etter, which I write hastily; I shall remain here to-morrow, and even until Pekin is occupied by force or otherwise, and I shall then have the honor of sending you a full official report. I remain, &c., MONTAUBAN.

FRANCE.

Two significant articles had appeared in the *Constitutionnel*, from the pen of M. Granigniillot, relative to Austria and Venetia. In these articles it is covertly intimated that Austria must consent to sell Venetia, or be prepared for a new war in the spring. It is also asserted that France will never suffer the return to an offensive policy by Austria in Lombardy.

A new expedition of 2,400 men was ready to start for Cochin China.

M. de Lamartine's paternal estate of Milly had at length been sold.

The Paris Bourse was dull and lower. Rentes on the 21st declined ¼, closing at 68.40.

ITALY.

The Paris *Patrie* states that the negotiations for the evacuation of Gaeta having failed, the bombardment was to recommence on the 19th December. When the steamer sailed, however, there was no news of such recommencement.

Fresh despatches had been sent from France to the French Admiral on the Neapolitan station, and they were presumed to contain orders to withdraw unless Francis the Second desisted from the hopeless defence of Gaeta.

It was reported at Naples on the 21st that a secret correspondence between a member of the clergy and Gaeta had been discovered.

AUSTRIA.

The war party at Vienna is said to have become very violent, and M. Schmerling had been obliged to threaten to resign in order to keep them within bounds.

The troops in Hungary were stationed in every part of the country in small detachments, so as to be able to form flying columns in all directions.

Count Ladislaus Teleki, the Hungarian refugee, arrived at Dresden with a false English passport, and was arrested and given up to Austria.

SYRIA.

It was reported at Paris that the French ambassador at Constantinople was on the point of concluding an agreement, in virtue of which the French army in Syria would prolong its occupation for six months beyond the time originally agreed upon.

The Paris correspondent of the London *Daily News* says France certainly will not withdraw her troops from Syria at the end of the six months named in the convention, and will as certainly keep them there after the proposed extended period.

The English Press on the President's Message.

[From the London Chronicle, Dec. 19.]

The President's Message, as we have it now at full length, is a very serious paper on a very grave question. The President looks the danger to the Union full in the face, and gives his opinions plainly and without reserve. We may differ from President Buchanan as to the advisability of the compromise he suggests, but he has the merit of speaking boldly on a question which other Presidents were only too glad to be allowed to ignore; and his Message offers, in its entirety, the basis of a thorough consideration of the whole question. The part of the Message which discusses the abstract question of secession in the light of the law, carries out the practical estimate of the constitution at which all calm observers in this country or in America had arrived.

The reference to Cuba in the Message is subdued, compared with the tone of the too notorious Ostend manifesto. We have a recommendation to purchase the island again made. We are certainly surprised that a Message, which has throughout passages of pious aspiration and religious fervor, should in this section follow up the old hints as to forcing a sale with the reiterated advice to the American people to acquire the island. Does President Buchanan consider that the organ of acquisitiveness is imperfectly developed in the people of the United States, that again and again he places before them the tempting picture of the possible acquisition of Cuba? But can the President plead any excuse sufficient to satisfy any man of common sense that the desire of the Americans to possess the Queen of the Antilles is legitimate? In Cuba the Americans would be a foreign race. Cuba is Spanish; the language of the people is Spanish; the aspirations of the people have sometimes tended towards independence, but never towards annexation to America; and the United States ruling the island would be as much foreigners lording it over a protesting people as the Austrians in Lombardy or Venice. It would be possibly a material advantage to the States to possess Cuba—though even that is doubtful, as the extension of territory hitherto effected have tended to endanger the Union rather than to increase its prosperity; but we have yet to learn that the mere lust of land can form, now-a-days, an excuse for aggression, or a justification for the constant threat held over a friendly State, and implied in the reiterated expression of covetousness for a neighbor's goods.

