EUROPE.

NEWS TO DECEMBER 10.

Manchester Wants the Alabama Claims Settled.

British Artillery, Cardinal Cullen and the Irish Police Out Against the Fenians.

Our Dublin, St. Petersburg and London Correspondence.

&c. &c. &c.

BY THE CABLE TO DECEMBER 10.

THE ALABAMA CLAIMS.

A Prompt English Settlement Again Recommended.

MANCHESTER, Dec. 10, 1866.

The *Examiner* follows the London *Times* and calls for an early and satisfactory settlement of the Alabama claims. It believes the popular voice is strongly in favor of an amicable adjustment.

THE FENIAN MOVEMENT.

English Claim of Superior Strategy—The Catholic Church Called in Aid of British Artillery.

LONDON, Dec. 10—Noon.

The *Times*, in an editorial this morning, says that the Fenians have been fairly checkmated, and that it would be madness on their part to attempt rebellion.

Cardinal Cullen has issued a pastoral, urging the Irish people to obedience to the law and the avoidance of all secret societies.

Arrests still continue to be made, and more artillery will leave for Ireland soon.

THE ROMAN QUESTION.

A French Garrison to Remain for Christmas.

ROME, Dec. 10, 1866.

Some of the French troops are still here, and will remain until the end of December.

FRANCE.

The New Minister for Washington.

PARIS, Dec. 10, 1866.

The new Minister appointed by the Emperor to the United States, M. Berthemy, sailed for New York on Saturday.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

The London Money Market.

LONDON, Dec. 10, 1866.

United States five-twenty bonds, before official hours this morning, were quoted at 71.

LONDON, Dec. 10—Noon.

The money market is quiet. Consols for money open at 88⅝ ex dividend.

The following are the opening rates for American securities:—

United States five-twenties	71¼
Illinois Central	77¼
Erie	47

LATER.

LONDON, Dec. 10—1 P. M.

At the opening of the market this morning there were sales of five-twenty bonds at 71⅛, and subsequently at 71¼—closing at this hour at the latter price.

LONDON, Dec. 8—Evening.

Consols have been very firmly held to-day, with sales for money at 88⅝ a 88¾.

Panama railroad bonds firm.

American five-twenty bonds of the issue of 1865 are again rather higher, with transactions at 69¾ a 69⅞.

The Frankfort Bourse.

UNITED STATES BONDS QUOTATIONS.

FRANKFORT, Dec. 8, 1866.

United States five-twenties rule very steady in this market at 71½ a 71¾, cash and short time.

The Liverpool Cotton Market.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 10, 1866.

The week opens on a steady and firm cotton market, with a very general inquiry. The sales will probably exceed 12,000 bales. Middling Gulfs at 14⅝d a 14½d.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 10—1 P. M.

The brokers report an active market to-day at full prices, though not quotably higher. The sales thus far reach 15,000 bales. The stock of American cotton is very light.

Liverpool Breadstuffs Market.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 8—Evening.

The market for breadstuffs generally closed heavy, and with only a moderate attendance of buyers. Wheat was offered at one penny decline per cental, and corn at 30s. 6d. for handsome American white.

MARINE INTELLIGENCE.

QUEENSTOWN, Dec. 10—Noon.

The steamships Etna and Tarifa, from New York, arrived here this morning *en route* to Liverpool.

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

IRELAND.

OUR DUBLIN CORRESPONDENCE.

The First Symptoms of a Great Fenian Movement—Has James Stephens Landed?—Five Thousand Pounds Sterling Reward for His Body, Alive or Dead—Action of the Government—The Anti-Sepoy Strategist—General Alarm and Public Fear, &c.

DUBLIN, Nov. 28, 1866.

"Coming events cast their shadows before." If the occurrences in Ireland during the past six days are to be taken as shadows of the future, we must expect stirring times here very quickly. The great question that is now ringing from one end of the island to the other is, "Has James Stephens got into Ireland yet?" Though many venture to confidently affirm that he is in the midst of us, the truth is only known to the initiated, and so far has been carefully guarded. If he is not in Ireland yet, which is the opinion of the shrewdest outsiders, there is no doubt but that he will be here within a day or two.

Public excitement is running very high; nothing is talked of in newsroom, club, or on 'Change, but the coming revolution; when it is to commence, and where the "dogs of war" will first be slipped, are canvassed with anxious faces. Few venture to laugh it off, or deny that there will be a movement soon. The government are also stirring, and bracing up their resources to meet events. I mentioned in my last that £1,000 reward was offered to the man who would prevent Stephens getting into the country. That proposed reward has since been largely increased, and now any man, woman or child who will cause the body of Stephens to be delivered to the government, either alive or dead, can claim £5,000, and protection for the term of their natural life.

The wildest rumors about him pass from one to another. From various seaports round the coast the telegraph is hourly bringing to the Castle reports of his landing and being seen in various disguises; now 'tis a beggerman, apprehended by the local constabulary, who are sure they have the prize, or a sailor or a minister are detained because of some probable likeness to the great organizer.

