FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

WALL STREET,
WEDNESDAY, March 23—6 P. M.

The Washington telegrams to-day were rather distracting in their effect upon

THE GOLD MARKET,

although the extreme fluctuations were not wide apart, while the character of business was very dull, there being at one time an absolute suspension of transactions in the Gold Room. The opening price was 112¾. from which there was a decline to 112¼ on the report that the Secretary of the Treasury would probably accept bids for two millions instead of one at the sale to-day. Perhaps the effect of this rumor might not have been so decisive had not the market been rendered somewhat sensitive by a Washington telegram, stating that the Ways and Means Committee would compromise the funding question by introducing a bill to authorize the new loan to be made at four per cent. Subsequently, when it was discovered that over five millions of gold had been bid for at the Sub-Treasury and it was learned that only one million would be sold, the price ran up to 112¾, the movement being stimulated by another report from Washington, which is thus concisely given in the *Telegram* of this evening:—"Washington private despatches state that it is confidently rumored that the President contemplates and will shortly execute a *coup d'état*, by which an entire new Cabinet will be selected, with General Butler either as Secretary of State or the Treasury. It also asserts Secretary Fish will have to retire. This movement is said to be the result of new combinations for the Presidential succession in 1872, and to blank certain aspirants now in Cabinet positions." Later in the afternoon, on the showing of a very flattering increase in the exports for the week, the market became heavy, and the price fell back to 112¼. The chief fluctuations were as follows:—

10 A. M.	112¾	2:15 P. M.	112¾
11 A. M.	112¾	2:20 P. M.	112¾
11:10 A. M.	112¾	3 P. M.	112¾
12 M.	112¾	4 P. M.	112¾
1 P. M.	112¾	5:30 P. M.	112¾ a 112¾
2 P. M.	112¾		

Holders of gold paid three to five per cent to have their balances carried. The operations of the Gold Exchange Bank were as follows:—

Gold cleared	$28,017,000
Gold balances	1,165,192
Currency balances	1,319,963

THE MONEY MARKET.

The offerings of money on call were again abundant, and the prevailing rates on the ordinary collaterals were four to five per cent. Some lenders who had unemployed balances after half-past two o'clock were seeking to engage them at as low as three per cent.

Commercial paper was steady as last quoted.

Foreign exchange was firm on the basis of 108½ for prime bankers' sixty day sterling. Continental bills were without new feature.

STOCKS ACTIVE AND WEAK.

The rose-colored atmosphere of the stock market became cloudy and dark to-day under a sudden reversal of the movement which commenced last Saturday and led to a general upward turn in values. The "bears" were jubilant and hammered the market with great energy. The opening prices were barely steady at the figures of the previous evening. At the first board, upon the publication of a decrease of over $90,000 in the earnings of the Chicago and Northwestern Railway for the third week in March, there was a break in both the common and preferred stock, which operated sympathetically upon the general list and induced a weak and unsettled market. In the afternoon there was a recovery from this decline, but suddenly the "bears" again freely sold the market, and the rumor having been put in circulation that the Northwest clique had secretly got rid of their stock in the recent rise, which was engineered by instigations of a "corner," the market gave way once more. The public were never so mystified by the cliques as just now. The character of the market is made to change with the rapidity of magic whenever it suits their plans. That they contemplate a bold step one way or the other is evident from the premonitory feverishness of the past few days. The public can, as they always do, pay their money and take their choice of sides in the developements which may be expected ere long.

THE EXTREME FLUCTUATIONS IN STOCKS.

The following shows the highest and lowest prices to-day:—

	Highest.	Lowest.
New York Cen. & Hud. Consolidated	93½	92¾
New York Central & Hudson certif.	91¾	91¾
Harlem	144¾	143¾
Erie	25¾	25
Reading	96¾	96
Lake Shore	88	87¼
Wabash	46	45¾
Pittsburg	102	100
Northwestern	73¾	71¾
Northwestern preferred	86¾	85
Rock Island	122¾	120¾
Fort Wayne	93½	93½
Milwaukee and St. Paul	61¾	59¾
Milwaukee and St. Paul preferred	75¾	73¾
Ohio and Mississippi	29¾	29¼
New Jersey Central	104¼	103
Columbus, Chicago and Ind. Central	18¾	18
Western Union	33¼	32
Canton	66	65¾
Mariposa preferred	18¾	17¾
Quicksilver	10¼	9¾
Pacific Mail	33½	31¾

GOVERNMENTS DULL.

