has professed in very humble language its willingness to be guided, and it becomes incumbent upon the House of Commons to accept its part of the responsibility. In the interval between this and Monday week there will be much deliberation, and many schemes of action will be discussed; but the deliberation the nation seeks is a deliberation upon the means of perfecting reform, not on the means of upsetting one Ministry in order to bring in another; the schemes it would have discussed are schemes of enfranchisement, not of party gain at the cost of the integrity of Parliament and the peril of our institutions.

THE FENIANS.

History of the Irish Movement Against Chester Castle—A Well Planned and Dangerous Raid—Operations of the Fenian Directory from America—Alarm of the Government and Local Officials—An Irish-American Traitor Saves the Danger—The Fenians in "Column" on the Liverpool Road, &c.

THE FIRST REPORTS.

[From the London Times, Feb. 12.]

Last evening a rumor prevailed in London that an attack by a considerable body of men, supposed to be Fenians, and chiefly from Liverpool, was premeditated, if it had not been actually made, upon Chester Castle. For that rumor, it will be seen, there is some ground in the subjoined telegraphic communications:—

DESPATCH FROM CHESTER.

CHESTER, Feb. 11—9 P. M.

Ever since noon to day several hundred young men of from eighteen to twenty-five years of age, apparently of the laboring and operative class, have been pouring into this city, and have repaired to various parts of the town. The number is variously estimated at from five hundred to eight hundred. From our correspondent we learn that no definite information is given by any of them; but it is certain that in their spontaneous arrival from Liverpool, Preston, Manchester, Halifax and other surrounding towns a premeditated action of some kind must be in view.

A magistrates' meeting, presided over by the Mayor, was held at eight o'clock, and, owing to the crowded state of the streets and the uncertain cause of this extraordinary gathering, they intend sitting all night to meet any emergency. Special constables have been enrolled, and are parading the city. The volunteers and police are also at headquarters, ready for immediate action. Jewellers have received a hint to close their shops early, which most of them have done.

The general impression is that it is a Fenian gathering, with intention to seize arms stored at Chester Castle.

The city is in considerable anxiety. A company of soldiers arrived from Manchester at noon.

DESPATCHES FROM LIVERPOOL.

LIVERPOOL, Feb. 11—Midnight

This afternoon a rumor reached Liverpool that symptoms of Fenian disturbances existed at Chester, but no credit was given to the report. It appears, however, that this morning from fifty to sixty men were noticed departing by the railway boat for Chester. Major Greig, our head constable, immediately telegraphed the fact to Chester, and took precautions to prevent disturbances in Liverpool. In the course of the morning a large body of civilians made their appearance in Chester. The city police were at once armed, and the regulars and volunteers were ordered to assemble in the Castle, an attack being apprehended.

The Mayor of Chester and the chief constable, it is said, had averred to ascertain from the strangers on their arrival at the Chester station what their business was, but could obtain no information. Mr. Bidger, the superintendent of the station, at once made arrangements to pull up the rails at points on the Birkenhead line if necessary.

At seven o'clock two companies of the Fifty-fourth regiment and the Volunteers mustered in the Castle, and the latter were informed that they would be armed if the necessity arose. About one o'clock another company of the Fifty-fourth arrived from Manchester. The jewellers' and other shops were closed, and special constables paraded the streets. A telegram from Chester, dated nine P. M., states the number of ruffians who arrived during the day from Liverpool, Preston, &c., was about 800. It is rumored that a gunboat has left the Mersey for Holyhead.

LIVERPOOL, Feb 12—3 A. M.

There is nothing additional from Chester.

In Liverpool there is no symptom of disturbance, but a large force of police is kept in readiness for an emergency.

PREPARATIONS IN LONDON.

From 9 o'clock last night a special train was kept in readiness at the Euston square terminus of the London and Northwestern Railway by order of the quartermaster-general, and at half-past 2 this morning the 1st battalion of Scots Fusileers, under the command of Captain Phipps, left for Chester. The troops, five hundred in number, were marched from the St. George's barracks, the special train conveying them consisting of twenty-seven carriages.

The Statement to Parliament.

In the English House of Commons on the 12th of February Colonel FRENCH asked the Home Secretary what truth there was in the statements made in the morning papers that 800 men yesterday took possession of the city of Chester, that great alarm was occasioned thereby, that the inhabitants were sworn in as special constables, and that the government sent down a regiment of Guards by a special train, and what reason there was for supposing this to be a Fenian movement. He had information that the gathering was nothing but a collection of ruffians, who assembled to witness a prize fight. ("Order" and laughter.)

