THE PACIFIC.

The Allied Republics Still Preparing for War.

Peaceful State of Affairs in Central America.

News from the North Pacific and Sandwich Islands.

&c. &c. &c.

The steamship Rising Star, Captain Harris, from Aspinwall on the 2d inst., arrived at this port yesterday, with passengers and mails from California and the Pacific coast and the following treasure list:—

Panama R. R. Co.	$15,150	Dabney, Morgan & Co.....	$105,015
Duncan, Sherman & Co.....	33,515	Lees & Waller..	217,755
Weil & Co.....	60,000	Order.....	550,000
J. & W. Seligman & Co.....	30,800	R. Bell & F. Gundry.....	91,586
W. Schall & Co..	33,091	Marcial & Co....	510
Eug. Kelley & Co	51,000	Isaacs & Asch...	700
Wells, Fargo &Co	71,987	Dearborn & Bro.	2,000
Total.....			$1,263,113

The purser of the Rising Star will accept our thanks for the prompt delivery of files and despatches.

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA.

OUR PANAMA CORRESPONDENCE.

PANAMA, Dec. 2, 1866.

The aspect of affairs at the political centre of Colombia is decidedly lugubrious. A careful inquiry into the cause of the late revolutionary demonstrations at Bogota reveals the fact that President Mosquera is determined to hold the executive office for life, whether at the head of a so-called republic, or as the occupant of the throne of a one horse monarchy. The popular outbreak at the capital is traced directly to Mosquera's agency; and, by reason of his influence over the rabble, he will probably secure the adoption of his scheme.

MOSQUERA'S PLANS AND THE PUBLIC FEELING.

As you have already learned, the first proposition of Mosquera, soon after his occupancy of the executive chair, was to alter the constitution so as to legally extend his term of office from two to ten years. This, according to shrewd calculation, is about as long as the old autocrat can survive the weight of years, already pressing heavily upon him. The adoption of this amendment, whether by compulsion or otherwise, would have answered every purpose, in fixing him securely in his position as chief magistrate of the country during the few years he has yet to live, and, should his eighty-sixth birthday see him still hale and hearty, it would be an easy matter to lengthen his term of office a second time. With this idea in his head, Mosquera labored, with the slyness of a fox, to bring the matter before Congress in a manner least offensive to the taste of his political opponents. The boldness of the proposition, however, was rather staggering in its effects, and, regardless of the moral pressure brought to bear upon it by the emissaries of the President, Congress refused to handle so dangerous a subject, and, before a new plan of storming the legislative redoubt could be fixed upon, that body was dissolved by a premature adjournment. The more intelligent class of people were opposed, from the start, to the action of the President, and after his little disaster in Congress, it was principally to the lower classes that he was obliged to turn for aid and consolation. How well he succeeded in exciting the feelings of the rabble has been shown in truthful colors.

"THE KINGDOM A-COMING."

Despairing, perhaps, of winning Congress over to his style of thinking, the President of Colombia has unhesitatingly advanced the idea of declaring the government a monarchy. No! that he has personally and publicly declared himself in favor of the revolution, but through his mouthpieces among the rabble he has given the people to understand that he winks at, and, in fact, sanctions the plan of elevating himself to the throne of a petty kingdom, composed of the fragments of a dismembered republic. The ability of his friends to effect this change is scarcely doubted. In former days Mosquera placed the blacks under a bond of obligation by liberating every slave in the country, and by afterwards admitting them to full citizenship. This masterly stroke of policy has proven to be his salvation on many occasions since; and, in this crisis, if one arises, they will not desert their tried friend who dragged them from the depths and made citizens of them all.

The arbitrary action of Mosquera in exiling the Bishop of Bogota, and in demanding the payment of tonnage dues on the isthmus, &c., is very suggestive of the fact that only a slight difference exists between a republican government, as exemplified in Colombia, and the most absolute monarchy in the world. The title of "Thomas I.," conferred on Mosquera at a late public meeting of the faithful, well befits its subject.

A NEW QUESTION FOR DIPLOMACY.

The United States have heretofore enjoyed the best facilities for the transportation of New York and California mails directly across the Isthmus; but it seems that a recent edict from Bogota directs all mails to be sent to the local Post Office for distribution. Notwithstanding the immunity usually enjoyed by your government, the provisions of this act are extended to the United States mails, as well as to those from Europe, the South Pacific and Australasia. The direful consequences of submitting from two to three hundred packages of California mails to the manipulation of the *pro tempo* officials of this country can readily be imagined. Delays would inevitably ensue, so as to render the route practically useless, and the overland mail, for papers and heavy packages, would degenerate into a monthly service, to be performed by the Nicaragua transit. The officers of the railway company have positive instructions to comply with the order of the President, and unless the local authorities are courteous enough to waive formality, matters will be transformed into a savoury mess upon the arrival of the next batch of mails from New York. Both governments are to be consulted upon the subject, and another "Sickles mission" will probably adjust the difficulty to the satisfaction of all concerned. Other, and equally important questions, growing out of the international use of the Isthmus must be definitely settled at the same time. The urgency of these matters is such that delay is ruinous, and the hope is expressed that the Washington authorities will give them immediate attention, as much for their own credit as for the convenience of the American public.