The government market was exceedingly dull, and while the speculative interest is for the present diverted to other branches of the Stock Exchange the investment demand is waiting the future of the Funding bill and the gold market. The firm feeling in gold rendered prices steady and strong. The following were the closing street quotations:—United States currency sixes, 112¼ a 113; do. sixes, 1881, registered, 113¼ a 114; do. do., coupon, 114 a 114¼; do. five-twenties, registered, May and November, 108 a 108½; do. do., 1862, coupon do., 110 a 110½; do. do., 1864, do. do., 108¾ a 109¼; do. do., 1865, do. do., 108¾ a 109; do. do., 1865, coupon, January and July, 107½ a 107¾; do. do., 1867, do. do., 108¾ a 108¾; do. do., 1868, do. do., 108¾ a 109¼; do. ten-forties, registered, 105 a 105¼; do. do., coupon, 105¼ a 105¾.

SOUTHERN SECURITIES STRONG.

The speculation in Southern State bonds ran on the Louisianas more particularly, which were active at a sharp advance and in strong demand. The Tennessees and Virginias were higher with little doing in them. Old North Carolinas were lower. The general list was dull. The only quotations made at the last Board were as follows:—Tennessee ex coupon, 59¾ a 59¾; do., new, 50¾ a 50¾; Virginia ex coupon, 73¾ a 73¾; do., new, 71 bid; Georgia sevens, 92 a 93½; North Carolina, ex coupon, 46¾ a 46¾; do., new, 23 a 23½; Missouri sixes, 92¾ a 93; do., Hannibal and St. Joseph, 92 bid; Louisiana sixes, new, 72 a 75; do. levee sixes, 78¾ a 79; do. do. eights, 93¾ a 95; South Carolina sixes, 88 a 92; do., new (July), 82¼ a 82¾; do. do. (April), 84½ a 87.

THE RAILWAY MORTGAGES.

The following were the bids to-day for the railway mortgages:—

New York Cen 6s, 1887	90	Quin & Tol 1st m, 1890	81
New York Cen 6s, R Es	88	Gal & Chic extended	99
New York Cen 6s, sub	88	Gal & Chic 2d m	93
New York Cen 7s, 1876	100	Ch & R I 1st m	100¾
N Y Cen 7s, conv, 1876	100	Chic, R I & Pa	97½
Erie, 1st m, extended	100	Mor & Essex, 2d m	99¾
Erie 7s, 2d m, '79	92¼	Clev & Tol Sink Fund	101½
Erie 7s, 3d m, 1883	85	NJ Cen, 2d m	102
Erie 7s, 4th m, '80	86	N J Cen, new bds	98
Buf, N Y & E 1st m, '77	90	Pitts, F W & Chic 1st m	104
Harlem 1st m	103	Pitts, F W & Chi 2d m	97¾
Mich Cen 1st m 8s, '82	119	Pitts, F W & Chi 3d m	93
Chic Bur & Q, 8 p c, 1st m	111¾	Clev & P 2d m	94
Mich So 7 p c 2d m	97¼	Clev & P 3d m	91
Mich S. & N. I.S. F, 7 p c	98	Clev & P 4th m	75
Pac R 7's, guar by Mo	96	Chi & Alt 1st m	102¾
Cent Pac bds	92	Chi & Alt income	92¾
Union Pac 1st bonds	84¾	Ohio & Miss 1st m	96¾
Alt & T H, 1st m	94½	Dub & Sioux C 1st m	95
Alt & T H, 2d do inc	75¾	Peninsula RR bonds	80
Chic & N W S Fund	96	St Louis & Iron M bonds	88¾
Chi & N W int bds	92	Mil & St P, 1st m, 8's	105¾
Chi & N W S Fd ex bds	85	Mil & St P 1st m, 7 3-10	91
Chic & N W S Fd 1st m	94	Mil & St P, I & M 6	85
Consol 7 p c conv	81¾	Mil & St P 2d m	86
Ind, Bloo & W 1st m	109¾	Mar & Cin 1st m	89¾
Tol & W, 1st m ext	93	Chic & Mil 1st m	92¾
Tol & W 2d m ex	83	Col, Ch & Ind 1st m	85¾
Tol & W, equip bds	77	Col, Cin & Ind 2d m	60
T, W & W c on, S F	79	N York & N Haven 6's	99¾
Gt West, 1st m, 1868	106	Tol, Peo & W, E D	83½
Gt West 2d m, 1886	81		

THE GOVERNMENT SALE OF GOLD.