One plea put forward by the President as to Cuba carries us into another question. He says that its annexation to the United States would "prove the certain means of immediately abolishing the African slave trade throughout the world." This claim of the United States to the credit of hostility to the slave trade in Cuba is scarcely borne out by the facts. *We all know that nineteen-twentieths of the ships engaged in this vile traffic are American ships, with American crews.* We know that when our cruisers on the African coast endeavor with all earnestness to prevent this disgrace to the American flag, the government of the United States, and the laws of the United States, by their laxity in indicating the grounds for the conviction of slavers, have thrown all kinds of difficulties in our way. We are further reminded of this action of the United States government, by President Buchanan's congratulation that we have given up the right of searching merchant ships. *The so-called "right" was never justified by us in point of strict international law; but in practice, when a race of pirates—for such slave traders are—used habitually the American flag, it followed that in searching for pirates we may have sometimes annoyed honest men.* But if this annoyance has proceeded from a pardonable mistake, arising from fair grounds for suspicion, it only shows insincerity in the professed wish to put down the slave trade piracy, when the nation so professing makes these natural mistakes a ground for international hostility. Were the case reversed—were American cruisers so to excel us in activity that English ships, suspected on fair grounds of slave trading, were often overhauled by smart Yankee cruisers—does any one believe that the English government would dream of raising petty objections to such vigorous measures in a good cause? Efficient cruising of our ships off the coast of Cuba is really the very best way of putting down the trade—for Cuba is now the only part of the world where slaves are allowed to land—but this efficient cruising was frustrated by the United States. England offered to allow a United States naval officer to live as a guest on board each English cruiser, so that a suspected American ship might be boarded by an American officer, so that all "just susceptibilities" might thus be appeased; but the United States government refused this rational compromise. Possibly that government is not unwilling that Spain should continue to sin in Cuba, that it may have the opportunity of promising a better course on gaining possession of the island. But these promises ought surely to be backed by something more real than words

[From the London Post, Dec. 20.]

The compromise into which Mr. Buchanan is evidently desirous of forcing the Northern States in reality resolves itself into three propositions, all of which have equally for their object the permanent recognition and the gradual extension of slavery. * * *We believe that the Union, so far as the North is concerned, is not worth the price which the outgoing President, in the spirit of a partisan, not of a statesman, is desirous of exacting.* But there is another paragraph contained in Mr. Buchanan's Message which reveals even more clearly and explicitly the sympathies of the head of the American Executive with the Southern States. The author of the celebrated Ostend manifesto, consistent in this one respect, recommends the purchase of Cuba on the ground that "such an acquisition would contribute essentially to the well being and prosperity of the two countries in all future time, as well as prove the certain means of immediately abolishing the African slave trade throughout the world." What security does Mr. Buchanan offer that Cuba, when annexed to the Union, will not become not only a slaveholding but a slave importing State? *The Message of a retiring President may command little attention or respect even in America. In this country, where the sympathies of the people are entirely against slavery, it will be regarded with well merited contempt and disfavor.* It recommends a course of compromise which will not bring back South Carolina to the Union, though it outrages and insults the people of the North, and must place the new President in a position of serious, if not insuperable, embarrassment. We have no desire to see a dissolution of the Union; but if this event should happen, the South, then left to itself, may have occasion bitterly to lament the day when the head of the Executive government fomented and patronized treason, and preached those revolutionary doctrines which now appear destined to produce an abundant harvest of woes and disasters. The fault, however, rests not so much with Mr. Buchanan as with the system of government. What, we may ask, will Mr. Bright say of that republic which is his standing exemplar of excellence when he finds that a President, at the very end of his official career, announces a policy which altogether and wilfully ignores and disregards the freedom of the North, in the foolish and vain hope of appeasing the tyranny and selfishness of the Southern States? We admit the difficulties which Lincoln has to encounter, but we hope that he will have the courage and the patriotism to avoid the weak and vacillating policy which has marked the official life of his predecessor

The Reason for Ordering a British Fleet to the Gulf of Mexico.

[From the London Times, Dec. 21.]

The "affairs of Mexico" are approaching a crisis. We entreat the reader not to be deterred by this introduction from the perusal of our story. We know how uninviting the topic will be thought, and how profoundly unintelligible Mexican politics must appear to the British public. Nevertheless, what we are now going to relate is well worth reading, and it shall be presented in as perspicuous a form as such matter will admit. Besides, we have actually a substantial interest in these affairs, though it is very hard to realize; and we have a representative at the Mexican capital, though he has been obliged to run away, and we recognize a Mexican government, though we don't know where it is. Inorganic and shadowy as is the constitution of this remarkable State, the strongest Power in Europe would certainly never have ventured to indulge itself in such liberties at our expense as have been taken by this phantom government.

The British people, we regret to say, have lent the Mexicans out of their private purse the sum of £10,241,650 on bonds. Of course, the magnitude of the interest was to be inversely as that of the security, and therefore considerable; but about ten years ago the Mexicans suggested an "arrangement," by which the security was to be greatly improved and the interest proportionately diminished. In short, the bondholders were induced to take three per cent, the mere product of consols, on the condition that punctuality of payment should be absolutely guaranteed by a mortgage on the customs. How faithfully this stipulation was fulfilled will be understood when we observe that an arrear of exactly fourteen half yearly dividends will have accrued in January next upon this eligible stock, and the prospect of an instalment is in no wise improved by the little incident to be presently narrated. However, for about three years or so the interest thus modified was actually forthcoming, but in 1854 the remittances altogether ceased, and Mexican stock became wholly unproductive. By way of looking after British property, her Majesty's sloop Basilisk paid a visit, in the year 1857, to the ports of Vera Cruz and Tampico, and the sight of the Union Jack did undoubtedly produce an effect. The Mexican authorities, indeed, obeyed our requisitions in the matter, but unluckily the affairs of the country had then assumed so extraordinary a complexion that the concession was of no practical use.

