WHITEWASH FOR GRANT.

THE COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATION AND RETRENCHMENT.

The Great Debate in the Senate—Defeat of Grant's Camp Followers—Morton, Conkling, Cameron and Sherman—Sherman's Electioneering Tactics—Stewart of Nevada and the Little Emma—The Great Gold Conspiracy and How Garfield Whitewashed Grant—The Present Committee Worse than Garfield—The Political Outlook.

Correspondence of The Sun.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—There is no question but what the late debate and vote in the Senate on Trumbull's retrenchment resolution has had a very decided effect upon the public mind. The way in which the President's toadies and dependents rallied to the better protection of their master and shut out all investigation of his questionable acts has had a startling effect. The adherents of the Administration have lost something of their insolence, doubtful politicians speak out, while the friends of the country are hopeful.

We cannot know how such men as Conkling, Cameron, Morton, and Sherman are treated by their constituencies; but I do know that mail and telegraph pour upon Sumner, Trumbull, Schurz, Tipton, Logan, and other true men words of encouragement and approval from all parts of the country.

THE MEN WHO FURNISH THE WHITEWASH.

This is not to be wondered at. There is but one man in the Senate whose past makes any claim to distinction as a man of ability, and it is now generally conceded that the paralysis that some time since deadened his extremities has reached his brain. The remainder are dignified impracticables or low-lived politicians. At their head is Roscoe Conkling, a man of no ordinary intellect, but a student without tact, and as ignorant of men as his backers are ignorant of honesty. He has been coached of late by such graduates of Tammany as Tom Murphy, but has only lost in the process. John Sherman, who makes up in cunning all that he lacks in intellectual powers, rushes into the conflict not caring a curse for the Administration or the people, and only caring for himself. He wants the support of the Government in his coming contest for the Senatorial succession in Ohio, and to secure this he is willing to do any amount of dirty work.

OHIO'S APOSTLE OF CORRUPTION.

There is probably no more corrupt man in the Government than this John Sherman. Entering public life as a poor man, he has grown mysteriously rich, and it is impossible for his so-called friends to account for his wealth. It is notoriously the fact that he bought his reelection to the Senate, and now it is conceded that he will be returned through the same evil means. When returned the last time, his opponent, Gen. Schenck, as I am assured by gentlemen conversant with the fact, had a clear majority in the caucus. Three days' active use of promises and money changed this to a majority for Sherman. For example, one member of the State Senate named Martin addressed Gen. Schenck a letter pledging himself to the support of Schenck, but giving him a hint in so many words that a little money would be acceptable. This request was treated with contempt, and the result was a vote for Sherman by Martin. Every member conspicuous in his support of Mr. Sherman had either his reward in money or office, for the Senator had the cunning to get Andy Johnson into his support precisely as he now bids for Grant. Open bar was kept in Sherman's interest in the Nell House, and liquor and money flowed free as water.

I get these facts from two gentlemen who were in the Legislature of Ohio at the time, and if John Sherman or his friends question the facts, they can have the names.

THE WHITEWASHERS.

But to return to the Administration in the Senate. These follows at first lost their heads. The move made by Trumbull took them by surprise. They had not much head to lose, but the little went with surprising rapidity. After voting down the proposition the next wise move was to pack a committee—and such a committee! With the exception of Senator Buckingham there is not one but is personally interested in obstructing free investigation. Having secured their whitewashers, they with intense zeal rush in and demand that all sorts of things should be investigated.

Take Senator Stewart for example. He is the leading proprietor and manager of the Little Emma. There is a belief prevalent here that if a fair investigation could be had, what is known as the President's Ring would be found under the meal in that disreputable affair. There are certain men whose connection with any transaction that has money in it indicates the Executive Ring with the same certainty that the pilot-fish tells of the shark. Senator Stewart is one of these, and he is on the committee appointed to investigate the civil service generally, and the President's conduct in particular!

THE CORBIN-FISK CONSPIRACY.

How not to do it by a packed committee is well illustrated in that old conspiracy gotten up by Gould, Fisk, and Corbin, as you recollect, under the sanction of the Administration, which ruined so many hundreds in New York, and so shocked the entire commercial world. The indignation was so intense, and the charges so open and persistent, that the House of Representatives was forced to take notice of the affair, and so ordered the Committee on Banking and Currency, then Garfield's committee, to investigate it, and discover if possible what connection, if any, the Government had with that dark plot.

Garfield is a gentleman of high tone, fine attainments, and of more intellect than falls generally to an average Congressman. His great trouble lies in the fact that he endeavors continually to square his sense of duty with his party obligations. The result is that he continually vibrates between what he ought to do for himself and what he is forced to do for his organization, and ends in an injury to both.

GARFIELD'S TERRIBLE DISCOVERY.