Mr. WALPOLE—Perhaps the best answer I can give to the question of the honorable gentleman will be to state, in as simple a narrative as I can, all the circumstances material to the inquiry made of the government. On Sunday evening last I received a communication stating that there was *unusual excitement among those who are generally acknowledged*, or, *at any rate, believed to be Fenians* in the town of Liverpool. It was stated that they were meeting together with unusual frequency, and that there was some apprehension that a movement was to be made on their part. Acting upon that information on Sunday afternoon I sent down a person specially to inquire into the truth of the statements so made, and to report to me as soon as possible whatever information he obtained. Soon after I had reached the home office on Monday morning a telegraphic message came from the Mayor of Chester, stating that a large number of strangers were in the town and neighborhood, *that they were believed to be Fenians*, and that the apprehension was they were about to attack the castle for the purpose of seizing the arms and ammunition stored there; and the telegram also stated the numbers of troops there were in the town, and expressed a wish that an additional force should be sent down. On receipt of that telegram I directed that a company of troops should be sent from Manchester to Chester to augment those stationed there. Later in the day I received a report from the person I had sent to Liverpool, and according to that report it had been ascertained that *on the previous Friday evening there had been a meeting of Fenians, who had resolved to attack the town of Chester on the Monday morning for the purpose of obtaining the arms and ammunition in the Castle.* So far the report derived from Liverpool corresponded with the telegrams which came from the Mayor of Chester and this correspondence gave a serious *aspect to the matter.* Still later in the day I received two other telegrams, one with reference to the calling out of the volunteers, and the other asking generally how they were to act. To the first I replied that the Mayor ought not to call out the volunteers in their military capacity; that it would be their duty to aid in preserving the public peace as much as it was the duty of any other citizens to do so (hear, hear), and that in case of emergency they would be justified in using their arms, not in a military capacity, but as I have stated. To the second telegram I replied that the Mayor had better put himself in communication with Major-General Sir John Garvock, who commands the troops in the northern division of England, and a further telegram was sent to General Garvock, instructing him to put himself in communication with the Mayor of Chester and so save telegraphic messages coming to the Home Office. That was all that had been done up to the time the House met yesterday. While my right honorable friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer was making his statement to the House last night I received a further telegram from the Mayor of Chester, and it was as nearly as possible in these words:—

Four hundred more have arrived, making in all one thousand two hundred in the city. The town is in a state of excitement and more troops are required.

On receipt of the telegram I communicated with the heads of the departments as much connected with such a subject as is my own, and we consulted as to the course that had better be taken. We agreed, inasmuch as there was no statement that these strangers were armed (hear, hear), and inasmuch as there was a great absence of details, such as would justify the government in adopting extraordinary measures, to send telegrams to the Mayor of Chester and to General Garvock. That addressed to General Garvock inquired whether the strangers in Chester were armed, and if so, whether he required any further force; and, if he required such force, to what extent. That sent to the Mayor was to this effect:—

Telegraph directly what is the state of the town at this moment, and whether anything further is needed.

We determined not to send any troops in addition to those which had been sent until we got an answer to those telegrams; but my colleagues agreed that, if we did have an answer, then I should be at liberty to communicate with my right honorable friend the Secretary of State for War, and that such measures might be adopted as might be deemed advisable. In the interim we had desired that a battalion of Guards should be in readiness in case they were needed; and also that a train should be kept in steam ready for their conveyance. I received no answer to either telegram until quite early in the morning. I received the Mayor's reply about one o'clock, and that of General Garvock a little after four. The telegram from the Mayor was to this effect:—

There are fifteen hundred strangers in the city; they have come from Liverpool, Manchester, Halifax, Stalybridge and other places. The town is in great excitement, although quiet. Please telegraph directly to Manchester for more military, *all our means of prevention are exhausted.*

At that hour I had to consider what was best to be done. I wrote to the Brigade Major of the Guards, through my right honorable friend the Secretary of State for War, and I stated that I thought we had better send five hundred Guards, for these reasons:—First, it would *be very detrimental to divide Manchester at this* instead of sending them from London, *and it was important, if any such act occurred, that Liverpool and other towns should be as much protected as Chester.* Second, I thought that prevention was better than cure (hear, hear); and, third, I believed that if it was known the Guards were in Chester when the people rose from their beds that it would inspire confidence and perhaps prevent mischief. It was under these circumstances that the troops were sent. Three hours afterwards I received a telegram from General Garvock, who did not take so gloomy a view of the affair as had been taken by the civil authorities. He thought the troops in Chester were sufficient for its protection. (Hear, hear.) I have no detailed intelligence beyond what I have now given to the House. I have no detailed intelligence received to-day. I hear that several of these men went away last night (laughter); I hear, further, that several of these strangers were in Chester two days; but, until I receive fuller information, I can communicate nothing more to the House. I have given no opinion as to whether this is a Fenian outbreak or not, but *the circumstances suggested by fit in that direction.* I trust the course the government has taken will meet with the approbation of the House, and show those, if there be such in England, who wish for an outbreak, that in promoting it they can only occasion mischief. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. CHICHESTER FORTESCUE—Has the right honorable gentleman received any information as to whether the strangers in Chester were armed, what their conduct was, what they did, and whether they threatened the castle or made any other demonstration?

