THE NEW YORK HERALD.

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NEW YEAR'S DAY.

A volume might be written about New Year's day. Astronomically, historically, poetically, it is full of interest. We are nearer the sun by three millions of miles than we are during the hottest period of summer; and yet it is cold weather. Our readers can doubtless ascertain the reason, if they do not already know it, by inquiring of their children, who are pursuing their studies at school. Historically, its curious customs, its religious character—being the feast of the Circumcision—and its ancient prestige, are topics of interest. Poetically, its geniality, friendly influences, and its universal welcome, have long been celebrated. The Romans, in the time of Numa, dedicated the day to Janus, who presided over the new year, and they then sacrificed to the double-faced god, who looked back upon the past at the same time that he scanned the future. They offered him a cake of sifted meal, with incense, salt and wine, and it was also a custom among them, for all who were engaged in art or trade, to do something in their calling on this day, that they might secure good fortune for the rest of the year. Even the poets composed a few lines for a similar purpose. All old grudges and ill humor were laid aside on this occasion, and an angry word was not allowed to pass their lips. Modern Christians might follow this example, and be the better for it.

In our religious calendar it is the octave of the Nativity, and came to be honored as such in the fourth century. At first, however, its observance was attended with fasting and humiliation, as an intended contrast to the revelry and freedom indulged in by the heathen. For seven centuries the New Year sermons of the Christian preachers, says a good authority, were of a severe and penitential character, and not till afterwards did they assume a more cheerful aspect, nor did the octave take its place with the regular holidays of the Church.

Among the Saxons, the day was honored at an early period with great merrymaking, and the custom still remains with their descendants. The English antiquarians have preserved full accounts of the manner in which it has been observed in their country; and they are curious and amusing. Presents, masques, music and drinking marked the return of the holiday. Brand extracts from an old author of 1570, a few lines which convey a correct idea of the manners prevalent on New Year's day at that period:—

The next to this is New Year's day,
Whereon to every friende
They costly presents in do bring,
And New Year's gifte do sende.
These gifte the husband gives his wife
And father one the childe,
And maister on his men bestowe
The like with favour milde;
And good beginning of the year
They wishe and wishe againe,
According to the ancient guise
Of heathen people vaine.
These eight days doth one require
His dooes of any man:
Their tables do they furnish out,
With all the meate they can;
with marchpaynes, tarts and custards great
They drink with staring eyne;
They rowte and revell, feede and feaste
As merry all as pyne—
As if they would at the entrance of
This new yeare ban to die;
Yet would they have their bellies full,
And ancient friende alle.

Until late in the last century, if the custom does not yet exist, the bells in London rang in the new year. In Scotland the children in many places go about from door to door, begging for bread and cheese, which they call nog-money, and they do so in the following manner:—

Get up, gude wife, and binno sweir,
And deal your cakes and cheese while you are here
For the time will come when ye'll be dead,
And neither need your cheese nor bread.

We, too, have our customs, such as they are, but are fast forgetting many of those which prevailed on New Year's day among the founders of this city, and in the other Dutch settlements of New York.

The day was always religiously observed, in part, a sermon being preached by the Dominie in the morning, in the Holland tongue and in a Geneva cloak; and the annual ordination of elders and deacons took place immediately afterwards with great solemnity. After the service, if on a week day, the visiting commenced among relations and friends. The clergyman, attended by his consistory, proceeded to the houses of the members of his congregation, particularly to those of the poor and pious brethren, to wish them the compliments of the season. These were expressed in terms which came smoothly enough from the lips of such as Romeyn or Livingston, but would break the jaw of the politest Yankee of our acquaintance:—

Ich wense u een goluksaigh Nieuwjaer
God's genadigun sogen den lichaem ende ziele.

The salutation being duly acknowledged, and its pious wishes reciprocated, a cake was presented to each of the visitors, one of a large size being always prepared for the Dominie. Wine was also offered, but partaken of slightly. These cakes were baked many days previously, the materials being sent to the baker's shop; they were well filled with caraway seed, and every family had large quantities of them ready for distribution. It was considered true politeness to accept a New Year's cake, and the consequence was, that what with large pockets and much civility, a gentleman carried away almost as many cakes as in his absence his wife had given away. The Dominies often had to walk home to get rid of their loads before they could finish their rounds.

Ladies did not visit each other on New Year's day; but as intimate friends, they frequently met together in the evening.

The day, however, was a genuine holiday for the children, the poor and the slaves. At daylight the ponderous knockers of the doors began their clamor, and crowds of urchins rushed up the stoops, exclaiming, "New Year!" "New Year!" To each of these was given a small cake, and in some wealthy families it was the custom to bestow coppers or pennies besides. This rush was all over at noon. The black servants then commenced their visits to the friends of their masters and mistresses, passing through the gates or cellar doors, and making their appearance in the parlor. They received cakes also, and usually a dram, and were merry enough before night. It was also customary for the young people of the better sort to drive out in the evening a short distance into the country, combining a sleigh ride, a supper and a ball. One very singular privilege was permitted the blacks, which old people still recall to mind—that of cock-fighting. At every corner groups of darkies might be seen betting on their favorite birds, adjusting their gaffs and watching their exploits in the ring. We have been told that as persons were returning from church they were often obliged to pass through crowds engaged in this amusement, the snow under their feet being crimsoned with the blood of the slain.

