully held, since Judge Brown, in the United States Circuit Court, has decided that he cannot be extradited. A writ of habeas corpus was obtained, returnable on Saturday.

COURT CALENDARS—THIS DAY.

SUPREME COURT—CHAMBERS—Before Bartlett, J.—Nos. 1, 2, 30, 34, 41, 42, 57, 135, 136, 140, 143, 150, 151, 215, 223, 225, 227, 242, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 258, 259, 261, 263, 276.

SURROGATE'S COURT—Rollins, S.—No day calendar.

SUPERIOR COURT—SPECIAL TERM.—Before O Gorman, J.—No day calendar.

COMMON PLEAS—SPECIAL TERM—Before Beach, J.—No day calendar.

HE WANTED THAT LIE CORRECTED.

From The Poughkeepsie Eagle.

A dilapidated looking individual comes into the counting-room and with a fierce look and a fiercer oath, roars out:

"Somebody in your blank blanked reporter has been putting in the paper a blanked lie about me, and I want it corrected."

"What is the report you complain of, sir?"

"That" pointing to a police report. "That's a blanked lie. Now, are you going to correct it?"

Clerk reads: "John Bilfkins was brought before the Recorder charged with being drunk and disorderly. Officer Smith arrested him on upper Hudson st. fighting with a negro last night, and put him in the lock-up. The Recorder fined him $10, which he paid." That must have come to us in the regular way from the court, what is there wrong about it?"

"Why, ain't I telling you it's all a blank blanked lie. I ain't going to have such things put in the papers about me."

"Is your name John Bilfkins?"

"Yes."

"Weren't you before the Recorder yesterday?"

"Yes."

"Well, didn't he fine you $10 as it says here."

"O, yes, but I tell you it's all a blanked lie, and I want you to make it right."

"Singular that the Recorder should have fined you $10 if you were not guilty. What part of the story is untrue? You were arrested, I suppose?"

"Yes."

"And kept in the lock-up over night?"

"Yes."

"Well, weren't you drunk?"

"O, I suppose I was a little in liquor. I had been drinking, I don't deny that."

"And you were fighting?"

"Yes, but the whole story is a blanked lie. Your blankety blanked reporter says I was fighting with a black man, and I wasn't. It was a mulatto!"

This whole story about Cleveland is a blanked Republican campaign lie. It wasn't a young woman, it was a widow!

HE WENT AFTER HIS HAT.

From The Albany Argus.

"One day last week," said an Albany shoe-dealer, "when I was alone in my store, a well-dressed stranger entered. He wore a white 'dicer' (as the boys call it), which he laid carefully up on a counter near the door. Then he asked me for a pair of my very best custom-made laced shoes. A pair was soon placed at his disposal. Seating himself he tried on the right shoe. 'This is a splendid fit,' he said, 'but my feet are each of a different size. Let me see if the left one sets as well.' The left shoe was pulled on his foot and he stood up and gazed proudly down at his extremities. 'Those are about right,' he said, 'but suppose you give me a pair a leetle smaller.' There is no doubt of a man making his feet look larger than necessary.' I mounted the steps after another pair, when I heard a noise in the front of the store and looked up in time to see a small boy making away with the stranger's hat. 'Look, your hat!' I shouted; 'after him quick!' The stranger seemed paralyzed for a moment, and then galloped out of the store in pursuit.

"That's all," said the shoe-dealer finally. "The new shoes went out with the man, and I have seen neither since. When he tried on the shoes he stamped his feet very naturally, and I suppose that was a signal for his confederate."

MR. CLEVELAND ACCEPTS.

From The Omaha Republican.

We are enabled to lay before the readers of *The Republican* this morning Mr. Cleveland's letter of acceptance. In the preparation thereof the distinguished gentleman has been assisted by S. J. Tilden, H. Watterson, W. H. Barnum, G. W. Curtis, S. J. Randall, W. S. Hancock and T. A. Hendricks. The latter portion of the letter is said to have been written by Mr. Cleveland himself. After thanking the Committee of Notification for the honor conferred, Mr. Cleveland calls attention to the principles of Jefferson. He then says:

The principle of tariff only for revenue exclusively is reformatory in its elemental structure and eminently calculated to preserve decorum among statesmen especially differing regarding unimportant particulars. The fungus growth of false notions, constructions and practices is already lopped off. It remains only to heal the scar. Unusuary utterances condone oblivion paragraph abole. Intense aftermath express $500,000 Standard Oil Company success. Equine animals of the feminine variety travel swiftest under pecuniary encouragement.