The awards at the government gold sale were in the following lots at the accompanying prices:—

5,000	112.35	10,000	112.24
5,000	112.26	10,000	112.22
40,000	112.21	10,000	112.21
75,000	112.26	4,000	112.20
20,000	112.25	5,000	112.24
15,000	112.25	2,000	112.20
5,000	112.26	50,000	112.26
20,000	112.27	50,000	112.24
10,000	112.25	10,000	112.20
15,000	112.25	10,000	112.20
20,000	112.26	20,000	112.26
100,000	112.21	20,000	112.24
8,000	112.27	20,000	112.22
10,000	112.31	8,000	112.20
10,000	112.29	206,000	112.20
10,000	112.27		
Total		$1,000,000	

EXPORTS OF THE WEEK.

The following shows the exports (exclusive of specie) from New York to foreign ports for the week ending March 22, and since the beginning of the year:—

	1868.	1869.	1870.
For the week	$1,946,378	$2,440,120	$4,219,526
Prev. reported	36,520,120	31,577,637	33,606,799
Since Jan. 1	$38,466,498	$34,017,757	$37,826,325

THE SUB-TREASURY REPORT.

The following shows the results of to-day's business at the Sub-Treasury in this city:—

General balance yesterday	$81,059,986
Gold receipts	502,503
Gold payments	87,959
Gold balance	77,154,170
Currency receipts	1,158,751
Currency payments	234,408
Currency balance	5,151,409
General balance	82,401,321
Customs	325,000

SALES AT THE NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE.

Wednesday, March 23—10:15 A. M.

$1000 US 5-20, c, '64	108¾	200 shs West U Tel	33¼
1000 do	108¾	100 Quicksilver Min Co	10¼
20000 US 6's, cur'cy	112¾	100 do	10
800 US 5-20, c, '65, n. sm	107	200 Pac M SS Co	33¼
31000 do	107¾	10 do	33¼
2000 US 5-20, c, '67	108½	56 Canton Co	65¾
10000 do	108¾	100 do	65¾
1000 US 5's, 10-40, c	105	100 do	64
9000 Tenn 6's, ex c	59	100 do	65¾
9000 do	59¼	200 Wells-Fargo Ex	20
10000 do	59¼	30 Adams Ex	61½
1000 Tenn 6's, n	59¼	200 Am Mer U Ex	27¾
25000 do	59½	5 do	27¾
25000 do	59¾	15 U S Express Co	46¾
55000 do	59½	100 N Y C & H R R R	98¾
1000 Va 6's, ex c	73¾	200 Erie RR	25¼
12000 do	74	50 Erie pref	44
16000 do	72	200 Harlem RR	141¼
10000 Va 6's, reg bds	59	200 L S & M S RR	87¾
2000 Georgia 6's	87	100 do b c	87¾
10000 Missouri 6's	92¼	1000 do	87¾
40000 La 6's, b	34	10 Panama RR	141
10000 do	93¾	145 do	140
27000 La 6's, 1886	77	20 do	140¼
10000 do	78¼	10 do	141
1000 N Y 7's, b l, cou	100¼	14 do	140¾
10000 Brooklyn 6's, w. i.	90¼	20 C & Pitts RR	100
1000 N Y Cen 6's, '83	91	200 Chic & N W RR	73¾
3000 Erie 4th mtg b c	87	50 do	73¾
1000 Mich So 2d mtge	97	100 do b c	73¾
2000 Cen P RR g bds	93¾	200 do b c	73¾
800 U Pac RR 1st m	85	200 do	73¾
1000 Chi & NW 1st m	94	500 Chic & N W pref	85¾
10000 Chic & NW c c bds	91¼	300 do b30	85¾
2000 T & W 1st m	93	100 do s9	85¾
7000 Tol & W con cv bds	79	300 do	85½
4000 C & R I A RR 7's	98	100 do b cl	85¾
10000 Hudson 2d, s f bds	105	200 N J Centr. RR	103¾
3000 T & Wab 2d m	84¼	100 do	103¾
5000 C, C & I C 1st	85¾	200 Chic & R I RR	121¾
1000 do	85¾	100 Mil & St Paul RR	60½
1000 Mor & Es 2d m	90¾	400 do	61¼
5000 M & Es 1st m	101¼	500 Mil & St P pref	75¼
3000 Mor & Es const m	87½	100 Tol, Wab & W RR	45¼
5000 Ath & T H 2d m pf	83¾	100 do b30	45¼
2000 N Y & N H 6's, bds	100	100 P, Ft W & C RR gtd	93½
6000 North Mo 1st m b	87¾	50 do	93¼
1000 Am D & Im C, 7's	91¾	100 Ohio & Miss RR	29¾
10000 M Tr 10's, ctfs	48	150 Ohio & Miss pref	71
20 shs Continental Bk	98	200 Del, Lack & W	103
11 Bank of Commerce	123	25 N J RR	116¾
15 Shoe & Leather Bk	185	10 Morris & Es RR	90¾
40 Chatham Bank	170¼	400 Bost, Hart & Erie	8¾
100 Brons C Land b c	8¾	100 do	8¾
100 Marip 1st pref	49¾	100 Col, C & I C RR	18¾
200 do	49¾		

