CUBA.

Arrival of Spanish Volunteers in Havana.

News from the Seat of War—The Fighting at Mogote—Arrival of Insurgent Reinforcements and Retirement of the Spaniards — Landing of Arms and Ammunition.

The steamship Bienville, Captain Baker, from New Orleans, December 12, and Havana, December 16, arrived at this port yesterday. We are indebted to purser Alexander for the prompt delivery of our correspondence.

The Arrival of Troops—The Festivities on the Occasion—News from the Seat of War—Spanish Accounts—The Fighting at Mogote—Sequestrations.

HAVANA, Dec. 15, 1869.

Owing to the rapid arrival of troops we are having our protonged gala day, and *Viva España* and red and yellow bunting rule the hour. Whatever the virtues or vices of the Spaniards in Cuba, they are not slow or lacking in enthusiasm while welcoming their brothers from the Peninsula who come here to defend them. On Saturday last arrived in the harbor the mail steamer Espana, having on board a regiment of volunteers of Santander, composed of two chiefs, forty-three officers, thirty sergeants and 1,000 men. Owing to the fact that the triumphal arches were not completed and the bunting not all hung out they were detained on board until the following (Sunday) morning. At eleven o'clock the Espana moved up from the guardship at the entrance of the harbor, surrounded by small steamers and other boats, carrying bands of music and bedecked with flags. She was moored to the Custom House wharf, which had been beautifully adorned with flowers and evergreens. Among the chief objects of interest here was a miniature castle chained to a rock, moving toward which was a ship under full sail, constituting the arms of Santander. The disembarkation was quickly accomplished, and the regiment having formed, were treated to an address from a grave looking gentleman in black. The volunteers just arrived being assigned their due positions of honor, the procession filed through some of the principal streets, which were profusely hung with red and and yellow. Following the parade the new comers were assigned quarters and allowed perfect latitude for three days, during which time the festivities continued. On Monday evening a grand banquet was given at the Tacon theatre to the chiefs and officers of the regiment. The boxes were filled with the beauty and *élite* of the city as spectators. Following the supper speeches were made, in which much good feeling was displayed, as is the custom. An impromptu dance wound up the affair, in which it was demonstrated that the gentlemen had supped. With fast evening ended the festivities of this occasion. Other troops are expected, however, when the same thing will be repeated. It is stated that an unusual demonstration is to follow the arrival of the expected gunboats from the North.

The volunteers of Santander will proceed to the field at once, leaving behind their kind entertainers, from whom they are no doubt loth to part, though amid the sufferings and dangers consequent on a campaign in this climate they will carry with them pleasing reminiscences of their three days in Havana—and nothing more.

From the seat of war the usual accounts reach us. There is continued evidence that an active campaign is about to open in Camaguey. The "*Voluntarios de Madrid*" arrived at Puerto Principe on the 9th, and were received by the suffering people and troops there with great rejoicing. A portion of the regiment del Rey, which has been stationed at Gibara, recently left for Nuevitas to reinforce the troops there. General Poello has visited the latter place after a tour of inspection among the various detachments on the line of railroad. The Catalans have been furnished with a new armament. A letter dated in the camp of Buena Vista on the 11th, says that according to the statement of an insurrect, who had presented himself at Puerto Principe, Bernabi de Farona, alias "Bembeta," an insurgent chief, had fallen in the attack on San José, the 25th November.

Dates from Baracoa, Gibara and Nuevitas are to the 9th, 10th and 11th respectively. Complete tranquility is reported in those places. The weather throughout the Central Department was becoming much cooler. A heavy norther had been blowing and its good effects on the general health was perceptible. Spanish reports from Santiago de Cuba to the 3d speak of two fights at Bambeta and La Guaira on the 27th and 28th of last month, in which the Spaniards gained the usual victory. The insurgents lost twelve killed and many wounded. A letter dated the 2d says that search was recently made in the caves of Mogote, but nothing was found. An official despatch of the 4th announces a successful encounter of Colonel Camara's forces against the insurgents. It closes with a general notice that all the points which had been occupied by the rebels were taken.

General Lesca leaves to-day in the mail steamer for Spain. One of the city papers publishes the result of his doings while in command of the Cinco Villas from the 7th of June to the 5th of December, 1869. The enemy's loss during that time was 1,537, as follows:—Twenty-two chiefs and 1,174 men killed and 341 presented themselves. A paper of Santa Clara, in commenting upon this, says:—"There is not a single point occupied by our troops which has not been taken from the enemy." It adds:—"The troops are in continual motion, and there are none left at the points of departure except such as are necessary for the protection of families." According to a telegram from the Cinco Villas, received on the 13th, a number of insurgents, with their arms and horses, and accompanied by some families, had presented themselves. They report the greatest misery and discouragement in the insurgent camps. According to the despatches received from that section considerable numbers are daily presenting themselves.