I see her standing on the brow of the mountain, her face illumined by the rising sun. Close to Columbia she is, and her hands are outstretched as though she were offering a benediction. Her eyes are stars, her name Reform, her station colossal. In dreams I have often seen her so—now the reality appears with a beauty indescribable. And I ask the Democratic platform! It is what I have contended for. It is what I demanded and forced from the spirit of the age. Imperial Victory and the strategic Goddess of Reform march hand in hand. I see the western sky lurid with the fires of republican destruction. The world is painted red.

Plenty of nutes is what we need, and we're going to have 'em.

The Democracy of the United States are very hungry and very thirsty, as we may well believe. The Republican party is the party of progress and splendid achievement. The turning point of this campaign is character. Administrative reform unhampered by delinquent is the national necessity. If a great man shall write a book and take it to some other publishing house, it is time to reform the civil service by treating the country to a dose of the political methods of the solid south. Consistency is a jewel.

The election of Mr. Carlisle to the Speakership was the triumph of a moment. The Democratic platform, declaring as it does for a tariff for revenue and protection, and using the word exclusively in its vagued sense, embodies the Pennsylvania idea and my own. I am satisfied with the platform. Mr. Watterson and Mr. Carlisle have been defeated, as they deserved to be. The next Democratic House will have an old speakership where it belongs.

The tariff must still be considered a local issue. A good man, weighing two hundred pounds, is the bean of a Democratic leader. When a well-formed officer puts a nice new uniform on, the effect is superb.

In cases where the tail is seven times larger than the dog, the dog ought to be wagged. The war for the Union was an unmitigated failure. Abraham Lincoln was a fiend incarnate. The draft was illegal. We had no business to meddle with the "nigger." We can never become the political equal of the manliest white. Would you like to have your daughter marry a "nigger?" Latest advices from McDowell report him no better. There are better men than McDonald in Indiana. It is observed that Mr. Chandler is away from Washington. Perhaps he has left his writing machine at home. In that case would a letter addressed to him reach the Associated Press? The office of Vice-President is of the first importance, providing a very important man holds the office.

I take my pen in hand to inform you that I am well, and hope this will find you enjoying the same blessing. When I was Sheriff I didn't think I was such a great man, and then afterward when I was practicing law I never thought I was the smartest man in the Democratic party. If I had of known that I was ever going to be nominated for President of the United States I might of acted different. I wasn't much worse than the rest of the boys there in Buffalo. There was a lot of fun in old Buff, in those days. I don't know but what I would rather of been left there with the boys. The Republican party is awful corrupt. I'd like to help the country out. I haven't had much experience, but when I get in Mr. George William Curtis is going to give me a pointer. I never done much writing, and my hand cramps some. Don Manning writes good, though, and he knows anything else that's worth knowing. He says he'll answer any questions in regard to policy or anything like that.

Yours truly, G——R C——D.

(This space is reserved for the views of Mr. John Kelly, who is out of politics.)

STATE OF TRADE.

BOWRAN MATTERS.

BALTIMORE, Aug. 12.—Cotton dull. Middling 11c. Flour steady. Howard Street and Western Super, $2.50@$3.00; do. Extra, $3.25@$4.00; do. Family, $4.25@$5.25; City Mills Extra, $3.25@$4.00; do. Family, $4.25@$4.50; do. Rio Brands, Super $2.75@$3.15; do. Extra, $3.25@$4.00; do. Superfine $3.12@$3.25; Patapsco Family, $5.75; do. Superlative Patent, $6.25. Wheat—Southern easier and Prime scarce. Western lower, closing dull. Southern Red, 82@86c; do. Amber, 86@91c; No. 1 Maryland, 91¼@91¾c. No. 2 Western Winter Red Spot, 87½@88c. Corn—Southern easier. Western steady. Southern White, 68@70c; do. Yellow, 68@70c; Western Mixed, September, 66¾@67c. Oats quiet and lower. Southern Black, 35@36c; do. Western White, 42@46c; do. Mixed, 38@40c; Pennsylvania, 36@44c. Rye dull and steady at 63@66c. Provisions quiet and firm. Mess Pork, $17.75. Receipts—Flour, 2,775 bbls; Wheat, 108,000 bush; Corn, 4,000 bush; Oats, 25,000 bush; Rye, 800 bush. Shipments—Wheat, 29,000 bush; Corn, 3,000 bush.

