INDIAN FIGHTING.

THE PUNISHMENT OF THE PIEGANS.

Complete Account of Colonel Baker's Expedition Against the Savages.

Graphic Narrative by an Officer in the Command.

A FURTHER REPORT FROM GEN. SHERIDAN.

[From the Lancaster (N. H.), Republican, March 22.]

We are permitted to publish the following graphic and interesting letter from Surgeon Francis L. Town, United States Army, to his father, Barton G. Town, of this town. It will be observed that Surgeon Town's letter absolutely contradicts the reports in circulation relative to the "massacre" of the women and children of the Piegans by Colonel Baker's command:—

FORT SHAW, Montana Territory, February 10, 1870.

Having disposed of a short business note, I now proceed to give you a brief synopsis of affairs at Fort Shaw, perhaps of some interest. Active operations against the Indians in Montana were inaugurated, and have apparently come to a full close by one dreadful blow, some account of which you have seen in the papers. The troops left here during the severest cold of the winter, on the morning of January 23, and returned on the 25th of the same month. The command consisted of four companies of the Second cavalry, from Fort Ellis, Montana Territory, the mounted detachment at this post equivalent to another company, and one company of the Twelfth Infantry, as an escort and guard to their supply train—all under the command of Brevet Colonel Baker, Major Second cavalry. From this post they marched nearly due north and encamped the first night out on the Teton river, some thirty miles distant. Here they remained during the ensuing day, and from this point moved only by night, lying concealed as much as possible through the day time. They also left the infantry with all their tents and supplies behind on the Teton, and each horseman took with him only his rations and blankets, together with his carbine and sixty rounds. The thermometer going very low about this time—into the twenties below zero almost every night—you can imagine what it was for officers and men thus to cut loose from everything and move off across these vast and wintry plains; men and horses sharing alike the open prairie, unsheltered and exposed to the benumbing cold. No fires were allowed, since some party of Indians out hunting might perceive the smoke by day or the light at night, and thus discovering their approach, convey the alarm throughout the Indian camps. The Indians the command were after were certain bands of Piegans, which had been unusually industrious marauding the past summer and fall, and had committed numerous murders of whites. The Piegans are one of the three subdivisions of the Blackfeet nation, which go by the names of Bloods, Piegans and Blackfeet. Though all Blackfeet, they live almost as distinct tribes, but they occupy mainly the same territory and hunting grounds, and to some extent acknowledge a common brotherhood. In other words, the nation has at some time split up into independent clans or tribes, the members of which hunt the buffalo, or even on occasions go on the war path amicably together. The Bloods and Piegans have their winter camps and live, many of them, the year round, on the Marias river; they are scattered along its banks, where wood is abundant, for fifty miles, encamped in bands generally of two or three hundred, more or less, in a place. The former are higher up the stream towards where it flows out of the Rocky Mountains, and the Piegans are further down. The upper camps of the Piegans were those the troops were ordered to destroy, and they aimed to approach the river precisely at the upper camp, and attack at the break of day. It is probably from eighty to one hundred miles northward from here to where they came to the Marias. The attack occurred on the 23d. Either through fear or ignorance, and in the darkness of the night march, immediately preceding, their guide, a half-breed Indian, became completely bewildered, and led the troops out of their course. Being satisfied of this, Colonel Baker directed the march due north by the North Star, and moving cautiously forward, came near the river about an hour or more before daylight. Here a halt was made, and each soldier stood by his horse as silently as his shivering bones and the frosty atmosphere would permit, and kept an anxious vigil, waiting until the shadowy fords of early twilight rose out of the river bank sufficiently to enable them to distinguish objects at some distance. No lodges were in sight, and the command moved down the river feeling that they had been thwarted in their purpose of a surprise by the incapacity of their guide, thus entirely uncertain as to the location of the Indian camps. Advancing sight not far along of a solitary teepee, a detachment surprised and captured all its inmates. From them they learned, through an interpreter, that Red Horn's band of thirty-five lodges were from eight to twelve miles below. Thus was the upper camp of Piegans, and the expedition had struck the river that much too high up—*i. e.*, to the west.