PERU AND CHILE.

The intelligence from Peru and Chile is unusually meagre. The allied fleet was preparing for a long sea voyage. The best ships of the navy, under command of the Chilean Admiral Williams, were to compose the squadron, the destination of which was but vaguely hinted. Putting this and that together, however, the Peruvian papers considered themselves justified in concluding the destination of the fleet to be Montevideo or Buenos Ayres. An officer high in rank on the United States steamer Powhatan assures me that before the latter vessel left the south he was reliably advised of the early departure of Admiral Williams, and he was also given to understand that his (Williams') destination was some port on the Atlantic coast. The same officer feels confident that the allies, after thoroughly overhauling their ships, will sally forth from their temporary retreat, and with a bold and unsparing hand will re-open the war on the Spanish coast. This smacks strongly of bombast. The strict reticence of the Chilean papers upon the subject leaves us very much in the dark respecting the movements of their squadrons, but this uncertainty will will doubtless be removed upon the arrival of the next mail.

I add the following extract from the Valparaiso correspondence of the Panama *Chronicle*, which throws some light upon the matter, assigning a reason for the spasmodic energy of the Chileans:—

VALPARAISO, Nov. 10, 1866.

The ships of the allied squadron are taking in coal and mounting their guns, preparatory, it is said, to departure on the 15th of the present month. It is reported that Chile and Peru have decided on rejecting the mediation of foreign Powers, if tendered, and on all future occasions to assume the offensive.

MEDIATION VS. SATISFACTION.

As above indicated, it was pretty well understood that the mediation of France and England would not be accepted by the allies. The result of Señor Pacheco's conference with the President of Chile had not been announced; but, from certain actions on the part of the government, the inference was drawn that Spain would not be excused from punishment for her misdemeanors. In other words, the allies propose to "carry the war into Africa," and will not meet the Spaniard as a friend until their spirit of retaliation is sufficiently appeased. The people, rash and unthinking, call for an attack on Cuba, and bitterly denounce anything that bears the appearance of a withdrawal from the contest.

IMPROVEMENTS IN WAR MATERIAL.

The allies are exceedingly active in experimenting with the various improvements in arms, &c., presented to their notice since their classification with belligerents. Several American inventions have proven themselves to be what they are represented, and as soon as the finances of Chile are in a healthy condition orders for large supplies will be given by the government. The famous needle gun had been competing for honors, but further experiments were to take place before convincing the inspectors of their usefulness to the allied army.

PANAMA.

The brave Granadians for the past week have been in the midst of their annual "Fourth of July" splurge. Independence day in this country falls on the 28th of November, but with their usual proneness to ridiculous things the people insist upon prolonging the celebration so long as the shinplasters are forthcoming for that purpose. Five days of dissipation have not satisfied their patriotic ardor, and, from the appearance of things at the present writing, the more steadily inclined people of the city will be grievously inflicted by "Young Colombia" for another week.

CENTRAL AMERICA.

The last arrival from the Central American coast brings no important news. The fairs were largely attended, and prices of indigo, &c., ruled high. The supply is said to have been unequal to the demand.

TERMS OF THE ENGLISH AND FRENCH MEDIATION.

The following are the main points of the plan proposed by the French and English Ministers for the settlement of the Chilean-Spanish quarrel:—

1. The flag of neither belligerent is to be saluted by the other; that matter remaining out of the question, as there are no Spanish war vessels in the Pacific.

2. The belligerents abandon all claims for indemnity on account of the war.

3. Neither Chile nor Peru shall make any claim on account of the bombardment of Valparaiso or Callao.

4. The treaties heretofore made by the allied republics with Spain to remain in vigor, including the treaty of January 27, 1865.

5. The decrees for the expulsion of Spanish subjects to be repealed.

The Peruvian journals reject such terms indignantly, and interpret the mediation as showing clearly that England, France and Spain are allied in interest at least in the affair. They think that by accepting such a mediation they would be getting rid of one weak enemy by risking the chance of soon afterwards having to meet three powerful ones.

PANAMA, Dec. 2, 1866.

By the English steamer Paita, which arrived here on the 29th ult., we have advices from Valparaiso to the 10th and Callao to the 21st ult.

In Chile there is still much talk of making war upon Spain. At latest dates the allied squadron was still in Valparaiso harbor preparing to go to sea. It was expected to sail about the 15th of November. A current report that the fleet had already started for Montevideo needs confirmation. As the fleet is to sail under sealed orders, its destination is unknown; but it is believed Manila is the first point to be touched at there, if possible, to intercept some of the Spanish vessels that put in for repairs after the defeat at Callao.