BOSTON, Aug. 12.—Flour quiet and unchanged. Superfine $3.00@$3.25; Common Extras $3.50@$3.75; Patent, Winter Wheats, $5.75@$6.00. Corn in fair demand. Steamer Mixed, 64½@65c; No. 2 Grade, 67½@68c. Oats dull. No. 1 White, 47½@48c; No. 2 White, 45½@46c. Shorts No. 1 White, 47½@48c; No. 2 White, 45½@46c. Shorts and Middlings quiet at $21. Receipts, Flour, 8,000 bbls, 7,000 sacks; Corn, 12,000 bush; Oats, 13,000; bush; Shorts, 11,000 bush.

BUFFALO, N. Y., Aug. 12.—Flour steady. Wheat, unchanged; sales 1 cars Longberry on track at 90c; No. 2 Hard Northern Pacific offered at 99c, cash. Corn quiet and weak; sales 7 cars No. 2 Mixed at 56c; 1,300 bush special lots at 55c. Oats quiet; sales 7 cars No. 2 White at 47c. Railroad freights unchanged. Canal freights to New-York steady, fourths unchanged. Canal freights to New-York steady.—Wheat, 3c. Corn, 3½c. Oats, 2½c. Receipts—Flour, 10,000 bbls; Wheat, 185,000 bush; Corn, 137,000 bush; Oats, 50,000 bush. Shipments—Flour, 7,000 bbls; Wheat, 51,000 bush; Corn, 55,000 bush; Oats, 4,000 bush.

CINCINNATI, Aug. 12.—Flour dull, family, $2.50@$4.10. Flour $4.15@$4.25. Pork firm at $17.00@$17.25. Bulk meats firm; Shoulders, $4.87½@$4.95. Bulk meats firm; Shoulders, Lard quiet, $4.37½@$4.45. Bacon steady; Shoulders, 4½c; Short-rib sides, 8c. Bacon steady; Shoulders, 4½c; Short Clear $11.00. Hogs firm; Common and Light, $4.75@$5.00. Packing and Butchers, $5.00@$5.40; receipts, 1,400 head; shipments 993 head.

CHICAGO, Aug. 12.—The visible supply of grain August 9 was: Wheat, 15,734,000 bush; Corn, 3,885,000 bush; Oats, 4,931,000 bush; Rye, 200,000 bush; Barley, 2,100,000 bush. Flour quiet and unchanged. Fair to choice Winter Wheat, $4.75@$5.50; Spring Wheat, $4.00@$4.50; Minnesota Bakers, $4.75@$5.00; Patents, $5.25@$5.75; Southern Bakers, $3.00@$3.25. Rye Flour, $4.15@$4.40; in barrels. Wheat in active demand and 4¼c higher yesterday; sales ranged August, 77½@78½c; closing at 77½c; September, 78½@79½c, closing at 79½c; October, 80½@81½c, closing at 80½c; November, 81½@82½c, closing at 82½c; December, 82½@83½c, closing at 83½c. No. 2 Hard Spring, 77½@78½c, closing at 78½c. No. 3 Hard Spring, 73@75c. No. 4 Hard Spring, 68@70c. Corn in good demand but lower; sales ranged: Cash, 50½@50¾c; August, 50½@50¾c, closing at 50½c; September, 49¾@50¼c, closing at 49¾c; October, 48¾@49¼c, closing at 48¾c. November, 47¾@48¼c, closing at 48¼c. All the Year, 42¾@42¾c, closing at 42¾c. Oats lower; sales ranged: August, 24¾@24¾c, closing at 24¾c; September, 24¾@24¾c, closing at 24¾c; October, 24¾@24¾c, closing at 24¾c. All the Year, 24¾@24¾c, closing at 24¾c. Rye quiet at 56c. Barley—No market. Butter and eggs steady and unchanged. Flax Seed quiet at $1.29. Hay steady and unchanged. Pork lower at 50@51c. Corn Meal quiet at $2.70. Whisky steady and unchanged at $1.07. Provisions strong and higher. Pork—Jobbing, $18. Bulkmeats—Long Clear, $9.50. Short Rib, $9.60@$9.65; Short Clear, $9.90@$10. Lard, $7.25@$7.30. Receipts—Flour, 5,000 bbls; Wheat, 48,000 bush; Corn 18,000 bush; Oats, 31,000; Shipments—Flour, 4,000 bbls; Wheat, 29,000 bush; Corn, 20,000 bush; Oats, 3,000 bush.