If the factions by which Mexico is distracted are to be credited with any principles or purposes at all, we may perhaps say that there is a constitutional party and an ecclesiastical party. The constitutional party professes the doctrines of liberalism, and is assumed to adhere to a republican charter promulgated at one of the few intervals of comparative order by which the chronic anarchy of the country has been relieved. Under this charter, or some modification of it, a popular leader named Juarez claims to be President of the State, and has preserved his title, though he could not enforce it for some time past. The ecclesiastical party professes also to recognise a republican constitution as that of the Mexican State, but it appeals to an earlier charter, and is notoriously inclined to maxims of absolutism in practical administration. Its distinctive principle, however, and that which has preserved its vitality, is this—that, whereas the constitutionalists are for secularizing church property, and converting the enormous revenues of the old Spanish establishment to national uses, the church party, as partisans of the hierarchy, would protect ecclesiastical possessions from any such invasion. This principle, of course, secures them the support of the priests, and probably the sympathies of Spain, and to such aids they owe what has hitherto proved the invincible strength of their position. Before a resolute exertion of popular will they must inevitably have succumbed, but against the loose half-organized party of the liberals they fairly held their own. Perhaps, on the whole, we may say that they kept the ascendancy, for they had the military as well as the ecclesiastical authorities with them, and in a country where all political society had been dissolved the least element of cohesion told with decisive effect.

It happened, however, that when the Basilisk showed herself in Mexican waters the chief seaports were in the hands of Juarez and the constitutionalists, though the capital and the adjacent provinces were still subject to the church party, under the governance or presidency of their leader, General Miramon. Now, Miramon, as holding the capital, or as having been in office before Juarez, and never having been dispossessed, or in virtue of some other preferential claim, was thought by all foreign States except America to be the *de facto* ruler of Mexico, and it was to him, and not to Juarez, that the diplomatic body was accredited. Him, however, the Basilisk could not reach. The only ruler within range of her guns was Juarez, and, though he was called to account, since nothing better could be done, the division of means rendered a settlement impossible. Juarez, as reigning in the seaports, had, of course, the control of the customs' duties, and could give effect to the mortgage. But he could only do this on paper, for, as he alleged with perfect truth, there was not enough specie in all Vera Cruz to liquidate the debt due to the bondholders. All the hard money was in Mexico, and the utmost that he could do was to give bills upon Mexico, which might there be converted into cash. This he did, and they were converted accordingly; but there still remained an obstacle more serious than any. How was this cash to be brought from Mexico to Vera Cruz for shipment to England? If sent down under escort, it would undoubtedly be stolen on the road, and probably by government officers. It might be insured, no doubt, but only at so enormous a premium as to make the bargain ruinous. So, from the sheer impossibility of moving it, it was kept at Mexico in store, being placed in a strong room used by the British Minister, sealed with his seal, and protected by his representative authority.

Now comes the catastrophe of the tale.—A few weeks ago the British Minister conceived that affairs were really going too fast even for Mexico. Even at that place a man "must draw the line somewhere," and the point of demarcation had been reached. Self-respect compelled him to withdraw, and he retired to Jalapa, leaving the bondholders' dollars still under seal in his strong room, and consigned to the guardianship of the British Consul. No sooner was his back turned than the officers of government marched straight to the spot, broke open the strong room with saws and crowbars, and stole the money. Never was a "root" more successful. The "swag" is said to have been close upon $1,000,000, all in hard coin, and was, no doubt, extremely welcome. The proceeding appears to have been regarded as rather strong even in Mexico, for all the diplomatists who remained joined the British Consul in his protest; but protests were of no kind of use, and the dollars were carried off.

We hope the reader will now think that our introductory remarks have been justified, that the affairs of Mexico are really approaching a crisis, and that the narrative of facts has been not unworthy of perusal. We can bear a good deal in the matter of foreign obligations. We have been accustomed to various "transactions" and "operations of State," which, honestly interpreted, were, perhaps, as downright acts of robbery as that just committed at Mexico. Still there is a difference between actual stealing and refusing to pay, and though we allow governments to persist in repudiating their debts, we cannot submit to be robbed of property actually in hand. The money thus stolen would have paid the Mexican bondholders one half-yearly dividend out of the fourteen that are due, and now that very moderate instalment has gone the way of the rest. This outrage passes the limits of all forbearance. In international quarrels weakness is often strength, but no weakness or strength either can dictate submission to such treatment as this. If ample redress as well as prompt restitution be not forthwith secured, we shall forfeit all claims to respect and consideration on the part of foreign States.

Austria and Venetia.