The recent sittings of the extra session of Congress in Chile have terminated in the defeat of the opponents to government.

A disastrous fire occured in Santiago, Chile, on the 2d of October. The market place, with all its stalls, &c., was destroyed. The amount of property destroyed was very large, and the losses fall chiefly upon the poor trading people, who can ill afford to bear it.

Colonel Balta and other expatriated Peruvians had taken up their residence in Santiago. The Cyclone, which was reported to have been captured by the Spaniards, arrived at Valparaiso on the 5th of November. It was doubtful whether the Chileans would purchase her or not, as they were negotiating for the Cabral and some other Brazilian iron clads lately built, but which draw too much water for service in the Paraguayan and Argentine rivers.

A slight shock of earthquake was felt at Valparaiso on the night of the 8th of November, but it caused no damage.

From Peru there is but little of interest. The Dictator, Prado, seems to be conducting affairs in that republic with great ability. The different attempts at revolution seem to have been most effectually suppressed. With a strong, well administered government, such as that of Prado, Peru must progress rapidly. Peru and Chile seem to have decided upon declining the offers of foreign mediation in their troubles with Spain, the conditions offered not being sufficient to satisfy the national honor or to give guarantees for the future.

Mr. Pacheco, the Peruvian Minister of Foreign Relations, had returned to Peru, having completed his mission to Chile.

Garcia Moreno had returned to Ecuador. He is expected at Guayaquil shortly to assume the governorship of that province.

CENTRAL AMERICA.

The Panama Railroad Company steamer Salvador, from the Central American coast, arrived here on the night of the 30th ult.

The five republics are all at peace, and consequently there is but little news to report.

Señor Don F. Guzman was elected President of Nicaragua. There were great fears that a revolution would shortly break out in that republic.

In Salvador the annual fairs of Chalatenango had been largely attended, and the demand for indigo exceeded the supply.

In Costa Rica the dry weather had set in. The coffee season will soon commence in that republic, and with it a great improvement in business is expected.

Otto Schroeter has been recognized by Costa Rica as Italian Consul to that republic.

THE ISTHMUS.

There is little of interest to report from the Isthmus. For the past four days all Panama, from the President down, have been celebrating the anniversary of independence (November 28) in the most enthusiastic manner. Business has been completely suspended during the festival. "In connection with this celebration," says the *Star and Herald*, "it is pleasing to notice an act of international courtesy on the part of Admiral Pearson, of the United States Navy, which occurred on Independence Day. On the morning of the 28th the Powhatan, the Admiral's ship, hoisted the Colombian colors, and at noon fired a salute of twenty-one guns in honor of the occasion."

Since the departure of the last mail nothing further has transpired in relation to the question of tonnage, dues and mails.

A severe gale was experienced at Aspinwall on the 26th, but fortunately it subsided without causing any serious damage.

Captain George Conway has recently been appointed Harbor Master at Aspinwall, vice Captain Tuthill, deceased.

THE SANDWICH ISLANDS.

OUR HONOLULU CORRESPONDENCE.

Arrival of Queen Emma at Honolulu—Her Reception by the People—Gossip About King Kammehama, &c.

HONOLULU, Oct. 29, 1866.

The arrival of the bark Ethan Allen from San Francisco on the 20th, brought definite news of the plans of her Majesty Queen Emma. The United States had placed the Vanderbilt at her disposal for the voyage home, and as she was to leave within a week after the Ethan Allen, but little time would elapse before her arrival.

MOVEMENTS OF THE KING.

His Majesty had left for Hawaii, for causes best known to himself, and rumors were prevalent that all salutes and receptions by the military had been prohibited by him before his departure. Various stories are told regarding the conduct of his Majesty. One is, that her Majesty and party had been negligent in the matter of correspondence, having failed to notify him personally of their arrival in San Francisco and of their expected movements. Another, not quite as creditable, is to the effect that a certain woman, of course, who holds a remarkable influence over him, had told him that, should he be on this island when the Queen arrived, he would so rely sicken and die. I give the stories for what they are worth.

ARRIVAL OF QUEEN EMMA.