Estates continue to be burned. Among those recently destroyed in Cienfuegos are the "Iniragua" of Don Tomas Terry and D. Francisco Arnebarena, the "Barcelona" of General Ravella, and "Yuca" of D. Francisco Santos. The celebrated estate "Flor de Cuba," in Colon, was recently set on fire, but small damage was done. According to reliable sources we learn that 267 Spanish officers have died from sickness and wounds since the insurrection broke out.

The volunteers of Covadonga left on Friday evening for Batabano, and on arriving embarked on a steamer there. Their destination is said to be Las Tunas, in St. Spiritus. The mail steamer Santander arrived this morning with a regiment of Catalan volunteers, the second from that province. They were placed in the Cabanas to await the arrival of other volunteers daily expected, when a grand reception will be accorded them.

The embargo on the property of Don Valentin Abreu has been raised and he permitted to return to the island. This owing to his good conduct as certified to by the Spanish Consul in New Orleans. The commission appointed to report on the proposed reforms submitted by the intendente, General Santos, has finished its labors and will report soon.

A Suspicious Steamer Discovered off the Baconao River—She is Towed to Santiago de Cuba and Detained—Arrival of Troops—The Fighting at Mogote.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Dec. 8, 1869.

On the afternoon of the 3d the steamer Tomas Brooks arrived in this port and reported having seen a suspicious looking steamer at anchor in the mouth of the Baconao river. On approaching her she hoisted the Haytien flag. On receiving the information the war steamer Fernando El Catolico left this harbor without delay, and on the following day returned, having in tow the Haytien steamer Marianne. On opening her hatches a vacant space was observed in her hold. Upon being questioned concerning it the captain stated that during a storm he had been obliged to throw overboard a part of his cargo off Cape Maisi, and some of the steamer's machinery giving out he endeavored to make this port, but was unable, and so anchored at the mouth of the river, awaiting some steamer to tow him here. The impression is here that the missing part of the cargo has been landed on this coast, which is the more probable as parties of insurgents are known to have been hovering around the mouth of that river of late. The Marianne still remains in port with the rest of her cargo, which consists of logwood.

This morning the steamer Cienfuegos arrived here, having on board 700 volunteers, known as the "Guias de Valmaseda," and among them fifty cavalry. They will be sent to operate against the insurrects at Mogote. The Spaniards already have 2,000 troops employed in that section without having gained a foot of territory and have lost during their operations 125 killed and wounded and 375 sick, who have returned to this city. A severe engagement took place on the 5th, lasting all day, and yesterday over fifty wounded arrived here from the battle field.

A company of colored firemen of this city, who enlisted for active service, lost half of its number by desertion during a skirmish with the insurgents. The Spaniards have entirely abandoned their camp at Sevilla on account of sickness. It was formerly occupied by white troops, who suffered so much that they were replaced by negroes; the latter lost twenty-five in ten days, and the others were in such a deplorable condition that the complete abandonment of the place was necessary.

The cholera has decreased very much in this city.

Arrival of Troops—Withdrawal of the Spaniards from Mogote—Arrival of Marmol with Reinforcements—Landing of Munitions—Condition of Spanish Forces—Valmaseda Demands Reinforcements.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Dec. 10, 1869.

The battalion "Cazadores de Valmaseda," which recently arrived here, left yesterday in the direction of Mogote. It is composed of 200 cavalry, 100 negroes, who style themselves "macheteros," and 400 infantry. The handbills calling on persons to enlist in this battalion fix the pay for privates at thirty dollars per month.

The insurgents in great force are intrenched in a mountain called Jucaro, about fifteen leagues from this city. Until now they have not been molested at that point by the troops, although it has been announced that they would be attacked when the Mogote was cleared. The latter place has been reinforced by 2,000 insurgents and a supply of munitions from Mayari and vicinity, and under command of Generals Donato del Marmol and Lofio. They brought a convoy of provisions and powder, of which the Cubans were in great need. They arrived at Mogote without having fired a shot, the Spanish troops who were operating there having retired—Camara to La Victoria and Colonel Ahern towards Palma Soriano.

Another landing of arms and ammunition took place at the mouth of the Baconao river, on the night of the 8th. Information reached here soon after, and a war steamer was despatched to the point, but without discovering anything, as all signs of it had been removed.

The condition of the Spanish forces here is not improving. It is stated on good authority that Valmaseda has sent a communication to the Captain General, in which he says that if reinforcements are not sent him he will be compelled to resign his command, as it is impossible for him to carry on the campaign with the 3,000 men under his command, one-third of whom are sick. In the military hospitals here there enter on an average twelve each day of sick and wounded, without counting those who remain in the provisional hospitals in the country. One of them established on the embargoed estate Santa Isabel has in it 120 sick and seventy wounded, more or less severely. The care and attention afforded the inmates in these hospitals are very bad and they have nothing but rice and pilot bread to eat, and not sufficient of that. There are, moreover, many soldiers on the various estates not in a condition to be moved. Of the battalion of marine infantry not long since arrived here from Spain thirty-two died from the yellow fever in one day. They are in the country, and the colonel having divided them in small groups to prevent spread of sickness, the insurgents have taken advantage of their position to attack them and several encounters have taken place.