Under the above title, the *Constitutionnel* has an article bearing the important signature of M. Granigniillot, which, being designated as "No. 1," is of course to be followed by one or more that will furnish a reply to the writer's pregnant and concluding question, "*Mais après?*"

In the commencement M. Granigniillot observes, as a remarkable fact, that at the present moment the journals of Turin, Vienna, Berlin, St. Petersburg, Paris and London, are all more or less occupied in devising a solution for the difficulty which Venetia presents. Men do not, he remarks, venture so eagerly, nor to say rashly, on the discussion of a question not particularly concerning their own nation, unless when urged on by a sort of instinctive apprehension that a decisive crisis is on the point of taking place. He then proceeds:—

We are certainly among those who bow before public opinion, and never slight the warnings it gives; but, under present circumstances, it is impossible for us to comprehend the cause of its exaggerated alarms. We are convinced, for our part, that the wisdom of the governments, in default of the wisdom of the peoples, will find means of preventing the renewal of a struggle henceforth without object. Yes, the situation of Austria in Venetia is deplorable; but it is precisely the excess of the evil that leads us to anticipate its settlement. At Venice anything is possible now, except what is. When things have arrived at that point, however appearances may threaten war, a solution is brought about in some unexpected, and nearly always peaceful, manner. Armies and fleets can do nothing; the long experience of the house of Austria must have taught it this long ago. If the Hapsburgs knew how provinces are gained, they also know how they are lost; and we should not be inclined to believe those who might tell us that Austria's last chances of retaining Venetia have not been pretty accurately estimated at Schœnbrunn.

Let us not be mistaken as to the precise bearing of what we have just said. We do not wish to speak of Austria but with deference and respect. We have been her opponents too long, even in our own columns, not to hold her in high esteem. Still, recently honesty made us our duty to exalt the moral courage of the young Emperor, who shrank not from the task, immediately after Solferino—a task more arduous than might be supposed—of inaugurating an entirely new policy. We have not denied that the decree of the 20th of October was an act of well meant initiative; and though those able concessions have not been followed by the results that might have been expected from them, it would be unjust to conclude that they were valueless. At the utmost it may be objected that they were much too late. The empire, not completely settled down into the traditions of a federal monarchy, has not found its base, and has been said with justice "to be vibrating in a circle of fire." M. de Schmerling, whose nomination would have had a significance eight months ago, is now gone by. Gallicia is petitioning. Hungary is in agitation, and Venice is in expectation. We know, too, what she is expecting. What will Austria do, or, rather, what can she do?

It is in Venetia especially that the Apostolic government, wanting boldness and resolution, has been guilty of the sin of sluggishness. Since Villafranca, Austria seems to have comprehended nothing, decided nothing, effected nothing. Sardinia, yielding to the exigencies of a situation which we need not here discuss, first eluded the stipulations of the treaty of Zurich, and, at a subsequent period, openly violated them. What, in such a conjuncture, ought to have been the attitude of Austria? Her line of conduct was plainly traced out. She had only to show herself all the more faithful to her word, because the Court of Turin had proved herself less so. She ought to have scrupulously executed all her promises, precisely because her adversary had not done so; and then, but then only, she might have appealed to public opinion and to the good faith of the conqueror of Solferino. Far from acting in that manner, Austria adopted an undignified and profitless course of proceeding. She successively took note of all the rash acts and transgressions of Piedmont, and denounced them to European diplomacy, giving them abundant cause for the inference that she would not be so very much displeased with this infringement of the treaty, provided the principle were admitted that the breach of the stipulations by one of the contracting parties would justify similar conduct on the part of the other two. So that at last, she, who justly reproached Sardinia with acting contrary both to the letter and the spirit of treaties, has laid herself open to the same reproach. What ought she to have done with Venetia? Why, made it an Italian province, and governed and administered it as such. What has she done? She has made it an Austrian province, governed and administered militarily. Venice at the present moment is a camp, not a town. General Garibaldi's language was revolutionary, but General Benedek's has been provocative. What is the object of these two champions of causes so different? Do they really believe that war is inevitable? If they listen only to their courage, perhaps they may think so; if they listen to calm reason, assuredly they cannot.

Let us explain ourselves. Italy, notwithstanding the warlike enthusiasm that possesses her, cannot fancy herself, even now, in a state to stand up alone against one of the first military Powers of Europe. It would be rash even for the celebrated Dictator to take as serious his victories in Sicily and Naples. It is a long distance from Calatafimi and Palermo to Magenta and Solferino. Should General Garibaldi lie under a delusion in that respect, it is to be believed that the Ministers of Victor Emanuel take a more correct estimate of the situation. On the other hand, it is probable that M. de Schmerling sees things with a different eye to General Benedek's. That statesman has doubtless already weighed the chances of a new conflict, and seen to what they reduce themselves—to an uncomfortable alternative. Either Garibaldi's volunteers will triumph over impossibilities, and then all is said; or, what is more probable, they will be vanquished, put to flight, crushed.