Mr. WALPOLE—I have received no information down to this moment as to whether they were armed or not.

Mr. W. O. STANLEY asked what was the military force on guard at Chester Castle last week.

Mr. WALPOLE *hoped that the House would not expect him to answer off hand such a question.* (Hear, hear.)

Mr. W. O. STANLEY—I shall be obliged to repeat the question another day.

Lord ECLINTON—I have received a telegram from Earl Grosvenor, who is in command of the Chester troop of yeomanry, and went down to Chester by the mail train last night. The telegram is to the following effect:—*"Was serious; timely information; saved the town; all right now."* (Cheers.)

The Fenian Directory—Report of the Police Chief of Chester.

[From the London Times, Feb. 13.]

The following is a summary of the information now in the hands of Mr. Fenwick, the Chief Constable of Chester, the doubtful points of which appear to have been in a great measure *confirmed* by the experience of the last two days:—

The Fenians have recently organized in New York a band of fifty, whose special mission it is to proceed to England and Ireland and endeavor to resuscitate the dying brotherhood. These men are understood to have arrived in England. Fifteen of them are stationed in the metropolis (London) and there form a Directory. Eight of them are ex-officers of the American army. There are also similar directories at Liverpool, at Manchester, at Leeds, at Glasgow and at Birmingham. For some time past these directories have been making arrangements to concentrate their forces upon some place which was to have been named on Friday last. This was not done, but a meeting was called for Sunday at Liverpool, and it was then resolved to attack Chester Castle the following day, seize the arms deposited there, cut the telegraph wires, tear up the rails and make good their escape by rail to Holyhead and trust to fortune to get across to Ireland. What arrangements were to be made for their reception in Ireland has not transpired. It was also understood that they would attack the banks and jewellers' shops.

It was also given out freely at the meeting why Chester Castle was selected.

Up to midnight on Sunday, Chester was not protected by more than half a dozen soldiers on guard at the Castle and twice as many unarmed policemen in the city. Under their protection were no less than 9,000 stand of arms (a few weeks ago there were 30,000, but the bulk have been removed for conversion into breech loaders), 4,000 swords and 900,000 rounds of ammunition, in addition to powder in bulk. There were also stored in another part of the Castle 900 stand of arms belonging to the militia, and in a small building in the city were 200 stand of arms belonging to the volunteers. It was stated that the whole force stationed at the Castle was one company of the Fifty-fourth regiment, and that they were disaffected. It was stated in proof of this that they had admitted Fenian officers, shown them through the barracks, the armory, and, in fact, permitted them to acquaint themselves thoroughly with the place.

The first intimation received in Chester of the intended raid was at half past twelve A. M. on Monday by Mr. Fenwick from Mr. Superintendent Ryde and Detective Inspector Carlisle, of Liverpool, and was to the effect that *an ex-officer of the American army, who produced his commission as an officer in the Fenian service, had revealed the whole plot to them.* The Mayor of Chester lives at Broughton Hall, in Flintshire, so Mr. Fenwick at once saw Mr. Raymnor Williams, the Deputy Mayor, and from him went to the commandant of the detachment at the Castle. Prompt measures were taken, and the commandant telegraphed to the Assistant Adjutant General at Manchester for a reinforcement. They next went to the station and gave instructions for the trains to be watched as they arrived.

At half-past two a batch of thirty fellows arrived from Liverpool, and were evidently under the command of an officer. They marched up and down the platform by twos and threes, and at length took possession of the first class refreshment room. They were soon followed by further detachments of from thirty to sixty, from Liverpool and some from Manchester, all of similar appearance. These dispersed quietly into the town. Early in the morning the volunteers were called out, but as there was some doubt whether they could act except in case of invasion, a telegram was sent to Mr. Walpole, and his answer was that volunteers ought not to be employed in their military capacity in quelling disturbances, but in point of law they would be justified in acting as individuals in aid of the civil power, and in a serious emergency they might use their arms if necessary. The volunteers were thereupon sworn in as special constables. By the assistance of the police at Liverpool and Manchester the Chester police were kept apprised of the different departures of suspected bodies of men.

At three o'clock it was ascertained that over five hundred of these men had arrived. About the same time it was ascertained that a number of their officers had been in Chester over night. Early in the afternoon the strangers became much bolder, and assembled in threatening bodies. Fortunately at this time a company of the Fifty-fourth regiment arrived from Manchester, and the police are strongly inclined to think that this fact saved the castle from an attack early in the evening.

