THE NEW YORK HERALD.

WHOLE NO. 10,789. NEW YORK, THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 1866.—WITH SUPPLEMENT. PRICE FOUR CENTS.

THE FENIANS.

Both Wings Progressing in Donations of Money and Arms.

Affairs Steadily Going Ahead at Union Square.

The Country Contributing Its Enthusiasm and Its Greenbacks.

MEETINGS OF THE VARIOUS CIRCLES.

&c. &c. &c.

THE O'MAHONY MOVEMENT.

At the Fenian headquarters on Union square matters are still progressing in the same steady manner. The business of each department goes on with the utmost regularity, and by far the heaviest portion consists in the filling up of receipts. The circles in the West are now pouring in their money with a will. Several communications were received from these circles yesterday, enclosing large sums of money, and all expressive of their devotion to Stephens and O'Mahony. Among these communications was one from a circle in Mound City, Illinois, which had withheld the usual remittances during the late troubles. The members of this circle sent in five hundred dollars and also a large case of magnificent rifles. The Hibernian Benevolent Society of Southington, Mass., have forwarded a large sum of money. Colonel O'Mahony has just returned from Boston, where he was agitating the question of Irish invasion.

On Tuesday morning a committee from the employes of the Fifth Avenue Hotel called at headquarters and presented to the Fenian Brotherhood a purse of $440. The committee consisted of Messrs. Perry, Canavan and McDonough. Mr. O'Mahony being absent they were introduced to Mr. Killian. Mr. Canavan presented the purse, saying:—Allow me, sir, on behalf of the employes of the Fifth Avenue Hotel, to present through you to the Fenian Brotherhood this tribute to the cause of Ireland's nationality. We see with heartfelt grief our country bleeding and bitterly oppressed, and we look to you and your associates, who are the leaders in this cause, and the chiefs of a mighty organization, to see to it that the chains which are now galling our mother land be not allowed to bind her down much longer. Hasten to her aid, do your duty like men, and every true heart which calls old Ireland "mother" will bless you and be with you in your undertaking.

Mr. Killian, on behalf of the Fenian Brotherhood, thanked the committee for the generous donation in a neat and very appropriate address, assuring them by referring to the work done and being done that their confidence was not misplaced, and that soon they and all who wished the day to come would see the flag of Ireland typifying to the world that Ireland was "a nation once again."

The committee stated that this donation was from the employes exclusively, and that it could not be regarded as a full exponent of the will of the contributors.

A committee of the Boilermakers' Association of the Bowery Iron Works were also received by Mr. Killian, in the absence of Colonel O'Mahony. The chairman accompanied a very able and sensible address with a donation of three hundred dollars on behalf of the society. Mr. Killian made a suitable reply, congratulating his hearers on this evidence of their patriotism.

An hour or so afterwards another committee from the St. Nicholas fell weed suit, sending the following letter to the Head Centre:—

ST. NICHOLAS HOTEL, March 14, 1866.

Colonel JOHN O'MAHONY, H. C. F. B.:

SIR—We, the employes of the St. Nicholas Hotel, love our dear native land too well and appreciate the services of you and your associates, James Stephens and John Mitchel, too highly to be behind in our donation at this hour of our country's trial. We have collected out of our small earnings four hundred and forty dollars for the glorious cause. Would to God we had four hundred thousand times as much to send you.

Irish nationality demands that that there should be no sentimentalists in your ranks, and we mean that you shall receive this contribution as our endorsement of your past and present action, as well as that of your co-laborer Mr. Killian. We trust that God may spare you till the realization of all your hopes be accomplished, and that it may soon be your lot to hoist the green flag on our native hills, when that of our hereditary tyrants shall be trampled in the dust. God save the Green!

Signed on behalf of the employes of the St. Nicholas Hotel.

M. J. KELLY, M. MORAN, J. BRADY, } Committee.

Mr. Killian, in the absence of the Head Centre, sent a suitable reply.

MEETINGS OF CIRCLES.

The military department preserves a steady reticence. While we know nothing of the details, we are informed that a certain action will be taken at an early day that will give cheer to the friends of Ireland and startle the curious public. The "neutrality laws," says General Mullen, "must not be violated," and that is all that the public can get out of the Secretary of Military and Naval Affairs.

MEETING IN AVENUE C.

The large hall on avenue C, near Twelfth street, was densely packed on Tuesday evening with enthusiastic friends of Ireland. Stirring addresses were delivered by Mr. Killian, General Mullen, Mr. Meaney, Captain Norup, Captain Costello and others. All the bonds were sold and donations of arms received. We give an extract from General Mullen's speech:—

THE GENERAL COMPLIMENTS THE HERALD.