EUROPEAN PRODUCE MARKETS.

LIVERPOOL, Aug. 12.—Provisions—Bacon, Cumberland Cut 47s 6d; Long Clear Middles, 45s; 6d; Short Clear Middles, 49s. 6d; Short Ribs, 49s. 6d. Shoulders, 37s. 6d. per cwt. Beef, 75s for extra Indian Mess. Prime Mess, 75s. Pork—Prime Mess, 71s. 6d. per bbl. Prime Mess, Eastern, 75s. Western, 67s. Lard—American, 38s. 6d.; Prime Western, 40s. 6d; Lard Oil, 40s. 6d. Hams—Long Cut, 64s. 6d.; Shoulders, 34s. Butter, 95s. per cwt. for finest United States. Cheese—American Choice, 52s 6d. Wheat—Red Western Spring, 7s. 3d. @7s. 5d.; Red Winter, 7s. 6d. @7s. 11d. per cental; No. 2 Spring 7s. 1d. New Western Winter, 7s. 5d.; New Mixed Western, 5s. 3½d.; California No. 1, 7s. 9d. @8s. 3d.; California No. 2, 7s. 10d. @7s. 7d. per cental. Corn—Mixed old, 5s. 6½d.; do. new, 5s. 5½d. per cental. Produce—Spirits of Turpentine, 28s. 6d. Petroleum, Refined, 6½d. per gallon. Clover Seed—American Red, 42s. per cwt. Tallow, 41s. 6d. per cwt. Rosin—Common, 4s. 3d.; Pale 9s. @10s. 9d. Linseed Oil, 19s. 6d. per cwt.

Breadstuffs—The receipts of wheat for the past three days were 13,000 centals, including 94,000 American. Receipts of American corn, 40,000 centals.

LONDON, Aug. 12.—Produce: Linseed Oil, £19 10s @£19 15s. per ton. Calcutta Linseed, 43s. 3d. @43s. 6d. per quarter. Linseed Cake, £8 5s. @£8 10s. per ton. Refined Petroleum, 6d. @6½d. per gallon. Spirits of Turpentine, 29s. 9d. per cwt. Sperm Oil, £93 per ton. Rosin—Common, 4s. 6d. @4s. 9d. Fale, 9s. @11s. Provisions—Lard, 44s. 0d. per cwt. for American. Sugar, 16s. 3d. @16s. 9d. per cwt. for Cuba Centrifugal polarizing 96°, and 13s. 5d. @14s. 3d. for Cuba Muscovade fair refining sugar.

THE MONEY MARKET.

SALES AT THE STOCK EXCHANGE, AUGUST 12.

THE GENERAL LIST.