Affairs went very quietly up to four o'clock, when a train from Manchester and Staleybridge brought a reinforcement of four hundred in one batch. Later on forty men arrived from Halifax and seventy from Leeds. Shortly after five it was ascertained that the Fenians numbered from 1,400 to 1,500. A number of men who were supposed to be their leaders collected at a house where the police had been informed they would meet for orders.

Spies and scouts had been sent out among the Fenians early in the day, *but found them extremely reticent and could get no information from them.* At six P. M. these scouts brought information that the men were *forming in column on the Liverpool and other principal roads.*

Captain Smith, the county chief constable, had drafted a body of the county constabulary into the Castle to assist the military. Telegrams were forwarded from time to time to the Secretary of State. A copy of the following anonymous letter sent to Major Greig, chief of the Liverpool police, on Monday morning, was received by Mr. Fenwick in the evening, and coincided singularly with the information already in his possession:—

DEAR SIR—You could do your country much service as at present there are six hundred men in Chester, to be increased by night to seven hundred, to take the arms and ammunition of the garrison; and, as the garrison is disaffected, it is supposed that they will do it with little loss. They are to leave Birkenhead by every train from the first in the morning. All to be there by seven at the latest. They move in numbers of from thirty to sixty in every train.

At night Mr. Johnson, the Mayor, convened a public meeting, which was most earnest, and over five hundred citizens were sworn in as special constables, and paraded the town in large bodies throughout the night. The following magistrates, the Mayor, Mr. Raymnor Williams, Major French, Mr. E. C. Walker, Mr. A. Potts, Mr. Frost, Mr. R. Frost, Mr. Rogers and others, were at constant attendance for the purpose of swearing in special constables and for advising on the action to be taken. It was deemed desirable to call out the yeomanry, and for that purpose the permission of Lord Grosvenor and Lord de Tabley was telegraphed for. Lord Grosvenor replied that he would come down by the night mail, and, accordingly, he and Lord Richard Grosvenor arrived in Chester at forty-eight minutes past twelve on Tuesday morning, and remained with the magistrates through the night. Before leaving London Lord Grosvenor communicated with the Commander-in-Chief, who at once telegraphed that he had ordered a battalion of Guards by special train to Chester.

During the night the Fenians evidently came to the conclusion that the preparations were too much for them, and as the night advanced parties of tens and twenties were seen leaving on foot for Warrington and other neighboring towns.

Attained all danger of any serious attempt had died away after the town's meeting the police were kept on duty, as many suspicious characters were still seen in the streets. About nine o'clock yesterday morning two bayonets with green bands and a quantity of ball cartridges of private make were discovered on a piece of vacant land close to the railway station. Shortly after the three or four suspicious looking fellows were arrested in the station yard, and, being unable to give any satisfactory account of themselves, were sent back to Manchester, whence they said they had come. After this all was quiet again, except the assembly of a large crowd in the station yard until a quarter to eleven o'clock, when a special train, conveying the First battalion of the Scots Fusileer Guards drew up, and as they formed on the platform, five hundred strong, they were received by the inhabitants with a cheer *which showed how much their coming was removed by their arrival.* They were divided into two detachments, one of which was accommodated at the refreshment room of the Railway Hotel, and the other at the Assembly Rooms, until arrangements could be made for quartering them. All Chester turned out to welcome their defenders, and it was conceded on all hands that with such material for defence Chester need no longer fear a Fenian raid.

In the afternoon the city magistrates held a meeting at the Grosvenor Hotel, the Mayor presiding. Much satisfaction at the prompt arrival of the Scots Fusileer Guards was expressed, and it was thought that their presence afforded the city ample security without the necessity for swearing in more special constables.

Among the ammunition found in the morning were a number of revolver bullets.

The Danger Imminent and Escape Timely.

[From the London Times, Feb. 13.]

* * * Chester Castle was not actually attacked, but it was seriously threatened, and the inhabitants of the city were in the greatest anxiety. It was, indeed, a strange picture of consternation which Monday's telegrams presented, and one which suggested singular reminiscences. The old border city, which in its time has witnessed many raids, and has played an important part in many a civil struggle, was suddenly startled with the apprehension that a scene from its former history was about to be repeated. Hundreds of strangers *poured into it* with an ominous air of mystery, and dispersed silently through its quaint streets. The magistrates, the volunteers, the soldiers, and all the guardians of the peace that could be enrolled were preparing, as in old times, to watch all night, and were on the alert for a sudden attack.