But afterwards?

[From the London Chronicle, Dec. 22.]

When things come to the worst they mend; and, as the *Constitutionnel* reminds us, things are now come to such a pass in Venice that a change of one kind or another is certain. So far as Austria is concerned, the actual position of affairs may be stated in a very few words. We have no reason to believe that even General Garibaldi contemplates an attack on Venice in the spring of next year. He is well aware that he could not embark in such an enterprise with any hope of success. Garibaldi's enemies have never denied that he possesses, in a very high degree, the qualities of a great military commander. If he is nothing else, he is a great soldier; and no great soldier would attempt, with the forces at the command of Garibaldi, to attack the Quadrilateral. At all events, it is certain that Victor Emanuel and Count Cavour would strenuously oppose so hazardous a venture. But Garibaldi counts upon an insurrection in Hungary, and, with the help of Hungary, it is not impossible that Italy would succeed in expelling the stranger from its soil. We arrive, therefore, at the point from which we started. If Austria refuses at once to surrender Venice, and to grant the reasonable demands of the Hungarian people, war is only to be avoided by the intervention of the great Powers of Europe. It is madness to suppose that Austria can count again on the help of Russia. We do not believe that, under any circumstances, the Czar would interfere to save Austria from dismemberment. If she persists, as she seems inclined to persist, in resisting the counsels of those who only wish her well. It is surely now the bounden duty of France and England, in the interest of peace and liberty, to insist that the Austrian government shall give up a useless contest and consent to part with her province of Venetia on reasonable terms. Nothing can be more terrible than the present condition of Venice. One of the finest cities in Italy is now a fortified camp. No one who can live elsewhere lives in Venice, and the condition of the inhabitants is now so terrible that it can no longer be borne. Baron Von Schmerling must know all this; and we can scarcely think that the Cabinet of Vienna will now refuse to give its assent to any proposition for the cession of Venice which might be supported by the united influence of France and England.

THE VERY LATEST.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 23, 1860.

The steamship Arabia, from Boston via Halifax, arrived to-day.

PARIS, Dec. 22, 1860.

The Bourse is very much depressed. Rentes are at 68f. 50c.

Advices from Constantinople report a customs reform as contemplated.

The disturbances at Scio have been suppressed.

HAVRE MARKET.

For the week ending December 20.—Cotton active and firm at an advance of 2f.; New Orleans tres ordinaire, 98f. do. bas, 93f.; sales of the week, 20,000 bales; stock in port, 112,000 bales.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL NEWS.

LONDON MONEY MARKET.

The funds on the 21st were dull, and consols further declined ½ per cent, closing at 92⅞ a 93 for account, ex dividend. The markets generally were under the influence of the approaching holidays. The Exchange was to be closed from Saturday, the 22d, till Wednesday, the 26th, owing to the intervention of Christmas. The demand for money in the discount market had become extremely heavy owing to the three days' suspension of business, and the necessity for providing for bills falling due in that period. No business was done generally below the Bank rate, and the applications at the Bank were quite numerous.

The amount of silver received at the Bank of England, from the Bank of France, to the 21st ult., was £1,250,000.

The weekly statement of the Bank of England shows a decrease in bullion of £115,835, the amount held in both departments being £13,331,270.

Baring, Bros. & Co. quote bar silver at 5s. 1⅛d.; dollars at 5s. 2¼d.; eagles 76s. 5d., nominal.

AMERICAN SECURITIES.

Messrs. D. Bell, Son & Co. report as follows:—Business in American securities during the past week has been moderately active, and the tone of market has shown great firmness and prices much steadier.

United States 6 per cent bonds, 1863	97	a	99
Do. 5 per cent bonds, 1874	93¼	a	93½
Kentucky 6 per cent bonds, 1863-72	91	a	93
Maryland 5 per cent sterling bonds	94	a	96
Massachusetts 5 per cent sterling bonds	101	a	103
Mississippi Union bank bonds	12	a	14
Pennsylvania 5 per cent stock	84	a	85
Do. 5 per cent bonds, 1877	86	a	87
South Carolina 5 per cents bonds, 1866	90	a	—
Tennessee 6 per cent bonds, divers	80	a	82
Virginia 6 per cent bonds, 1886	80	a	32
Virginia 5 per cent sterling bonds, 1884	80	a	82
Illinois Central 7 per cent	86	a	88
Illinois Central 6 per cent	86	a	88
Illinois Central shares	dis.	28¼	28
Michigan Central 8 per cent, 1869	89	a	91
Michigan Central shares	52	a	57
New York Central 6 per cent	86	a	88
New York Central 7 per cent	91	a	93
Do. do. shares	77	a	78
New York & Erie 7 per cent, 1867	91	a	93
Do. do. do. 1859	89	a	90
Do. do. do. 1883	ex. 54¼	a	80½
Do. do. shares	34	a	35
Panama Sterling 7 per cent, 1865	100	a	102
Do. do. 1872	100	a	101
Pennsylvania Central 6 per cent	ex. 89	a	91

Baring Brothers & Co. call the market quiet.