Impelled by a sense of justice in this instance, he prosecuted his inquiries with remorseless rigor until he saw the end, and then he suddenly flew back, and without helping Grant damaged himself. It will be remembered, and it is well now to remember the startling fact, that he proved the conspiracy to be *based upon the connivance of the Administration*. Originating with Corbin, the President's brother-in-law, he established the connection not through said disreputable brother, but in the President's own knowledge, as previously indicated by THE SUN, and he proved beyond question that Gen. Grant *not only consented to looking up the Treasury gold, but after written directions to Boutwell in accordance with the conspirator's wishes, the President hit himself in an obscure village in Pennsylvania until the fearful plot should be played to an end.* The foul thing was tracked to the door of the White House, and nothing was left the Committee but to call upon the President for a denial, or at least an explanation. Garfield hoped that the President would come forward, disown Corbin, and deny that he had any connection whatever with the damning transaction. A resolution was passed inviting Gen. Grant to appear before the Committee. This was considered so important that it was passed unanimously, Garfield himself voting for it; and the Committee adjourned under the belief that next morning the President would be upon the stand.

A CONFESSION OF GUILT.

Garfield carried the resolution to the White House. He did not return until after midnight. The next day he appeared before his Committee *with a confession of guilt in the shape of a statement from the President to the effect that he declined making any further explanation;* and Garfield moved to rescind the resolution, which was done by the Republican members voting for the repeal. You know the report made by the majority. It was so directly in the face of the evidence that it was greeted with ridicule and contempt on all sides.

After that we were well prepared for the easy dismissal of Butterfield and the subsequent reconciliation of the President and his brother-in-law Corbin.

And now we have a worse committee than Garfield's, and before it the sycophantic dependents of the Administration are hurrying all sorts of subjects for investigation.

THE POLITICAL OUTLOOK.

Within the last few days we have had here from all parts of the United States the leading men of the Republican party, to confer with each other and determine upon some plan of action. Sumner declined attending the conference, but Trumbull and Schurz were present. The subject was discussed at length, and the opinion was almost unanimous that the Democratic party, from the light now had, could not be expected to disband, or remain neutral, which amounts to the same thing, in the coming Presidential canvass. The only hope for the salvation of the Republican party was thought to be in the defeat of Grant in the National Convention. It is the opinion of almost every man that if the Democrats make a wise nomination, such as Davis or Groesbeck, the defeat of the Republican party with Grant as a candidate is inevitable. No party can hope to succeed under such a load as Grant carries, with the brain and honesty of the organization extracted.

TIMON.

The Fraud of Investigation—How the Whitewashing Committee is Composed.

Correspondence of The Sun.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—Everybody knows that the President's message in regard to civil service is an audacious electioneering sham, prepared for him by the selfish and ignorant coterie of dependents and time-servers who rule at the White House. He claims the power, and claims it rightly, under the Constitution, limited by the restrictions of the Tenure of Office act, to make appointments to office. All that he asks is "more power." If the authority already exists which enables the Executive to apply a remedy to the admitted and glaring evils, why has Gen. Grant allowed them to grow up? Why has he waited until the eve of a Presidential election, and when public opinion demanded a reform, to initiate a remedy for this conspicuous and alarming abuse? He and his Cabinet are responsible for the prostitution of the civil service to personal and political objects.

BUT ONE OF LINCOLN'S APPOINTMENTS.

It is wholly untrue, as alleged by the Civil Service Commissioners, and as pretended by the champions of the President in the Senate, that removals from office on any such scale as has been practised since Grant came into power, dates back forty years. Gen. Jackson certainly made changes, and so did some of his successors, who retaliated from partisan motives. But the fact is notorious and capable of proof, that even down to the time of Buchanan multitudes of Whigs were retained in place here and all over the country, and that even when vacancies occurred by death or resignation, they were not always filled by Democrats when a Democratic President exercised the absolute control of the matter. When Gen. Grant became President the great bulk of the incumbents were Republicans, appointed by Mr. Lincoln. Certainly they were not amenable to any political law of change, or at all, unless they were incompetent, dishonest, or unfaithful. Yet they were all turned out without a why or wherefore, and generally substituted by a class whose only claim to consideration was excessive devotion to the fortunes of Gen. Grant. Of the whole diplomatic body there is but *one* left of the selections made by Mr. Lincoln. So too of the consuls. These men had acquired experience and information of great value during the war. Yet they were discarded for no other reason than to redeem personal pledges, or to acquit obligations not more binding.

GRANT'S INFAMOUS SYSTEM.

A similar rule has been extended throughout the whole civil service at home, and indeed in the military and naval promotions, wherever partisanship could be applied. All degrees of Presidential appointments have become tainted with distrust, and corruption is the rule in every department of the Government. This is no sweeping charge of hostile criticism. It is a painful, stern, and indisputable fact, capable of the clearest proof, and which even whitewashing committees have imperfectly revealed while striving to hide the living reality. This infamous system came in with Gen. Grant, and he only is answerable for it. Consequently, at this late day, when popular resentment is roused against his outrages and enormities, it may well be assumed that he is not the man to destroy what he has founded.