In the city of Albany it has been, for more than half a century, customary for the officers of the militia to turn out in uniform, and, preceded by a band of music, to call upon the heads of the State and city government, and their resident commanding officers. This adds great additional gaiety to the day. In our own city the giving of New Year's cakes, and the flocking of children to our doors for pennies, no longer prevail. But there is a tremendous rush of the population to make their annual visits. In the Reformed Dutch church there is still a morning service, but the Dominies remain at home and receive, instead of visiting, their friends. Shades of Megapolensis and Van Vlierden, what a change is here!

Now, horse flesh is dear for an hour, and punch as plenty as water. Oysters in thousands pass down the throats of the hungry, and champagne follows them in a foaming flood. Now hoops in the drawing room keep at a distance those visitors who would be happy to get nearer, and smiles and kind inquiries, and the last opera, and the last wedding, form the staple of the conversation. Off speeds Young America to the next place on his list (hundreds to be visited before night), with his clean kids and hair smoothed fast with bandoline, while the gray haired fathers move slowly round among the friends of their youth, to talk over old times, when they were clerks together, and slept in the store under the counter, and took their meals with their masters' families up stairs. "Glorious old times! Then a man's word was his bond, sir, and the Government House was down by the Bowling Green, and some of the shot of the Asia were sticking in the walls of the houses, and good old Bishop Moore was alive and Puseyites were scarce, and the pond in Canal street was not filled up, and there was excellent skating, on real Holland skates, and people sailed over to Breukelyne in pettiangars, and we bought our drinking water by the pailful, and it came from Jerolemus's tea water pump, and doctors knew something and their bills were moderate, and old Mrs. Glasse helped many children into the world, and they grew up healthy and economical, and there was only one bank in the city, and it was not every man that could get a discount. Glorious times those! No boards of brokers, no railroads to the moon, or iron cables laid across the ocean; no swindles, no insanity, and but few lawyers. No, no, indeed. But we had quite forgotten that we were taking up your time. Happy New Year to you all. Good morning."

To some of our readers the day may not be so joyful. Memories may cluster around these kalends which may not be welcome. We must use all our philosophy, and be as happy as we can. We all grow older. Who can help that? The French proverb is the best consolation we can offer those who regard New Year's day only as a milestone on life's journey:—

Nous avons tous les ans douze mois.

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

LAST MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF 1856—THE PRESIDENT'S FAREWELL ADDRESS.

The President, J. O. Barker, in the chair.

This Board met at 2 o'clock yesterday, for the purpose of passing upon the unfinished business of the session. Several unimportant papers were disposed of. The report of the committee concurring with the Councilmen, to advertise for a market site between Fourteenth and Fortieth streets was brought up and concurred in by a vote of 12 to 4.

PAPERS CONCURRED IN.

To furnish a new body to carriage of Hose Company 30; to refund $346 tax paid in error by Donn Hecker; to build a new house for Hose Company 58; to confirm sundry assessments for grading and sewering; to allow all hook and ladder companies ten additional men.

MOTION TO ADJOURN.

Alderman Tucker moved that further business be suspended by this Board: It would be to the interest of the city if they now adjourned.

This was lost by a vote of 11 to 7.

During the course of a long and uninteresting session there was nothing done but routine business: several ineffectual efforts were made to suspend the order of business, with a view to proceed to pay the usual compliment to the retiring President. The motion was on each occasion opposed without much apparent reason. At length Alderman Tucker renewed the motion to suspend business, which was a sin lost by a vote of 10 to 7.

COMPLIMENT TO D. T. VALENTINE, CLERK OF THE BOARD, HIS ASSISTANTS, AND THE REPORTERS OF THE PRESS.

Alderman Vermilye proposed the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:—

Resolved, That the thanks of this Board be tendered to David T. Valentine, Esq., Clerk; Jos. B. Young, Deputy; Reeves E. Seconds and Alfred Cooper, Assistant Clerks, for their faithfulness and uniform courtesy in the discharge of the duties of their respective positions. The marked gentlemanly deportment, affability and obliging disposition displayed by them on all occasions, entitle them to the confidence and esteem of the members of the Board. This Board also tender their thanks to all the other officers for their diligence and kindness, and gratefully acknowledge the many courtesies received from the reporters of the press generally.

COMPLIMENT TO THE PRESIDENT.

Alderman Hammond proposed that the thanks of the Board be tendered to the President (Mr. Barker), for his courtesy, &c., during the past year; and at the same time he took the opportunity of reading a funeral oration over the long since deceased member of the third ward, whose chair has been vacant for many months past. He then continued to read a homily on the duties of aldermen—those who were present and those who were to come.