The best evidence of the popularity of Fenianism, or, if you please, the correctness of our doctrines, lies in this fact—one of the ablest, if not the ablest, conducted newspaper in this nation has accepted the interpretation that the late Palmerston government gave to the question of neutrality. (Cheers.) You know that public journalists are to some extent jealous of each other; and many severe things are said and written of men of ability and mark, who are perseveringly establishing a reputation for candor, fairness and foresight. Without desiring to flatter any one truth obliges me to state that the paper to which I have referred is the NEW YORK HERALD. (Loud cheers.) That journal assumes that American citizens have a right to express sympathy for any people struggling to be free, and also accepts the situation of to-day, and is not unwilling that the merchants of New York shall have an opportunity of getting back a little of what they have lost during the rebellion just closed. (Three cheers for the HERALD.)

GRAND DEMONSTRATION AT ORANGE, N. J.

An enthusiastic gathering assembled at Orange, N. J., on Tuesday last. The meeting immediately followed one held by the Roberts and Sweeny party on the previous day. Captain W. H. Stephens addressed the assemblage. He condemned the Canadian scheme, but in doing so avoided all personalities. His remarks had a telling effect upon the audience, especially when he pointedly referred to the fact that those very men now trying to divide the Brotherhood by getting up a Canadian excitement were condemned in unmistakable language by James Stephens. He also argued that even the conquest of Canada could in no way benefit Ireland now. Mr. Lawrence D. Kiernan and Mr. Stephen J. Coleban, attorney at law, also addressed the meeting. At the conclusion of the speeches a resolution was unanimously adopted endorsing Stephens and O'Mahony. Two hundred and fifty dollars was subscribed for bonds, and deep regret was expressed that they should have given anything to the Roberts party.

THE SWEENY MOVEMENT.

Warlike Pronunciamiento—The Plans, Aims and Resources of the Military Wing, &c.

All eyes being now turned upon the Fenian department, which is causing so much terror to the Kanucks, the promulgation of the address issued by the General Sweeny branch naturally excited general comment. It was written on Washington's birthday, and privately sent to the circles. Our reporter was permitted to glance at a few of the vital points:—

THE "CANADIAN POLICY."

Here on this day, hallowed by all the glorious deeds that consecrate the name of Washington, standing in the dread presence of the searcher of hearts, we appeal to Him to judge us as we serve our country truly and faithfully or otherwise. Knowing that He sees the rectitude of our motives, and that you stand by and defend us, we feel that any effort to refute the foul calumnies which evil minded men cast upon us is entirely unnecessary. The man whose name is not above all reproach has no business in a cause like ours. No man who is not ready to bear and suffer calumny and abuse, and sometimes to serve the people even against themselves, is unfit to be a soldier of freedom.

The address is continued in the following exuberant strain, vituperation and abuse not being omitted:—

Come, then, brothers! come to the work once again! think not of your sacrifices; others, greater and more submissive, will soon be made. You are no longer asked to work for years. You have no palatial halls to decorate and sustain. You have no lazy crowd of officials to feed upon your substance. Soldiers are now to supersede clerks; rifles will soon be substituted for pens; shelter tents in the enemy's country, will take the place of rooms in New York; "headquarters" will soon be in the field, and the green flag will hange its place from the ball room and the gay parade to be cloud and storm of battle. Hostages for our imprisoned brethren, victory and vengeance, are all within our reach. Men, by tens of thousands—tried and trusty veterans—are daily pressing into the ranks. Officers, whose names are already historic, are eagerly tendering their swords to our cause. The sympathy of our American fellow citizens, our own strength and the enemy's weakness, all urge us on to action. One effort, and the last, is asked at your hands. Everything necessary for an active and victorious campaign is being secured. Now, now is the time to strike. The enemy is unprepared, and cannot reinforce his weakest points. He is paralyzed by the attitude of the brave men in Ireland, and embarrassed by the menacing aspect of America.

THE TIME OF THE ONWARD MOVEMENT.

We dare not—for reasons of expediency—name the time for the onward movement; but it is near at hand, and is solely dependant on your promptitude. Brothers, Irishmen, friends, we ask your aid and sympathy. Our fight is not for Ireland alone—it is for freedom, for humanity at large. All the oppressed peoples of the earth are interested in the spread of human liberty. We know we have their sympathy; shall we not have their aid and assistance? Our defeat is their loss; our success is their victory.

POSITION OF SWEENY ON THE MONROE DOCTRINE.

Referring to certain resolutions recently passed at a meeting in Washington regarding the Monroe doctrine, the Sweeny folks declare:—

Whereas certain parties, claiming to be members of the Fenian Brotherhood, have enunciated opinions on the Monroe doctrine entirely at variance with those which we know are entertained by the entire organization; therefore be it

Resolved, That we, the representatives of the Fenian Brotherhood, in Congress assembled, do hereby, in the most emphatic manner, declare that we are in favor of carrying out to the fullest extent that time-honored principle of American policy, believing as we do that this continent should be occupied exclusively by one grand family of free republics.

A VETERAN INQUISITION ON SWEENY'S PLANS.