The attack upon the motives of Mr. Trumbull, who introduced the movement for reform, is a proof of the insincerity of his shameless accusers. Destitute of any principle themselves, they were quick to assail one the latchet of whose shoe they are not worthy to unloose. After resisting, sneering at and deprecating his resolution, Morton, Edmunds, Conkling, and their followers, attempted to recant as soon as they discovered that the press of their own party had, in obedience to public sentiment, demanded investigation. They changed front, swallowed their fresh words, denied their most emphatic utterances, and with loud voice and dramatic gesture demanded the fullest inquiry, knowing that it could no longer be prevented.

THE PACKED COMMITTEE.

Defeated in the first move, they resorted to another and still more unworthy trick. And that was to pack the Committee, so as to stifle any real investigation. With fitting assurance, they reported the following persons as the inquisitors. Every man was chosen because he ought not to have been appointed for any such purpose. Here they are: Messrs. Buckingham, Howe, Pool, Pratt, Stewart, Harlan, and Bayard. Mr. Casserly was subsequently added, and Mr. Pool retired, but his vacancy will be filled by some Senator of the same stripe.

Let us analyze them: Mr. Buckingham is a feeble-feeble gentleman, who differs with the President, but always "caves in." He complains already of the labor put upon the Committee, which means that there will be no thorough and searching scrutiny into any of the subjects before him. He is Chairman, and controls the meetings of the Committee. The Republican organization is with him, and hence he will do nothing and say nothing to expose its imperfections. His recent speech against amnesty exhibits the temper of his partisanship.

Mr. Howe is a well-known aspirant for a seat on the bench of the Supreme Court. He volunteered the defence of the President on San Domingo, and was the chief assailant of Mr. Sumner on that question.

Mr. Pool has urged the extremest measures in North Carolina, to keep himself in power. Federal bayonets are his strongest argument.

Mr. Pratt has been considered a fair man in the main, but since he reconsidered his purpose of resigning his seat from disgust he has fallen into the tolls of Morton, and is now only one among a number of that intriguer's instruments.

Mr. Stewart is well understood to be the attorney for the Pacific Railroad, and by adroit management got himself put at the head of that committee in the Senate, where he is potent in protecting his own and his interests. He was chief counsel for the Emma mine, is one of the published directors of that corrupt concern, and was most instrumental in getting Schenck appointed a trustee, by which means and other influences the stock was palmed off on the British public.

THE WORST TWO OF ALL.

Mr. Harlan came to Washington not many years ago a poor man, with nothing but his Congressional pay to live on. He was obliged to borrow money from clerks to keep himself afloat. Now he is a very rich man, and his wealth has been acquired by abuse of public trusts and taking advantage of poor Indians. He does not challenge inquiry or ask an impartial committee, though often charged with fraud and swindling of the gravest kind. He was set on by the White House to attack Mr. Sumner, and became the meanest apologist of the San Domingo job; and his speeches were circulated by tens of thousands through the Republican Committee here last summer.

Such are the six Republicans put forward with the pretense of carrying out a liberal reform, from which every friend of that measure was studiously excluded. Does anybody believe that this cheat will satisfy the country, or that so transparent a deception will mislead a single citizen who does not desire to be blinded to the plainest truth?

RETRENCHER.

DEALINGS WITH GHOSTS.

THE SPIRITS PLAYING THEIR MOST WONDERFUL PRANKS.

A Sun Reporter's Visit to Doctor Slade—The Ghosts in High Feather—Defective Orthography Corrected on a Hint—The Liveliest Chair in Gotham.

With the honest intention of describing nothing that he should not see, of repeating nothing that he did not hear; with perfect charity toward all spirits, good, bad, and indifferent, and with malice toward none, a SUN reporter recently sought the society of the disembodied, and for one mortal hour held rare converse with immortals.

Guided by a friend, himself a skeptic, to whom no doctrine is genuine unless acknowledged and approved by reason, the reporter found his way to the modest dwelling of Dr. Slade, 210 West Forty-third street, near Seventh avenue. He was met at the door by the Doctor himself, and conducted into a small but pleasantly furnished sitting room, where for a few minutes the host, the reporter, and his friend indulged in general conversation touching unimportant subjects. During the conversation the reporter lost no opportunity to study carefully the face, voice, and other outward, visible, and tangible signs of the inward and spiritual man whose powers as a medium he had come to test. The high forehead, large bright eye, and well formed mouth were those of a man exquisitely sensitive to influences from without or within. The face was pale, but ever and anon flushed for a moment, while the clear eye flashed, seemingly in response to a wink from some formless shade in the perennial sunlight of the blest Beyond. As far as the reporter could judge it was a very candid face, that would suffuse with tell-tale blushes if its owner were caught in a fib; and taken altogether, it was just such a face as one would like to meet in a dark room infected with libidinous spirits, and rendered graveyard-like by a cornucopiousness of ghostly revellers.