From the statements made last night in the two Houses of Parliament, as well as from our correspondence, we possess to-day a sufficiently clear knowledge of what occurred; and it is plain that the danger had been in no degree exaggerated. Notwithstanding some idle expressions of incredulity let fall in the House of Commons last night, *it is impossible to doubt that the attempt was due to a deliberate conspiracy of the Fenians.* The chief police officers both of Liverpool and Chester appear to have received conclusive information on this point, for the invaders were not without the general Fenian characteristic of having a *traitor* in their camp. Our correspondent adds some significant pieces of circumstantial evidence; and the mere look of some of the strangers was sufficient to indicate their character, if not their purpose. We must certainly give the Fenians *credit for having formed a bold plan, and for having put it into execution with considerable promptitude. If it had not been for the inevitable traitor there is too much reason to fear they would have had at least a partial success.* They began to arrive from different quarters, but principally from Liverpool, about two o'clock on Monday morning, and before daybreak several hundreds of them were in Chester. At this moment the castle was protected by a single company of the Fifty-fourth regiment. The Fenians seem to have entertained a belief that this regiment would not offer them a very strenuous resistance. But, however staunch the troops might have been, it is probable their number would have been quite insufficient to resist an attack by two or three hundred men in a place almost indefensible, and if the first arrivals from Liverpool *had marched promptly upon the castle they would scarcely have failed to obtain possession of it.* In that case they would, according to our correspondent, have secured 9,000 stand of arms, 4,000 swords, 900,000 rounds of ammunition, besides powder in bulk and the arms of the militia.

* * * Still the Fenians showed no signs of dispersing, and the Mayor was obliged to send to London a still more urgent request for troops. To this, at ten o'clock on Monday night, Mr. Walpole resolved to accede. The First battalion of Scots Fusileer Guards was summoned at half-past one, was ready to march at two, and left Euston square station at forty-five minutes past two. At a quarter to eleven yesterday morning they reached Chester. Before they had arrived, however, the strangers had begun rapidly to disperse, and before evening they had disappeared. By an examination of the railway tickets it seems that between 1,300 and 1,400 had arrived by train, and it is worthy of notice that they all disappeared, chiefly towards Birkenhead, on foot.

Such is the narrowness with which we have escaped an outbreak which, though it would have been of course promptly suppressed, might have cost much loss of life. The government last night adopted rather a tone of apology for having thought it necessary to take decided measures. On the contrary, if fault is to be found with them, it is for not having acted with more promptitude. Of course it would be idle to complain that Chester was insufficiently garrisoned. It was protected as much as any other provincial city—in other words, not at all. But it is also clear that *if the Fenians had been a little more resolute the troops would have arrived too late.* That Chester was saved from pillage is due mainly to the people of Chester themselves; and the energy, the courage and the patriotism they displayed merit the warmest recognition. As Mr. Walpole, according to his own statement, had good reason to fear on Monday morning that matters had assumed a threatening aspect, it would surely have been only prudent to augment the inadequate force in Chester and its neighborhood. It is not probable that any similar attempt will be soon repeated, but it will obviously be desirable that an additional number of troops should be maintained for some time in the neighborhood of Liverpool and Chester.

Fenians in Leeds.

[From the London Times, Feb. 12.]

Yesterday forenoon one of the Leeds borough police apprehended a young man, who said his name was Thomas Fenton, and that he lived in White Hart yard, Briggate, in that town with a bundle in his possession, which he at first said was wearing apparel, but which was found to contain twenty-four packages of ball cartridges, greased and ready for use. On being apprehended and taken before the magistrates, Fenton said that he had received the parcel from a gentleman to carry, but he did not know who the gentleman was. The cartridges, about one hundred and forty in number, were wrapped in pieces of old newspapers, and it is believed that they are the property of some abettors of the Fenian movement. The prisoner was remanded for a week.

THE PRUSSIAN PARLIAMENT.

The King's Speech at the Closing of the Session.

The King of Prussia closed the Diet, Saturday, Feb. 9, in person. The Queen, the Princess, all the Royal Princes, the Count of Flanders, and the English, French, Russia and Danish Ministers were present.

His Majesty, who was enthusiastically cheered by the members of the Diet, read the following speech:—

ILLUSTRIOUS, NOBLE AND HONORABLE GENTLEMEN OF BOTH HOUSES OF THE DIET.

At the close of a memorable and eventful period, I express to you my thanks for having assisted my government to bring those hopes to fulfilment which I coupled with this session.

By granting the indemnity *for the financial administration of recent years, carried on without a budget law, you have held out the hand to a settlement of the dispute* upon a matter of principle which had for years obstructed the co-operation of my government with the representatives of the country. I entertain the conviction that the experience gained, and a general correct understanding of the fundamental conditions of our constitutional life, will conduce *to avert the recurrence* of similar events in future. By granting the extraordinary supplies for the requirements of the army and the fleet you have displayed your determination to guard what has been gained, in recognition of the results hitherto achieved by the policy of my government, based upon the tried readiness and valor of my army.

A further guarantee for the permanent observance of constitutional relations has been gained by the settlement of the budget before the commencement of the present financial year. By provisionally relinquishing various items of expenditure, which it is difficult to dispense with in carrying on the administration, my government has afforded a new proof of the value it attaches to agreement with the representatives of the country. It is, therefore, all the better justified in hoping that the requirements in question will be admitted and satisfied at a future date.