The conclave of officers who scrutinized the campaign plans submitted a decision. The Congress declares them feasible, as follows:—

Whereas the members of this Congress have heard the report of Major General T. W. Sweeny, and examined his plans, which were further approved by a competent committee of veteran soldiers; be it

Resolved, That we believe the plans prepared by General Sweeny and his able and efficient staff to be perfectly feasible, and the only ones now possible of being carried to a successful issue, with a view to accomplishing the liberation of our beloved fatherland.

The document, which has been widely distributed, winds up thus:—

We leave the work now in your hands. We have done our duty. Now perform yours and all will soon be well.

Signed, on behalf of Congress, by A. L. Morrison, B. B. Daily, James Donnelly, John O'Neil, Edward McMahon, Robert Gilchrist, E. Donnelly, J. W. Fitzgerald, James J. Barnes, John Darby—Committee on Address and Resolutions.

THE DEMONSTRATION IN ORANGE, N. J.

A public meeting was held in Orange on Monday evening to sustain the views of Mr. Roberts and take active measures to aid the cause of Ireland. The attendance was very large and the greatest harmony and enthusiasm prevailed. Mr. J. W. Byrnes and Mr. O'Donnell, on invitation, attended from the Senatorial headquarters, and delivered able addresses, expounding the policy which guided Mr. Roberts and General Sweeny in their present course of action. Six hundred dollars were subscribed, a number of rifles donated, and several members were enrolled for acuve service. The meeting was presided over by Captain Owen Murphy, who served with distinction throughout the war, and is now an earnest supporter of the Senate. The meeting broke up cheering loudly for Roberts, Sweeny and the success of the cause.

The Sarsfield Circle, Ansonia, Conn., have declared for Roberts and General Sweeny, and forwarded the funds on hand.

Fenian Meeting in Baltimore.

BALTIMORE, March 14, 1866.

There was a Fenian mass meeting to-night at the Maryland Institute. The hall was densely crowded.

NEWS FROM THE SOUTHWEST.

Mrs. Jeff Davis En Route to Canada—Seizure of Rebel Cotton in Texas—Measures for Prevention of the Cholera, &c.

NEW ORLEANS, March 13, 1866.

Mrs. Jefferson Davis is here, *en route* to Canada.

In the Iberville parish, Louisiana, sixty-five plantations sold for what the elaborate machinery upon them originally cost.

Hon. J. T. Trotter, one of the leading judges of Mississippi, died at Holly Springs last week.

Daily passenger trains are now running on the Jackson Railroad, between New Orleans and Canton.

The old Pontchartrain Railroad Company have declared a dividend of ten per cent.

The Clarksville correspondent of the Houston *Telegraph* charges that the Treasury agents there have seized seventeen hundred bales of cotton, which it was well and generally known did not belong to the late confederacy. Through a third party the Treasury agents offered the owners of the cotton to release it for a consideration of three hundred bales. The owners refused this offer, and the cotton was removed at once, at much greater expense than it would have cost the owners. Every effort was made at Clarksville and at New Orleans to secure the release of the cotton; but it failed.

Mayor Kennedy has issued a proclamation directing the strictest measures to be taken to clean everybody's premises in preparation for the advent of the cholera. Severe penalties are to be imposed upon all persons found to be delinquent after the 25th inst. in keeping their premises scrupulously clean.

Great indifference was shown here yesterday as to the result of the municipal election. A large number of voters did not go to the polls, and especially was this the case with business men.

The steamer Evening Star, from New York via Havana, is detained at Quarantine.

NEWS FROM EL PASO.

Juarez Still on the Frontier—The Liberals Confident of Material Aid from the United States—The Ortega Faction Stubborn, &c.

OUR EL PASO CORRESPONDENCE.

PASO DEL NORTE, Mexico, Feb. 16, 1866.

No news from the interior of this section of the country. President Juarez and Cabinet are still at this place, waiting for "something to turn up." They are still confident of receiving men and means from the United States. Why the French commander at Chihuahua does not assume the offensive is inexplicable, there being no enemy in the State except the force under Juarez at this point. It may be inasmuch as the constitutional term of President Juarez expired on the 12th of November or last, and as he has issued a decree extending his own term of office and outlawing General Gonzales Ortega, who claims to be President of Mexico under the constitution, the liberal party will become divided throughout the country. This is probably the reason for leaving Juarez undisturbed here, for if the French were to evacuate the republic to-morrow a new civil war would immediately rage between the Juarist and Ortega parties.

The Reported Establishment of a Mexican Imperial Bureau in Washington.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD.

NEW YORK, March 14, 1866.

Having seen in the *Commercial Advertiser* of the 13th inst. a statement that Colonel Estvan has established himself at Washington as confidential agent of the government of the Emperor of Mexico, I request you to state that there is not any foundation in fact for such assertion, and that the representation abroad of the political interests of the empire has never been nor will be confided to any but to Mexican subjects. I am, sir, very respectfully, LUIS DE ARROYO.

Destruction of a Ferryboat.

CINCINNATI, March 14, 1866.

The ferryboat Covington No. 2 was partially destroyed by fire last night. Loss about $15,000, which was insured.