When the reporter had finished taking the inventory of Dr. Slade's mental and psychic powers and characteristics by close scrutiny of his features—for "tis no art to find the mind's construction in the face"—he assented to the Doctor's proposition that he should

"HAVE A SITTING;"

and following the medium up one flight of stairs and through a pair of folding doors into a room about eighteen feet square, seated himself at the eastern end of a small table and awaited developments.

The room was lighted by two large windows opening to the south. Bright crimson curtains were deftly disposed to the sides of the windows so as to catch the white rays of the sun and reflect them into the apartment in a rosy flood of radiance, fine engravings covered the walls, and a many-colored carpet, soft to the touch and grateful to the eye, threw back the mellow light from the floor. Near the centre of the room sat a common walnut table, a plain four-legged table without drawers. Four chairs surrounded it, one for each side of the table. The chair on the north side was a large cushioned chair, standing the two feet from the table; that on the west side a small sitting room chair, at the same distance off. The reporter occupied the chair on the east side; and closing the folding doors Dr. Slade took his seat in the chair on the north.

GETTING TO AN UNDERSTANDING.

There was no time lost. "I believe you are a skeptic in regard to spiritualism," said the medium.

Reporter—You are right, sir. I have not the shadow of a shade of faith in the doctrine as preached.

Medium—Have you given much attention to the subject? Have you investigated it?

Reporter—For about seventeen years I have taken much pains to ascertain whether there were any grounds on which to base a supposition that the spirits of the departed come back to earth and communicate with us atoms of cussedness, but up to date I feel myself authorized to say that neither my mental nor my spiritual man will take any stock in the theory.

Medium (taking hold of the reporter's hand)—You have a strong and powerfully magnetic eye, and I am confident that we shall have such manifestations as shall convince you that there is some force at work about us which we do not understand.

Reporter—I acknowledge the unknown force, whether we have physical manifestations or not. But—

(Here a spirit, or something or other, gave the reporter a sharp rap. It seized him by the

LEFT LEG OF HIS TROUSERS,

and pulled much after the manner of a striped bass.)

Medium (starting back suddenly)—There! Behind you! I see a spirit! There it goes! Look in that closed near the book case. Ah, it has gone!

Reporter (another pull at his trousers)—No, he's down here by me.

Medium—You don't seem much like a nervous man.

Reporter—Not much, so long as I feel satisfied that I have fair play.

(Rap, rap, rap on the back of the reporter's chair, rap, rap, rap under the table, and rap, rap, rap everywhere.)

Medium—That is equivalent to amen.

The medium then took an ordinary slate, upon which he placed a bit of pencil about as large as a snipe shot. He then held the slate, with his left hand under the table, its upper side fast against the wood. With his right he clasped both the reporter's hands. For a moment his touch was like that of the live wire of a battery. "Will the spirits write?" said he softly.

DONE—BUT HOW?

Rap, rap, rap, in three or four places at once was the reply of the invisibles.

The slate was held by the corner. Half of it was in plain view of the reporter, against whose breast the opposite corner touched. Suddenly a rapid scratching interval, scratching as fast as the sound varied occasionally by the dotting of i's and the crossing of t's by unseen fingers. The sound ceased, the slate was withdrawn, and the reporter read the following, written in a woman's hand:

"We will try to convince you that we can return.
A. W. S."

Reporter—Who is A. W. S.?

Medium—That is my wife, who is in the spirit land.

Reporter—Can you induce some of my dead folks to communicate with me?

Medium—What do the spirits say?

Rap, rap, rap.

The slate was placed against the under side of the table-leaf. The reporter held his left hand tight upon it. In a moment he felt the slate bearing down upon his hand, and heard the pencil driving over the smooth surface, dotting, and crossing, and scraping as though for a wager. When the pressure was removed he raised the slate and read:

"He is as irrational man who does not believe that the soul is immortal."

THE GHOST'S DEFECTIVE ORTHOGRAPHY.

This communication was signed with the name of a deceased relative whom the reporter had never seen. His last name, the same as that of the reporter, was spelled as by one who had heard it for the first time.

"If the ghost of my deceased relative, who was a very learned man in this life, does not improve in his orthography," said the reporter sadly, "I fear that his celestial schoolmarm will be forced to flog him."

Rap! from the ghost. On second thought it may have been the schoolmarm.

The experiment with the slate was tried a dozen times; and here let it be understood that as far as the reporter could see, there was no sleight of hand, no jugglery resorted to by the medium. One hand and sometimes both were held in the reporter's right. The slate was flush against the flat underside of the table. The room was filled with light. There was no attempt to cover or conceal. But the skeptic was still a skeptic. He wanted a further test.