I recognise, with especially warm thanks, the readiness with which the representatives have granted my government the means of alleviating the position of soldiers incapacitated for labor in battle for the Fatherland, as well as the condition of the widows and orphans of the fallen.

Now that Parliament has afforded its efficient co-operation in carrying out the changes rendered necessary by *the material enlargement* of Prussian territory, and has trustfully placed in my hands the transfer of the relations hitherto subsisting in the newly-acquired districts into full community with the older provinces, I may confidently expect that the inhabitants of all the countries now united with Prussia will feel themselves more and more at home *in the great commonwealth of their fellow-countrymen* and recent neighbors, and will participate in the tasks falling to the share of the latter with increasing devotion. The preparations already made for their representatives joining both houses of the Diet will contribute to strengthen and animate the consciousness of community with the older portions of the monarchy. But in especial the careful and conscientious watch over all the germs of the public welfare which the Prussian nation is accustomed to experience from its government, and which has been materially promoted by the co-operation of the Diet with my government in the session just brought to a close, will enable the populations of the new provinces to receive the benefits of the new community in an ever increasing degree.

Assisted by agreement with the representatives of the country, my government has been able to call into existence important facilities and improvements in all departments of public life. The preparatory steps towards abolishing the salt monopoly and the increase of judicial costs, the settlement of the relations of trading and in keeping companies, the removal of the limitation of the rate of interest, the postal and commercial treaties, the conversion of the Pomeranian fiefs, the abolition of the Rhine navigation dues, the increase of the salaries of the lower class officials and of schoolmasters, together with the grant of the supplies for the construction and completion of important railways, will be hailed by large circles as grateful fruits of the session just completed.

While the special development of the Prussian political system experiences a gratifying advance by the united co-operation of the representatives of the country with my government, the fact that the draft of the constitution for the North German confederation has been accepted by all the governments allied with Prussia justifies me in the conviction that the German people will obtain, upon the basis of a united organization such as Germany has hitherto vainly striven for during centuries of conflict, those blessings to which it is called by Providence through the fulness of its inherent power and civilization, as soon as it understands how to maintain peace both at home and abroad.

I shall look upon it as the highest glory of my crown, if God has appointed me to devote the power of my people—strong by fidelity, valor and education—to the re-establishment of the lasting unity of the German races and their sovereigns. I trust in God, who has so graciously guided us, that he will permit us to attain this object.

THE EAST.

China.

A telegram from Hong Kong says:—Arrangements for the formation of a native arsenal and dockyard at Foochow are progressing favorably.

The Mahomedan rebels in Kiang-si have captured four towns.

A large fire has occurred at Tien-tsin, the loss is estimated at 300,000 taels.

Chinese registered as British subjects have been forbidden to reside in the interior of the empire.

Japan.

Advices from Japan state that the rice riots at Jeddo had ceased.

Prince Choisin had defeated the Daimio Kokura, and holds his ground against his opponents.

Distrust exists among the Daimios and they refuse to attend the proposed conference.

The answer of the Japanese government in reference to the Mexican dollar value question is favorable.

India.

BOMBAY, Feb. 8, 1867.

Cotton firm, shipments of the week 32,800 bales. Exchange on London, 1.11½. Freights, 40s.

CALCUTTA, Feb. 7, 1867.

Exchange, 1.11½. Freights to England, 67s.

Australia.

A despatch from Melbourne says:—Parliament meets January 17.

It is rumored that Messrs. Francis, McGregor, Vale, Burdon and Miller will retire from the Cabinet.

Captain Gilmore proceeds to London to arrange to have a telegraph cable laid across Bass' Straits.

A despatch from Adelaide says:—The new Marriage bill was lost in the Assembly; but another measure will be introduced in the next session.

Parliament has adjourned, but will reassemble on the 2d of January.

Intelligence from New Zealand announces that the Maori King has signified his submission, and invited Governor Grey to visit him.

MAILS FOR EUROPE.

The Cunard mail steamship China will leave Boston on Wednesday for Liverpool.

The mails for Europe will close in this city at a quarter past one and half-past five o'clock on Tuesday afternoon.

The NEW YORK HERALD—Edition for Europe—will be ready at eleven o'clock on Tuesday morning.

Single copies, in wrappers, ready for mailing, six cents.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

SUNDAY, Feb. 24, 1867.