The vote having been put by Mr. Valentine, the Clerk, was unanimously adopted.

The President then responded. He said:—Gentlemen of the Board of Aldermen—It is now one year since we were duly organized, and you then conferred upon me for a second term the honor of presiding over your deliberations, and conducting the proceedings of the Board. I received that renewed mark of your esteem and confidence with a determination to discharge the duties in a manner that I might merit your continued approbation. To us have been committed great and important trusts. The legislation required for the varied interests of this great commercial emporium have at your hands received a careful consideration. And it becomes me here to say that in all the discussions attendant thereupon, amid the differences of opinion, order and decorum has prevailed; and a desire has been manifested to arrive at such conclusions as would add to the general prosperity of our city and tend to the public good. To the Board—to each member thereof—I return my thanks for the complimentary resolutions adopted by you this evening, and I shall ever bear in mind the continued respect and courtesy shown to me individually, as well as in my official position. Gentlemen, we have been spared to separate in health; but the emblems of mourning which surround the chambers of this Board continually remind us of the vacant seat of one of our number. Of the late Alderman Samuel B. Moser I could say much that was good, generous and noble; but, at this time, and on this occasion, I need not say more than that he lived an honest man—"he has walked the path of life"—that each of you, who are permitted to walk on in that path, may enjoy many years of health, happiness and prosperity, is my most ardent wish. Gentlemen, I feel the pain of separation from you as members of the Board; and it is alike painful to me to separate myself officially from the much esteemed Clerk of the Common Council, with whom I have been so intimately connected in my official position for the past two years. Of his well known character as a gentleman, and as an able and efficient officer, I willingly add my testimony to the merited praise that has been bestowed on him. To him I return my thanks for the willing and courteous manner in which he aided and assisted me, and the members of this Board, in the performance of our several duties. May he be long spared in health and happiness. To his Deputy Clerk, Assistant Clerks, Sergeant at Arms, and other officers of this Board, I return my thanks for their attendance on me, as well as the members of the Board; and I here bear testimony to their faithful services—to their constant attention to their several duties. To our corps of reporters, I return them the thanks of this Board for the faithful and impartial manner in which they have reported the debates and proceedings of the Board; and it is with great pleasure that I can speak of their gentlemanly bearing and deportment, as well to me as to the other members of the Board. Gentlemen, the official term of this Board is now at an end; and in taking my final leave of you, it is with great satisfaction that I end my official term as presiding officer over a body where so much of good feeling and kind regards for each other have been shown. With the same sentiments for each of you, I now bid you a final adieu.

The Board then adjourned *sine die*.

BOARD OF COUNCILMEN.

TWO VETOES FROM THE MAYOR—ONE RELATIVE TO GRADING PEARL STREET AND THE OTHER ON THE TAX LEVY BILL FOR 1857.

The Board of Councilmen held its final session last evening—Benjamin F. Pinckney, Esq., President, in the chair.

The following communication from the Mayor returning the resolution to give the Street Commissioner power to employ a surveyor to make surveys of proposed new grades in Pearl street, was read:

MAYOR'S OFFICE, New York, Dec. 31, 1856.

TO THE HONORABLE THE BOARD OF COUNCILMEN—I return without approval the resolution to give the Street Commissioner power to employ a surveyor to make surveys of proposed new grades "in Pearl street, and all the streets that intersect the Bowery extension, and that the expense be taken from the appropriation for street openings." The enormous bills which that Department has recently allowed for the services of surveyors, in the matter of street improvements and repairs, render it, in my judgment, exceedingly impolitic to intrust it with such an unlimited discretion in that direction. In a recent case vetoed by me $75 a day was allowed for the services of a surveyor, who, according to the admission of the contractor since, was at the work four times, for a period of about one hour each, which is at the ratio of nearly twenty dollars an hour, or two hundred dollars per day. How much would be taken from the treasury under this resolution, at this rate, is fearful to contemplate.

FERNANDO WOOD, Mayor.

The reader then read the subjoined veto from Mayor Wood on the tax levy bill of 1857.

MAYOR'S OFFICE, NEW YORK, Dec. 31, 1856.

TO THE HONORABLE THE BOARD OF COUNCILMEN—I return herewith the ordinance to raise money by tax for the support of government for 1857—commonly known as the tax levy—without approval. My principal reason for this course is the omission by the Common Council to include a sum for the improvement of the Central Park and to pay the deficiencies to the employes for services rendered. I look upon this omission as tantamount to an abandonment of this great work, which, after a cost to the Corporation and to individuals of several million dollars in the purchase of the land, will be worse than folly. As I have stated upon another occasion, the park must be improved or the land sold, and one or the other should be done forthwith. The many reasons which naturally suggest themselves in opposition to the proposed abandonment of this park cannot be set forth in this communication for want of time, but will present themselves to every intelligent person not determined to keep this city within its present limit as to population and progress.