Monday, the 22d inst., broke upon us with a clear sky and gentle trade winds blowing. When our quiet town had about settled itself down for a dull day, the telegraph announced "a steamer coming past Coco Head." Soon all was bustle and confusion, and all waited anxiously for the steamer to pass Diamond Head. As soon as the steamer hove in sight the royal standard of Hawaii was seen flying from her mainmast head, announcing the arrival of her Majesty Queen Emma and suite. A gun was immediately fired from the battery on Punch Bowl Hill, as a signal for the military companies to assemble at their respective armories. Infantry and cavalry soon appeared in squads, while the natives were making their way to the esplanade, dressed in their best, all chattering with evident delight. The public and private schools and principal workshops closed, and their children and artisans helped to swell the the throng that awaited to welcome the Queen. Every flagstaff—and we have a forest of them—flung its bunting to the breeze; ensigns of all the principal nations of the earth were displayed. The shipping in the harbor were soon dressed off, prominent among which was his Prussian Majesty's ship Vineta. The battery on the hill thundered forth a royal salute, which was responded to by the Vineta. The Vanderbilt steamed slowly down the reef, all eyes upon her, to see her enter the harbor, when lo! she rounded to outside and dropped anchor. As soon as possible his Excellency, Governor Domonis (whom Boston boys who attended Thayer's school, in Chauncey place, in 1845, may perhaps remember) and the Hon. David Kalakaua, her Majesty's Chamberlain, boarded the Vanderbilt, the Governor receiving the customary salute. The Hawaiian steamer Pele was soon alongside, under the command of Captain Jacob Brown, another Bostonian, and her Majesty took leave of the Vanderbilt amidst the deafening roar of a royal salute. On entering the harbor the Vineta manned yards, while the vast crowds on the wharves cheered lustily, swaying back and forth, uncertain when her Majesty might land.

The royal carriage was on the ground under an escort of the cavalry company, companies, commanded by Major Charles H. Judd. Her Majesty entered the carriage, accompanied by the gentlemen deputed to receive her by his Majesty, and slowly made way to the palace. The meeting between her Majesty and the venerable M. Kekauonoa, father of her late husband, was very affecting.

On the 23d the Vanderbilt entered our harbor in charge of the veteran pilot—now harbor master—Captain John Meek, and now lies off the esplanade admired by all.

HOOKUPU.

The week following her Majesty's arrival was an exciting one to Hawaiians. An old custom called "Hookupu" has been revived, and our streets have been thronged by natives eager and anxious to carry out its provisions, which consist of donating to a chief or chiefess after their return from abroad some article of food. Her Majesty has been the recipient of hundreds of pigs, chickens, turkeys, bunches of bananas, sticks of sugar cane, melons, pumpkins, oranges and limes, as a token of "aloha." A large proportion of the articles named were sent on board the Vanderbilt, and I am assured much relished both fore and aft.

A BALL.

The Germans of this city gave a ball to the officers of the Prussian ship Vineta the night after the arrival of the Queen, which was largely attended by residents and officers of both ships of war. I noticed Admiral Thatcher during the first of the evening, accompanied by Thomas Wilson, Vice Consul for the United States of America. The American Minister, General McCook, was not present, on account, so I learn, of a slight shown him by Captain Kuhn, of the Vineta. The Captain had not made the customary visit to the Legation, and consequently we were deprived of the presence of both the Minister and his amiable wife. I cannot think the slight was intentional; at the same time Americans are pleased to find that they have a representative who knows "what's what."

COURTESIES TO THE OFFICERS OF THE VANDERBILT.

I learn that his Hawaiian Majesty's Ministers will each give an entertainment to the officers of the Vanderbilt during the coming week, and that the American Minister and Consul will follow suit the week after, so that we have lively times in prospect.

THE WHALESHIPS.

Our harbor is fast filling up with whaleships from the northern seas. The average catch for the fleet will, from present indications, exceed seven hundred barrels. The English ship Isabella, and Brewer & Co.'s line of Boston packets are filling up with oil for Eastern ports.

THE CALIFORNIA AND CHINA STEAM LINE.

OUR SAN FRANCISCO CORRESPONDENCE.

Petition from the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce to Congress Asking a Modification of the Contract—Twelve Trips Yearly Instead of Thirteen.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 15, 1866.

THE CHINA AND SANDWICH ISLANDS STEAM LINE.

The following is a copy of the memorial to be presented to Congress, in regard to the China mail service, by the Chamber of Commerce of this city:—

The committee of the Chamber of Commerce, to whom was referred the resolution of that body of the 12th day of September last, in relation to the mail service of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company to China via Honolulu and the Japan Islands, beg leave to report that they have given the subject full consideration, and would recommend that the following memorial from this Chamber to Congress be prepared at once and forwarded to Washington:—

TO THE HONORABLE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN WASHINGTON:—

The Chamber of Commerce of the city of San Francisco, in the State of California, respectfully represents to your honorable body—

That a contract was entered into some time since between the Postmaster General, under authority of an act of Congress, and the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, whereby, for a certain consideration, mail service was to be performed monthly between this port and ports in China, in first class steamships, which were required to touch at Honolulu, in the Hawaiian islands.

That, appreciating the importance of rapid communication between the United States and China, this Chamber, in the month of June last, petitioned your honorable body to relieve the company in question from the necessity of touching at Honolulu with their large and burdensome steamers, because it would involve a delay in the passage of five to eight days, suggesting at the same time that a subsidy of sufficient amount be granted to that or some other company to perform the steam mail service to Honolulu monthly, independently of the service to China.

That, acting upon the representations from this Chamber and other sources, Congress at its last session so far modified the contract with the Pacific Mail Steamship Company as to authorize them, at their option, to drop Honolulu from the China mail service, upon condition that a separate steam line be established to the Hawaiian Islands, with a subsidy of $50,000, and that the said Pacific Mail Steamship Company perform yearly thirteen, instead of twelve, trips to China.