12 M. and 2:15 o'Clock P. M.

$2000 US 6's, '81, cou	114¼	$10000 US 5-20, c, '65, n	107¾
500 do b10	114	10000 do s5	107¾
1000 do	114	10000 US 5-20, r, '65, n	107¾
10000 US 5-20, r, '62	108¼	3000 do	107¾
2000 US 5-20, c, '62	109¾	2000 US 5-20, c, '67	108¾
5000 do	110	25000 do	108½
15000 U S 5-20, c, '64	108¾	2000 US 5-20, r, '67	107¾
55 0 US 5-20, r, '65	108¾	3000 US 5's, 10-40, c	105¼
17000 US 5-20, c, '65, n.s	107¾	3 000 U S 6's, cur'cy	112¾
11000 do	107¾	1000 do	112¾

One o'Clock P. M.

$15000 Tenn 6's, n	59¾	2000 shs L S & M S RR b c	87¾
20000 Mo 6's	95¾	100 do	88
10000 La 6's, b	73	200 Chic & NW RR	73
3000 do	73¾	100 do	73¼
1000 Cen Pac RR g bds	93¾	600 do b c	73¾
1000 U Pac RR 1st m	85¾	200 do	73¾
1000 W U Tel 7's, bds	90	200 C & N W pfd	84¾
1000 St L & I M 1st m 8s	87¾	100 do	84¾
500 shs Canton Co	65	300 Chic & R I RR	121¾
100 do b30	65¾	200 Mil & St Paul RR	60¾
40 Am Mer U Ex	27¾	14 do	60¼
500 West U Tel	33	100 Mil & St Paul pf	74¾
2 do	33¾	100 do	74¾
100 Quick Min	9¾	100 Tol, Wab & W	45¾
500 do	9¾	100 Del, Lack & W	103
100 do b30	9¾	90 Mor & Es RR	90¾
50 do	9¾	100 Al & Ter H RR	37¾
100 Mariposa	18	100 do	37¾
50 Pac Mail SS Co	33¾	200 do	38
200 N Y C & H RRR	99¾	200 Al & Te H pref	65
100 N Y C & H R c	99¾	100 do	65
100 Erie RR	25¾	100 do b30	65¾
10 Erie preferred	44	10 Chic & Alton	112
500 L S & M S RR	87¾	100 Ohio & Miss RR	29¾
100 do b30	87¾	100 H & St Jo RR	10¾
100 do b15	87¾	200 Ind & Spt Jo RR pf	107
400 do b30	87¾	200 C, C & Ind C RR	18¼
800 do	87¾		

STREET QUOTATIONS.

Half-past Five o'Clock P. M.

Canton	65¾ a 66	Lake Shore	87¾ a 87¾
West Un Tel	33¼ a 33¾	Northwestern	71¼ a 71¾
Pacific Mail	32 a 32¼	Northwestern pf	85¼ a 85¾
N Y Central con	92¾ a 93	Rock Island	120¾ a 121
N Y Cen scrip	90¾ a 90¾	St Paul	60 a 60¼
Erie	25¼ a 25½	St Paul pf	73¼ a 73¾
Reading	96 a 96¼	N J Central	103¼ a 103¾

COMMERCIAL REPORT.

WEDNESDAY, March 23—6 P. M.

COFFEE.—Rio was steady at former quotations. No sales were reported, however. Other descriptions continued quiet but steady.