The Catalans who form the greater part of the Spanish population are much agitated as to the probable action of the United States upon the meeting of Congress.

THE CUBAN REVOLUTION.

Correspondence of the State Department in Relation to the Revolution in Cuba—Atrocities of the Spanish Soldiery—Murder of American Citizens by Volunteers—Spain Guarantees Reforms When the Revolution is Quelled—The Gunboats Needed to Suppress Piracy.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20, 1869.

The President to-day transmitted to the Senate a voluminous document in reply to the resolution calling for information with regard to Cuba.

Vice Consul General Hall, in a letter to Secretary Seward, November 18, 1868, quoted the views of a conservative Cuban—namely, the news of the Spanish revolution is enthusiastically received in Cuba—and stating the views of the Cubans as to slavery are diverse. Some desire immediate and others the gradual abolition of slavery, while not a few desire the continuance of the institution. The insurrection in the Eastern and Central Departments is represented to be formidable. Mr. Hall adds that good order prevails in his department. In another letter dated December 17, 1868, he says that the insurrection is gaining strength. The condition at Matanzas is general distrust and paralysis. In February, 1869, he transmitted a letter from the consular agent at Sagua la Grande; the state of things there is much exaggerated and he sends particulars. Mr. Hall transmits to the Secretary of State, Mr. Washburne, March 11, 1869, what purports to be a decree of the insurgents' assembly, abolishing slavery. Mr. Hall, March 27, 1869, transmits to the Second Assistant Secretary of State, Mr. Hunter, the decree of the Captain General, dated March 24, authorizing captures on the high seas of vessels carrying men, arms, munitions or effects in aid of the insurgents and directing the execution, as pirates, of persons so captured.

Secretary Fish informs Minister Roberts that United States citizens have the right to carry on the high seas articles destined for the enemies of Spain, subject to seizure of such as may be contraband of war or to capture for a violation of a lawfully established blockade. It is consequently hoped the proclamation will be recalled, or such instructions given as will prevent its illegal application to citizens of the United States or their property. A contrary course might endanger the friendly and cordial relations between the two governments, which it is the sincere desire of the President should be maintained.

Mr. Hall, under date of April 2, 1869, transmits a letter from Remedios, and says the majority of American merchants agree with the writer, who states that American born citizens were well treated by the Spanish authorities.

Minister Roberts addresses Secretary Fish on the 5th of April. He says:—"Attempts are made by false and exaggerated statements and public meetings to create sentiment in favor of Cuba. Persons in New York style themselves 'the independent government of Cuba,' and despatch expeditions and arms in aid of the insurgents."

Secretary Fish, in reply to Mr. Roberts, April 17, says he does not perceive the necessity or propriety of issuing such proclamation. When President Fillmore's proclamation was issued peace prevailed in Cuba, but an armed invasion was threatened from the United States. Now a portion of the people of Cuba are in insurrection to redress alleged wrongs, and no expeditions are leaving the United States. Mr. Roberts, he adds, admits that whenever called upon the officers of the United States have interfered effectually to prevent violations of law. The United States are still suffering from the effects of precipitate recognition of belligerent rights, which was done by foreign nations a little more than two months after the outbreak of insurrection in this country. This government, from its very origin, has been foremost in the assertion of neutral rights and in setting the example of enforcing a strict neutrality. This government does not intend, at present, to depart from its traditional policy, but will execute in good faith the wise and efficient laws that have been enacted for the observance of its international duties of neutrality and friendship. The sympathy of the United States is with people striving to secure the right of self-government and with all efforts to free this continent from transatlantic control; but they desire to maintain friendly relations with governments still claiming control over neighboring possessions. They will not abridge the right of free discussion, but will limit their interference to preventing the unlawful acts in infraction of their obligations to Spain and other friendly powers.

Mr. Hall to Secretary Fish, April 22, transmits the decree of April 11, 1869, prohibiting alienation of property except with the assent of the government.

Secretary Fish to Minister Roberts, April 30, says:—The President has seen with regret the decree, and hopes it may be modified so as not to be applicable to property of citizens of the United States.

Mr. Hall to Secretary Fish, April 30, transmits Count Valmaseda's proclamation of April 4, that every man over fifteen found away from home may be shot; that every unoccupied house and every house not flying a white flag may be burned, and that women living at home or with their relations may be carried forcibly to Jiquani or Bayamo; also informing the department that Count Valmaseda was moving his forces into the country.

Secretary Fish, May 10, 1869, protests, in the interest of civilization and humanity, against Count Valmaseda's proclamation.

Secretary Fish to Mr. Hall, May 11, directs him to make representations to the Spanish government against Count Valmaseda's proclamation.

Mr. Hall to Assistant Secretary of State Davis, May 18, transmits a letter giving an account of military operations near Nuevitas.