The latest report to official quarters, and one which is likely to be founded on facts of some sort, is that he has managed to get into Dublin; that two mornings ago a small lugger landed him at the North Bull—a break, unguarded tract of seacoast, about two miles from this—and that he has been since going through the city as the driver of an outside car; that his agents and friends in turn pretend to hire him, and he drives them by some unfrequented road. Thus communications are carried on, and he gives his directions without being suspected. 'Tis said that the authorities propose to call up all the car drivers for inspection to-morrow morning; but to do so they should give notice, and it is not likely the C. O. would parade himself.

I have to-day received information from most reliable authority that the plans of the Fenian leaders are in a very forward state. The emissaries of the C. O. and officers appointed to lead the insurgents have managed to get into the country by twos and threes, and are spread through the various districts assigned to them. The masses of the people who have enrolled themselves under the banner of the expected republic only wait the signal to take the field. The rising is to take place in the night time, and notice will be passed from district to district by signal rockets and beacons. In the country districts the police barracks will be first assaulted, the police routed, and their stations fortified by the insurgents. Country mansions and large farms will then be dispoiled, and every one forced to contribute, by money or materials, to the maintenance of the body. In the cities the public buildings most likely to be able to stand a siege are to be seized, and at once fitted up as fortresses. The prisons, workhouses and such like will form their barracks. The banks are to be seized, and all cash found in the cellars to be divided between the Fenian executive and the army. How soon these events will come to pass none can positively say, but if their assertions are to be credited the time is very close at hand, and I may have stirring scenes to notice in the course of the coming month.

The government authorities are working with vigor now. All the troops comprising the Dublin garrison were kept under arms during the past three nights. Detachments of cavalry patrolled the outlying districts of the city until daylight, and on Saturday an order was despatched to Chatham, from the Admiralty, for the immediate preparation of transport ships to convey several regiments to Ireland. Three regiments were telegraphed for to Aldershot, to prepare for immediate embarkation. Two of these are to increase the Dublin garrison, which already is very large indeed. The other will be broken into several detachments and dispersed through the country. A party of Royal Marines are also on their way from Woolwich to do duty in Ireland.

The police force is being considerably augmented by men from the English branch, and they are all armed with six-chamber revolvers, while the constabulary in country districts are being armed with breech loading rifles.

Dublin Castle, where James Stephens has promised to eat his dinner on Christmas Day, is being rapidly fortified and strengthened to be able to resist attacks. The Under Secretary for Ireland, Sir Thomas Larcom, is so much impressed with the gravity of his position that he has resigned his residence in the Phœnix Park, and come to reside in the Castle, to be on the spot to receive immediate news, and be ready to issue prompt directions when required.

The Commander-in-Chief, Lord Strathnairn (Sir Hugh Rose), is again urging on the government the advisability of adopting his plan, which is simply to encourage the Fenians to break out, and then promptly pour masses of military on them, and massacre every one found participating in the movement. This is only what might be expected from the man who blew the natives from the cannon's mouth by the score in India, but it does not receive the full approbation of his colleagues in the Privy Council.

Several arrests and seizures have been made within the week, and I may tell you on reliable data, that there are at least six informers at present lodged in the Castle. It is believed the authorities have acted on their information, and that a raid will be made on all marked individuals before another week elapses. It is thought advisable to wait for a few days to get Stephens into the country before taking this step, so that, if possible, he may be included in the batch, and some of the staff who will come over with him. Meantime they have been picking up men in Belfast, Carrickmacross, Trim, Drogheda, Cork and other places. In Dublin, a man lately arrived from America, who gave his name as James McPherson McGillivray, was arrested on Monday charged with being an agent of the conspirators. About £1,000 were found on him and a revolver, but no documentary evidence of connection. He is detained to give time for further investigation.

Two cases, containing a couple of hundred stand of Enfield rifles and bayonets, with bullet moulds and caps, were seized coming into Cork; the rifles bore the government brand, and were addressed to a most respectable firm—Daly & Co., carpet manufacturers, members of the Cork Corporation. And investigation shows that several cases, similar in appearance, have been delivered to the same address within the past few months. It is thought that they have been received by a clerk in the employment of the firm, who is now consigned to durance vile. A large seizure of bullets, some 8,000 to 10,000, has been made in Limerick, and the materials ready for the manufacture of as many more.

As a natural consequence of these facts, the public mind is considerably disturbed. Those who sympathise with Stephens and his plans anxiously await the news of his arrival, while the loyal portion of the community are anxiously watching the preparations which the government will make for their protection. All feel that the next month is big with fate.