COTTON.—The market for this staple was fairly active, the demand still being principally for export, but as the offerings continued large prices were heavy, and some sales were made at a slight reduction. Including 250 bales to arrive, the sales were 3,454 bales, of which 2,956 were for export 612 for spinning, 26 on speculation and 500 in transit. For future delivery the market was only moderately active, and the offerings continuing liberal prices were heavy and about ⅛c. lower. The sales were 800 bales, basis low middling for April at 21c., 200 do. for May at 20⅞c., 200 do. do. at 21c., 100 do. do. at 21⅛c., 500 do. for June at 21c. and 100 do. do. at 21⅛c. The closing quotations were as follows:—

	Uplands and Florida.	Mobile and Memphis.	N. Orleans.	Texas.
Ordinary	18¾	18½	18¾	19
Good ordinary	20¼	20½	20¾	21
Low middling	21¾	22	22¼	22½
Middling	22¾	23	23¼	23½
Good middling	24¼	24½	24¾	25

FREIGHTS.—The market was tolerably active and firmer for grain, but dull for almost all other articles. For petroleum vessels there prevailed a good demand at about former rates, but other kinds of tonnage were almost neglected. The engagements were—To Liverpool, 50 hhds. tallow at 12c. 6d.; 200 bbls. residuum at 5s. 6d.; 100 tons logwood, on private terms, and, per steamer, 35,000 bushels wheat, part at 6d.; 750 bales cotton at ⅝d. To Glasgow, per steamer, 15,000 bushels wheat at 5d. To Bremen, 50 bales cotton at 9c. The charters were:—A brig from the Saltlla river to Boston with 200,000 feet resawed lumber at $11 25; a bark to a direct port on the Continent, with about 4,000 bbls. petroleum and its products at 4s. 3d.; a bark with 2,800 bbls. petroleum (reported), at 3s. if to Bremen and 2s. 6d. if to Hamburg; a brig with about 1,700 bbls. petroleum, to Gibraltar for orders, at 5s. 9d. a 6s. 9d.; a brig to Jamaica and back; a bark, 342 tons, to Buenos Ayres, lumber and general cargo; a bark to Trieste with 3,500 bbls. petroleum, and a brig to Liverpool with 1,500 bbls. petroleum and its products on private terms.

FLOUR AND GRAIN.—Receipts, 6,830 bbls. flour, 100 do. and 1,300 bags corn meal, 17,806 bushels wheat, 2,700 do. corn, 8,200 do. oats, 60 do. malt. The market for State and Western was dull, there being but little demand for shipment, and only a moderate demand for the home trade, and prices were heavy, though not quotably lower. The sales were only about 7,000 bbls. within the range of our quotations appended. For Southern flour the demand was only moderate, and prices for most kinds favored buyers. The sales were 400 bbls. Rye flour was steady, with a moderate demand, the sales being 250 bbls. Corn meal was more active for Western yellow, which sold to the extent of 500 bbls. on private terms; prices were generally lower. We quote:—

No. 2 State	$4 25 a $4 60
Superfine State	4 50 a 4 80
Extra State	4 75 a 5 00
Choice do	5 25 a 6 00
Superfine Western	4 50 a 4 80
Extra do	4 75 a 5 00
Extra Minnesota	5 25 a 6 00
Round hoop Ohio, shipping brands	5 25 a 5 50
Round hoop Ohio, trade brands	5 50 a 6 50
St. Louis low extra	5 50 a 6 00
St. Louis straight extra	6 00 a 6 50
St. Louis choice double extra	7 00 a 7 50
St. Louis choice family	8 00 a 9 00
Southern choice and family	6 00 a 9 25
Southern superfine	4 60 a 8 00
Rye flour	4 10 a 5 30
Corn meal, city	4 60 a 4 70
Corn meal, Jersey	4 25 a
Corn meal, Brandywine	4 50 a 4 75

—Wheat was steady for spring, but heavy for winter, under adverse cable news. The sales were about 75,000 bushels at 90c. for rejected spring; $1 01 for No. 3 do.; $1 05 for Nos. 2 and 3 mixed; $1 24½ a $1 25 for amber winter in store. Corn was quiet, but prices were firm on account of the small offerings. The sales were 35,000 bushels at 90c. a $1 for inferior to prime new mixed Western; $1 for unsound old do., in store; 94½c. for new white Southern, in store; $1 04 for choice Virginia yellow afloat and $1 07 for choice yellow State. Oats were dull, but held for full prices; sales only about 15,000 bushels, at 61c. for Ohio and Pennsylvania and 62c. for State. Western were quoted at 56c. a 58c. in store and afloat. Rye was quiet, but firm at $1 02 a $1 05 for State. Barley was more sought after and sold to the extent of 20,000 bushels Canada, at about $1 02 a $1 05 for fair quality. Barley malt was dull and nominal.