Consul General Plum to Secretary Fish, May 28, transmits a copy of the authorization of a loan of $6,000,000 in Havana for suppressing insurrection. This money is understood to be nearly exhausted. The principle is recognized that Cuba is to bear the expenses arising from the situation. Also transmitting a copy of the decree of the Captain General authorizing the seizure of horses.

Mr. Plumb to Secretary Fish, June 2, states that the volunteers have forced General Dulce to resign.

Mr. Hall informs Secretary Fish, June 3, of the lawless conduct of the volunteers at Matanzas.

Mr. Plumb, June 4, acquaints Secretary Fish of the deposition of the Captain General. The insurgents, he says, are mostly Creoles. The Spanish residents, with the business and prosperity identified with the island, are dissatisfied with the conduct of the government. They wish the war was ended. Those who conduct the war and hold the offices are sent out from Spain and have no interest in the islands. The Spanish residents, though disagreeing as to the future, have deposed General Dulce. They may do the same with the new Captain General if dissatisfied. The volunteers number about 30,000 on the island. Two thousand of them are in Havana. They are unpaid and furnish their own arms. The government depends upon them to enforce its decrees. The organization is officered by men of position; the men in the ranks are reckless. The volunteers are intensely loyal. At present it is reported that negotiations are pending between the Captain General and the Cubans. Mr. Plumb speaks of the violence of the volunteers, collisions and insubordinations, and gives an account of the events that preceded the resignation of General Dulce and his speculations upon what may follow.

Mr. Plumb, June 24, encloses a letter to Secretary Fish from Mr. Phillips, Acting Consul at Santiago de Cuba, giving information of the summary execution of Charles Speakman and Albert Wyeth, citizens of the United States, and their dying declarations.

Secretary Fish, August 10, instructs Minister Sickles to demand compensation for the families of Speakman and Wyeth; to require that citizens of the United States shall be invested with as broad rights as those of other countries, and to protest in the name of the President against longer carrying on the war in this barbarous manner.

Minister Sickles encloses a copy of his note, September 8, to Mr. Bercevia, as to Speakman and Wyeth, &c. Under the instructions in Secretary Fish's note a report has been called for in these cases, and reparation will be made if the facts are as alleged. Mr. Sickles encloses a copy of Mr. Silvela's note and of his rejoinder. The Spanish Minister says Speakman was executed in conformity with law.

Secretary Fish, July 16, addressed a communication to Minister Roberts, calling attention to the Captain General's proclamation of July 7, as to the rights claimed over vessels of the United States on the high seas under treaty of 1795, &c. It assumes power over the commerce of the United States that can only be permitted in time of war. The United States will not yield the right to carry contraband of war in time of peace; will not permit their vessels to be interfered with on the high seas, except in time of war. The treaty of 1795 confers no rights over vessels of the United States in time of peace. If Spain is at war it should be known, in order that notice be immediately given of the restrictions that such state entails upon the commerce of the United States. Mr. Fish asks whether Spain recognizes a state of war as existing, and states that the continuance of the decree or an attempt to enforce it will be regarded as a recognition by Spain of a state of war with Cuba.

Mr. Plumb to Secretary Fish, July 21, transmits the modification of the Governor General's decree of July 7, as to the search of vessels on the high seas; also the general order of the Captain General for the conduct of the war with more humanity.

Minister Sickles, August 12, to Secretary Fish, communicates his conversation with the Spanish Minister, saying:—"The Minister, interrupting me, as if he thought I had gone quite far enough—for the present at least—acknowledged the sincere and legal manner in which the government of the United States had fulfilled its international duties in regard to the Cuban insurrection. In former days, when the pro-slavery party held the reins of power, there was some anxiety from time to time lest the recklessness of filibusters should involve the two nations in difficulty; but since the victory of the national cause the laboring people of Spain have come to regard the United States as their national friend. The common question was one of the utmost gravity and delicacy. It was the intention of the Spanish liberals, who initiated and executed the revolutionary movements which have given to Spain its new political life, to make at the earliest moment provision for guaranteeing self-government to Cuba; but this fatal insurrection broke out the very moment when it was becoming possible to give to Cuba all the rights she desired. The cry of "Death to Spaniards" was heard in Spain and it became impossible in the face of civil war to carry out the beneficent plan they had formed. The liberal party in Spain finds itself, to its own infinite regret, forced to a seeming sympathy with the revolutionary party of Cuba, and the liberals of Cuba who ought to be its firm friends are converted by the fatality of the situation into its bitterest enemies. There is no sentiment dearer to the hearts of the liberal leaders than that of "freedom to all men;" yet they showed before the world in this Cuban conflict as opposed to self-government and resisting the abolition of slavery. He considered the insurrection as a most deplorable misfortune and mistake both for Cuba and Spain. If a way could be found to settle all these questions in such a manner as to do justice to Cuba without infringing upon the honor of Spain the government would be greatly gratified. There is no intention again to work the island of Cuba on the old or desire among the liberals of Spain ever slavery system. It has been their constant wish to grant the Cubans the administration of their own affairs and the full favor of their own liberty, preserving their commercial connection and some shadow of their political relations.