Name.	Actual Sales. Open.	High'st	Low'st	Final.	Closing prices. Bid.	Ask'd	Shares Sold.
Can Pacific	44	45	44	45	44½	44¾	905
Can Southern	36	36½	36	36½	36¼	36¾	400
Cent of N J	62	62½	62	62	62	62½	2,800
Cen Pacific	40⅝	40⅝	40½	40⅝	40½	41	210
Chic & N W	99¼	100¾	99¼	99¾	99½	100	15,600
C M & St P	83¼	84½	84¼	83¾	83¾	83¾	48,755
C St P M & O	32¼	32⅝	32¼	32¼	32¼	32½	200
C St P M & O pr	93½	93½	93½	93½	91½	94½	100
C Dur & Q	119	119	119	119	148¾	119½	100
C R I & Pac	114	114	114	113	113	114	355
C C C & I	39⅝	39⅝	39⅝	39⅝	38	39⅝	100
Del, L & W	111	111¾	110½	111¾	111¾	112½	18,000
D & H Canal	99½	99½	99½	99½	99½	99½	470
D & Rio G	12	12⅝	12	12⅝	12⅝	12⅞	200
E Ten V & Ga	5⅝	5⅝	5⅝	5⅝	5	5½	110
E T, Va & G 1st	9	9	9	9	85	95	100
E T Cent	124	125	125	125	125½	126½	1,400
Lake Shore	80	81⅝	79⅝	80¾	80¾	81	17,514
L S & M S	99	99	98½	98½	98½	99	300
Lous & Nash	54¾	55⅝	54¼	54¾	54½	55	1,350
Manh B Char	28	28	28	28	29	29	400
M & St L	14¾	14¾	14¾	14¾	14½	15	300
M, K & T	18⅝	19⅛	18⅝	18⅝	18	19⅛	5,500
Mich. Pacific	99⅝	99	99⅝	99⅝	99⅝	99⅞	6,000
Morris & Es	127½	128½	127½	127½	127	128½	100
N Chat & St L	41	42	41	41	42	44	400
N Y Cent	104	104	104	104½	103¾	104¾	7,152
N Y C & St L	7¼	7¼	7¼	7¼	7	7½	300
N Y C & St L 1st	12	12	12	12	11	12	200
N Y L E & W	15	15	15	15	15½	15¾	1,700
N Y & E	15	15⅝	15	15⅝	15⅝	16	1,400
N Y & H	132	132½	132	132½	132½	132½	100
N Y & M	124	124	124	124	124	124½	100
Nor & West	27	28	26	24	27	29	100
Northern Pac	21¼	21⅝	21⅛	21⅛	21	27	1,700
North Pac pfd	51½	51½	50½	51½	51	51¼	100
Ohio Central	2⅝	2⅝	2½	2½	2½	2¾	400
Ohio & Miss	36	36	35½	35½	35	36½	400
Ontario	16	16½	15	16½	15½	16½	600
Phil & Read	27⅝	28	27⅝	28	27⅝	28	9,200
P P W & Chic	130	130	130	130			10
P Peoria	100½	100½	107½	107½	108¼	109	37
Rich & Pitts	8½	8½	8½	8½	8½	9½	200
St L, Alt & T H pr	84	84	84	84	83½	90	100
St P M & M	98½	98½	97½	97½	95½	97	300
Texas & Pac	13¼	13⅝	13¼	13¼	13¼	13¾	5,022
Union Pac	43¾	44¼	43¾	43¾	43¾	43¾	21,458
Wabash	15	15⅛	15	15	15⅛	15⅛	325
Wabash pref	35½	35½	35½	35½	35	36	950
Am U & Cable	57½	59½	57½	57½	55	58	22,800
W U Telegraph	84¼	84¾	83¾	84¼	83¾	84½	2,300
Adams Express	132	132	132	132	131	135	10
Wells & F Exp	106	106	106	106	102	108	10
Pacific Mail	49⅝	49⅝	49⅝	49⅝	49⅝	49⅞	3,500
Sales for the day							205,420

*61 sellers 59 days.

GOVERNMENTS.

U S 4s Coupon 1907	10,000		119⅝

BONDS AND BANK STOCKS.