The troops now pushed rapidly ahead until they came within sight of the White teepees of Red Horn's band in the bottom below, then sweeping swiftly up they went with a rush down into the river bottom, where the winter camp was. It was a bright winter morning, almost every Indian brave was inside his teepee, and the smoke of the lodge fires curled silently up from the doomed village in the frosty morning air. No premonition of danger or message of warning had gone before, and they were on them. The troops were suffering from cold and want of sleep, suffered from exposure, some of them frost-bitten, savage; small mercy for Red Horn or his band now. Ere many moments the sharp crash of rifles smote the still air. Some of the warriors, the bravest of the band, sprang to their arms; others, panic-struck, leaped forth in wild flight; but attempts at resistance or flight were almost alike futile—scarcely a warrior escaped. Every Indian village or camp is overrun with a horde of dogs, great and small, of strange and mongrel shape and look, and with voices as unfamiliar as the grotesque bodies; many of these animals were also killed and wounded by the flying missiles, and wild imaginations rose from their within throats.

Red Horn and his soldiers have paid the extreme penalty for all their misdoings; we will suppose on the theory that thus only is the untamed Indian nature terribly taught the impropriety of predatory horse stealing and the occasional shooting of the owners; and so by heroic tuition are led to choose their happiness in the mild practices of peace—the Indian mind is evidently prejudiced. Four or five braves are said to have gotten off—Black Eagle and another, well known, who have taken part in different murders of whites and who the citizens of the Territory seem to have especially hoped would have been overtaken. I understand that 173 dead bodies were counted after the attack.

The Eastern papers appear to have it that neither women or children were spared, but all were killed. The officers say that more than 100 of these were collected unhurt after the firing ceased and saved, besides a considerable number of wounded. One man only of the command was killed. The camp was set on fire and the lodges, all the buffalo robes and skins the Indians had collected, everything they possessed, was burned up; no one was allowed to save anything whatever. A few citizens, frontiersmen, were along and keenly felt this certainly was overdoing things. Leaving one company here to perform this work, troops had again rapidly advanced down the river in the endeavor to cut off Mountain Chief's band, supposing that his camp was only a few miles below. After several hours' hard riding they came upon the site of the abandoned camp. A few mounted Indians were seen here and there watching them from the hills. Five lodges were discovered lying collapsed on the ground; the occupants had evidently just pulled out the poles, letting them drop into the dried grass and sage bush, hoping they might escape notice, and hastily mounting their ponies were industriously making off. Colonel Baker subsequently learned that, purely in obedience to their nomad life, it so happened that Mountain Chief had broken up his camp a few days previously, and all had moved off except five lodges. Old Mountain Chief himself and most of the camp had joined another band yet further down the Marias, while a few luckless aborigines had straggled into the deserted camp. These five deserted lodges were also burned up. The day was now somewhat advanced, the troops had been constantly in the saddle or on the move since evening of the previous day, and men and horses were alike nearly worn out. The Indian camps were now thoroughly apprized of all that had taken place, and nothing more could be accomplished. The welcome order was therefore given to face about, and, rejoining the company left behind, they bivouacked there on the Marias. The next morning, after gathering up the herd of rough-coated Indian ponies, over 300 in number, of Red Horn's ill-starred band which yet cropped the dried buffalo grass quietly on the prairie, the command started up the Marias toward the Blood camps. Some of these braves had likewise neglected to limit their warlike daring to making incursions and running off the scrubby ponies of other tribes, but had possessed themselves of American horses from the ranches of settlers. About twenty miles above a trading post of the Northwest Fur Company. Here Colonel Baker learned that these ingenuous natives had suddenly conceived the idea of emigrating en masse; and were at that moment scouring across the plains away off towards her Majesty's dominions, in great disorder, and as fast as their ill-nourished ponies could carry them. It was a pity to arrest them *en route* to a foreign soil; but runners were sent off at once with assurances of safety, provided they would give up the stolen horses then in their possession. The principal chief of the Bloods, old Bull Back Fat (this is a literal translation of his epigrammatic, but unpoetic name, which is always supposed to allude to some real or imaginary quality of the individual), and the other chiefs were in much doubt whether it verily was altogether safe to turn about; but they wanted very much to get back to their sheltered winter retreats on the Marias, and therefore concluded to go down to the trading post and hear what Colonel Baker wished to say to them; which they did. The chiefs came in with the usual "how!" "how!" and hand shaking; but were evidently far from being at their ease. On being told that the troops did not come to molest them, provided they would agree to stop stealing horses from the whites and give up those they now had—that they came only to punish the Piegans—the chiefs expressed great satisfaction; they immediately insisted on shaking hands all round once or twice more with the officers, and then through the whole command with their "How!" and a vigorous hand shake; then came back, and seemed quite inclined to repeat the process, lest some might even yet possibly doubt the warmth of their friendship. They sent without a remonstrance for such of the stolen horses as had not been already traded off to other tribes, and ordered brought in likewise an abundance of fresh buffalo meat; which was very acceptable, since the troops had fared rather hardly for diet as well as comfort on the march. Old Bull Back Fat is a fine looking Indian physically—tall, broad and heavily built, and of an almost benevolent expression rather than otherwise. He had clad himself in his best apparel; his legs and body were encased in buckskin leggings and a shirt; around him he had wrapped a white woollen blanket; and on his head rested an old stovepipe hat, of an uncommonly battered and disreputable aspect; the old chief was evidently proud of this acquisition, as a special and honorable distinction above all his fellow chiefs, and undoubtedly wore it only in council with the whites; at other times his august brow went hatless.