If Stephens succeeds in getting an army into the field, seizing a few large buildings as fortifications, and can hold out for a little while, so as to prove the reality of his intentions, there is small reason to doubt but that he would receive large reinforcements of people who now hang back because they doubt his sincerity and his intention to do more than extract money from his dupes. Also, if the movement was not so much of a socialistic form of revolution; if it were not believed to be a war of the poor against the rich; if it partook more of a true political form, numbers of respectable and wealthy people would be found in its ranks. The spirit of discontent, with love of country, which led to the affairs of '98 and '48, still exist. Patriotism still burns strongly in all Irishmen's hearts, rich as well as poor; but the former cannot see that Stephens is the man to lead them while he blazons on his banner "Murder and pillage." If he prove that his ideas are above these crimes, that he will respect life and property, he may find his bands considerably strengthened.

Denis Dowling Mulcahy's case has been fully argued, the points I gave you in my last communication commented on at great length, but the judges have signified their intention to postpone any declaration of their opinions till next term. It is generally thought that they will be adverse to the wishes of the prisoner's counsel.

RUSSIA.

OUR ST. PETERSBURG CORRESPONDENCE.

The Ambassador to Washington—Imperial Policy of Progress—A Land Tenure Revolution for Poland—Emancipation Plan for the Peasants—Royal Pardons—Health of the Newly Married Princess—Death of an American Circus Rider, &c.

ST. PETERSBURG, Nov. 20, 1866.

It is rumored that Admiral Lisofsky may be the successor of Baron Stoeckl as Russian Minister to the United States. I am not as yet well enough informed concerning the subject to give any opinion in respect to the truth of the report. I know that Prince Gortschakoff feels it to be a difficult matter to find a successor to Baron Stoeckl, whose distinguished services in the United States are fully appreciated here. The importance of having a representative there who is familiar with our institutions, and who will always be on the best of terms with our government, is not lost sight of here.

The policy of the present Emperor, Alexander Second, is a progressive one. Early in his career as Emperor of all the Russias, he determined to take a great step in advance, and give freedom to the millions of serfs within his empire. How that grand scheme of emancipation was successfully executed, in spite of a thousand obstacles that would have deterred a less bold and intelligent man than the Emperor, the world already knows. Although the good results which would naturally flow from so important a step have not all been developed, and while serious drawbacks have no doubt manifested themselves, tending to shake one's confidence in the final result for the good for all classes, yet sufficient good has come out of it to induce the Emperor to extend its operations beyond the empire of Russia.

He has now added another laurel to his brow, by freeing from the peculiar ties that bound the peasant to the land and landlord, in the kingdom of Poland, from feudal times. By a long ukase issued a day or two after the marriage of his beloved son, the Grand Duke *Alexis*, he gives to the peasants freedom from certain taxes, imposts and tithes collected by the landowners and the government, from time immemorial, and emancipates them from the feudal bonds which chained them for ever to the soil. Nearly five hundred towns and cities in Poland will now enjoy the benefits of this great act, second only in importance to the first emancipation ukase. The peasants are now to have a certain quantity of land, which they sell or dispose of as they choose. They are made free men, and the landowners are compelled to see that each of his freed servants are placed in possession of this bit of estate. The government relinquishes all its claims on imposts, &c., and assumes the liability to pay the landowners for the loss of their established tithes. Commissions will be at once appointed to carry out the details of the great scheme, and an opportunity will be given the emancipated serfs, or whatever you may call them, to take care of themselves, to acquire property and improve their general condition in life. The property which the emancipated acquire must be paid for in a certain number of years, and is not given them out and out by the government. The latter undertakes to aid them somewhat, and to guarantee that the present landowners shall not lose their all by the change of relations existing between them and the dwellers on the soil.

In general terms the details of the scheme are similar to those of the emancipation policy pursued in Russia proper. This act prompted by the benevolent heart of the Emperor cannot fail to have a mighty influence in attaching to himself and his dynasty the people of Poland, and in uniting in closer bonds the interests and destinies of the Poles with the Russians. The full fruition of all his hopes may not be enjoyed by the present Imperial author of these grand schemes for elevating, enlightening and making more free and happy all his people, but future generations will participate in all their vast and munificent results, and will bless the name and honor the memory of Alexander II. for his humane progressive and far sighted policy. No more brilliant illustrations or magnificent pages in the history of Russia will be found by readers in the future than those being added to it in our day by the great and enlightened sovereign who now wields for good the destinies of the immense empire of Russia.

That he may live long to enjoy the golden results flowing from his wise and humane policy must be the wish of every one who has at heart the advancement and well being of all the peoples of the earth.

The Emperor, on the event of his son's marriage, issued other ukases, in which he pardoned many classes of offenders now suffering the penalties affixed by courts martial, both in the army and navy. Indeed, in every way he signalized the great event by exercising his powers for the good of all classes. Polish exiles in Siberia and political offenders were not forgotten at this moment, and all will enjoy in one way or another the clemency which he exercises towards his wayward people.