[From the London Herald, Dec. 21.]

The continued demand for money, more than ever noticeable to-day, the discouraging nature of the advices from America, and the anxiety to keep engagements within narrow bounds, produced a further decline in prices. With the exception of Turkish, which was supported by special transactions, the several descriptions of securities exhibited heaviness, and no recovery took place, even at the latest moment. Gold will still flow to New York, the private letters speaking despondingly of the future, and though the bank return this evening was not unsatisfactory the aggregate of bullion is decreasing. To augmenta the flatness, the latest values from Paris were in the adverse direction. Consols for the account varied between 92⅞ to 93, and left off 92⅞ to 93.

Through the revenue and other payments there was quite a pressure for accommodation. At the Bank the demand was very active, and out of doors nothing in the shape of paper was negotiated below the minimum of five per cent. The brokers from the Stock Exchange were again compelled to seek advances at that establishment, the resources among the jobbers being inadequate to meet the general inquiry. Until the beginning of the new year full rates will be current.

American securities were generally weaker on the nature of the advices from the United States, which were anything but satisfactory. The pressure of sales was accelerated in a measure by the weakness in other securities, and the tendency to close outstanding engagements. Illinois Central 100 dollar shares were dealt in a 29, 28 and 29¼ dis., the final price being 29¼c. to 28¾c. dis., or ¾ per cent lower. The paid up shares were taken at 70 ex div., leaving of 69 to 71, or 1½ per cent worse. New York Central shares manifested flatness at 77 and 76¾, being last quoted 76 to 80; but in New York and Erie Assented the bargains were at 34¼ and ¾, being ultimately 34 to ⅞, showing no change.

[From the London Chronicle, Dec. 22.]

The Bank of England returns, for the week ending Wednesday last, December 19, when compared with those of the previous week, show the following results:—

	Last week.	Present week.	Increase	Decrease
Notes issued	£27,119,415	27,044,595	—	74,820
Rest	3,177,771	3,184,326	6,555	—
Public deposits	7,029,111	7,384,841	355,730	—
Other deposits	12,104,219	11,759,820	—	344,399
7 day & other bills	663,525	652,051	—	11,474
Gov't securities	9,540,273	9,540,273	—	—
Other securities	19,987,188	19,885,590	—	101,598
Reserve of notes	7,197,475	7,346,590	149,025	—
Gold & silver coin	802,690	761,675	—	41,015
Stock of bullion	13,447,105	13,331,270	—	115,835
Active circulation	19,921,940	19,668,095	—	253,845

These results are not of any great consequence in any instance, and need no special notice.

The official statement of the movements of the precious metals for the week ending Wednesday, December 19, gives the following results:—

Imports—Gold	£120,919
Silver	5,38,319
Total imports	£7,09,239
Exports—Gold	890,315
Silver	39,112
Total exports	£935,427

LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 21 1860.

The Brokers' Circular says:—"The reiterated advices received from the United States of the certainty of moderate supplies being directed to this country, consequent upon monetary difficulties, together with the intelligence of peace with China, have imparted fresh vigor to the market, which has presented a most animated appearance all the week, resulting in an advance in the current qualities of American descriptions of fully one-quarter of a penny per pound." The week's business reached 133,420 bales, including 31,930 taken by speculators and 8,040 for export. The market yesterday was rather less animated, the business being 12,000 bales—4,000 on speculation and for export—but it closed firm at the following quotations:—

	Fair.	Mid.
Orleans	7⅝	7¼
Mobile	7⅝	7⅛
Uplands	7⅝	7

The stock on hand is estimated at 519,460 bales, including 405,150 American. The market closes this (Saturday) evening for the Christmas holidays, reopening on Wednesday next, the 26th December.

TRADE AT MANCHESTER.

Spinners having extended their contracts this week pretty freely are gradually hardening in price, and were very firm yesterday at their advanced quotations. The demand for China enabled manufacturers of sheetings for that market to obtain an advance, and cloth generally is rather firmer.

LIVERPOOL BREADSTUFFS MARKET.

Messrs. Richardson, Spence & Co. report the market firm and advancing. Flour on Friday was firm at the full rates of Tuesday, and in some cases 6d. dearer. Quotations, 29s. a 32s. Wheat again 1d. a 2d. per cental dearer with a fair consumptive sale. Really fine white is scarce, and choice would bring 6d. over the quotations. Red ranges from 11s. 4d. to 13s., and white from 13s. to 14s. Corn continues in active demand at an improvement on the week of fully 1s. per quarter. Mixed and yellow, 38s. 6d. a 38s. 9d. White, 39s. a 41s. per 480 lbs.