THE GHOSTS NOT KEEPING THEIR WORD.

Reporter—Doctor, it strikes me that if the power that can do this remarkable feat under the table were to succeed in performing it above-board, it would go very far toward convincing me that it has certain claims to my respect and confidence. Will you ask my departed relative whether he has any objection to giving me further proof of his ability?

Medium—Will the spirit consent to write above the table?

Rap, rap, rap.

The slate was once more brought into requisition. The little grain of pencil stone was again placed upon it, and again the medium and the reporter held their respective corners. The slate was held a few inches above the table, the medium, as before, clasping the right hand of the reporter in his left. In a moment there was a gentle tug at the slate, and then a more violent jerk toward the left. Then it was pulled to and from the medium with considerable force, the reporter using the full strength of his fingers and arms to keep it still. All at once it was lifted up and pulled toward the right.

DON'T BOTHER THE GHOSTS.

Medium—Are you exerting yourself to prevent the spirits from taking the slate away?

Reporter—Yes, of course. They have promised to write above board, and I wish to see them do it.

Medium—You'd better let them have their own way. (Here the reporter felt a hand on his right leg, near the ankle, and a sudden jerk of the cloth that covered it. Remain passive. Don't put yourself in antagonism with them. I doubt not they will place the slate into existence under the auspices of Mr. Lent, and that this gentleman has ever since been levying toll to the amount of $100,000 a year on the commerce of New York, it will be found difficult to repress a surmise that Mr. Grant may be the power that is greater than the Secretary of the Treasury.

In view of all these things there does not seem to be anything scandalous in the introduction of such a resolution as that offered by Senator Garrett Davis. In fact, it would seem to be entirely proper to investigate these matters in order to ascertain whether Mr. Grant in reality what he is represented to be, not only by Democrats, but by distinguished members of his own party, or whether he is the worst maligned man that ever held office in the United States.

Imposing Chinese Funeral.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 27.—Wong Halg Son, late President of the Ning Yung Company, was buried with imposing ceremonies to-day. Nearly a hundred carriages were in line with twenty professional mourners and five wagon loads of provisions and flowers.

REAL ESTATE MOVEMENTS.

Among recently projected buildings, plans for which are under consideration by Superintendent Margregor, may be mentioned a brown stone front at 443 West Forty-third street by E. Rhode; two six story brick stores by Peter Decker on the north side of Thirty-ninth street, 200 feet west of Ninth avenue; one four story cast iron front store by C. Godfrey Gunther on the west side of Church street, 75 feet south of Day street; a four story brick tenement at 403 West Forty-fourth street by Peter Tracey; three five story brick stores by Thomas Neiles on the west side of Mott street, 75 feet south of Canal street; two frame dwellings on West 126th street by Edward Crowley, and two frame houses on West 130th street by N. G. Quigg and John Scallon.

During the past week the following heavy mechanic's liens have been filed: West side of Fifth avenue, 57.5 feet north of Fiftieth street, Davis & Johnson against A. H. Rathbone, $4,019.23; south side Fifteenth street, about 150 feet east of Irving place, Johnson & Farrington against R. N. Woodworth and others, $117.15; W. Jorsleman against same parties, $2,094.37; 617 Fifth avenue, the Pottier Stymus Manufacturing Company against Christopher Myer, $9,036.16; two houses on the south side of East Forty-eighth street, G. H. Reilley against John O'Connor, $1,144.80; nine houses on Lexington avenue, between Fiftieth and Fifty-first streets, J. & R. Darrow against Jenia Dod, $2,180.56; twenty houses on West Ninety-second street, P. C. Hubbell against Sidney C. Genin, $4,382.79; and eight houses on 120th street, East, 100 feet west of Fifth avenue, Thomas Healy against W. B. Astor, $2,000.

Court Calendars this Day.

SUPREME COURT, SPECIAL TERM.—Case on.
SUPREME COURT, CHAMBERS.—Nos. 91, 95, 123, 131, 139, 147, 148, 153, 199.

HOLIDAY NOTICES.

The Festive Season.

H. Mouquin, 20 Ann and 141 Fulton streets, offers at cost, wholesale or retail, his entire stock of wines and liquors, fine groceries, delicacies &c. Sherries, Ports, Bourbon and rye whiskeys at $1.50 up per gallon; fine clarets and Sauternes at $1.25. All other liquors, cordials, cigars, pâtés, galantines, in profusion for New Year presents, at lower prices than elsewhere. State poultry at unprecedented low prices. Call and see. Invitation to visit the largest cellar down town. Remember, 20 Ann street.

I Have Long Known the Virtues of Dr. Jayne's Expectorant, and frequently tested them on myself and family, when afflicted with coughs or colds. I believe it to be one of the best remedies ever discovered for these maladies.