The health of the Grand Duchess Marie Feodorovna, wife of the Grand Duke *Alexis*, is slowly improving, but it is still delicate. No day has yet been fixed for the recommencement of the festivities so suddenly stopped by her indisposition; but I learn that the announcement will soon be made, and that the gayeties will flow on again, with all their brilliancy, through the winter.

The Nobles or English Club are to give a grand ball in a few days in honor of the happy event just accomplished, at which the Emperor and imperial family will be present. This is the same club that gave a splendid dinner to the American mission just before its departure, and at which Prince Gortschakoff made his able and eloquent speech. It is composed of the nobles of the empire of the highest rank, and gives the most magnificent balls and entertainments of any in Russia.

A sad accident occurred on Wednesday night last at the Cirque-Reux, in this city, which resulted in the death of Davis Richards, an American circus rider of great talent and widespread reputation. He was doing Ajuntplan act, as it is called, with another artist, on the backs of two horses. On getting down from the shoulders of his comrade his foot slipped, and he fell upon his back upon the rump of one of the horses, and before his comrade could assist him he quickly slipped off and struck on the back of his head and neck with such force as to at once paralyze his whole body. On being assisted he seemed to be conscious of the gravity of his condition, and said, "I am a dead man—let me remain here and die—send my love to my wife;" and then ceased to speak. He was at once removed to his apartment, where he died in twenty-four hours. He had the best medical skill in the city, but his case was beyond human aid. He was an artist of great skill, vigor and *élan* as a bare back rider, and was considered unequalled by any in Europe. He was much beloved by all his comrades for his genial disposition and pleasant manners. He will be buried here on the arrival of his wife from London. He leaves with the widow three children. Colonel George Pomutz, the American Consul here, on being notified took possession of his effects, and placed the consular seal upon them for future arrangements. He left a considerable sum of money in coin, and several splendid trained horses. The poor fellow was going home to the United States in six weeks to fulfill an engagement there. He was, I believe, from Philadelphia, where he leaves relatives. The Americans here will attend his funeral, and pay him the last tribute of respect.

The weather, which has been most vile and disagreeable for the past two weeks or more, has now cleared up, and a fall of snow affords us capital sleighing, which is being improved of by every one who can afford an equipage. The temperature has not yet been very low, and one needs no furs, although nine-tenths of the Russians seem to live in their capacious cloaks lined with skins, and really believe winter is upon them. I have not observed it as yet.

ENGLAND.

OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENCE.

Proposal to Increase the Army—The Championship of the Thames—The Iron Workers' Strike—Shipwrecked Americans, &c.

LONDON, Nov. 24, 1866.

The government of Great Britain has decided, that immediately upon the reassembling of Parliament a bill shall be laid before the House of Commons proposing an increase in the army.

A rowing match came off on Thursday, for $1,000 a side and the championship of the Thames. The contestants were Robert Chambers, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, ex-champion, and Joseph Sadler, of Putney, both landsmen. This was the first occasion on which two landsmen had rowed for the championship of the Thames. There was a large concourse of spectators present in boats, on steamers and on the river banks, and a good deal of interest was manifested in the race. Although Sadler came in first by a few lengths, the race was awarded to Chambers in consequence of a foul. Chambers has announced his intention of "retiring to private life."

The strike of the iron workers on the Tyne, which has continued for eighteen weeks, in consequence of a notice by the masters of a reduction of ten per cent in the wages of the men, is now virtually ended. Some of the Union leaders still hold out, but large numbers of workmen have been compelled to submit in order to end the suffering occasioned to their families by this protracted strike. They will resume work at once. Others, however, are still debating the matter; but it is believed now that all will consent to the reduction. It is said that very few of the factories will be able to work full time during the winter.

Part of the crew of the American brig E. M. Dyer, which was wrecked on the coast of North Carolina, were brought to Southampton yesterday by Captain Furney, of the British brig Meg. The captain, second mate and three colored seamen of the Dyer were picked off the wreck near Cape Hatteras on the 22d of last month. They had been ten days without food. The Captain, who had become insane, and one of the seamen, died on board the Meg; so that only the second mate and two seamen have arrived in port.

THE LAST OF THE BOURBONS.

Spanish Abolitionism and the Coming Revolution—Action of the Cuban Delegates in Favor of Emancipation.

[From the London News, Nov. 24.]

It has passed into a proverb that the Bourbons neither forget nor learn. The present condition of affairs in Spain supplies a forcible illustration of this dynastical aphorism, for neither Queen Isabella II. nor her political advisers appear to have forgotten the traditions of their country nor to have learned the smallest particle of wisdom from contemporaneous events. These personages *dream of the possibility of governing sixteen millions of people in the middle of the nineteenth century precisely as their predecessors ruled in the dark ages.* It would not be surprising were an attempt made to revive the Inquisition. Is this moral blindness peculiar to the Bourbon race, or is it simply an idiosyncrasy of despotic power? In either case the result is the same, for oppression and misrule usurp the place of freedom and liberal institutions. Ignorance and misery at home, and loss of credit and political consideration abroad, are the inevitable consequence.