The modifications referred to, especially the requirement to perform an additional voyage each year, this Chamber cannot but regard as inconvenient to the travelling and mercantile community, as a disarrangement of well settled plans for the establishment of immediate and rapid steam communication with the ports of Japan and China, and as onerous and oppressive to the company designated to perform the contract.

It will change the day of sailing of each steamer from the first of each month to irregular dates, to be determined according to circumstances, and thus deprive travellers and shippers of goods at a distance of the requisite information as to the period when the steamers will take their departure from San Francisco.

It will involve the necessity of an additional steamship to perform the thirteenth voyage, and an expenditure yearly of at least $130,000, without commensurate advantages being derived, either by the government, the public or the steamship company. And it will compel the company, as an act of self preservation, to adhere to the original contract, to touch at Honolulu with their steamers, and thereby lengthen the voyage to China some five to eight days, thus practically reaffirming the very grievance which it was clearly the intention of Congress to qualify.

In view, therefore, of the consideration that the additional voyage yearly to China will afford no accommodation to the travelling or mercantile community, but will, on the contrary, operate injuriously to their interests; and in view also of the greatly increased expense which will be entailed upon the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, the Chamber of Commerce of the city of San Francisco respectfully petitions the Congress of the United States that the steamship company in question be permitted to drop the port of Honolulu from their service, without the additional obligation of another trip yearly to China, and that thereupon the subsidy for mail service to the Hawaiian Islands be increased from $50,000 to $100,000 yearly, which sum will be requisite to enable a responsible company to establish a permanent and efficient line of steamships between that important point and the United States.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

ROBT. B. SWAIN,
THOS. H. SELLY,
J. C. MERRILL,
ALBERT DIBBLEE,
C. J. DEMPSTER.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 13, 1866.

The old steamship Hermann, formerly of the New York and Bremen line, that has been lying to an anchor in this harbor for the past four years, has been sold to the Pacific Mail steamship Company, and will be sent to Yokohama as a store and extra ship at that port, to be in readiness should anything happen to one of the regular steamers of the line.

THE NORTH PACIFIC.

OUR KAMSCHATKA CORRESPONDENCE.

Naval Intelligence on the West Pacific Coast—Destination of Ships from Petropaulovski—Officers of the Russian Corvette Variag—Smallpox on the Whaleship Stephania—The Shenandoah Burning a Hawaiian Ship and John Bull Paying the Bill.

PETROPAULOVSKI, Kamschatka, August 5, 1866.

The Western Union Telegraph Company's steamer George S. Wright, carrying the Engineer-in-Chief of the Russo-American Telegraph Expedition, Colonel Charles S. Bulkley, sails to-morrow morning, for Behring Sea, Anadyr, Baeg and Norton Sound. From the latter point she will proceed by way of Sitka and Victoria, Vancouver's Island, to San Francisco.

The Russian corvette Variag, assigned to the service of the telegraph company, sails at the same time for the mouth of the Amoor river, by way of Ghijiga and other ports of the Okhotsk Sea. The following are the officers of the Variag:—Captain, Robert Lundh; Senior Officer, Commander Schafroff; Officers, Lieutenants Yermolaveff Staritoki, Greenewald and Bauer; Sub-Lieutenants, Boyle, Miskinin, Alesgoff, Goldbach, Armfelt and Lemen; Gardemarin, Koozmitch; Cadet, Makaroff; Naval Artillery, Lieutenant Koogoosheff; Sailing Masters, Lieutenant Semenoff, Ensign Wasilieff; Engineers, Lieutenant Kmits, Ensign Koozneizoff; Surgeon, Larionoff; Priest, the Rev. Platon.

The Variag is a screw corvette of 2,156 tons burden, carrying 17 guns and a crew of 306 men. She will probably pass the winter in one of the Japanese or Chinese ports. As the term of service of her men has nearly expired she will probably proceed next year to Cronstadt, while some other vessel will take her place in the telegraph service.

The Prussian brig Danzig (formerly the American brig Ida) sails to-day on a trading expedition along the Ochotsk Sea, whence she will proceed to Hakodadi, Japan. The American schooner Hall & Jackson sails on the 7th for the mouth of the Amoor river, whence she will return to Petropaulovski and afterwards proceed to San Francisco.

In June last the whaling ship Stephania, Captain Sinclair, of New Bedford, arrived here from the Sandwich Islands, having lost two of her crew with smallpox. Several persons on board were prostrated by the malady, and her captain appealed to the authorities for assistance. There was no smallpox hospital belonging to the port, and the Governor had no authority to erect one without first consulting the commander at Nikolaevsk. In this state of affairs Mr. Pfluger, one of the foreign merchants, erected at his own expense a building on the southern coast of Avatcha Bay, and supplied it with the proper fresh provisions. The Stephania moved thither and remained long enough to recover her crew and cleanse the ship from the infection. A statement of the case, properly certified, has been forwarded to St. Petersburg, with the request that Mr. Pfluger be reimbursed for his outlay (about $600) by the Russian government.