Parties about to call on a week or two on a voyage to Europe, and should as soon think of exposing myself to the changing skies of England without an overcoat, will send for a copy of Jayne's Emetic wine.—Rev. Dr. Dowling, formerly pastor of Berean Baptist Church, New York.—*Adv.*

A.—REPORTING PROGRESS.—Trade is lively at Knox's, 212 Broadway, as the acrobats of the famous "Humpty Dumpty," and there is a great rush for his holiday hats and fancy furs, as there should be if there is any attraction in superior articles and reasonable prices. Knox's holiday season promises to be unusually brilliant.—*Adv.*

WATCH NO. 1,894, STEM WINDER—bearing trade mark "Frederic Atherton & Co., Marion, N. J."—manufactured by United States Watch Company, (Giles, Wales & Co.), has been carried by me six months; its total variation from mean time being eight seconds. H. Cotterill, 128 Front st., New York.—*Adv.*

The last opportunity to subscribe to the South Carolina Land and Immigration Association will end on the 5th of January; 2,435 prizes. Four tickets for $5. One chance in sixteen for a prize. Branch office 504 Broadway, near Fourth street.—*Adv.*

SILVER WATCHES FOR BOYS.—Silver Lever and Cylinder Watches, in hunting cases, for $10, $15, and $20. Warranted. Thomas Kirkpatrick, 805 Broadway, corner Duane st.—*Adv.*

Furniture, carpets, and bedding. An immense stock and low prices at B. M. Cowperthwait's, 155 Chatham st. Weekly and monthly payments taken.—*Adv.*

Elegant light rolls, biscuits, &c., with Dooley's yeast powder; the best. Try it.—*Adv.*

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

TUESDAY, Dec. 26—P. M.—There was an unexpectedly large business to-day in railway shares, and speculation at times was attended by considerable excitement. It was supposed that the day succeeding Christmas would be naturally without feature, and that only a few brokers would represent business at the Stock Exchange. Prices, however, at an early hour reflected a disposition on the part of speculators to take a "flyer," and having been fortified by contracts called "puts," said to have been freely sold by Mr. Daniel Drew, a general purchasing movement was commenced in Wabash, Ohios, Northwestern common, Western Union, and Lake Shore, which stimulated the remainder of the active list, and caused a very large business also in New York Central, Rock Island, and Pacific Mail, the advance of the day having averaged 1¼@2½ ⅌ cent., though at the close there was a decided reaction, as our comparative table below represents. The whole market was moving upward at a rapid pace until about 3 P. M., when the money rates became suddenly stringent at ¼ of 1 ⅌ cent. per diem, and as the new purchasers found difficulty in meeting their requirements even at these figures, quite a scramble ensued in throwing overboard speculative ventures, which broke the market at the close to the lowest prices of the day, except on Wabash and Northwestern common.

The leading features beside the above were Union Pacific, which was moderately active, and Erie at times also commanded considerable attention, though both were weak. Reading, the St. Paul's, Hannibal, and St. Joseph, Pittsburg and the miscellaneous list with Express shares were lightly traded in. The movements of the market to-morrow will be of much interest, as the money market is stringent. The Gold market opened steady at 108¾, but soon became firmer and advanced to 108¾, though subsequently in consequence of a pressure of sales caused by a more stringent money market, prices fell off and touched 108⅛, with a heavy tone perrading the first dealings. Speculation on the side of the account has been very tame, and the volume of business has become so much reduced as to render the gold market scarcely worthy of passing remark. The rates paid for having balances carried were ⅝, 7, 6, 1-32, 7, ⅌ cent. gold, with final negotiations however at 6 ⅌ cent. The day's business at the Gold Exchange Bank was: gold cleared $28,711,000; gold balances, $1,959,053; and currency balances, $2,405,988. The following were the principal changes in the gold premium:

10 A. M.	108¼@11	3 P. M.	108¾
11.15 A. M.	108¼@11	3 P. M.	108¾

The gold receipts at the Sub-Treasury to-day were $826,851.33; payments, $440,490.23; and gold balance, $67,993,334.21. The currency receipts amounted to $524,461.39; payments, $525,592.25, and currency balance, $12,462,828.71. The customs receipts were $470,000.

Foreign exchange has been quiet, though steady, with negotiations effected on a basis of 109¼@109¾ for prime bankers' 60 days bills, and 109¾@109⅞ for short sight.