Minister Sickles to Secretary Fish, August 14, encloses article 108 of the Spanish constitution, about Cuba. Mr. Silvela regards it as preventing action upon Cuba till Cuban deputies arrive at the Cortes.

Minister Sickles also communicates August 20, a conversation he had with General Prim, in which the latter said with great earnestness and emphasis, "Let the United States be assured of the good faith and the good disposition of Spain. Formidable as the insurrection may become, it has not yet reached the proportions of any of those conflicts in which governments have found themselves constrained to treat during hostilities. The Cuban insurgents hold no city or fortress. They have no port, no ships. They have no army. They do not presume to offer or accept battle, and now, before the period arrives for active operations, when Spain will send the ample reinforcements the holds in readiness, it is only necessary for the Cubans to accept the assurance of the United States, given on the faith of Spain, that they may have their independence by laying down their arms, electing their deputy and declaring their right to be free by a vote of the people."

Minister Sickles again writes to Secretary Fish, August 21:—"The President of the Council said there is a vast difference between the present insurrection in Cuba and the revolutionary movements by which the republics of the American Continent gained their independence. In those days negotiations were resorted to after campaigns had been fought and battles lost and gained. They had armies in the field and organized governments supporting them. We see nothing of this in Cuba. Only mere roving bands, who fly when they are pursued and have never been found in number sufficient to give or accept battle. It is very possible that in the lapse of time the insurrection may become more formidable. It may raise armies, it may take cities and fortified towns, it may demonstrate want it has not before demonstrated—that it is supported by a majority of the population. In that case Spain will have something tangible to treat with. But we hope to avoid all this bloodshed, disorder and ruin by making some amicable arrangements now."

Minister Sickles to Secretary Fish, August 24, says:—"In general I find less susceptibility to the idea of a transfer of the island to the United States than to a concession of the independence of Cuba. There is an apprehension that the persons and property of the Spaniards in Cuba would not be safe under Cuban control. This impression, I hear, prevails in Catalonia."

Mr. Roberts to Mr. Fish, September 18, submits various considerations and arguments against what he understands to be the settled purpose of the United States to accord belligerent rights to Cuban insurgents.

Mr. Fish replies, under date of October 13, and after stating that Mr. Roberts' letter was not received until September 25, when just leaving Washington, says:—"It might be sufficient answer to say that no intention to grant belligerent rights has been announced. It is a more perfect answer to say that no such intention has been reached by the United States. Mr. Fish is pleased that Mr. Roberts draws his authorities from the history and the statesmen of the United States, and reminds him that Spain conceded belligerency to the South sixty-six days after the bloodless assault on Sumter. The United States had eloquently remonstrated in the interest of humanity, against the manner in which the Cuban conflict is waged. The present state of affairs cannot be indefinitely prolonged, and the United States reserve the right of future action. Unlawful expeditions in aid of the Cuban insurgents have been planned, and one succeeded; but the United States has always been ready to act on information furnished by Mr. Roberts, and has acted on such information, even when it has proved erroneous."

Minister Sickles telegraphs to Secretary Fish, September 25, that the volunteers are to be disbanded on the cessation of hostilities, scandalous executions to be stopped, slavery to be gradually abolished, and liberal reforms to be granted without waiting for the termination of the war.

Mr. Davis, September 8, transmits the substance of Sickles' telegram to Mr. Plumb, and instructs him to inquire into and report on the same.

Mr. Plumb to Mr. Davis, October 21, reports that he does not think the disarmament of the volunteers practicable, and sees no intention to cease hostilities before the insurrection is suppressed. The rulers in Cuba desire to stop the effusion of blood, and the general opinion is that abolition should be gradual; but none think it should be deferred over five years.

A mass of correspondence is given relating to the decree of the Governor General concerning passenger vessels and its modification procured by Mr. Plumb.

Minister Sickles, on October 16, transmitted to Secretary Fish a copy of a decree according liberty of worship in Cuba; also a copy of Silvela's note desiring the President to use his influence with Cuban refugees to secure a less savage character to the war, and to release the Spanish gunboats, which are neither intended to operate against Peru nor Cuba, but to defend the coast against filibusters and pirates.

Consul Plumb to Secretary Fish, October 15, states that Sibanicu, a hamlet, and Guaimaro, a village of 508 inhabitants, are the only places occupied by the insurgents; and on the 2d of November informs him that both the places have been destroyed. At the same time Consul Plumb encloses a circular inciting the negroes to burn the estates, forwarded by the consul at Matanzas and said by him to have been probably printed in New York.

Minister Sickles informs Secretary Fish, November 14, that no reforms for Cuba will be brought forward till the hostile bands are dispersed, and subsequently advises him of the progress and consummation of various reforms for Porto Rico.

December 3, Mr. Sickles telegraphed Mr. Fish as follows:—"The Foreign Secretary wishes to assure the United States government that Spain now desires the most friendly relations with all the American republics, and intends in her colonial policy to begin immediately the most liberal reforms."