While the Shenandoah was on the North Pacific in 1865 she burned the whaleship Harvest, belonging to the house of Pfluger Brothers, of Honolulu, and sailing under the Hawaiian flag. A statement of the affair was sent to London, and the bill for the ship was promptly paid by the British government. This would seem to be an indirect acknowledgment that the Shenandoah was an English pirate ship rather than a rebel cruiser.

NEWS FROM CALIFORNIA.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 10, 1866.

The United States steamer Saginaw arrived from Victoria last evening, and the Western Union Telegraph Company's steamer Nightingale, from Petropotowski. The latter vessel brings the remains of the late Major R. Kennicott, *en route* for Chicago.

The Western Union Telegraph Company's steamer George S. Wright arrived to-day from Victoria with Colonel Bulkley and staff.

It is supposed the Company's bark Golden State has been frozen in in the Anydir river. Being storeship she has plenty of provisions.

Some two thousand miles of poles have been thus far erected in Asia and America.

The jury in the case of Peter D. Keadley, on trial for embezzling $60,000 from Wells, Fargo & Co., yesterday returned a verdict of guilty as charged in the indictment.

The Pacific Mail steamship Montana sailed to day with $768,024 in treasure, of which $617,461 is for New York. She carries 1,000 tons of wheat and 200 tons extra flour.

The ship Western Continent cleared for New Bedford this afternoon, carrying 256,000 gallons of whale oil.

BUSINESS AT THE SOUTH.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 6, 1866.

On account of the failure of the cotton crop and other depressing influences a financial crisis has been expected this fall. There have been, however, no failures of any consequence. One cotton factor and a few small dry goods merchants only have suspended, making no impression in business circles.

JOHN H. SURRATT.

The Plotter of the Assassination of President Lincoln—Testimony Showing His Connection With the Murder, &c.

The announcement which we made a few days since by telegraph from Alexandria, in Egypt, that John H. Surratt, the last of the immediate conspirators who plotted and executed the assassination of President Lincoln, had just been arrested in that distant land, seemed marvellous if not providential. As we have before stated, a year and a half had elapsed since the fatal tragedy had transpired, and he had not been seen or heard of, notwithstanding the Secretary of War had publicly offered a reward of $25,000 for his apprehension. He had escaped the observation of his many acquaintances and the vigilant eyes of detective officers in his own land, and the swiftly changing scenes of interest and excitement in this active nation, had almost removed him from our minds, when, thousands of miles away, across oceans and seas and national boundaries, among a people not one in a hundred thousand of whom had ever heard of him, and perhaps none had ever seen him, his identity was discovered. He had been serving for some time in the Papal Zouaves, under the assumed name of John Watson. His company was quartered at Veroli, one of the frontier towns of the Appenines. This sequestered village would seem to have been the last place in which to look for the fugitive from justice.

Still, General Rufus King, our Minister at Rome, heard of his whereabouts and communicated the fact to the authorities at home. Cardinal Antonelli promised the General all the facilities in his power for insuring Surratt's arrest. A few days after, as we are informed by a correspondent of the London *Post*, the Cardinal showed General King a series of telegraphic instructions sent from Rome, and the replies also by telegraph, of the authorities at Veroli and Velletri. They recorded the order to arrest Surratt, alias Watson; the successive steps taken in compliance with the order, the actual arrest, the conveyance to prison, the removal from prison under a guard of five soldiers of his company, but the series closed with the announcement that when thus led out, Surratt, alias Watson, made a sudden dash from his guards, jumped over a precipice more than one hundred feet high, and though hotly pursued by fifty Zouaves, was enabled, from the fact of their preferring a more circuitous route, to get across the frontier into the Italian territory.

General King announced the escape to Mr. Marsh, our Minister at the Italian Court, and orders were given to watch all the seaports. Surratt, however, managed to get out of the kingdom and had reached Egypt, where he was arrested by order of Mr. Hale, our Consul General, and taken to Constantinople, whence he will doubtless be sent to this country.

It will not be pre-judging Surratt's case to refresh the memory of our readers with the connection he sustained to the assassination, compiled as they shall be from the sworn testimony that convicted his confederates in crime.

John H. Surratt is a single man, about twenty-eight years old; he is scare built, five feet ten inches high, and has the appearance of an intelligent man. His education was partly obtained in the Philadelphia High School, but finished in the St. Charles College, Maryland. His father had given name to Surratt's Post Office, ten miles from Washington city, in Prince George's county, Maryland. His mother, at the time of the assassination, owned a hotel in that village, though she lived in Washington, the son boarding with her, when not passing back and forth between the rebel capital, Richmond, and the northern rebel base of operations, Canada.