At this moment *the whole country is under martial law. Narvaez rules by the sword, and no man's life is safe.* The press is gagged; meetings for the discussion of political or other subjects are prohibited under the severest penalties; opposition is silenced by terror; many of the leading politicians have fled the country, and those who remain yield a reluctant acquiescence to the decrees of the powers that be, or maintain an ominous silence. Meanwhile the army is sullen and conspiracy is rifer than ever. *How long an explosion may take place, and no one is bold enough to predict that it will not overturn the throne of Isabella ... and terminate the rule of the Bourbons in Spain.*

This system of misgovernment caused the colonists of the Spanish possessions in America to revolt, and if Cuba and Porto Rico yet [illegible] Isabella, it is not that the people are satisfied, but because, under the pretext of preparation for a possible negro insurrection, a large army is maintained there, ready at any time to suppress political excitement or the smallest manifestation of dissatisfaction on the part of the Cubans and Porto Ricans. In spite, however, of this Damoclesian sword, the colonists of the Spanish Antilles have from time to time asserted their right to be governed as citizens, not ruled as slaves. Many of their leaders were in consequence driven into exile and poverty, but their speeches and writings found their way into the islands and continued to produce fruit by raising up new advocates of colonial reform. But the Spanish government persisted in turning a deaf ear to the remonstrances and petitions which poured in upon it from the colonial reform party, and began to consider the movement serious only when the abolition of the slave trade and slavery was mooted as an indispensable preliminary to all other reforms.

The slaveholders' war in the United States, and its results, imparted to this phase of the colonial reform a movement of a significance not to be mistaken, and probably with a view to postpone indefinitely the solution of this grave question the Narvaez Cabinet, assuming the initiative, promulgated a decree bearing date the 25th of November, 1865, which announced the intention of the government immediately to consider what political, financial and social reform should be conceded to the citizens of Cuba and Porto Rico. In accordance with this decree they were required to send delegates from the various districts of these islands to meet an equal number of representatives of the government, selected from among those of its officers who had been personally engaged in the administration of the colonies, the two sections to form a Commission of Inquiry to confer as to the reforms to be instituted and the means of carrying them into effect. This commission assembled at Madrid on the 30th of last month, and has held three meetings.

The opening address of the Colonial Minister, Señor Canovas del Castillo, was redundant with professions of the intention of the government to deal frankly with the question before it; all the information that the delegates desired to tender would be gratefully received; every point should have the most respectful and attentive consideration; the government had no prejudices, had come to no foregone conclusion, and only pledged itself to do justice to all parties. The Commissioners received these assurances with every demonstration of satisfaction, and forthwith prepared themselves for their work. It was not, however, a very encouraging fact that the government section of the commission consisted of individuals pledged to maintain the present order of things. On the other hand, of the twenty-two delegates from Cuba and the six from Porto Rico only six are of the same view as the government, the remaining being all firm abolitionists.

If any of the colonial delegates were deluded by the honied words of Señor Canovas del Castillo into the belief that the government really intended to act up to its protestations, the printed "interrogatory" of twenty-six questions, under the separate heads of "negro slaves, free negroes, Asiatic population and immigration," which the Minister placed in their hands, must at once have snatched the veil from their eyes. The effect produced upon them may be judged of by the result. The Porto Rican delegates, with one exception, *entered an energetic protest* against the course of the government, declaring it to be flagrantly inconsistent with the terms of the royal decree. They stated that the tendency of those questions was to perpetuate slavery indefinitely, and as such an intention was not only opposed to the views of their constituents, but antagonistic to the prosperity of the island, they declined to answer any of the queries. They also demanded, on behalf and in the name of their constituents, the immediate *abolition of slavery, with or without compensation to the slave owners,* and with or without any regulations respecting the introduction of immigrant labor. They declared that the social reform involved in their demand was of primary importance, and that while they reserved the right of pressing for those administrative changes which the circumstances of the colony rendered imperative, they should insist to the end upon the abolition of slavery as an indispensable preliminary.

This noble protest proved contagious. The Cuban delegates, at first surprised, presently announced their adhesion to it, and in principle to the demand for abolition. But while they considered immediate emancipation might safely be conceded to Porto Rico, the circumstances and the condition of Cuba were so different that they preferred preparing a plan of emancipation more suitable to their island, which they should submit as soon as the discussions on Cuba were opened. Thus stood the question on the 12th of the present month.

The action of the government has now to be seen. It can no longer delay with the question of emancipation. *The abolitionist party in Spain has sprung into existence in a most marvellous manner.* Two years ago it had no existence. The "*Progresista*" are unanimously in favor of emancipation, and until Narvaez stifled the press upwards of eighty newspapers advocated it. The Spanish Anti-Slavery Society, of which Don Salustiano Olozaga is President, inaugurated only on the first of April last year, has held three numerously attended public meetings on the question, and numbers among its supporters the most eloquent orators in Spain, and some of the most distinguished members of the Cortes. The reign of terror has alone checked its progress, but sustained as it is, and strengthened by the attitude which the colonial delegates have assumed, it would seem impossible that anything short of extinction by the iron hand can prevent the solution of the important question which it has been instrumental in raising.