Copies of a number of affidavits submitted by Messrs. Lowry and Evarts to establish the existence of a state of war and an independent government in Cuba are furnished with a letter dated December 15, from Mr. Lowry to Mr. Fish, stating that the Attorney General had declined to consider said affidavits good evidence, and had clearly expressed the purpose of the government.

Attorney General Hoar, under date of December 16, gives his opinion that it is not proper for the United States to libel the Spanish gunboats under the statute of 1828, and informs Mr. Fish that the government has acted on this opinion.

SUPPOSED MURDER OR SUICIDE IN BROOKLYN.

An aged negro woman residing in a house in which she owned in Montrose avenue, Williamsburg, has been missed by her neighbors for the past three weeks, and yesterday her body was found in the cistern at the rear of her home. Some excitement prevailed in the neighborhood when the body was found, several of the neighbors expressing the belief that she had been robbed and murdered. The police, however, are of the opinion that the woman committed suicide. Coroner Whitehill took charge of the body and residence last evening, and this morning Dr. Cresmer will conduct an autopsy. The name of the deceased was Catharine Sullivan.

Sunday evening, while the congregation were engaged in divine service in the Presbyterian church on the corner of Dearborn and Ontario streets, Chicago, the floor gave way and precipitated a number of persons into the basement a distance of about four feet. Much excitement prevailed, but no one was seriously hurt.

FIRE IN CARMINE STREET.

At fifteen minutes to twelve o'clock last night a fire broke out in a rear room of the fur store of Haase & Jacobs, near a work table, at No. 38 Carmine street, causing a loss to stock of $3,000; insured in the Germania for $3,000, and one other city company for $1,000. The proprietors, Charles Haase, Morris Jacobs and a brother of the latter named Ralph, who were asleep in the back part of the store, were severely burned in making their escape to the front part of the store. They were removed to a neighboring drug store, where their injuries were attended to.

SHIPPING NEWS.

Almanac for New York—This Day.

Sun rises.....	7 21	Moon rises....eve	7 33
Sun sets.....	4 35	High water..morn	10 06

PORT OF NEW YORK, DECEMBER 20, 1869.

CLEARED.

Steamship Cimbria (NG), Haack, Hamburg via Plymouth and Cherbourg—Kuhhardt & Co.
Steamship Franconia, Braag, Portland—J F Ames.
Ship Gen Butler, Chase, Callao—Fabbri & Chauncey.
Bark John Tyler, Luce, Havre—Boyd & Hincken.
Bark Crusoe (Br), Mix, Los Palmas—Crocker, Wood & Co.
Bark Sierra Nevada, Parsons, Valparaiso—Fabbri & Chauncey.
Bark Hazard, Karstens, Pernambuco—H H Swift & Co.
Bark Sadie, Sinclair, Satilla, Ga—G H Brewer.
Bark Eliza (Br), Sprague, Boston—J W Elwell & Co.
Brig Foam (Br), Jenkins, Palermo—A Lindsey.
Brig Alice (Br), Godet, St Marc, Hayti—W K Van Bokkelin.
Brig Balear (Br), Benson, St Kitts—G Wessels.
Brig Anna D Torrey, Curtis, Ponce and St John's, PR—H W Loud & Co.
Brig Shannon, Sawyer, Matanzas—Simpson & Clapp.
Brig Alfaretta, Wallace, Brunswick, Ga—T M Mayhew & Co.
Schr Electric Spark, Cornell, Kingston and Ruatan—B J Wenberg.
Schr H V Crandall (Br), Fettis, Halifax—Crandall, Umphray & Co.
Schr Kalmas, Lambert, Galveston—C W Adams & Co.
Schr Ida Birdsall, Birdsall, Darien, Ga—N L McCready & Co.
Schr Gen Banks, Salisbury, Satilla River, Ga—S C Loud & Co.
Schr Willie Dill, Day, Beaufort—Thomas, Holmes & Co.
Schr B H Jones, Davis, Richmond—Van Brunt & Slaght.
Schr Albert Mason, Rose, Philadelphia—Van Brunt & Slaght.
Schr S Hall, Coleman, Providence—H W Jackson & Co.
Schr A W Thompson, Lawson, Bridgeport—G K Rackett & Bro.

ARRIVALS.

REPORTED BY THE HERALD STEAM YACHTS.

Steamship Merrimack, Weir, Rio Janeiro Nov 25, Bahia 28th, Pernambuco Dec 1, Para 7th and St Thomas 14th, with mdse and passengers, to W R Garrison. Had pleasant weather until 19th inst, when she encountered a heavy gale from SE to SW. 17th inst, lat 32 34 N, lon 70 44, signalled a bark bound N, showing an American ensign, and underneath a blue field, with white stripe or square.