FERNANDO WOOD, Mayor.

Councilman Swan rose and said that he supposed this veto would take the usual course, but he wished to embrace that opportunity to remark that the object of excluding $2,000,000 from the tax levy bill was to prevent the mismanagement of the Central Park.

Councilman Gray, interrupting the speaker, asked for the veto to take the usual course.

Councilman Swan resumed his remarks—He said that the basis of the action of the Common Council was to prevent that park from getting into improper hands, and by reason of that fact a great many honest men connected with the government as employes, had been delayed in the reception of money which was due to them, and which could not be paid except upon an appropriation having been made. In conclusion, Mr. Swan said that upon the Mayor of New York rested the responsibility of not paying men that to which they were entitled for their labor, for the simple reason that he was determined to use his personal will, and override not only the action of the Common Council, but what was esteemed to be correct by nine tenths of the community who had paid attention to the subject.

The Board concurred with the Board of Aldermen in motion requesting the Union Ferry Company to return to the system of commutation.

Councilman Swan moved the following resolution, in a few appropriate remarks, saying that it expressed his honest conviction:—

Whereas, Benjamin F. Pinckney, Esq., has discharged the duties of presiding officer of this Board during the year 1856 with marked ability, thereby meriting the approval of the members thereof; therefore

Resolved, That the thanks of the Board of Councilmen be, and they are hereby rendered to Benjamin F. Pinckney, Esq., for the uniform promptitude, courtesy and courtesy which have so eminently characterized the discharge of his official duties as its presiding officer.

Councilmen Phillips, Taylor, Warner and others supported the motion in eloquent speeches.

It was adopted by every member except one—Councilman Waugh—who gave an emphatic "no."

BENJAMIN F. PINCKNEY, Esq., then rose and spoke as follows:—

Gentlemen of the Board of Councilmen—It seems as but yesterday that I entered upon my official duties as your presiding officer, so rapidly has time passed, and yet a year has glided away since first we became associated as members of this municipality. The very flattering expression which you have given me this evening in approving my course as your President is truly gratifying to my feelings—more so from the fact that very many of us differ in political sentiment. Although, upon some of the varied subjects brought before the Board we have entertained conflicting opinions, our associations have been of the most agreeable and pleasant nature. Less acrimony than usual has characterized the debates—less personalities have been indulged in—business has been completed and union and harmony have generally prevailed. This to me will be a pleasing remembrance. We met in a spirit of concord, we have associated together in a spirit of union, we part in a spirit of friendship. It is not probable that we shall ever meet again occupying the same relations. Some of you are to retire from public life, and I congratulate you, that you may enjoy domestic tranquillity and quiet from the busy strifes which ever surround members of a legislative body. To you, gentlemen, I extend my warmest thanks for your kindness, and the assistance you have so cheerfully rendered me while endeavoring to discharge my duties. The duties of a presiding officer are at all times onerous, and occasionally unpleasant. Believe me, gentlemen, I have conscientiously attempted to discharge them faithfully; and if at any time decisions have been rendered which appeared to effect your peculiar views—if errors have been committed—may I not ask in charity that they be not attributed to a disposition to partiality. To gentlemen retiring from the Board, I would say, may prosperity, health and happiness attend you, and may the respect to which, for a time, you have been comparatively strangers, be yours to enjoy. To you, gentlemen, who continue your official duties, who have received renewed expressions of confidence from your constituency, I beg you to observe the same candor and discretion in your future deliberations, that you may continue to merit and receive the approval of the community. Upon you rests great responsibility; discharge your duties faithfully, and the plaudits of the people are yours. The officers of the Board and representatives of the press are all entitled, and to them I tender my sincere thanks, for their uniform kindness and the alacrity with which they have so faithfully discharged the several duties devolving upon them. I trust they may be dealt with as was the faithful steward. Gentlemen, our associations are about dissolving. In retiring you all have my kindliest regard. The remembrance of our pleasing associations I shall ever cherish. May the smiles of a benign Providence ever guard us through the mazes of life and bring us to serene happiness above.

Resolutions thanking C. T. McClonachan, Clerk, the Deputy Clerks, the Sergeant at Arms, the Doctor and the Reporters, for the able manner in which they discharged their duties during the year, were unanimously adopted.

On motion the board adjourned *sine die*.

Councilman Swan, in the name of the Board, presented a gold watch and chain to C. T. McClonachan, Clerk, in a very neat speech.

After the Board adjourned, the members proceeded to Delmonico's, where a splendid supper was prepared. Toasts were drank and speeches were made till a late hour.

The Trial of Wm. S. Tuckerman at Boston.

[From the Boston Post, Dec. 23.]

This trial was resumed yesterday according to assignment.

Mr. Cooley, for government, stated that he had received notice from defence to prove the existence of the railroad corporation, previously admitted. He objected from the time required. The court ruled in favor of the proof.