Telegraphic Market Reports.

NEW ORLEANS, March 13, 1866.

Cotton dull; sales 1,800 bales; middling at 42c. a 44c. Sales for three days 11,000 bales. Receipts to-day 2,200 bales. Increase in receipts for four days, compared with the corresponding four days last week, 1,100 bales. Molasses at 90c. Sugar 13½c. a 14½c. Gold 128. Sterling exchange 158½. New York checks at par to ¼ per cent discount. Stock of cotton on hand 188,000 bales.

ST. LOUIS, March 14, 1866.

Cotton declined ⅛c.; sales at 33c. for middling. Flour and wheat unchanged. Corn firmer; 59c. for yellow, 60c. a 63c. for white. Oats firm at 43c. a 46½c. Mess pork, $27 a $27 25. Bacon and lard unchanged. Whiskey declined 2c., closing at $2 23.

BALTIMORE, March 14, 1866.

Flour dull; sales of Howard street superfine at $8 a $8 50. Wheat firm. Corn active and firmer; sales of white at 63c. a 70c.; yellow at 67c. a 68c. Oats dull; sales at 48c. Seeds heavy; sales of clover at $5 50 a $5 75. Provisions steady. Whiskey dull; sales at $2 28.

PHILADELPHIA, March 14, 1866.

Stocks are firm. Pennsylvania fives, 86¾; Morris Canal, 77½; Reading Railroad, 49¼; Pennsylvania Railroad, 56½; American gold, 140¼. Sight exchange on New York at par.

Petroleum quiet and unchanged. Coffee dull. Sales of Rio at 21c. a 27c., gold. Flour quiet; sales unimportant. Good red wheat at $2 25 a $2 30; white, $2 40 a $2 70. Corn dull at yesterday's decline. Sales of 2,000 bushels yellow at 70c. Whiskey dull; sales at $2 25 a $2 28.

CHICAGO, March 14, 1866.

Flour quiet. Wheat firm at $1 24½ a $1 25. Corn dull and declined ½c. Oats dull. Highwines inactive. Holders of mess pork ask $25 75 a $26; no transactions. Lard quiet at 17½c. Bulk meats quiet. Hogs dull and declined 10c. a 15c. Dressed hogs very dull. Receipts—6,000 bbls. flour, 8,000 bushels wheat, 21,000 bushels corn, 11,500 bushels oats, 640 hogs, 180 dressed hogs. Shipments—3,400 bbls. flour, 6,500 bushels wheat, 4,400 bushels corn.

CINCINNATI, March 14, 1866.

Flour dull. Wheat in fair demand at $1 75 a $1 80 for new red. Whiskey firmer. Provisions unsettled; forced sale of mess pork at $25; small sales at $26 a $26 25. Lard 18½c. Gold 11[illegible].

THE BORDER.

Mysterious Fenian Movements at Windsor.

Signal Rockets Ascending from the American Side.

FENIAN MIGRATION INTO CANADA.

Run on the Quebec and Montreal Banks.

Unfounded Rumor of an Attacks on the Governor General.

Reported Purchase of Four Lake Steamers by the Fenians.

&c. &c. &c.

Mysterious Movements on the Frontier—Rockets Ascending From the American Side—Suspicious Characters Crossing the Border—Hostility to Americans in Canada—The Fenians at Detroit, &c.

OUR FRONTIER DESPATCH.

WINDSOR, C. W., March 14, 1866.

The excitement all along the frontier is gaining force. Mysterious rockets have been sent up on the American shore, and it is believed here some movement of Fenians is in progress.

Canada is very warm for Americans, who are liable to all manner of insults.

About one thousand volunteers here are keeping a sharp lookout. A number of suspicious characters are daily crossing the border. There is no unusual stir among the Detroit Fenians.

Public meetings have been held here, and two companies of volunteers for the Home Guard Battery are on their way up from London.

The Detroit City Council have accepted an invitation to join the Fenians in celebrating St. Patrick's day.

MONTREAL, March 14, 1866.

The excitement in regard to the Fenian foray is still at fever heat. Indeed public credulity is ready to swallow any rumor, however wild. Business, of which we never have much, is now at a standstill, and nobody cares to buy or sell.

As usual in such excitements, there is a run upon the savings banks, and the small depositors are converting their balances into gold.

The people and the newspapers are very ill-tempered, and constantly berate the United States government because they do not restrain the dreadful invaders who are to come—by and by—to snatch Canada from the hands of Queen Victoria.

Our principal amusements now consist in watching the evolutions of the militia. There are drills many times a day, and the poor victims look the picture of despair.

All our public buildings are strongly guarded; our banks are restricting their discount line to the most well known and well approved customers, and they very generally refuse to advance upon any collateral security.

TORONTO, C. W., March 14, 1866.

The Fenian excitement is subsiding. The volunteer force is well distributed at all points on the frontier. Several searches have been made for pikes, but were all unsuccessful.

RUMORED ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

[From the Toronto Leader, March 13.]