Steamship Bienville, Baker, New Orleans Dec 12, and Havana 16th, with mdse and passengers, to Livingston, Fox & Co. Dec 17, at 10 AM, off Jupiter Light, exchanged signals with steamship San Francisco, from New Orleans for New York; 20th, at 11 AM, Absecom bearing WNW, exchanged signals with 17 Spanish gunboats, under convoy of war steamer Pizarro; were running finely under all sails, steering SSW, with a light NNE breeze and smooth sea.

Ship Benton (Br), Woolforton, Calcutta Aug 28, and Sand Heads 29th, with mdse, to Kirkland & Von Sachs. Passed Cape of Good Hope Oct 21, and crossed the Equator Nov 14, in lon 26 48 W, and had fine weather during the passage. Nov 1, lat 16 51 S, lon 4 33 W, spoke ship Min, from Foochow for London; 15th, lat 0 8 N, lon 28 09 W, ship G L Motley, steering SW.

Bark Doon (Br), Munroe, Yokohama, Aug 4, with tea, to Dabney, Morgan & Co. Passed Cape Horn Oct 18, and crossed the Equator Nov 24; since, light E and NE winds; Oct 11, lat 54 8, lon 150 W, saw a large iceberg; Nov 11, lat 22 8, lon 32 W, spoke ship Portlaw, from San Francisco for Liverpool; same time, bark Mangostene, from Isle for do; 15th, lat 19 50 S, lon 28 W, bark Mountain Ash, from London for Yokohama; 23d, lat 6 S, lon 34 W, ship Golden Fleece, from New York for San Francisco.

Bark Regia (Nor), Larsen, Briton Ferry, E, 56 days, with railway iron, to order—vessel to Funch, Edye & Co. Had heavy weather and shifted cargo.

Bark Lynet (Nor), Olsen, Cardiff, 30 days, with railway iron, to Funch, Edye & Co. Had moderate weather.

Bark Vineo (Br), Cook, Malaga, 39 days, with fruit, to A Lindsay. Passed Gibraltar Nov 12. Had heavy weather since passing Bermuda. Dec 12, lat 31, lon 72, spoke bark Oneco, from Savannah for Liverpool; 17th, lat 36, lon 72 22, brig Geo Harrison, steering SSW.

Bark Cardenas, Sundberg, Cardenas, 10 days, with sugar, &c, to Jas E Ward & Co.

Brig Harriet (Br), Gilbert, Pernambuco, 40 days, with sugar, to Bowring & Archibald. Had heavy weather on the coast, and has had a pilot on board 6 days.

Brig Curacoa (Br), Lockart, Curacoa, 19 days, with hides, &c, to Jos Foulks & Sons. Had heavy weather.

Brig W N Z (Br), Herman, Kingston, Ja, 18 days, via Delaware Breakwater Dec 19, with logwood, to Geo A Philips & Collins.

Brig B Young, Joy, Jacksonville, 8 days, with lumber, to master.

Schr America (Br), Patten, Demerara, 21 days, with molasses, to Crandall, Umphray & Co. Had heavy weather.

Schr Queen of the South, Carson, Pensacola, 10 days, with yellow pine, to master.

Canal boat A Worcester, Von Burn, Oswego, with mdse, to master.

Passed Through Hell Gate,

BOUND SOUTH.

Brig H F Raton, Reid, Calais, 8 days, for New York, with lumber, to master.
Brig Sarah & Emma, Carter, Machias, 7 days, for New York, with lumber, to master.

BOUND EAST.

Schr Geo W Pettis, ——, Rappahannock for Boston.
Schr Henry S Rich, Rich, Virginia for Fairhaven.
Schr Blendell, Chapman, Philadelphia for Boston. (The B arrived 18th).
Schr L L Crocker, Thrasher, Philadelphia for Taunton.
Schr Dirigo, ——, Philadelphia for Boston.
Schr Southerner, Baker, Philadelphia for Boston.
Schr W R Hopkins, Fish, Philadelphia for Providence.
Schr D A Berry, ——, Elizabethport for Portsmouth.
Schr David Crowell, Wilcox, New York for Flushing.

SAILED.

Bark Doris Brodersen, for Rio Janeiro.
Wind at sunset SW.

Shipping Notes.

During the past week or ten days the dry docks have been kept very busy, and the entry books present a fair record for the present and coming week.

There were in port on Saturday 472 vessels, of which 81 were steamers, 54 ships, 91 barks, 96 brigs and 150 schooners.

The mammoth sectional dry dock at Hoboken has had up the Neptune steamer Galatea, for the purpose of having her bottom painted.

The dry docks out of the city limits do not flourish during the winter season, for obvious reasons, one of them being the difficulty of procuring calkers, the men giving preference to the South street docks on account of their being under the lee of the storehouses, and therefore protected, in a great measure, from the bitter north winds

The screw docks near the foot of Market street have had up seven more and the last of the batch of thirty Spanish gunboats for the purpose of copper sheathing their bottoms. Besides these, the tugboat Leon, belonging to Mr F Wright, for light repairs.