John S. Barker, treasurer of the corporation, produced a check for $6,000 on the Merchants' Bank, and identified the signature of Tuckerman; June 27, 1856, the cash book had a record of receipt of $6,000 from the Kennebec Railroad Company, and the amount was afterwards charged to the Merchants' Bank; a charge of this sum was made to the account of Tuckerman on the 6th or 8th July; prior to that there was no such entry; the bank book came into possession of the witness on the 4th of July, and it was following the discovery of the record upon the bank book that led to a record of the charge. When Mr. Tuckerman made the entry he said "he took it, was sorry for it, but could not help it," he said, "I used it," but did not say for what; he was, and was much affected; there was nothing said to Mr. I before he made an entry of the charge; subsequently conversed with him about several transactions, embracing a number of items that did not appear upon the journal; asked him "why he done so?" calling his attention to a schedule of several items unaccounted for, among which was the matter of the $6,000; witness produced the schedule, showing an aggregate of $174,430. In reply to his question, he said, "I do not know—the devil must have got into me!" In this reply he alluded to the whole of his appropriations; at another time Tuckerman named sundry accounts which he said did actually stand as they appeared upon the books; the accounts were corrected by charging the defendant with the amount of the differences; these corrections were made in July.

B. H. Severance, bookkeeper at the Merchants' Bank, testified that $6,000 were drawn from the bank June 26, by Tuckerman, when a balance stood to the account of W. S. Tuckerman, as treasurer, of $1,012 20.

J. H. Parker, recalled.—Had a conversation with Tuckerman July 2, relative to a note payable to Jas. H. Paine; Tuckerman asking if it would be paid; told him he thought it would; at this he appeared to be much rejoiced; on the morning of the day on which the note was presented by Mr. Paine, Tuckerman again asked whether it would be paid; when Mr. Paine presented the note for payment, referred him to Mr. Hooper; the note was paid by a new note having sixty days to mature; when Tuckerman was informed that the note was paid his countenance brightened up, and he appeared much rejoiced; the note was shown and identified; on the 5th July received account of the Merchants' Bank, and compared it with the balance on the company's book, when the discrepancy was noted and corrected. Tuckerman resigned his office 28th June, but was present for some time, making corrections of his books after his resignation; he had served as treasurer during nine years and eleven months.

The government, in course of examination of the witness, put certain questions in relation to alleged fraudulent issue of stock by prisoner in 1846, but the court conceiving that the matter was too remote in its character to show the intent to defraud, which would operate on the case on trial, ruled that such testimony was inadmissible.

Two certificates of payments made to Tuckerman, and not accounted for on his books, were ruled out of evidence, for the reason that they referred to transactions having no direct bearing on the case.

James H. Abbott testified to a transaction to the amount of $3,457 51 with Tuckerman, the matter now being at issue in law between witness and the Eastern Railroad Company.

Samuel Hooper was called to testify to confessions of Tuckerman.

Mr. Choate objected, unless the evidence of inducement to the confession was allowed to be put in. The court ruled that it might.

Mr. Hooper testified that Mr. Reed came to him with Tuckerman, and urged him to tell the whole story, that he might interpose to prevent his arrest; interrupted Mr. Reed, telling him that as one of the directors only he had no power to interfere. Tuckerman was excited, and for half an hour sat wringing his hands and declining to make confessions; said little to him, but assured him that he would do whatever was in his power, and what he had a right to do; upon his stating that he had the data, told him to write out the account, and if it proved to be correct, would do what he could for him; if correct, the directors would be more lenient, but could make no promises.

The question in relation to the language, its effect and meaning, was put to the witness in a great variety of forms, sometimes objected to, and ruled out, but generally answered in the language that he "would do whatever was in his power and had a right to do."

This language and its effect was made a subject of argument by Mr. Bolles for defence, and by Mr. Cooley for government, the first contending that it was the nature of an inducement to confess, holding out all that a prudent man could do, without subjecting himself to a charge of compounding a felony, and Mr. Cooley contending as earnestly that Mr. Hooper designed no such thing, as evidenced by his language, that he could make no promises.

At this stage of the case the court adjourned.

POSTSCRIPT.

THURSDAY—THREE O'CLOCK A. M.

ARRIVAL OF THE NIAGARA.

THREE DAYS LATER FROM EUROPE.

OPPOSITION TO THE WAR WITH PERSIA.

Reduction of the Rate of Interest by the Bank of England.

Consols for Account, 94 a 94 1-8.

IMPROVEMENT IN COTTON—BREADSTUFFS QUIET, &c., &c., &c.

HALIFAX, Jan. 1, 1857.

The royal mail steamship Niagara, from Liverpool at 3 P. M. on Saturday the 20th ult., arrived here last night at 11:30 P. M. Her dates are three days later than those received by the Felton at New York.

The steamship Niagara sailed from here at two o'clock this morning, with a light easterly wind for Boston, where she will be due on Friday evening. Weather cloudy.