There were some singular rumors afloat in Ottawa yesterday. One of them was that an attempt had been made to assassinate the Governor General. An extra announcing the fact was issued from one of the newspaper offices, and caused a great sensation; but a telegram was shortly afterwards received from Montreal correcting the report, and stating that nothing had been heard of it in that city.

THE SITUATION IN TORONTO.

[From the Toronto Leader, March 13.]

The drilling of the volunteers at present under arms in this city continues with unabated activity; but owing to the high state of efficiency of the men an order was made yesterday to the effect that in future the drill would take place at seven o'clock in the evening for the city volunteers, instead of during the day. This change will allow the gallant fellows an opportunity of attending to their ordinary labor as usual, and of course they will draw their military pay as if they were at constant drill. Captain Patterson's garrison battery of artillery was organized yesterday. Among other rumors floating through the city yesterday was one to the effect that the sedentary militia were to be called out, and that Toronto had to contribute as its quota six hundred men.

THE SITUATION IN QUEBEC.

[Quebec (March 12) despatch Montreal Gazette.]

Strange incidents are beginning to show themselves among the poorer classes since the warlike military movements have come into existence. Besides being dreadfully afraid of a raid upon the frontier and afterwards a general battle, they have shown a fear as to the safety of their money in the different savings banks, in consequence of which many of them since Friday have withdrawn their deposits. The banks are now guarded at night by armed citizens. The volunteers are still billeted out.

THE SITUATION IN MONTREAL.

[Montreal (March 12) telegram to the Toronto Press.]

The volunteer and Fenian excitement continues. The city is patrolled nightly, the banks and public buildings are guarded, and during the day there is a great turnout of men at drill.

A house was searched for illegal weapons yesterday, but nothing was discovered.

There has been a run on the savings bank since Thursday. Yesterday at St. Patrick's church the priest explained to depositors in the banks that there was no danger whatever of any attack on the banks, and if there were their vaults were so strong and so securely guarded that no attack would be successful. If depositors drew out their money they would very likely spend it or it would probably be stolen from them, whereas it was quite safe in the banks. He himself had money for charitable purposes deposited in them, which he would not leave if there was any danger; but after careful inquiries it was ascertained that there was not. He also commanded the temperance of the people generally. Many of them had taken the pledge, but he cautioned them all, whether temperance men or not, on no account to take a drop on St. Patrick's Day, but rather to do credit to their country on that day by their very sober and orderly demeanor. It is reported that some men have been discharged by their employers for turning out as volunteers on Saturday, and the names of these employers are promised for publication. There has been such a run upon the gunsmiths of the city for small arms that it is now difficult to get such.

A desire has been expressed to form a home guard for the protection of the city, to consist of those not liable to serve in the first class of the militia. Many hundred good men and true will report for this purpose, and go wherever they may be required, while they will at once take the main share of the labor of patroling the city.

Since the calling out of the volunteers the hundreds of strangers who were swarming our streets *with nothing to do but to reconnoitre the banks have greatly diminished*, and it is believed they have moved off.

THE CATHOLIC CLERGY AND THE FENIAN LEADERS.

[From the Toronto Leader, March 13.]

After high mass on Sunday at St. Mary's cathedral, Hamilton, his Lordship Bishop Farrel ascended the pulpit, and, in a forcible and eloquent address, exhorted all true Roman Catholics to do their duty to their Queen and country. In the course of his remarks he made allusion to the fact that the leaders of that treasonable organization styled Fenians *were not Roman Catholics*, neither were any of their members, because they were discarded by the Church. Roberts and Sweeny were both members of another persuasion, and as regarded O'Mahony he stood in the same position as his *followers—disputed by the Church and condemned by society*. Although he did not believe that the Fenians would attempt an invasion of this country, he approved of the action of the government in calling out the volunteers; and he sincerely trusted that by devotional exercise they might prepare themselves for impending danger, which he hoped in God might be averted. Every man was bound to fight in defence of his country and homestead. Allegiance was due to the sovereign who protected us, and *no man who was a good Catholic could possibly countenance the proceedings of a treasonable and contemptible organization*, seeing *that day week had held a mass gathering in New York against the will of the Bishop and clergy of the diocese, which, in itself, not speaking of the desecration of the Sabbath, was sufficient to show the character of the class. Swindling and contempt for the Roman Catholic hierarchy appeared to be their standing orders*. Ireland might have grievances, but it was not by an unholy, unlawful and illegal association like Fenianism they could be remedied. Her representatives in Parliament were the proper channels through which they should be made known, and redress sought. He said the soldiers there he knew would do their duty. Britain has always felt proud of the gallantry displayed by her army, a large portion of whom were Irish Roman Catholics, and it was the duty of true members of the Church to support them in case of aggression. His Lordship concluded his discourse in an eloquent peroration, and ending his remarks with the following words:—"The British constitution protects our interests, and we are bound to protect it."

Reported Purchase of Lake Steamers by the Fenians.

ROCHESTER, March 14, 1866.