GUNNIES.—Cloth was in good demand and firm, the sales being 500 bales at 23½c., 100 do. at 23¾c.; 100 do. at 21c., gold—all in Boston. Of bags, which were firmer, there were sold 250 bales to arrive, at 11½c., gold, in bond.

HEMP.—Jute was in more demand and firm; sales 500 bales Doss and Chatterjee, to arrive, at 6c., gold, and 200 bales (marked Triangle P, with M S under) to arrive per Cicero at the same price. Other descriptions were dull at former prices.

HAY.—The demand was fair and prices were quite steady, at $1 a $1 05 for shipping, $1 05 a $1 20 for retail lots, $1 a $1 05 for long rye straw and 80c. a 90c. for short do.

HOPS.—There was no change to note in the market. There was but little inquiry, and that was entirely for small lots for immediate use. Prices ranged from 15c. to 25c., though choice grades were held by some parties as high as 28c. a 32c.

MOLASSES.—The market was dull and the sales were unimportant, being confined to small lots, at about former prices. The offerings were heavy.

NAVAL STORES.—There was an improved demand for spirits turpentine, prices for which were steady at 46c a 47c. for merchantable and shipping lots. There were sold 190 bbls. at 46c. a 47c., including a small lot at 47½c. Rosin was very quiet and offered at prices favoring buyers; prices, however, were not quotably lower. The sales were 1,500 bbls. within the range of $2 25 a $2 50 for No. 2, $2 75 a $3 75 for No. 1, $4 a $5 for pale and $5 25 a $8 for extra do. Wilmington tar was quoted at $2 55 a $2 60, without further sales.

OILS.—Linseed in casks was selling in small lots at 90c. a 91c. No wholesale lots were disposed of. Prime winter lard was quoted at $1 22½ a $1 25, with jobbing sales at 2½c. a 5c. higher prices. For other kinds the market was dull at our last quotations.

PROVISIONS.—Receipts 877 bbls. pork, 172 do. beef, 148 pkgs. cut meats, and 50 do. lard. With very light offerings and an improved demand, the market for pork was firmer and prices advanced 12½c. a 25c. per bbl., closing at $26 12½ a $26 25 for new mess. The sales were 500 bbls., in lots, at $25 12½c. a $25 25 for new mess, $26 50 for city do., $23 a $20 50 for prime; also 250 bbls. new mess at $26 62½ cash, and 1,000 do. for future delivery at $26 a $26 10 for April, and $26 25 for May. Dressed hogs were steady at 12½c. a 12¾c. for city. Live hogs were dull and nominal at 8½c. a 10½c. for common to prime, with arrivals of 1,811 head—chiefly for slaughterers. Beef was steady, with sales of 75 bbls. at $18 a $19 for plain and extra mess; also small lots tierce beef within the range of $24 50 a $25 for prime mess, and $27 a $33 for India do. Beef hams were quiet, with small sales within the range of $28 a $31. Bacon was steady, with sales of 150 boxes at 14½c. for long clear and 12½c. for Cumberland cut. Cut meats were active, the demand being principally for pickled hams, which closed at 14½c. a 15½c.; the sales were 350 packages, at 14½c. a 15c. for pickled hams, 17¼c. a 17½c. for smoked do., chiefly at 17½c.) and 13½c. a 14½c. for smoked shoulders; pickled and dry salted shoulders were quoted at 10½c. a 12c., without sales. Lard was in fair demand and rather higher, the sales being 500 packages at 14c. a 14¼c., the latter price for prime steam.

PETROLEUM.—The market for crude in bulk was dull, sales being restricted by the increased firmness of holders, who demanded 14½c.; 14¼c. was bid for a few small lots. No sales were reported. Crude in bbls. was in some demand, and quoted at about 16½c. For refined oil there was more demand for export, and two or three cargoes were disposed of at ⅛c. a ¼c. higher prices, the market closing firm at about 26¾c. There were sold 4,000 bbls. at 26¾c. a 26¾c. and 1,000 do. for May and June on terms kept private. Jobbing lots were quoted at 29c. a 30c., the latter price for prime white. Naphtha was quiet and nominal at 16c. a 16½c. In Philadelphia the market was inactive, but higher. The offerings were very light, and sellers generally demanded 26¾c.; an advance.