The Niagara passed the American ships Mehomet, Stephen Crowell and Plutarch going into Liverpool. Dec. 26, lat. 51, lon. 28, passed steamship Arabia, bound East.

The Collins steamship Pricsson arrived at Liverpool on Friday evening, Dec. 19.

The ship Dreadnought arrived at Liverpool also on the 19th ult., bringing one day later news.

The steamer Persia arrived in the Mersey at 7 o'clock on the morning of the 20th of December. The greatest speed that she attained on her passage was 259 miles in twenty-four hours.

A steamer had arrived from the wrecked ship Adriatic, and reported that should the weather keep moderate there was every sign of the ship coming off without much damage.

THE CONGRESS OF PARIS.

It was still supposed that the Congress of Paris would assemble before the new year, but nothing official had been stated. Count Walewski, it is said, proposes that some compensation should be given to Russia for the loss of Bolgrad, and Russia proposes to accept a piece of land between the River Tulpuk and one of its tributaries. A Paris despatch says that Austria is the only Power that has not yet named a representative to the Congress, that Baron Hubner will probably represent Austria and Baron Bruno Russia.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Transports are being taken up in England for reinforcements to the Indian expedition against Persia. Eight regiments have orders to be in readiness.

Captain Hartstein and the officers and crew of the Resolute are to return home in a British ship. From want of time they had to decline invitations to dine with the Geographical society and other public bodies. Three thousand persons visited the Resolute after the Queen left. The Queen sent £100 to be distributed among the crew.

A great meeting had been held at Birmingham to protest against the continuance of the war income tax.

Resolutions were passed that the law in its present form is unjust, oppressive, degrading, and not to be tolerated by a free people. The movement is spreading to other parts of the country.

FRANCE.

An editorial in the *Moniteur* on the Neufchatel affair had attracted considerable attention. It speaks in harsh terms respecting Switzerland.

The Prince of Prussia, presently at Paris, is the bearer of an autograph invitation to the Emperor Napoleon to visit Berlin in the spring. It is said the Emperor has accepted the invitation.

A deputation of Moldo-Wallachian Boyards in Paris have presented addresses to the Emperor in favor of a union of the Principalities.

Several of the French papers are advocating the establishment of a government line of steamers. The *Gazette* follows the present state of the money market is the sole barrier. The *Nord* proposes a government subsidy to the existing transatlantic steamers, and adds that government is about to consider the question of a transatlantic line—a question that has been adjourned so often, and which catastrophes, such as the loss of the steamer Pacific, the City of Philadelphia and the Lyonnais, render more than ever indispensable.

SPAIN.

Madrid advices are to the 15th of December.

The Madrid *Gazette* contains an article appointing M. Mon Ambassador to the Court of Rome.

GERMANY.

A Berlin letter states that the Prussian note relative to Neufchatel would be send to the Germanic Diet on the 18th of December.

PRUSSIA.

Prussia is making great preparations to move against Switzerland. Considerably more than two army corps, as at first intended, will be mobilized for immediate service.

SWITZERLAND.

A Paris despatch says a friendly Power (not named) is understood to have suggested that Switzerland should be required to accede to Prussia's demand for the release of the Neufchatel prisoners by a collective note from the Powers which signed the protocol of London. This would enable Switzerland to make an honorable retreat.

ITALY.

A Sardinian loan of sixty million lires is talked of.

A *Te Deum* was celebrated at Milan for the escape of the King of Naples from assassination. The Austrian Archdukes and all the officers were present.

NAPLES.

Correspondence from Naples contains an account of the trial and last moments of Milano. When asked how long he had contemplated this act, he replied, "Ever since the King perjured himself." On the scaffold his demeanor firm. The soldiers of his battalion were deeply moved, and some of them wept. Some of the English residents at Naples have presented a letter of congratulation to the King.

AUSTRIA.

The state of public feeling is reported to be so bad in Hungary, that the Austrian heads of departments are to meet in consultation on the subject.

PERSIA.

The death of the Shah's young son prevented a six days' rejoicing which was to have been held at Teheran, on account of the fall of Herat. The British citizens in Teheran are placed under the protection of the Turkish embassy.

THE LATEST.

The failure of Robert Johnson & Co., warehousemen, London, and George Ashworth & Co., manufacturers, Manchester, is announced. The liabilities of the latter are about £100,000.

The fall of Herat, from Persian sources, is confirmed. Accounts show the defence to have been bravely sustained. The city was only given up when all hopes of defending it successfully had disappeared. In England a strong feeling got up, tending to the war with Persia, arising out of this siege. A meeting had been held at Newcastle upon-Tyne to denounce the piratical expedition against Persia, and on Friday night bills were posted about London warning soldiers against taking part in the "piratical invasion of Persia."

Sicily is reported tranquil. Baron Bentivenga is a prisoner in the hands of the royal authorities. Many other persons have been captured, and arrive every day in Palermo.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

LONDON MONEY MARKET.