There is a report in circulation here that the Fenians have purchased the four largest steamers of the American line on Lake Ontario now lying in this harbor. This is not credited, however. The steamers are fitting out for the spring trade. It is understood that the government officials are keeping an eye upon these boats and affairs in the harbor below the city.

MOVEMENTS OF COTTON.

Vast Amounts in the Country—Encouraging Prospect for a Large Crop This Year—The Most Extensive Preparations Made in South Carolina for Cultivating the Staple, &c.

OUR CHARLESTON CORRESPONDENCE.

CHARLESTON, Feb. 24, 1866.

CONDITION OF THE STATE AGRICULTURALLY.

The present condition of the State, with the exception, perhaps, of the sea-coast islands, is truly gratifying. In the large majority of cases contracts have been entered into, and the reports nearly all show that the obligations imposed are respected and faithfully carried out by the freed people. The planters are now as *sanguine of realizing good crops* during the present season as they were despondent some time ago from fear and anxiety of securing labor. It must be confessed that the condition of the labor question on the coast lands is not so satisfactory, though large allowances may be made of much that is reported of the unruly temper of the freedmen. As long as the order of General Sherman is not modified they will remain stubborn. Under it they have supposed themselves entitled to certain privileges, even to the enjoyment of the right of property. It is natural, therefore, that they should regard any interference with their supposed rights with impatience. It is natural, also, that the presence of the owner of the land—in many cases the former owner, to whom they owed service—should have excited the suspicions of an attempt to restore their former thraldom, and provoked a feeling in some cases of hostility to the whites. [The coast lands have since been given up to the proper owners.—ED. HERALD.]

EFFECT OF GENERAL SICKLES' ORDER.

The commendable caution and prudence exhibited in the orders and regulations of Major General Sickles are sufficient to secure order and give protection to all who desire to return to their homes in that portion of the State, or engage in the cultivation of their lands. In some cases, on the coast lands, the planters have secured the required labor, and are energetically progressing with their planting operations. To the successful planters who raise a large crop the reward will be very great. It is gratifying, too, to notice that in some cases the citizens of the Northern States have been attracted to this new field of labor, and, stimulated by the prospect of the new enterprise, have embarked in it with considerable zeal. Indeed it would be difficult to find elsewhere more certain and profitable investment for the unemployed or unprofitable capital of the North than could be found in the cotton and rice fields of this and other Southern States. The terms, too, upon which the aid which this capital affords has been accepted are so favorable that nothing would seem to be more inviting. In most cases the capital advanced is secured beyond the chance of risk or loss. Its return to the lender is so fully secured by the mortgage of the the lands, which under no conceivable contingency could fail, even under forced sales, to bring the sum advanced, that the only question which remains unsolved until the end of the season is the return in shape of profit which will belong to the lender. If the season is propitious, the labor successful and the crop abundant, the percentage which is reserved for the lender would greatly exceed the principal sum which was advanced. If but one crop out of every three should be successfully made, the percentage of that one crop would make an average return for each of the three years of a most satisfactory amount. Unlike, therefore, most if not all other operations in these, that which is put at hazard is the amount of the return which will be received annually for the investments.

THE CULTIVATION OF THE RICE LANDS

of this State has been delayed more than any other of the planting lands. The reason is, to some extent perhaps, to be found in the greater physical labor which must be expended in the cultivation of the grain. It is said that the number of contracts made for the planting of rice is very small; and unless some additional inducement is given, which will attract the attention of the freedmen to this field of labor, these rich lands will fail into disuse and be lost for all the purposes to which they have been devoted, and the grain itself become an inconsiderable item of production. Of all the staples cultivated in these Southern States that of rice is peculiarly, perhaps exclusively, dependent upon the labor of the freedmen; and unless that can be attracted to the fields the production of this valuable grain will be greatly reduced, if not wholly abandoned.

THE INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS.

In the districts removed from the coast the preparations for the cultivation of the usual crops of cotton and grain *have been of the most extensive character*. The equitable character of the contracts and the present disposition evinced on both sides give every assurance that they will be faithfully carried out. The difficulties in these portions of the State have not been so great as have existed on the seaboard plantations. But even on the seaboard there is reason to believe that the difficulties which have been experienced will, in the progress of the season, give way to better influences. Wherever the planter has been in possession of the means, where he has had the money to pay the price of labor required, he has never failed to procure it. And in other cases where the planter has gone to his plantation, taking with him freedmen who have contracted, he has found no difficulty in procuring others in the county. The success of those who have boldly made the experiment is being rapidly followed by those who hesitated, and also upon the freedmen who were unwilling to contract.

HEAVY ARRIVALS OF COTTON AT CHARLESTON.

[From the Charleston Courier.]