Thus do great principles make their way.

THE ATLANTIC YACHT RACE.

The Match the Topic of Conversation at the Clubs.

The Opinion of Old Pilots on the Yachts.

SALE OF POOLS.

&c. &c. &c.

As the time for the start of the yachts engaged in the Atlantic match draws near interest in the contest is growing and increasing on every side. Last evening the race formed a prominent subject of conversation at the club houses and at the principal hotels. At the New York Club, corner of Fifteenth street and Fifth avenue, many of the members engaged themselves in discussing the probabilities of the race, and spoke warmly of the enterprise and courage of the gentlemen who have, at this uncertain season of the year, resolved to test the sailing power of their yachts. Best wishes were expressed on every side for the safety of the yachts. Opinion was of course divided as to the probable winner, and though the gentlemen who shared in the conversation could not with certainty say that this or that yacht would be the winner, they expressed the highest appreciation of the energy and enterprise of those gentlemen whose yachts have been entered for this great ocean race.

At Delmonico's, and at the other up town hotels, throughout the afternoon and evening, the match was a favorite topic, and it came up as a matter of far more interest than even the most important event of local politics. Many betting men have been using their books to some purpose during the past few days, and these gentlemen will doubtless be looking anxiously for two or three lines in the cable despatches announcing the name of the fortunate vessel.

THE OPINION OF OLD PILOTS ON THE FLEETWING, HENRIETTA AND VESTA.

Believing that "jovial old tars" and those to whom the foamy sea and salty breeze are familiar friends have the most specific knowledge of that which, like the sky, is "darkly, deeply, beautifully blue," and of the white-winged craft which tack about and bear across the briny ocean in endless succession, a visit was made yesterday to a number of accessible and affable pilots—altogether the mildest mannered men "that ever scuttled ship or cut a throat." Their opinions are of some importance, inasmuch as they are professional, although it is a notorious fact that the patient dies while consulting physicians disagree, and that lawyers always wrangle. Still, they are in the habit of levelling the visual ray along the snowy crests of ocean waters, and see oftener than "land lubbers" those shadows in the clouds which predict the "coming events" which Campbell talks about, and are able, with the emphasis of indubitable conviction, to see afar the fenned and quailing waves which might prompt their profane and practical natures to exclaim an hour sooner than anybody else:—

The winds arise
Squally and loud, with many a stormy token,
Playing a wild funereal air.

With a singular unanimity they all seem to agree that the idea of December is the very worst time to cross the Atlantic, and that at this season there are prevailing winds that sweep from the New to the Old World. Many, too, believe that the keel boats Fleetwing and Henrietta are the only safe yachts in which to venture the perilous sail, the Vesta, a centre-board craft, being liable in heavy winds to "heave to," which seems to be a recognized necessity with them all in sharp gales, and in heavy seas very apt to "trip up" or turn over. The danger in point of success to the Henrietta seems to be considered her want of beam and the consequent probability of too much canvass in a stormy sea. In these respects the Fleetwing is considered superior, and is the favorite among many. Others are sanguine of the success of the Henrietta, and boast of her as having, in addition to her splendid seaworthy qualities, the best captain and the most experienced pilot.

As to the probable time the nautical experiment which is creating so much interest will occupy, the professionals are equally at variance. Some are willing to bet that the distance will be accomplished in fifteen days, and cite in support of their theory the time made by various pilot boats which are built somewhat on the same plan and of the same size, only stronger and stouter, and less liable to "spring a leak." Others select the number nineteen as more comprehensive of the chances, while more still believe it is safe to bet anywhere between twenty and thirty days. In head winds, if the sea is not too heavy, in going to windward, these yachts will be able to run away from ships—one or two of which have crossed the Atlantic in less than fourteen days, though they can "send before the wind" longer than smaller craft, which are forced to "heave to" when caught and shook in the arms of a boisterous, hearty old gale.

As a general thing the feat is considered perfectly safe, and although some of the tars are confident of the superiority of the Vesta, the majority are about equally divided on the Fleetwing and Henrietta. *News correspondent.*

SALE OF POOLS ON THE RACE—THE FLEETWING THE FAVORITE.

The first sale of pools on the Atlantic yacht race took place last evening, at seven o'clock, at Lafayette Hall, on Broadway, between Prince and Houston streets, Johnson and Dobson auctioneers. There was a fair attendance. The first pool was for $101, the second for $56, the third for $51, and the fourth and last for $43. The following is the table:—

Fleetwing	$40	$25	$20	$17
Henrietta	32	17	18	16
Vesta	29	14	13	10

The sale of pools will be continued every evening at Lafayette Hall for the next two weeks.