On the 6th and 7th of April, 1865, Surratt was seen in Montreal by witness Sanford Conover, a correspondent of the New York *Tribune*, in the room of Jacob Thompson, Financial Agent of the Confederacy. He had just brought despatches from Richmond, one from Benjamin, Secretary of State, and one in cipher from President Davis. This witness, Conover, though a Northern man, had been compelled to serve the rebel cause in Virginia, but had escaped, and in Canada established himself in the confidence of Thompson; and thus he learned the nature of the despatches brought up by Surratt. "Thompson laid his hand on them and said, 'This makes the thing all right,' referring to the assent of the rebel authorities" to the assassination of Lincoln. "Mr. Lincoln, Mr. Johnson, the Secretary of War, Judge Chase and General Grant were to be victims of this plot. Mr. Thompson said, on one of these occasions, that it would leave the government entirely without a head." "From the whole of his (Surratt's) conversation I inferred that he was to take his part in the conspiracy on the President and his Cabinet."

"On the 24th of April," David C. Reed testified, "about three o'clock, as I was standing just below the National theatre, I saw John H. Surratt, and we bowed to each other as he passed."

Louis J. Weichman, clerk in the office of General Hoffman, Commissary General of Prisoners, testified that he boarded with Mrs. Surratt in Washington from the 1st of November, 1864, until the assassination took place; that J. Wilkes Booth was a frequent visitor at the house, having private interviews with Mrs. Surratt and with John H. Surratt, for hours at a time; that the latter engaged boarding at the Herndon House for Lewis Payne, who attempted the assassination of Secretary Seward; that Surratt returned from Richmond on the 3d of April, left immediately for Montreal, where he arrived on the 6th and returned on the 12th. This witness also stated that Atzerodt, who was to have taken Vice President Johnson's life at the Kirkwood House, first called to see Surratt soon after Booth began visiting at Mrs. Surratt's, and that he must have called ten or fifteen times; that Surratt, when he returned from Richmond, had nine or eleven $20 gold pieces, but had no gold when he started to Richmond; that on the 14th day of April, the day of the assassination, at Mrs. Surratt's request, he drove out with her to Surrattsville, where she had a private interview with J. M. Floyd, her tenant of the hotel.

This Mr. Floyd took fled that five or six weeks before the assassination John H. Surratt, David E. Harold and G. A. Atzerodt came to his house, and that Surratt asked him to conceal for him until called for two carbines, some ammunition, a rope and a monkey wrench; that Mrs. Surratt, on Tuesday before the assassination, told him to get them out ready, that they would be wanted soon; that on the 14th of April he found Mrs. Surratt at his house, who told him to have those shooting irons ready that night, as there would be some parties who would call for them; that about midnight Harold came to his house and said:—"Harold, for God's sake make haste and get those things;" that he gave him the carbines, whiskey and field glass; that the man who was with Harold said:—"I will tell you some news, if you want to hear it. * * * I am pretty certain we have as assinated the President and Secretary Seward;" that he supposed the man to be Booth, &c.

Another witness, E. L. Smoot, who lived about a mile from Surrattsville, testified that Joseph T. Nott, of Surrattsville, on being asked if he knew where Surratt was (after he had been charged with being one of the conspirators), smiled and said he reckoned John was in New York by that time. On being asked why, he answered, "My God! John knows all about the murder. Do you suppose he is going to stay in Washington and let them catch him? * * * I could have told you that this thing was coming to pass six months ago." He added, "Keep that in your own skin, my boy. Don't mention that, if you do, it will ruin me forever."

FURTHER TESTIMONY BY LOUIS J. WEICHMAN.