RICE.—Carolina was in fair demand at prices not differing from those previously obtained. The sales were 150 tierces at 8½c. a 8¾c. for common to prime.

STEARINE was held for higher figures, but we heard of no sales of consequence. We quote:—Common to prime, in hhds. and tierces, 14c. a 14½c.

SEEDS.—All kinds were dull and nominal at yesterday's quotations. We heard of no sales.

SUGAR.—There was more activity in the market for raw, the demand being principally from refiners, but as the offerings were considerable, the market was heavy, and some sales were made at prices ⅛c. below those obtained yesterday. At the close fair to good refining Cuba was generally quoted at 9c. a 9⅛c. The sales were 1,100 hhds., part at 9⅛c. a 9⅛c., and 5,000 boxes, part at 9c. Refined was quiet and heavy, at 12¾c. for hard, 12c. a 12¼c. for soft white, 11½c. a 11¾c. for extra C., and 11c. a 11½c. for yellow:—We quote:—Cuba—Inferior to common refining, 8¾c. a 8¾c.; fair refining, 9c. a 9⅛c.; good refining 9¼c. a 9½c.; fair to good grocery, 9½c. a 10c.; prime to choice grocery, 10¼c. a 10½c.; centrifugal, hhds. and boxes, 9c. a 11½c.; molasses sugar, hhds. and boxes, 8¾c. a 9½c.; melado, 5c. a 7¾c. Havana—Boxes Dutch standard, Nos. 7 to 9, 8¾c. a 9¼c.; do., Nos. 10 to 12, 9½c. a 9¾c.; do., Nos. 13 to 15, 10½c. a 10¾c.; do., Nos. 16 to 18, 11½c. a 11¾c.; do., Nos. 19 to 20, 12½c. a 12¾c.; do. white, 12½c. a 12¾c. Porto Rico—Refining grades, 9½c. a 9¾c.; do., grocery grades, 9¼c. a 11¼c.

TALLOW.—The demand was fair and prices were steady at former quotations. The sales were 95,000 lbs. at 9c. a 9¼c. for common to choice.

WHISKEY.—Receipts, 623 bbls. The market was tolerably active and prices were steady and firm. The sales were 200 bbls. at 90c. a 90¾c. for patent and $1 a $1 00½ for State and Western.

COTTON MARKETS.

NEW ORLEANS, March 23, 1870.

Cotton dull and prices lower. Middling, 23c. a 23¼c.; net receipts, 6,376 bales; coastwise, 55 bales; total, 6,431 bales; exports to Great Britain, 3,891 bales; to Havre, 2,985 bales; to Antwerp, 650 bales; sales, 3,200 bales; stock, 209,619 bales.

SAVANNAH, Ga., March 23, 1870.

Cotton quiet. Middling, 22¾c.; receipts, 576 bales; exports, coastwise, 275 bales; to Great Britain, 2,045 bales; sales, 100 bales; stock, 52,362 bales.

CHARLESTON, S. C., March 23, 1870.

Cotton dull. Middling, 22c.; receipts, 587 bales; exports, coastwise, 136 bales; sales, 100 bales; stock, 19,056 bales.

NORFOLK, Va., March 23, 1870.

Cotton quiet and weak. Low middling, 20½c. Receipts, 413 bales; exports, coastwise, 25 bales; stock, 7,388 bales.

BALTIMORE, March 23, 1870.

Cotton inactive and prices drooping. Middling, 22½c. Net receipts, 90 bales; coastwise, 100 bales; total, 190 bales; sales, 15 bales; stock, 6,440 bales.

BOSTON, March 23, 1870.

Cotton dull and prices lower. Middling, 23½c. a 23¾c. Receipts, 28 bales; sales, 150 bales; stock, 13,500 bales.

REAL ESTATE SALES.

There was a fair attendance at the Exchange Salesroom yesterday. The offerings consisted of improved property on Leroy, West Twenty-sixth, East Forty-eighth, Canal and East Thirty-fifth streets and Second avenue, and unimproved property on 112th, 113th and Fifty-ninth streets and Seventh avenue. Messrs. Muller, Wilkins & Co., James M. Miller and A. J. Bleecker, Son & Co. were the auctioneers.

The Rutherfurd Park Hotel and grounds, on the Passaic river, were sold yesterday by J. Fisher Satterthwaite, for the Rutherfurd Park Association, to Iverson W. Knapp, of this city.

The following are the particulars of the sales:—

NEW YORK PROPERTY—BY JAMES M. MILLER.