The money market had become decidedly easier, and the Bank of England had reduced its rates to 6 per cent. The bullion in the bank had increased during the week to the extent of £316,000. Consols for money were shut, on account of the approaching dividend payment. For account they closed on Saturday afternoon, 20th, at 94 a 94⅝.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

Messrs. Baring Brothers report the market for American securities generally unchanged. The chief business transacted being in Illinois Central RR. bonds, of which Freeland's were selling at 99 a 101, and shares at 14 a 15⅝ premium. United States Sixes of 1868 held for 107. Canada Sixes, 113½ a 114.

LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

The Brokers Circular reports an improved demand for cotton, at an advance of 1s. 6d. per lb., principally on the lower qualities. Fair and middling qualities were stiffer, but not quotably higher. The week's business amounted to 66,800 bales, of which speculators took 9,700 and exporter 3,400. The sales of Friday were 12,000 bales, including 8,000 on speculation and for export, the market closing firm and active at the following quotations:—

Fair Orleans	7⅝	Middling	6⅞
Middling	7	Fair Uplands	7⅛
Fair Mobiles	7⅛	Middling	6⅞

The stock on hand was estimated at 347,000 bales, of which 210,000 were American.

LIVERPOOL BREADSTUFFS MARKET.

The broker's circular reports breadstuffs generally depressed. Wheat about 2d. lower per bushel on the week. Flour, little inquiry and prices weak, at a decline of 6d. a 1s. Corn dull, and 6d lower. Messrs. Richardson, Spence & Co. quote as follows:—Red wheat, 8s. a 8s 9d.; white, 9s. a 9s. 1; Western canal flour, 30s 6d. a 31s od.; Baltimore and Philadelphia, 31s. a 32s. 6; Ohio, 34s. a 35s.; mixed corn 32s. 6d; yellow, 32s. 9d; white, 34s.

LIVERPOOL PROVISION MARKET.

Messrs. Richardson, Spence & Co. report beef and pork very dull. Bacon heavy. Lard trifling, sales and quotations nominal at 62s. Tallow steady, sales at 69s. 6d. a 69s 9d.

LIVERPOOL PRODUCE MARKET.

The Broker's Circular reports common rosin slightly easier, but quotations unchanged; the sales of the week 4,000 bbls. at 4s. 6d. a 4s. 7d. and 4s. 9d a 4s. for a better quality, and 7s a 8s for medium; fine rosin selling at 10s. a 10s. 6d. Nothing doing in turpentine or tar. Ashes quiet and unchanged, pots 47s. a 49s., pearls 59s. a 60s. Quercitron bark steady. Palm oil selling at £42 10s. a £43. Olive oil active, with an advancing tendency. Gallipoli quoted at £57, and Spanish £55 a £56. Lisbon £66 a £68 5s. Dyewoods unchanged, except for logwood, which was slightly cheaper. Saltpetre, 1,000 bags, sold at reduced quotation. Cod oil a large home demand, at £43. Sperm oil quiet and unchanged. Spirits of turpentine small sales at 40s. a 42s. Tea in improved demand, and large sales making at former rates. Sugar quiet and slightly cheaper. Nothing doing in molasses. Coffee—a limited business at previous rates. Rice steady.

LONDON MARKETS.

Messrs. Baring Bros. & Co., report an active demand for Welsh iron, at £7 15s. a £8 for bars, Scotch pig selling at 72s. 6d. a 75s. Sugar slightly lower. Coffee steady. Breadstuffs very dull.

THE LATEST MARKETS.

LIVERPOOL, Saturday, Dec. 20—2 P. M.

The Persia's news caused an advance in cotton of 1-16 a ⅛d. The business to-day is estimated at as much as 20,000 bales, of which speculators took 10,000. The market closed with an active demand. Breadstuffs quiet and generally unchanged. Provisions also are unaltered.

PASSENGERS PER NIAGARA.

Mr Haigh, lady and child, Mr Ball and son, Messrs. Murray, Robinson, Morrison, Holbert, Chadburn, Gordon, Growcr, Bacamann, Soar, Frais, Long, Doane, Hawaugh, Barry, Lowell, Culkins, Clark, Degroff, Dyson, Lee, Heatwood, Dill, and Burrows.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

Arrived from New York, 11th December, Constellation and Constantine, at Liverpool; Messenger and Rocklight, at Gravesend; 13th Dec, Simson, Allen, Austin, America and Dreadnought, at Liverpool; Marsden's Vineyard, in the Clyde; 17th, Windsor Flower, Liverpool, from the Clyde; 20th, Thornton, at Liverpool.

Arr from Philadelphia, 15th Dec, Saranac, at Liverpool.

Arr from Baltimore, 17th Dec, Ann S. Hooper, at Liverpool.

Arr from Charleston, 18th Dec, Yemassee, at Liverpool.

Arr from New Orleans, 16th Dec, Minnesota and Marathon, at Queenstown; 17th, J P Morse, at Liverpool, 19th, Governor, do.