John H. Surratt is a Catholic, and was a student of divinity at St. Charles College, Maryland; his character at college was excellent; on leaving college he shed tears, and the President, approaching him, told him not to weep; that his conduct had been so excellent during the three years he had been there, that he would always be remembered by those who had charge of the institution; John H. Surratt is about six feet high, with very prominent forehead, a very large nose, and sunken eyes; he has a goatee, and very long hair of a light color; my acquaintance with John H. Surratt commenced in the fall of 1859, at St. Charles College, Maryland; we left college together in the summer of 1862, and I renewed my acquaintance with him in January, 1863, in this city (Washington), on the first of November, 1864, I went to board at the house of his mother, Mrs. Surratt, at No. 541 H street, between Sixth and Seventh streets, and boarded there up to the time of the assassination; I was upon very intimate terms with John H. Surratt, seeing him almost every day when he was at home; we sat at the same table, roomed together, and shared the same bed; Surrat was continually speaking about cotton speculations and of going to Europe; some time in March a man calling himself Wood came to Mrs. Surratt's and inquired for John H. Surratt; that is the man (pointing to Lewis Payne); I went to the door and told him Mr. Surratt was not at home; he thereupon expressed a desire to see Mrs. Surratt; he stopped at the house all night; he had supper served up in my room; I took it to him from the kitchen; he represented himself as a Baptist preacher; about three weeks after he called again; on the last occasion he was dressed in a complete suit of gray; on returning from my office one day while Payne was there, I went up stairs to the third story, and found Surratt and Payne seated on a bed playing with bowie-knives; there were also two revolvers and four sets of new spurs. (The witness here identified one of the spurs and a bowie-knife found in Atzerodt's room at the Kirkwood House—the house in which Vice President Johnson then boarded—as the same he saw Surratt and Payne playing with.) I recognize the prisoner Atzerodt; he first came to Mrs. Surratt's house, as near as I can remember, about three weeks after I formed the acquaintance of Booth, and inquired for John H. Surratt or Mrs. Surratt; since then he must have been at the house ten or fifteen times; I went with John H. Surratt to the Herndon House about the 19th of March, for the purpose of renting a room for a delicate gentleman, who was to have his meals sent up to his room; no name was mentioned; one day I met Atzerodt on the street and asked him where he was going, he said he was going to the Herndon House to see Payne; I then asked, "Is it Payne who is at the Herndon House?" he said "Yes." About the 15th of January last I was passing down Seventh street, in company with John H. Surratt, and when opposite Odd Fellows Hall, some one called out, "Surratt, Surratt," and turning round he recognized an old acquaintance of his, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd, of Charles county, Maryland, that gentleman there (pointing to the accused, Samuel A. Mudd); he and John Wilkes Booth were walking together; Surratt introduced Dr. Mudd to me, and Dr. Mudd introduced Booth to both of us, and Booth invited us to his room at the National Hotel; when we arrived there he told us to be seated, and ordered cigars and wine for four; after a private consultation between Booth and Mudd in the passage, Booth called Surratt out; on their return Dr. Mudd apologized to me for his private conversation; afterward, they were seated round the centre table, when Booth took out an envelope, and on the back of it made marks with a pencil; I should not consider it writing, from the motion of the pencil; it was more like roads or lines; after this interview at the National Hotel, Booth called at Mrs. Surratt's frequently, generally asking for Mr. John H. Surratt, and in his absence for Mrs. Surratt; their interviews were always apart from other persons; I have been in the parlor in company with Booth when Booth has taken Surratt up stairs to engage in private conversation, which would sometimes last two or three hours; the same thing would sometimes occur with Mrs. Surratt; about the 17th of March last a Mrs. Slater came to Mrs. Surratt's house, and stopped there one night; this lady went to Canada and Richmond; on Saturday, March 23, John H. Surratt drove her and Mrs. Surratt into the country in a buggy, leaving about eight in the morning; Mrs. Surratt told me on her return that John had gone to Richmond with Mrs. Slater; Mrs. Slater, I understood, was to have met a man by the name of Howell, a blockade runner, but he was captured on the 24th of March, so Surratt took her back to Richmond; Mrs. Slater, as I learned from Mrs. Surratt, was either a blockade runner or a bearer of despatches; Surratt returned from Richmond on the 3d of April, the day the news of the fall of Richmond was received; I had some conversation with him about the fall of Richmond, and he seemed incredulous; he told me that he did not believe it; that he had seen Benjamin and Davis in Richmond, and they told him that Richmond would not be evacuated; Surratt only remained in the city about an hour, when he told me he was going to Montreal, and asked me to walk down the street with him and take some oysters; he left that evening, saying he was going to Montreal, and I have not seen him since; I saw about nine or eleven $20 gold pieces in his possession and $50 in greenbacks when he came from Richmond, and just before leaving for Canada he exchanged $40 of gold for $50 in greenbacks with Mr. Holahan; I afterwards learned in Montreal that Surratt arrived there on the 6th of April, and left on the 12th for the States, returned on the 18th and engaged rooms at the St. Lawrence Hall, and left again that night, and was seen to leave the house of a Mr. Porterfield, in company with three others, in a wagon; I arrived at Montreal on the 18th, and my knowledge was derived from the register of St. Lawrence Hall; I received this despatch and delivered it to John H. Surratt on the same day:—

NEW YORK, March 23, 1865.

TO WEICHMANN, Esq., 541 H street:—

Tell John to telegraph number and street at once.

J. BOOTH.

When I delivered the despatch to John H. Surratt, I asked him what particular number and street was meant, and he said, "Don't be so damned inquisitive;" on the Tuesday previous to the Friday of the assassination I was sent by Mrs. Surratt to the National Hotel to see Booth, for the purpose of getting his buggy; Booth said he had sold his buggy, but gave me ten dollars that I might hire one; I drove Mrs. Surratt to Surrattsville on that day; on Friday, the day of the assassination, I went to Howard's stable about half-past two o'clock, having been sent there by Mrs. Surratt, for the purpose of hiring a buggy; I drove her to Surrattsville the same day, arriving there about half past four in the afternoon; we stopped at the house of Mr. Lloyd, who keeps a tavern there; just before leaving the city, as I was going to the door, I saw Mr. Booth in the parlor, and Mrs. Surratt was speaking with him; they were alone;