2 story brick House and lot No 54 Leroy st, between Bedford and Hudson sts, lot 20.6x85 ..... $7,300

BY MULLER, WILKINS AND CO.

1 lot s s 112th st, 225 ft e 5th av, 25x100.11 ..... $2,450
1 lot s s 113th st, 225 ft e 5th av, 25x100.11 2,600
1 lot adjoining, same size 2,850
1 lot adjoining, same size 2,700
1 lot s s 69th st, 75 ft e 7th av, 25x100.5 2,200
1 lot w s 7th av, 25 ft s 54th st, 25.1x100 8,000
3 story brick house and lot No 128 West 26th st, 325 ft w of 6th av, lot 25x98.9 17,050
3 story brown stone house and lot No 246 East 48th st, near 2d av, lot 18.8x100.5 13,550

BY A. J. BLEECKER, SON AND CO.

3 story brick house and lot No 508 Canal st, e s, 61 ft w of Greenwich st, lot 19x82 ..... $10,700
4 story brown stone house and lot No 123 East 35th st, 125 ft w of Lexington av, lot 16.8x98.9 19,600
4 story brick house and lot No 319 2d av, w s, 69.4 ft n of East 18th st, lot 17.4x98 19,600

BROOKLYN PROPERTY—BY MULLER, WILKINS AND CO.

3 story brick house and lot No 73 South 4th st, 150 ft from 6th av, lot 23x145.7 ..... $11,600

THE EXCISE FUND.

The Charge of Misappropriation—An Investigation Ordered—Judge Bosworth's Defence of the Hole-and-Corner Caucuses.

At the meeting of the Board of Excise yesterday Judge Bosworth arose in his seat in explanation of articles appearing in certain papers, charging the Board with the misappropriation of the moneys of the Excise Fund, and Mr. Benjamin Franklin Manierre with being a party thereto. Mr. Manierre occupied the chair, and called upon Mr. Bosworth, who read the following:—

Resolved, That the Finance Committee of the Board of Excise report to the Board at its next meeting what officers of the Board of Health have, on the recommendation of that board, been compensated by the Board of Excise since January 1, 1869, for services performed by said officers respectively for the last named Board, the amount of such compensation in each case and the causes for which such compensation was recommended and made, and the salary of each of said officers of the Board of Health, and the names of all other persons who have been compensated for services rendered for the Board of Excise, who were not exclusively employed by that Board, and the amount of such compensation in each case, and also the amount, if any, which has been allowed to any officer of the Board of Excise over and above his stated salary, and the cause of such allowance in each case.

Mr. Bosworth, in explanation of the resolution, stated that he submitted it in consequence of certain articles that had appeared in the papers, which were no doubt prompted by the best of motives. When he saw articles of this kind in respectable papers he had reason to believe they were prompted by good motives. It was well known by the members of the Board that the idea was, when the bill creating the Board was passed, that many of the duties were to be performed by officers of the Board of Health. The law provides that when such duties are performed they may be paid out of the Excise fund. There were also cases where persons outside of the Board of Health had been employed, and they had been compensated. The idea is that there had been some compensation given by the Board of an unjustifiable character. It was proper to say that the secret meetings of the Board were called expressly to consider the character of diseases that threatened the public health, and there had been no desire to keep from the public all necessary information. The Judge explained that in these secret meetings some business relating to excise matters may have been done that should have been transacted in open session. He therefore offered the resolution for the purpose of having all the facts presented to the Board. All appropriations that were called for by this resolution appear in the published proceedings of the Board.

EXTENSIVE FIRE IN WILLIAMSBURG.

Destruction of Stores and Dwellings—Loss Thirty-five Thousand Dollars.

A fire broke out in Shellas' furniture store, No. 88 Grand street, Williamsburg, shortly before nine o'clock yesterday morning, and caused a large destruction of property. The building in which the fire occurred was an old frame one, and was surrounded by buildings of similar construction. The flames spread rapidly under a high wind, and notwithstanding the prompt and energetic action of the firemen, four buildings were utterly consumed on Grand street and a number of others on North First street were partially destroyed. The following is a summary of the losses:—

GRAND STREET.—No. 84—The building was owned by Martin Althauser and occupied as a grocery store and residence by Louis Lohman. Entirely consumed. Loss $5,000; insured for $3,000.

No. 86—Owned by Martin Althauser and occupied by him as a lager beer saloon. Loss $5,500;