The decline in cotton surprises no one, *for there appears to be a great deal of it still in the country*. A train of nine heavy wagons, loaded with the staple, rolling into town at one time, would justify such a conclusion. The factories need certainly fear no stoppage for want of the raw material. The prospect for a large crop the present year is encouraging. Plantation work progresses favorably, and from many neighborhoods highly flattering reports are received. A northern gentleman, who has taken a plantation on the Santee, in the adjoining district of Clarendon, says the freedmen are working admirably in that section, and he entertains no fears of failure. He believes, however, that white labor would realize double the yield from the same area of land. It is very probable that European and Northern farmers settling in this country would effect a very desirable revolution in its agricultural policy. They would plant cotton, it is true; inevitably and successfully plant cotton. But they would first assign so much of land, manure and labor to the culture of the cereals as would insure an abundance of provisions for all the occupants and dependents of the farm. Their cotton crop then would be clear gain—an annual net profit. This is the self-sustaining, home-enriching system, by following which the farmer must be comfortable and independent. This is emphatically an agricultural country, and as such it appears almost a reproach to its planters that Northern and Eastern hay and Western corn, at fabulous prices, are actually supporting the animals now ploughing the soil. Exhaustion caused by the late war may explain and excuse this the present year; but the same state of things existed before the war, and may continue, although by common consent admitted to be a blunder.

RECEIPTS AND STOCK ON HAND IN VARIOUS SOUTHERN PORTS.

In Memphis, on February 28, the stock of cotton was as follows:—In sheds, 27,122; on the bluff, 5,044; in private storage, estimated, 2,000 bales. Total, 32,166 bales, against 26,176 bales on the last day of January.

In Savannah, the receipts between the 2d and 9th inst. were 8,727 bales, and the stock in port on the 12th inst. amounted to 18,000 bales.

Apalachicola, Fla., has received 100,000 bales of cotton since May last, and exported 85,345 bales—49,000 to New York, 11,000 to Liverpool and the remainder to New Orleans. Value of the cotton exported $13,000,000.

The receipts at Mobile on the 8th inst. amounted to 2,615 bales.

The South Willing to Leave Her Destiny to the Vote of Northern Soldiers.

[From the Vicksburg (Miss.) Herald, Feb. 28.]

An exchange says those who fought and won the victory, in this free land, are the only ones who have the right to decide the status of the vanquished. Especially is this so, when those victorious soldiers constitute a vast majority of the whole voting population of the "loyal" States. To them the South is willing to leave the present decision of all political questions involving her interest and her destiny. Let them decide what shall be done with the ignorant, suddenly emancipated negro, and the South will be content. Let them decide whether the lands and the whole property of those who have received the pardon of the government shall be confiscated or not, and the South will acquiesce. But the Southern people will feel irretrievably wronged and degraded if the settlement of these questions is left to those intolerant fanatics whose cowardly souls shirked the combat, whose greatest delight is in insulting and trampling on a fallen foe, and who are not less despicable in numbers than in character and conduct.

RUSSIA.

Shaky Condition of Russian Finance.

RISE OF A NEW MINISTER.

Democracy Going Ahead in the Empire of the Czars.

Singular Superstition of the Russian Court.

FAMINE IN THE LAND OF PLENTY.

&c. &c. &c.

Our St. Petersburg Correspondence.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 13, 1866.

The Russian Budget—Serious Deficit—Count Stroganoff's Attack Upon the Minister of Finance—He is Reprimanded by the Emperor—Reckless Expenditure of the Court—Rupture with Rome—The Princess Dagmar—Her Illness and Its Alleged Cause—Famine in Finland, &c.

At length the Minister of Finance has been delivered of his impatiently expected budget. It must have cost him a vast deal of trouble, or have given rise to many objections in the council of the empire; for instead of being published on the 1st of January (old style) it only came out on the 29th (the 10th instant). So far as we can understand, the deficit amounts to no less than forty-two million roubles, for the receipts are stated at three hundred and sixty-two millions and the expenses at four hundred and four millions; but by some mystical process which is unintelligible to the vulgar mind, Mr. Rentern makes it out to be not above twenty-one million five hundred thousand roubles. Even this would be quite a respectable sum, considering that during the past year Russia has been at peace with all the world, excepting the wild tribes of Central Asia; but we have too much experience of the Minister's skill in arranging figures to place implicit confidence in the explanations by which the apparent deficit is reduced to one-half. It is certain that the public has no favorable opinion of his financial talents, and what is thought of his honesty may be inferred from a debate in the Municipal Council of Odessa in which Count Stroganoff openly accused the Minister of having two sets of figures—one real and one official—and trying to deceive the country by false statements and garbled reports. Count Stroganoff (Alexander Grigorievitch) is one of the most eminent men we have. He is Aid-de-Camp General to the Emperor, member of the Senate and the Council of State, was formerly Home Minister, and then for many years Governor General of South Russia, where he made himself so popular that on his retiring from office the citizens of Odessa elected him into their Municipal Council, besides which he is nearly connected with the imperial family, his son having married the Dowager Duchess of Luchtenberg. There was a general impression that the accusations brought against Mr. Rentern by such a man would render the Minister's position untenable, and that he would have to resign his portfolio; but the reverse has happened—an imperial order was issued the other day reprimanding Count Stroganoff for his attack upon a Minister of the Crown, and signifying the Emperor's displeasure to Prince Voroutzoff, the Mayor of Odessa, for allowing such an attack to appear in the minutes of the Municipal Council, which are inserted in the Odessa newspapers. From this it is evident that Rentern is in as high favor as ever, and that there is no hope of a reform in our finance system, which is bringing us nearer and nearer to a grand crash.