The stock market continues without any decided tendency, although the passage of the bill in the House of Representatives providing for the issue of a hundred millions of plain legal tenders in exchange for an equivalent amount of compound interest notes increased the disposition of the street to buy. It is not generally expected, however, that this measure will pass the Senate in its present form, but that some kind of compromise guarding against undue contraction will be agreed upon in Congress. There is still sufficient uncertainty in the public mind, notwithstanding, to cause hesitation both in buying and selling, and this is the case with the country generally as well as Wall street. The common belief and the fair inference is that the next important movement of the stock market will be towards higher prices, the decline since last October having placed many of the speculative securities below their real value; but the heavy losses which a majority of the stock houses sustained during the interval must be considered as operating against a quick recovery. For the time being the bulls are struggling and wanting in courage, and there is not sufficient outside support to the market to influence prices materially. The political agitation of the reconstruction question disposes men to remain inactive until affairs assume a more settled aspect; and the indecision which Congress still displays in dealing with the national finances likewise operates to check activity not only in speculation but legitimate business.

In the event of the Senate passing the hundred million bill referred to confidence will be strengthened in a continuance of monetary ease, and much of the prevailing hesitation will give place to something like boldness of action. This measure is objected to by some as one of inflation but we cannot regard it in that light. It merely substitutes non-interest bearing for interest bearing currency to the extent of the amount mentioned, and in this respect it is far less objectionable than the loan certificate bill which it superseded and upon which it was proposed to pay 3 65-100 per cent interest per annum, although the certificates were to be available as a banking reserve and redeemable by the Treasury in legal tenders on demand. This would, in fact, have been an additional subsidy to the national banks, for which the government would have received no equivalent whatever. According to Senator Sherman, and what we are entitled to consider the revised statement of the Treasury, about a hundred millions of compound interest notes will mature within the present year, and as this amount is now held by the national banks as a portion of their reserve it stands to reason that its withdrawal without a legal tender substitute would lead to a violent monetary spasm throughout the country, its effects being nearly the same as a contraction of active currency. It is therefore to be hoped that the Senate will pass the House bill, as for both simplicity and economy it can hardly be improved upon. The sooner, moreover, final action is taken in the matter the better, and until this is the case the suspense which is now paralyzing the industry of the nation will continue. It is of little consequence that the resumptionists oppose it loudly, for if their advice was followed out the history of Great Britain between 1815 and 1825 would be repeated in the United States, and the government, as the greatest debtor, would be bankrupt alike with the great mass of the business community, from Maine to Texas. The progress of the country would be arrested, and after finally reaching specie payments relief would have to be sought in another suspension; for a premature resumption could not be a permanent one in the United States, simply because the ballot would decide against it.

The money market was easy throughout the week at six per cent on railway collaterals and five per cent on governments, but towards the close there was a diminished volume of funds seeking employment, owing to considerable sales of the new issue of five-twenties by the Treasury, and the payments on account of which increased the balance in the Sub-Treasury on Saturday evening to the unusually large sum of $132,952,351. As the Treasury is not supposed to manipulate the money market it is difficult to reconcile their accumulation of idle currency with good management in the department. The conversion process is also too secretly conducted to be satisfactory to the public. The terms and mode of converting one form of security into another should be publicly announced by the Secretary of the Treasury, so that each individual interested could transact his own business with the Treasury direct, thus securing the best terms and saving the commissions of ⅛ per cent for buying and ⅛ for selling charged by the brokers.

Railway and miscellaneous shares closed rather unsettled at half-past five o'clock on Saturday at the following quotations:—New York Central, 102¼ a ½; Erie, 56¼ a ¾; Reading, 104¼; Michigan Southern, 72½ a ¾; Cleveland and Pittsburg, 80½; Rock Island, 96¾ a 97; Fort Wayne, 95¾; Northwestern, 35½ a ¾; do. preferred, 65 a 65¼; Western Union Telegraph, 42 a 42½; Pacific Mail, 131 a 132.

The gold market was firm, the extreme range of the week having been from 136¼ on Monday to 138¾ on Saturday, and the closing price was 138¾. The borrowing demand increased in proportion to the supply, and towards the close, where coin was not carried without interest, the rates were in favor of the lender. This was mainly owing to the increased drain for customs duties, the receipts at this port for the week having amounted to $2,933,000.

The foreign exchange market showed an advancing tendency, and the best bankers' sterling, at long date, sold up to 109½; but this rate was not fully sustained. At the close, however, it was firm at the following quotations:—Bankers' bills on England at sixty days, 108¾ a 109; at three days, 109¾ a 109¾; commercial, 107¾ a 108¼; francs at sixty days, 5.17½ a 5.21½; at three days, 5.15 a 5.19½; bills on Berlin, 72 a 72½; on Bremen, 78¾ a 79½; on Frankfort, 40¾ a 41½; on Amsterdam, 41 a 41¾; on Hamburg, 36 a 36½; on Antwerp, 5 18¾ a 5.16¼.