LIVERPOOL PROVISION MARKET.

Beef in most limited demand and prices irregular. Pork quiet and unaltered. Bacon slow of sale and nominal. The arrivals of new are poor in quality. Cheese of really fine quality 2s. a 5s. per cwt. dearer. Lard, with a few arrivals, is dull and lower, being offered at 64s. without buyers. Tallow inactive: Butchers' Association 58s. a 58s. 6d.

LIVERPOOL PRODUCE MARKET.

The Brokers' Circular quotes:—Ashes quiet, pots, 28s. 5d. a 28s. 6d.; pearls in retail, 29s. 6d. Sugars inactive and partially 6d. cheaper. Coffee quiet and unchanged. Rice continues quiet. Quercitron bark quiet at 8s. a 8s. 6d. for Philadelphia and 6s. 6d. for Baltimore. American linseed cakes, £10 15s. a £10 17s. 6d. Fish oils unchanged; linseed quiet. Rosin, 4s. 7d. a 4s. 9d. for common and 4s. 10d. a 5s. for low medium. Spirits turpentine opened dull at 52s., but closed with more doing at 51s. 6d.

LONDON MARKETS.

Messrs. Baring Brothers & Co. report:—Wheat firm and a large business doing in foreign at improving rates. White American wheat, 65s. a 70s.; red, 60s. a 65s. Flour, 29s. a 34s. Iron dull at £5 5s. a £5 10s. for bars and rails; scotch pig, 51s. 6d. Sugars continue dull, and in some instances 6d. a 1s. lower. Tea inactive; common Congou nominal at 1s. 2d. a 1s. 2½d. Tallow dull at 60s. for Y. C. Coffee quiet. Rice very quiet. Spirits of turpentine unchanged, 32s. Linseed cakes in more demand: New York, in barrels, £11 15s.; Boston, in bags, £11 10s. Fish oils quiet: sperm, £102; cod, £37 10s.; linseed in retail demand at 29s.

THE LATEST MARKETS.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 22—1:45 P. M.

Cotton firm at yesterday's rates: sales estimated at 12,000 bales, 4,000 of which were for speculators and export.

Breadstuffs firm, and tendency upward. Corn is a shade dearer: mixed and yellow, 39s.

Provisions—No change.

LONDON, Dec. 22—Afternoon.

Consols close at 92¾ a 92⅞ on account, ex div.

ARRIVAL OF THE NORTHERN LIGHT.

$1,492,856 ON FREIGHT.

NEWS FROM CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA.

IMPORTANT FROM NEW GRANADA.

Fall of Santa Marta and Flight of the Garrison.

The Government Defeated at All Points.

AFFAIRS IN CHILE, PERU, BOLIVIA, &c., &c., &c.

The steamship Northern Light, Captain Tinklepaugh, arrived at this port at noon yesterday, from Aspinwall, bringing the mails, passengers and treasure that left San Francisco by the mail steamer on the 10th ult.

The Northern Light left Aspinwall December 25, at six P. M., with two hundred and fifty passengers and $1,455,385 from San Francisco, and $37,471 from Aspinwall.

The following is the Northern Light's

SPECIE LIST.

William Hoge & Co.	$30,000	Wells, Fargo & Co.	$273,009
T. H. & J. S. Baton	5,600	Order	13,963
J. M. Cutler	5,000	W. Seligman & Co.	32,000
Butcher & Bro.	5,000	Order	4,000
Hoffha & Rosenstock	3,000	H. S. Hallett	15,000
		J. G. Parker & Son	5,000
Hewitt, Kittle & Co.	15,000	Wm. Heller & Co.	52,700
A. & C. E. Titton	3,000	J. B. Weir	15,000
Strauss, Bro & Co.	43,500	R. Meader	8,000
Meader & O. Adams	8,000	American Ex. Bank	23,000
Metropolitan Bank	57,409	W. R. Garrison	21,000
Batlin & Sanders	20,000	P. Naylor	12,000
Treadwell & Co.	30,000	Howes & Crowell	7,500
A. S. Rosenbaum	15,500	Jennings & Brewster	11,000
Belmont & Co.	144,000	H. Cohen & Co.	33,000
Newstader Bro.	17,000	W. P. Coleman & Co.	76,000
T. Einstein & Bro.	9,000	J. Stanwood	7,000
Cowdry & O'Connor	15,000	E. Kelly & Co.	46,500
American Ex. Bank	55,000	Frank Baker	10,000
J. M. Reed	2,400	C. W. Crosby	19,000
Harbeck & Co.	1,800	R. S. Wade	2,500
Duncan, Sherman & Co.	266,911	J. H. Coghill	16,000

FROM ASPINWALL.