The Common Council will attend the yacht race in a body.

THE WEATHER.

Opening of the First Cold Term.

Throughout yesterday the weather was unvaryingly cold—the more severe in its effects, probably, from the great change which a few hours effected in the standing of the thermometer. People who were lulled to sleep on Sunday evening by the whispering of summery breezes, awoke this morning to find their bodies assailed by the keen premonitory blasts of winter. Overcoats came at once into great demand, and red noses, tingling fingers and the steaming fog of breathing humanity prevailed in and enlivened our crowded thoroughfares, making a scene of winter animation, although the great change, and not the intensity of the cold, warranted it.

But the "Clerk of the Weather" has given during yesterday unmistakable proofs that he is in earnest this time, and really opened the doors to the keen blasts of winter. The thermometrical evidences of this ultimatum were carefully noted by juveniles and proprietors of skating ponds, whose faces are radiant with smiles at the overturning of the theory so lately prevalent to the effect that an unusually mild season was likely to mar the customary out door sports of our citizens. If that theorist was in this latitude this morning, and saw, as we did, gutters and pavements encrusted with ice, and, moreover, noted the steadiness of the thermometer yesterday, he has probably concluded to forego making weatherwise speculations for the future.

Anxious devotees to the sports of the skating pond, as well as those to whom the rise or decline in the price of coal is a serious matter, may argue their own results from the following notations of the condition of the thermometer during yesterday:—

	Degrees.		Degrees.
7 A. M.	29	7 P. M.	32
12 M.	36	8 P. M.	31
3 P. M.	31	9 P. M.	31
4 P. M.	31	10 P. M.	30
5 P. M.	32	11 P. M.	30
6 P. M.	32	12 P. M.	29

Good Sleighing at Buffalo.

BUFFALO, Dec. 10, 1866.

The weather is cold, and there is good sleighing.

Snow in Ohio.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 10, 1866.

An inch and a half of snow fell to-day. The weather is quite cold, and growing colder.

SEVERE GALE ON LAKE ONTARIO.

TORONTO, Dec. 10, 1866.

A terrible gale prevailed on Lake Ontario on Saturday and Sunday. Fortunately most of the lake craft was laid up. The schooner Rapid, with a cargo of railroad iron, was driven ashore near this port, and was boarded by the officers and crew of the gunboat Huron, by whose aid she was got off and brought into port. The gale is said to have been one of the most severe experienced for several years.

FORTY-THREE PERSONS SENTENCED TO THE PENITENTIARY IN BROWNSVILLE.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 10, 1866.

Forty-three persons have been sentenced to the State Penitentiary by the District Court at Brownsville, and started overland for Huntsville on the 6th instant. A military escort was provided to go part of the way with them.

AMUSEMENTS.

Broadway Theatre.

A crowded house at the Broadway last evening suitably rewarded with its due meed of applause Mr. E. L. Davenport's enactment of the *rôle* of St. Marc, in his five act drama of that title. As a delineator of characters of true manly dignity this actor has won for himself a pre-eminent position above the ranks of his profession. Thoroughly educated in all the technicalities of his art, and, moreover, skilled in dealing with the more subtle shades of passion and fine feeling, he does not find opportunities worthy of his talents in the narrow scope of a drama relying on broadly drawn contrasts and sensational situations, such as, notwithstanding its carefully written and often epigrammatic dialogue, St. Marc undoubtedly is. Mr. Davenport, in the character of the *bruque*, honest soldier, dignified his *rôle* and won himself well merited outbursts of applause. Mr. Nagel shows signs of great improvement, probably the effect of just criticism in the immediate past. His style, as shown last evening, was modestly toned down, and his characterization marked, modest and quietly effective. Miss Alice Grey, in the character of Dianora, the persecuted wife of the poor soldier, played with discretion and conscientiousness, making a marked success in her performance. This lady would be a more pleasing actress, however, if she could rid herself of her spasmodic style of enunciation. The piece throughout was remarkably well performed. On Friday next Mr. Davenport, on the occasion of his benefit, will appear as Hamlet, a character in which his peculiar talents have full scope, and which is considered to be one of his best.

Thalia Theatre—Dawison as Hamlet.