The dry goods trade has shown increased activity, notwithstanding the stormy weather and the unsettled condition of political affairs, although prices have not materially changed since last week. The demand is chiefly to supply immediate wants, but holders of stocks of goods manifest confidence in the stability of values. The depression which prevailed for a considerable time past till within the last few weeks has given place to a more cheerful feeling, and although a highly prosperous season is not anticipated a moderately paying business seems probable, and the growing activity cannot but be greatly increased by a favorable change in the weather. The general merchandise markets are quiet and steady, transactions being likewise limited to current wants.

The highest prices of the leading stocks sold at the first session of the Exchange on each Saturday of the last four weeks were as follows:—

Stock.	Feb. 2.	Feb. 9.	Feb. 16.	Feb. 23.
Atlantic Mail	100	104	100¼	90
Alton & Terre Haute RR.	—	33	32	32
Alton & Terre Haute pref	—	—	—	—
Boston Water Power	26¾	26	—	25
Canton Company	44	46	45½	46
Cleveland & Pittsburg	84¼	85	81¾	81
Cleveland & Toledo	120	120	117½	119
Chicago & Rock Island	96½	99	96¾	97¾
Chicago & Northwestern	37½	38	35¾	36¾
Chicago & Northwestern pf	66¼	68¾	65	66
Cumberland Coal	35	37	35	33
Cleveland, Col. & Cin.	105	105	102	103
Delaware & Hudson Canal	145	147	147	—
Hudson River	128¼	131	129	136¼
Illinois Central	114	114¾	115¾	115½
Michigan Central	107	109	108	107¾
Michigan Southern	72	75¾	72¼	73½
Milwaukee & St. Paul	38	40	39	—
Milwaukee & St. Paul pref	57½	60¾	58	58¾
Mariposa Mining	10	—	9	—
Mariposa preferred	23	22	21¾	24
New York Central RR.	99¼	102	100	102¾
New York & Erie RR.	58	59¼	56	57¼
New York & Erie pref.	72	75	—	73
Ohio & Mississippi cer.	25¼	25¾	25	25¼
Pacific Mail	159¼	160	150	132
Pittsburg & Fort Wayne	97½	98¾	96¾	97¼
Quicksilver Mining	—	40¾	40	39
Reading RR.	104¼	104¼	104¼	104¾
Toledo and Wabash	—	41¼	40	40
Western Union Telegraph	44½	45	43¾	42½

Government securities were quoted on each Saturday of the past four weeks as follows:—

	Feb. 2.	Feb. 9.	Feb. 16.	Feb. 23.
Sixes of 1881	107¼	108¾	109½	110¼
Sixes of 1867	130	135	134	134
Sixes of 1868	128¼	130	128	128¼
Ten-forties	99¾	100¾	101½	101¾
Five-twenties of 1862	107¾	108¾	109¾	111¼
Five-twenties of 1864	106	106¾	107¼	108¼
Five-twenties of 1865	106	107¾	107¾	108¾
Five-twenties of '65, new	104¾	105¼	105¾	106¾
7 and 3-10ths, 1st series	104¾	105¼	106	106
7 and 3-10 hs, 2d series	104¾	105¼	105¾	106¾
7 and 3-10ths, 3d series	104¾	105¼	105¾	106¾

The total foreign imports at the port of New York for the week ending February 22 compare as follows with those of the two weeks previous:—

Week ending	Feb. 8.	Feb. 15.	Feb. 22
Dry goods	$2,414,479	$1,699,087	$2,357,312
General merchandise	3,314,829	4,073,066	4,215,294
Total	$5,729,308	$5,772,153	$6,572,606

The shipments of specie from this port last week, and during the year to date, compare as follows with those of the corresponding periods in 1865 and 1866:—

	1865.	1866.	1867.
Eighth week	$148,356	$560,198	$475,009
Previously reported	3,917,985	3,765,901	4,035,313
Total	$4,066,341	$4,326,099	$4,508,322

The imports of dry goods for the week compare as under:—

For the Week.	1865.	1866.	1867.
Entered at the port	$1,128,584	$4,619,244	$2,357,312
Thrown on market	849,637	3,686,929	2,708,111
Since Jan. 1.			
Entered at the port	5,064,634	29,922,679	18,399,750
Thrown on market	5,460,517	26,752,717	17,878,020

The following securities were sold at auction yesterday, by order of executor:—

$5,000 N. Y. City 5 p. c. Water loan '75	89
$360 do. do do '70	89
5 shares Cent. Park N. and E. RR Co., $100 each	60
20 do. Home Ins Co., $100 each	120

COMMERCIAL REPORT.

SATURDAY, Feb. 24—6 P. M.

ASHES.—Receipts, none. Pots were steady and firm at $8 25 a $8 50. Pearls were dull and nominal at $11 a $11 50.

BREADSTUFFS.—Receipts, 3,576 bbls. flour, 360 do. and 2,816 bags corn meal, 6,480 bushels corn and 2,300 do. oats. The demand for State and Western flour