S. Lansburg & Bro.	4,371	Nathan Blun	1,500
Jos. F. Joy, Sec'y	31,600		

The government forces at Santa Marta, commanded by Col. Julio Arboleda, were attacked on the 23d of November by the revolutionary forces, commanded by Col. F. Sancho—the former numbering 600 and the latter 800 men. At twelve o'clock on the night of the 13th of December the city was abandoned by Arboleda and his forces, and was taken possession of by the opposite party at seven o'clock the next morning. All sorts of excesses were committed—robbery, assassination, &c. Col. Arboleda retired to Aspinwall on board the government vessels Cospina, Legitimidad and Panama, and United States schooner Jos. Grice, Capt. Snow, accompanied by 500 of his men. The Commander of her British Majesty's frigate Tadmus forbid their plundering the goods in the Custom House.

The American bark Restless was at Santa Marta, twelve days from New York.

NEWS FROM CENTRAL AMERICA.

Our Panama Correspondence.

PANAMA, Dec. 25, 1860.

Severe Earthquake in Salvador—The Port of San Juan and Mosquitia—The Chiriqui-Thompson Grant, &c., &c.

The Panama Railroad Company's steamer Columbus, Rathburn master, with two weeks later intelligence from the Central American States, arrived at this port on December 21. Her cargo consists of 1,312 cerroons of indigo, 3 bags of seeds, 3 packages of bullion, 2 boxes of mango, 1 box and parcel of samples, 2 cases and 12 bales of deer skins and 1,534 hides, for Europe and the United States, besides a large freight for Panama. The Columbus left in port at San Jose de Guatemala the English brig Anna Banfield, loading, and schooner Julietta for San Francisco. At Libertad, Salvador, English brig Rushing Wave, for Liverpool direct, with a full cargo. At La Union, Chilean bark Matador. At Realejo, do. Herman, loaded and ready for sea.

Dates are:—San Jose de Guatemala, 11th Dec.; La Union, Salvador, 15th; Realejo, Nicaragua, 17th, and Punta Arenas, Costa Rica, 18th. The news is unimportant. Among the passengers per Columbus are Crisanto Medina, Sr., and Crisanto Medina, Jr., who are banished on account of their personal friendship for the late President Mora. They both proceed to the United States in the Northern Light, for the purpose of laying their grievances before the government at Washington.

GUATEMALA.

The Legislative Assemblies of the republic met at the city of Guatemala on the 25th of November.

The republic continues tranquil and prosperous, and maintains perfect peace with all the world.

SALVADOR.

EARTHQUAKE—PROBABILITIES OF A REVOLUTION, ETC.

The *Official Gazette* of the 5th inst. contains the following:—

On the 3d of December, shortly after eleven o'clock A. M., a severe earthquake was felt in this capital, which lasted above a minute. Afterwards there were less severe shocks, which were scarcely felt, excepting last night at about half past nine o'clock, when a prolonged and strong shock made itself felt. At first we thought it would have been local, but we have since received information from distant localities, even as far as twenty leagues in different directions, in which this same shock was not only felt, but which caused some damage to the principal edifices. In this capital the amount of damage done was very slight.

The administration of President Barrias is very unpopular among all classes. The leading men of the country are much dissatisfied with him and his mode of administering the affairs of the government, and many believe that a revolution will take place ere long. Even his soldiers, on whom he most relies, are said to be dissatisfied. The Swiss soldiers, numbering some 200, who composed his army in part, have deserted.

NICARAGUA.

THE MOSQUITO TERRITORY, FILIBUSTERS, ETC.

The *Gazette* of the 1st of December publishes several important decrees, among which is one appointing Don Ramon Saenz to receive, in the name of the government, the port of San Juan del Norte and the Mosquito territory. The decree bears date Nov. 28, and is followed by the one already published in the HERALD, declaring San Juan del Norte a free port. The same paper says:—In a former number we published an official note from the Consular Agent of Nicaragua at San Juan del Norte, in which he announced the arrival at Bocana of a filibustering party. This force cannot be any other than a portion of the expedition that was broken up at Truxillo, and which sailed from New Orleans, ignorant of the tragic end of their companions. We do not believe this to be of any great importance. Our government, nevertheless, have taken the necessary precautions, so that, if the matter be more serious than we think, the enemy may find us sufficiently prepared for him.

COSTA RICA.

CONFIDENCE RESTORED—THE COFFEE CROP—THE THOMPSON GRANT, ETC.

There is nothing of special interest to report from this State. No further apprehension is felt of another outbreak. The Montealegre government is more conservative of late, and consequently more popular than heretofore. It is even intimated that a change in the Cabinet is contemplated in order to soften the asperities of the opposition. The planters are preparing to gather the coffee crop of the present year, which it is thought will not exceed 80,000 quintals. The Punta Arenas correspondent of the Pan