Atlantic & Pacific W'ds div 1st	76	Balt & Ohio 1st Park'burg Brch	115
2,000	26½	5,000	115
3,000	26½	Central Iowa 1st	101
Buf C R & N'n 1st	101	1,000	97
11,000	101	Flint & P Marq 1st	113½
Ches & Ohio 1st Series B	91	10,000	106
6,000	91	Gal Har & San Ant 1st	106
C B & Q, deb 5s	101	30,000	106
1,000	101½	Hud R 2d S F	103¼
1,000	101½	5,000	103¼
3,000	94	Kan Pac 1st con	77⅞
3,000	94	6,000	77⅞
C Ohio & S W mtg	77⅞	4,000	77⅞
2,000	77⅞	Mo K & Tex gen 6s	80
Chic St P M & M 1st	119	10,000	80
1,000	119	Mo K & T Gen 6s	74
E T V & Ga 5s	58⅝	5,000	74
5,000	58⅝	5,000	74⅝
5,000	58⅝	Met Elevated 1st	104⅞
6,000	59¼	10,000	105
6,000	59¼	5,000	105
Lake Shore coupons	124	Met Elevated 2d	93
10,000	124⅛	5,000	93
L Erie & W 1st M	90	Mil L S & W 1st	99⅞
1,000	90½	1,000	99⅞
Mil & St P 1st	94	10,000	100
C & P W'n Div	94⅝	Mich Cen 5's 1902	102½
1,000	94⅝	3,000	102½
6,000	94⅝	Midland of N J 1st	54
W'ns & Min div	92	N Y Lake E & W new 2d consol	59½
9,000	92⅞	15,000	59½
10,000	93	10,000	59⅝
La Crosse div	116	35,000	59¼
1,000	116	5,000	59
N Y S & Bufflst	85	5,000	58⅞
25,000	85	5,000	58⅞
4,000	85	1,000	59½
5,000	85	10,000	59⅝
110,000	85	5,000	59⅝
20,000	85	10,000	59⅝
2,000	85	35,000	59⅝
Pere Dec & Evr 1st	110	5,000	59
Evansville div	95½	5,000	58⅞
1,000	95½	1,000	117
10,000	95	5,000	116⅝
Roch & Pitts 1st	106	1,000	116¼
2,000	106	N Pac 1st coup	103
St Paul & S C 1st	117	1,000	103
1,000	117	5,000	103⅝
Tex Pac Inc L Gts	38	North Mo 1st	109
10,000	38½	2,000	109
Chon Pac L'd G'ts	80	Ohio Southern 1st	80
1,000	107⅞	3,000	80
Northern Pacific preferred	51	Rome Wat'n & Og 1st	99
North Cent RR. 50's	56½	5,000	99
Lehigh Nav	42¾	10,000	97½
Lehigh, N. Y. and Phil. com	4¼	1,000	97½
Buffalo, N Y and Phil. pref	8	1,000	102¼
Hestonville RY	10½	Texas Pacific 1st R Grande div	49½
Phila & Erie	12¼	1,000	49¾
		5,000	49¾
		Tol & Wabash 1st S L div	92
		2,000	92½
		Texas & N O 1st Sabine div	80⅞
		3,000	80⅞
		Tennessee 6s new series	39⅝
		5,000	39⅝
		Atlantic & Pac income	14½
		20,000	14½
		Col Coal 6s	59
		3,000	59
		Erie 2d mortgage	102½
		4,000	102½
		Long Island By 1st	120
		9,000	120
		Mo Kan & Tex 6s	102
		1,000	102
		N Y Lac & W 1st	118
		2,000	118
		Northwest con 1st	123¼
		1,000	123¼
		Northwest con comp gd bds	125
		6,000	125
		N Y Ch & St L 1st	99
		3,000	99
		N Y Cent 1st Coupon	130
		6,000	130
		Oregon & Transl 1st	71½
		5,000	71½
		Rome Wat'n & Og 2d	70
		5,000	70

CLOSING PRICES OF PHILADELPHIA STOCKS.

Reported by JOHN H. DAVIS & CO., 17 *Wall st.*

	Bid.	Asked.		Bid.	Asked.
City 6s new	130½	127	Northern Pacific preferred	51	51¼
United RR., N J	192½	193½	North Cent RR. 50's	56½	57½
Penna vs Rail'd	55⅞	55⅞	Lehigh Nav	42¾	43
Reading	13 15-16	14 1-16	Lehigh, N. Y. and Phil. com	4¼	4½
Reading general mort	82	83	Buffalo, N Y and Phil. pref	8	12
Lehigh Valley	63¾	64⅛	Hestonville RY	10½	11½
Catawissa, pref	59	60	Phila & Erie	12¼	13
Northern Pacific common	21⅛	21½			

CLOSING PRICES OF BOSTON STOCKS.