Arr from Mobile 15th Dec, May Queen, at Liverpool.

Sld for New York 17th Dec, Agnes Leeds from the Clyde.

Sld for Boston 17th Dec, Majestic, from Liverpool.

Sld for Savannah 17th Dec, Gainsborough, from Liverpool.

Sld for New Orleans 17th Dec, Cambria, from Liverpool; 18th, Kennebec, from do.

Personal Intelligence.

Gov. King, with Mrs. King and Mr. Seaman, his private Secretary, arrived in Albany on Monday, and are stopping temporarily at Congress Hall.

ARRIVALS.

From Havre, by steamship Fulton—J B Sanderson, bearer of despatches from France; T Sherrer and lady, J D Hicks, Dr Cooley, L Gillet, Des Cover, G W Thorp, L Fiat and lady, Miss M Bacon, J Grant and lady, Miss N Lether, Miles Lether, G Pat Jesus, Capt F Fiske and lady, A and E Korell, Miss J Cover, Miss M Lambert, Miss Lerse, C P Wetmore, lady, child and servant, G S Weyle and lady, H Harbeck, Charles Machange, Herman Mohring, Carl Winkleman, P a Kitchen, J G Hamm, samuel Ward, C Parlita, Mlle Fanna Foward, Miss G Fuller and three children, C Porta, C Seymour, J Hunneman, J Allfeet, J Leal, P Kunzel and lady, Mr. Ravenel and daughter, H Merrifield and lady, Miss C Loverdal and two children, C Zanadin and lady, C Kisler, G W Higgins, P Hopkin, lady and two children, C Gaunet, C Dubois, Gust Fourame, V Girard, C Lecler, F Newman, G Kaest, A Huber, F Kessl, L G Comeau, Clement Duncan, Jean and Alex Webber, John Howard, F Walker, J M Fowler, W H Robertson, Miss A Robertson, J H Robertson and lady, G Kellner, C Kassin, M Stallwinkel, H Perner, H Schelter and lady, G Matney, James Barns and lady, G Selle, H Schowerre, J C Steiner, H Grosn, J H Wills, L Valentin, A Lancourte, S Dominick, O Nouhert, T Schmidt, A Jorymski, A Noel, Mlle Rose Girous, Mlle Julie Salin, C Gerard, Madame Hoelhalb, Master A Mattie Hoelhalb, H Dorenhardt, J Wendenger, Dan Krimpp, J Hinkinayer, J Hancock lady & child, J Beaumont, H Le Meyer, W Schellenberg, Peter Marchand, Steve Comeau, T Chacco, J D Tartellini, P F Richards, Henry Graham, L Rosenstein.—Total, 130.

The New Texas Line of Steamers—Vanderbilt to the South.

[From the New Orleans Delta, Dec. 24.]

We published yesterday the fact that the steamship Daniel Webster sailed from New York for New Orleans on the 20th inst., and would arrive here about the 27th. The Webster is the pioneer of the Vanderbilt line between New Orleans and Texas, via Berwick's Bay, and we are informed by W. C. Templeton, agent of Mr. Vanderbilt, that she will leave New Orleans for Galveston and Matagorda on the 31st inst., and thereafter will run in connection with the Opelousas Railroad from Berwick's Bay. We also learn that the two new steamers now building for this trade may be certainly expected by the middle of February next, when there will be a complete and regular line, which will enable passengers to leave New Orleans at 8 o'clock in the morning, and pass the bar at Galveston the next morning at daylight, thus saving at least twenty-four hours in time, and one hundred and fifty miles of sea travel.

All this looks like work in real earnest, and promises practical results, the value of which, to this city and Texas, can scarcely be over-estimated; and it proves, moreover, the justice of all we have said, during the last three months, of Vanderbilt, as an earnest, vigorous and enterprising owner, builder, and manager of steamships.

We feel assured that our merchants, and all who feel identified by residence or interest with the fortunes of our city, will not fail to give an earnest support to the earnest work of Mr. Vanderbilt, in all steamship enterprise that makes New Orleans its base of operations. The citizens of Texas are fully alive to the importance of the new line just mentioned. A merchant correspondent from Indianola writes us—"We here, and all the merchants in Texas, say 'God speed the enterprise.'" He says further:—

"The merchants and the planters in the interior of Texas want competition in steamships. All cry out for it. Why should monopoly be tolerated in these progressive times? And to better commerce with monopoly is to annihilate it. It will require just such a man as Vanderbilt to give us this competition and the steamship facilities we want. The increasing trade of our State requires more steamships and is sufficient to support another line, larger than the one we have at present. As it is freights are often detained months for want of transportation to New Orleans, and the tendency is to divert them to Northern ports.

"The spirit of the times is down with monopoly, and free trade and ample facilities for carrying it on is the watchword, and these we are determined to have.

"Hurrah for the Vanderbilt line!"

Legal Intelligence.

CALENDAR OF THE COURT