The Emperor is the best intentioned man in the world, and it would be wrong not to acknowledge the manifold benefits he has conferred on the nation in the ten years of his reign; but unhappily he is surrounded by favorites, mostly Germans, who abuse his good nature, and prevent the complaints of the people and the advice of true patriots from reaching his ear. Born in the purple, he has no idea whatever of the value of money, and while the last silver ruble is vanishing from the country, enormous sums are squandered upon the uniforms of the imperial guards, upon the liveries of the imperial servants, and upon the decorations of the imperial palaces, which are all of the most gorgeous description—a perfect blaze of gold and precious stones. The splendor of the Court and the lavish scale of expenditure keep on increasing, while the financial resources of the empire are constantly diminishing. Since 1853 the public debt has risen from four hundred to twelve hundred million roubles. Of course this is partly owing to the Crimean war; but with a proper system of economy we should have long ago recovered from the effects of that war as we did from that of 1812, by which the most flourishing provinces of Russia were devastated, whereas that of 1853 was only carried on on the outskirts of the empire, and left the interior untouched. As it is, we are certainly fresh losers every year, and each year on more onerous terms, notwithstanding which the most necessary public works languish for want of funds, and the great southern railroad, which was in everybody's mouth after the peace, and which was to secure us against a repetition of the events of Sebastopol, is still a dream of the future. No wonder independent men like Count Stroganoff raise their voices against such doings, and if the Emperor were well advised he would listen to their warnings, instead of exerting his authority to reduce them to silence.

The difficulty between Baron Meyendorff and the Pope will, as already hinted, lead to the final termination of our diplomatic connections with the Papal See, which have long been on a very unsatisfactory footing. It is credibly reported that the Baron has received orders to leave Rome with his whole suite, and that the *Journal de St. Petersbourg* will contain an article to the effect that as the patrimony of St. Peter has been reduced to such small dimensions, and what is left will soon be incorporated with the kingdom of Italy, it is considered superfluous to keep up a legation, the business of which can be transacted just as well by an embassy in Florence. But this, it is said, is only the first of a series of measures directed against the influence of the Vatican upon the Roman Catholic population of Russia. What is aimed at is an entire separation of the Catholic Church, both in the empire and the kingdom of Poland, from Rome, and it is affirmed that negotiations have already been entered into with one of the Catholic bishops, who is to receive the title of Metropolitan and to be invested with the supreme authority over the Church, independent of the Pope. It is added that the Italian government has been informed in confidence of this plan and invited to follow our example. I give the reports for what they are worth. They are current in our political circles, but time must show how far they are founded on truth, or whether, if such intentions exist, it will be deemed advisable or practicable to carry them into effect.

The marriage of the Princess Dagmar with the Grand Duke Cesarevitch is now a settled affair, and will be officially announced as soon as the year's mourning for the late Grand Duke has expired. The Princess will then pay a visit to St. Petersburg, and be received into the bosom of the orthodox Church, after which the wedding will be celebrated towards the end of the summer. The last advices from Copenhagen, however, give an unfavorable account of the Princess' health. She has been ailing for some time, and it is feared that she may be consumptive. It is whispered, by the way, that her illness is rather of a mental than of a physical nature. She was sincerely attached to her late fiancé, and does not relish being transferred so unceremoniously to his brother, who is certainly inferior to his predecessor in external advantages, although his disposition is generally praised, and he is studying hard to make himself worthy of the new position in which he is placed. There seems to be an evil star hanging over this match; and superstitious persons, of whom we have many, insist that no good can come of it, as it is against the canons of the orthodox faith for one brother to espouse the affianced bride of the other—who, by the ceremony of betrothal, has in reality become his sister-in-law. Archæologists go back as far as the reign of Vladimir the Great, and prove to their own satisfaction that all the miseries which befell Russia after his death was caused by his marrying the betrothed of his brother Yaropolk. These historical reminiscences will hardly prevent the match, unless the Princess should be decidedly averse to it; but her objections, if she have any, will probably be overcome by the prospect of a crown. Besides, as a satirist has remarked, no marriages are so happy as those which have a little aversion to begin with.

It is a singular fact that though Russia is the greatest corn-growing country in Europe, there are constantly partial famines occurring, and while the corn is rotting on the ground in one province the inhabitants of another are starving for want of it. In some measure this may be attributed to the bad state of the roads and the deficiency of railway communication; but, anyhow, it reflects little credit on the energy and forethought of the administration. In Northern Finland, especially, there has been a chronic famine for the last three or four years; and intelligence received from that region gives a melancholy pic