The balance dry dock at the foot of Pike slip has had up the steamer Santee, 698 tons, built here in 1859 and belonging to this port. She was stripped of her old metal sheathing, recalked and remetalled.

She was followed by the steamer Bellevue, belonging to the Commissioners of Charities and Correction, which had an extra upper streak of yellow metal sheathing given her and some braziers' copper placed on her bow.

The bark Jane Adaline, 460 tons, is on this dock at present, aving her bottom painted.

The mammoth balance dry dock adjoining had up the ship Cynosure, 1519 tons, built in Bath, Me, in 1853, and belonging to the Tapscotts. They merely patched her metal sheathing. She was lowered last Wednesday.

The steamer Flag was on yesterday, having a new wheel placed on her. She was built in Philadelphia in 1857, is 637 tons borthen, and belongs to the Florida Railroad Company.

The great sectional dry dock near the foot of Rutgers slip has had three vessels:—

The ship Corsica, 1298 tons, built in Thomaston, Me, in 1865, had her rudder adjusted.

The new ship Dauntless, 1000 tons, built in Mystic this year and consigned to Messrs J D Fish & Co, received a suit of yellow metal sheathing.

The bark James McCarty, 549 tons, was taken up on Saturday, and is yet on. She is to be stripped of her old yellow metal sheathing, recalked and remetalled.

The smaller sectional dock adjoining has had up two schoners and a brig.

The brig B F Nash, 231 tons, built in Columbia in 1855 and belonging to Messrs Brett, Son & Co, of this city, was lowered on Friday, after being stripped, recalked and remetalled.

The schooner Robert Noble, 114 tons, raised and lowered on Friday, being taken up merely for examination, which was satisfactory.

The schooner Chimo was raised on Saturday morning and lowered in the evening, meantime being calked and furnished with a suit of yellow metal sheathing.

On the sectional dry dock at the foot of Clinton street the schooner Lucy, 174 tons, was taken up on Wednesday last and lowered on Friday, in the interim having some new plank put in her bottom.

The schooner E S Gildersleeve, heretofore reported ashore, was lowered on Saturday, after having her keel repaired.

The People's dry dock, at the foot of Gouverneur street, has had up the brig Velocity, 243 tons, built in Calais, Me, in 1861, which had her metal sheathing patched. She was lowered on Wednesday.

The schooner Abbie H Hodgman was raised by the Nelson & Townsend dry dock, adjoining, and had her bottom painted and a new shoe put on.

The tugboat Lily followed her for slight repairs, receiving which she was lowered on Friday afternoon.

Marine Disasters.

HAVRE, Dec 20—The bark Maggie Reynolds (Br), Reynolds, from New York for this port, while proceeding to her berth, struck the quay and stove her hull.

ANTWERP, Dec 20—The bark J Cummings, from New York, is ashore in the Scheldt.

STEAMSHIP CIRCASSIAN—Mr Young, Underwriters' agent, returned from the steamship Circassian, ashore on Squan Beach, 20th inst, and reports that the vessel lays with her head off shore, bow touching the edge of the outer bar, stern on the beach. Vessel tight and cargo being discharged rapidly and put on board of lighters. One lighter loaded and coming up to the city. Cables and anchors have been laid. The vessel is in charge of Capt E C Perry, of the Coast Wrecking Company. The C is owned by Ernest Fiedler, of this city.

SHIP WM WILCOX (of New Bedford), Johnson, from Alicante Nov 6 for Philadelphia, with railroad iron, is the vessel ashore on the Shoals. She came in the Capes at 2 PM 18th, and went ashore about two miles above Delaware Breakwater. She is reported as lying in a dangerous position. The revenue cutter Miami and two wrecking vessels left the Breakwater to render assistance. The tug America also went to her from Philadelphia. She was being lightered of her cargo on the 19th. Wreckers have contracted to get the ship off and deliver her in Philadelphia.

BARK QUINDARO (Br), from New York Sept 6 for Ilo and Arica, put into Montevideo Nov 11 in distress, of what nature not stated.

BARK FLORENCE BAKER (Br), from New York for Montevideo, which put into St Thomas in distress, repaired and sailed Dec 9 to resume her voyage.

BRIG RAINBOW (of Halifax), from Yabacoa, PR, for New York, which put into St Thomas Oct 20 leaky, with loss of sails, captain, mate, &c, was relonding cargo on the 13th inst, and would sail soon for New York.

BRIG NAMRAUG, of New York, from Buenos Ayres for Antwerp, before reported foundered at sea, was abandoned Oct 1, off the coast of Rio Grande. The crew took to a boat, and were picked up by a Brazilian schooner and taken into Rio Grande.

SCHR S C GROVE, from Richmond for Mobile, put into Wilmington, NC, 20th inst, with loss of main jib, mainmast sprung and leaking. She is loaded with a cargo of phosphate.

SCHR W O IRISH, at Baltimore 18th, from New York, was run into in the Bay, while at anchor, by a large unknown steamer, and lost bowsprit and headgear and sustained other damage.

SCHR C L SCUL