The money market opened active at the Stock Exchange, though the offerings were moderately liberal at 7 ⅌ cent. gold, and additional commissions of 1 32@1-16 of 1 ⅌ cent. per diem. This was not regarded as an extreme rate, and nothing specially important was observed until near the close of bank hours, when the brokers found much difficulty in making up their balances, and paid as high as ¼ of 1 ⅌ cent per diem commissions in addition to the legal gold rate. A majority of the brokers, however, had met their requirements at the early quotations, but those who were supplied after 2:30 o'clock represent a small amount offering even at the extreme rates. The Government dealers, whose business was on a small scale to-day, provided themselves at 7 ⅌ cent. currency to the same rate in gold; but the late sudden stringency was the subject of much comment in financial circles, and apprehensions of still more stringent rates were freely expressed, and was the chief topic of discussion during the closing hours of business. In the discount market there has been quite a fair trade. There is a scarcity of prime commercial paper, especially such as drawn by the dry goods commission houses, and the rates for this class of acceptances range at 8 to 10 ⅌ cent., while other names less known pass at 12@18.

The Government bond market seems to have broken away from the gold influence bitherto controlling it, and, notwithstanding the depressed condition of the gold market is firm and higher, because of both the foreign and home investment demand, assisted by the scarcity of bonds offering upon the market at current quotations. The volume of business has consequently been quite limited, though speculation was strongly in favor of 1867s, 1862s, both coupon and registered, 1865s new, and the 10-40s. Prices were very strong at the close. The Treasury disbursed to-day $210,000 on account of the called bonds, making with previous payments $31,057,000 since December 1.

Henry Clews & Co., 52 Wall st., report at 4:30 P. M.:

	Bid.	Asked.		Bid.	Asked.
U. S. cur. 6s	114¾	114¾	5-20s, '65, coup	114	114¼
6s, 1881, reg	115¾	115¾	5-20s, '67, coup	115¼	115¾
6s, 1881, coup	115¾	115¾	5-20s, '68, coup	115¼	115¾
5-Twenty, M & N, 1865	110	110	5s, '81, 10d reg	109¾	109
5-20s reg. coup	109¾	109¾	5s, '81, coup	109¾	109
5-20s '64, coup	109¾	109¾	10-40s, reg	109¾	109¾
5-20s, '65, coup	110	110	10-40s, coup	109¾	109¾
5-20s, reg., J. & J.	111	111	Gold, P. gold 3d.	108¾	108¾

In State bonds the volume of business was small, though a steadier feeling was noted, and an advance in Virginia consols to 55¾. The deferred issues sold at 21¼; North Carolines, funding act, 1868, 20; do. special tax, 12¼; Missouri 6s, 98; and do. Hannibal and St. Joseph issues, 93. Bank of North America shares sold at 106, ex dividend. In railroad bonds there was a fairly active business, the demand continuing active for some of the prominent mortgages. The Pacifics were the leading feature, Centrals selling at 108¾. Union 1sts 93@93¼, land grants 79½@80, and incomes 82¾@83. The other sales were as follows: C., C., and I. C. 2s, 73; Hannibal and St. Joseph 8s, convertible, 94; Michigan Southern 2ds, 98¾; Toledo and Wabash 1sts, St. Louis division, 87; do. consolidated convertibles, 87; Chicago and Rock Island 7s, 103¾; and Lake Shore dividend bonds at 92.

They Don't Dare to Investigate—They Only Want Whitewash.

From the Chicago Times.

Senator Edwards thought it perfectly scandalous that Senator Davis should offer a resolution instructing the Retrenchment Committee to inquire whether Mr. Grant, in making appointments to office, gives the preference to relatives and persons who have bestowed valuable gifts upon him; also, whether he is interested in public contracts; also, whether he and his Cabinet ministers absent themselves too much from the seat of government; also, whether he has exceeded his official powers in the San Domingo business. The scandal lies not in the introduction of such a resolution, but in the occasion for its introduction. It is so notorious that even the most devoted newspaper adherents of Mr. Grant do not pretend to deny it, that he has manifested a very decided partiality for cousins, brothers-in-law, and the givers of gifts, in dispensing the Administration patronage. It is as notorious as one of the most distinguished of radical Senators could make it, that Mr. Grant has employed the navy to support a usurper in San Domingo, and to intimidate a weak power with which the United States are at peace. It is hardly less notorious that either Mr. Grant himself, or some one else high in authority, is interested in a quarry of worthless stone, now used in the construction of public buildings.

It was remarked on the floor of the Senate only a few days ago that the "general order" robbery in connection with the New York Custom House was sustained by some power greater than that of the Secretary of the Treasury. When it is remembered that Mr. Lent, the proprietor of that business, was one of Mr. Grant's military cronies, that he went to New York with a letter of introduction to Mr. Grinnell, who was then Collector at that port, from Mr. Grant himself, that the general order business soon thereafter came into existence under the auspices of Mr. Lent, and that this gentleman has ever since been levying toll to the amount of $100,000 a year on the commerce of New York, it will be found difficult to repress a surmise that Mr. Grant may be the power that is greater than the Secretary of the Treasury.