BOSTON, August 12, 1884.

	Yesterday.	Today.		Yesterday.	To-day.
Water Power	11⅛	11⅛	Old Colony	130½	130½
Boston Land	5	5	Calumet & Hecla	164	164
A & Pac 1st 7s	110	110	Franklin	7½	7
A & T, Ldv'd 7s	116½	116½	Pewabic (new)	½	½
Eastern R R 6s	108½	108	Quincy	96	96
S Y & N H 7s	124	124	Tamarack		172
A & Top R R	70⅞	70⅞	Wolverine	114	112
Boston & Albany	170	170	Flint & P M pfd	98	98
Boston & Maine	160½	160½	Mex. Cent. con	10⅛	11⅛
Chic Bur & Quin	118⅝	118⅝	Mex. Cent. bond scrip	7½	7½
Flint & Pere Marq	22	22	Mex. Cent. Incom bonds	40½	41⅛
L. R. & Ft. S.	17	17			
N. Y. & N. Eng.	12⅝	12¾			

TUESDAY, Aug. 12—P. M.

The Custom House returns of last week's foreign movement of merchandise at New York, make a showing that for the first comparers unfavorable with the results of the movements in the corresponding weeks of both 1883 and 1882. The imports exceeded the exports $3,095,539 against excesses of $902,508 for the week of 1883, and of $1,338,019 for the week of 1882. The imports last week ($9,449,365) were $1,098,600 greater than for the week of 1883, and $430,152 greater than for the week of 1882; the exports ($6,393,766) were $164,311 less than for the week of 1883, and $1,768,168 less than for the week of 1882. For the thirty-two weeks of this year the import is of merchandise exceed the exports $80,402,124, which is $11,067,917 greater than the excess of 1883, and is $28,962,148 less than the excess for the same period of 1882. The resulting balances, after deducting the specie movements, on the business of thirty-two weeks for three years, are shown in the subjoined table:

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS FROM JANUARY 1 TO DATE.

	1884.	1883.	1882.
MERCHANDISE.			
Imports	$310,584,334	$271,622,101	$270,591,162
Exports	203,484,062	215,287,937	192,192,014
Excess of imports	$109,384,272	$60,334,207	$80,402,124
SPECIE.			
Imports	$2,265,568	$7,778,894	$10,449,787
Exports	41,431,747	9,052,237	46,487,454
Excess of exports	$39,166,149	$1,273,819	$36,039,667
MERCHANDISE AND SPECIE.			
Excess of imports	$70,218,123	$59,060,368	$44,362,107

The reported transactions in stocks to-day amounted to only 205,420 shares, but, if from that amount is deducted the purchases and sales that were made by matched orders, the real business done would not be equal to one-half of the amount of reported sales. So dull and uninteresting a day has not been seen at the Stock Exchange in over a year. Yet the nominal fluctuations in prices were frequent enough and wide enough to reflect a business in 500,000 shares. Taking Delaware, Lackawanna and Western for an example, the character of the market is established by the fact that it rose from 111½ to 113¼ on sales of 4,500 shares half stock, and again declined to 112¼ on sales of 1,200 shares, and again rose to 113 on sales of 1,700 shares. So it was with the sudden changes and fluctuations in the whole list, but the character of the general market was less marked than it was in Delaware, Lackawanna and Western stock. Prices were moved as if by a secret wire, like the figures in a Punch and Judy show, and observers were as much astonished at the seeming weakness of one moment as they were at the wonderful restoration of confidence in the next minute. Manipulation to-day over-manipulated, and traders of all classes—those who are members of the board and those who habitually frequent brokers' offices—simply looked on with wonder at what they either saw or read from the "indicator's tape." The market opened irregular, but with a strong inclination to lower figures; but that disposition by methods already referred to was quickly, not reversed, but remedied. The leading stocks of the days' dealings were the same as those which have led the speculation for weeks past: St. Paul at 83¼@83¾@84¼@83¾@84