Mr. Dawison appeared last evening at the Thalia Theatre for the first time as Hamlet. The house was well filled, and the distinguished actor seemed to be a favorite with the audience, as they called him before the curtain twice or three times at the close of each act. In Hamlet, as in Richard III. and Shylock, Mr. Dawison presented an individual and entirely novel conception of character, discarding and passing over many of those venerable landmarks where "ranting Roscii" are wont to indulge in extra outbursts to relieve the dulness of the rest of their part. We also miss in Mr. Dawison the time honored tragedian voice, the deep sepulchral tone, the constant gurgling in the throat and the mangling of each word as it tries in vain to escape between the closed teeth. With his beautiful, flute like voice the text runs smoothly along, yet there is no monotony or tameness in his rendering. With the sole exception of his gait which has too much of the stride in it to harmonize with his adherence to nature in other points, Mr. Dawison is the *beau ideal* of what an actor should be in voice and action. His dress and appearance in Hamlet betokened more the character of the student, philosopher and mourning son than what are generally presented before an American audience. His conception of the character was not what many would accept as the true one, but whatever view of a character he assumes, he always carries it out faithfully. He is ever consistent, and in some of the well known effective scenes of the tragedy every phase of passion that flashed from his lips, eye and mobile countenance, tended to carry out the one view of the character he had mapped out for himself from the first scene. The support given him was with two or three exceptions very poor, and unhappy Shakspere, or rather his interpreter, Schlegel, fared badly when Hamlet was not on the stage. Subordinate roles in Shaksperian plays should be carefully studied. Ranting, forcing the voice up from the stomach, as it were, and throwing the arms about like a windmill, or the handle of a barrel organ, are not the directions given to actors in this very play.

Stadt Theatre.

To counterbalance the attraction of Dawison at the Thalia, one of the most popular Berlin pieces, *Das Volk wie es weint und lacht*, was produced at this theatre last night. The cast was good, and the numerous songs, with which the piece abounds, were generally well given. Mr. Klein renders the part of Ferdinand, an unfortunate waiter, who is always doing wrong and getting his toes trodden upon. He played with right good spirit, although his rendition was somewhat coarse—a quality perhaps in this case not out of place. Mrs. Zubla as Caroline, was also fair; she sang some little ditties very nicely, but her voice is not strong enough to fill the house. The piece on the whole was well given.

Park Theatre, Brooklyn.

A full house greeted the production of Griffith Gaunt, the sensational dramatization of Charles Reade's novel. The piece was well put on the stage, and with the exception of a want of smoothness in the rendering, consequent upon a first night, was altogether satisfactorily performed. Mrs. Conway was an excellent Dame Gaunt, and looked the character to the life. We would, however, suggest that the trial scene be enacted with greater solemnity, and that it be not made a perfect burlesque. With some slight emendations in the performance, Griffith Gaunt will undoubtedly enjoy long continued success.

Steinway Hall—Henry Tucker's Concert.

A large audience gathered at the first grand concert of Mr. Henry Tucker last evening. The programme was rather attractive, although comprising little else but English ballad music. Mrs. George Sheppard's sweet and powerful mezzo soprano voice was heard to advantage in two of the *bénéficiaire's* compositions, the lady's rendering of the melodies meriting and receiving an enthusiastic encore. Mr. George Simpson, tenor, sang Balfe's serenade "Good Night, Beloved," and Tucker's "He is not Here," and Mr. Frank A. Chase rendered Schumann's "Two Grenadiers." A fantasia on "Martha" and "Variations on the Russian Hymn," were admirably executed by the composer, Mr. J. K. Pattison, who was loudly applauded. The remainder of the programme was creditably rendered by Miss Kate M. Willett, a *débutante*, Miss Eugene Cruger and Messrs. Colby and Tucker. Mr. J. W. Morgan, owing to indisposition, was prevented from appearing.

Charley White's Opera House.

Charley White and his combination troupe continue nightly to attract ever-increasing houses in their snug little theatre at 472 Broadway, lately hallowed by the genius of Dan Bryant. The programme is an unusually brilliant one, and the promise made to the eye is more than fulfilled to the ear. Harry Burchard's able ventriloqual displays meet with the most flattering demonstrations of approval. The entertainment at present closes with The Mischievous Nigger—a farce yet more mirth provoking than its title. To unfortunate dyspeptics, afflicted with the blues, few more potent medicines can be recommended than a visit to this temple of melody and humor.

San Francisco Minstrels.

The crowded houses which nightly greet the troupe of which Messrs. Birch, Bernard, Wambold and Backus are the leading lights—or shades—leave the cosey hall of entertainment at 585 Broadway the happiest looking gatherings of humanity that one could well wish to meet. The humoristic extravagances of Birch and Backus, the beautiful ballad singing of Wambold, the exquisite playing of Donniker on the violin and Heimer on the banjo, continue to be fully appreciated; and the meteoric showers, as shown by the company, are so exceedingly ludicrous that even Professor Loomis, despite his intense disappointment at the occurrence of the original shower, would be obliged to unbend, could he be induced to witness them and join in the irresistible storm of laughter and applause with which their occurrence is nightly hailed.

Kelly and Leon's Minstrels.

The very large audience which assembled at this popular place of entertainment last night was kept in continued good humor by the excellent entertainment provided. Laughable burlesques, comic dances, pleasing ballads, and dialogues racy with wit and humor followed each other in quick succession. The enjoyable burlesque of the Black Statue, and the operetta of Matrimony, in which Leon has an excellent opportunity to display his remarkable vocalization, were retained on