In view of all these things there does not seem to be anything scandalous in the introduction of such a resolution as that offered by Senator Garrett Davis. In fact, it would seem to be entirely proper to investigate these matters in order to ascertain whether Mr. Grant in reality what he is represented to be, not only by Democrats, but by distinguished members of his own party, or whether he is the worst maligned man that ever held office in the United States.

	Wabash	Pittsburg	Northwestern	Northwestern pref.	Rock Island	Fort Wayne	M. and St. Paul	M. & St. Paul pref.	Ohio and Mississippi	B., N. and Erie	Illinois Central	Del., Lack. and Western	Michigan Central	New Jersey Central	Union Pacific	C., C. and Ind. Central	Hannibal and St. Joseph	H. and St. Joseph pref.	Western Union Telegraph	Pacific Mail	Quicksilver	Quicksilver pref.	Consolidation Coal of Md.	Adams Express	Wells, Fargo & Co. Express	American Mer. Union Ex.	United States Express
Open	71¾	128¾	67¾	85	106¾	—	54¾	71¾	47¾	—	—	103¾	—	—	91¾	19¾	34¾	—	61¾	54¾	30	50¾	—	—	—	—	66¾
Close	69	128¾	66¾	85	106¾	98	55	73	48	92	98	103¾	116	112	91	19¾	34	34	61	54¾	30	50	31	55	61	70	66
Lowest	69	128¾	65¾	85	106¾	97¾	54¾	71¾	47¾	91¾	97¾	103	115	111¾	90¾	19¾	33¾	33¾	60	53¾	29¾	49¾	31	55	57¾	69	65¾
Highest	72	128¾	67¾	85	107¾	98	55	73	48	92	98	104	116	112	91¾	19¾	34	34	61	55	30	50¾	31	55	61	70	66

New York Markets.

TUESDAY, Dec. 26.—FLOUR AND MEAL.—The flour market has been very dull during the past week, and prices have been barely sustained at best, while in some of the common and medium grades there has been a decline of 25c. ⅌ bbl., with stimulating demand. Stocks are large, and receipts nearly equal to the current sales, so that holders seem to be really in a bad way. To-day there was rather more steadiness among holders, but no improvement in the demand for any description. Rye flour and corn meal quiet and unchanged. Buckwheat flour lower, selling at $3.75@$3.87 for prime State, and $3.90@$4 for prime to choice Pennsylvania. We quote: Fine—superfine Western and State, $5.70@$6; extra State, &c., $6.40@$6.65; Western spring wheat extras, $6.25@$6.50; do. double extras, $6.75@$8.25; do. winter wheat extras and double extras, $6.75@$9.50; Southern bakers' and family brands, $8@$10; do. shipping extras, $7@$7.65. Rye flour, $4.50@$5.25. Corn meal—Western, &c., $3.75@$4.10; Brandywine, &c., $4.15@$4.25. Buckwheat flour, ⅌ 100 lbs., $3.50@$4.

PROVISIONS.—The market for hog products has been depressed the past week, but beef has remained steady. To-day pork was 25c. lower, the principal transactions being 2,600 bbls. old mess at $18 cash, and 250 bbls. new mess at $14.50, seller March, and jobbing transactions at $15.25 for old mess, $16.75 for new do., $19@$19.25 for new extra prime, and $11.25@$11.50 for old prime mess. Beef quiet; sales 300 bbls. and tcs. at $9@$12 for new mess, $7@$10 for new prime mess, and $19@$22 for new India mess. Beef hams salable at $29@$30. Bacon in fair request, but at rather easier prices; sales 900 lbs. at 6¾@7c. for Cumberland, 7@7½c. for short rib, 7½@8c. for long clear, and 7½c. for short clear. Cut meats dull and unsettled. Lard about steady, but quiet at 9¼@9½c for prime Western steam on the spot and seller January; city, 8¾@9c. for No. 1 to prime. Dressed hogs easier at 5¾@5¾c. for Western, and 5¾@6c. for city; pigs, 6¾c. Butter dull and unchanged. Cheese, 9½@16c.

GRAIN.—The market has shown very little change during the past week, either in supply and demand or issue and prices, and quotations are for the most nominal. To-day wheat was firm; sales 17,000 bush. mainly to millers; No. 2 spring, $1.48@$1.53; No. 1 do., $1.54@$1.56; red and amber winter, $1.53@$1.65; common to choice white, $1.60@$1.75. The supply of Rye is very small. Western, and 95@96c. for State. Barley dull and nominal at 75@90c. for State and Western, and $1@$1.20 for Canada East and West. Oats dull and firm; sales 35,000 bush. at 50½@53c. for black, 54@56c. for mixed Western, &c., in store and afloat, and 56½@58c. for white Ohio and State. Corn, at a slight decline, was active for export; sales 85,000 bush. in the city at 78@80c. for mixed Western, 77@79c. for old do., 79@80c. for Western yellow, 78@80c. for old Western white, and 80@81c. for southern white.

GROCERIES.—Coffee