Leaving the trading post, a march of three days brought the expedition in to Fort Shaw, together with all their captured and recovered stock, and a more sorry and skeleton lot one probably never set eyes on except at an Indian camp and in the winter. This valuable lot of the horse species some 300 strong, remains at the post; the cavalry passed on to Fort Ellis.

I have been delayed several days in writing this letter, otherwise you would have received it earlier. I observe that the Eastern papers are constantly commenting on the killing in cold blood of the women and children. They ought not to assume such inhuman barbarity has been perpetrated, as nothing of the kind was done. The most of the women were out of the camp in the brush or woods cooking breakfast at the time the attack was made; none of these were injured, nor were any women and children designedly killed; so far as I can learn efforts were made to save as many of them as possible. War is inhuman and destructive of life, and all Indian wars have been especially so—being wars of extermination. Let any one read the history and termination of the two great Indian wars in the early settlement of New England, and so on down to the present time—they are all a sad commentary to the Christian civilization of America.

Phil Sheridan in the Role of Andrew Jackson—"Old Hickory's" Treatment of Savages Revived.

The following official communication from General Sheridan was received at headquarters in Washington on the 23d inst.:—

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI, CHICAGO, Ill., March 14, 1870.

General W. T. SHERMAN, Commanding United States Army, Washington, D. C.:—

GENERAL.—The further report of Colonel Baker in reference to the punishment of the Piegan Indians has not yet been received. It seems strange that there should be such a want of knowledge of the position which army officers have to maintain in reference to Indian affairs. If I have in my command at least five thousand miles of frontier settlements, my chief and only duty being to give protection to the families residing on these long lines against the outrages of Indians. The government has invited these settlers here by opening the lands to them for pre-emption and improvement. The number of men, women and children on this extended frontier is very great, and there is not a day from one year's end to the other that these families are exempt from the fearful thought of being murdered in the most fiendish manner, the men scalped, the women ravished, and the brains of their children dashed out. When I said in a previous letter that eight hundred had met that fate since 1862 I was below the figure and should have said twelve hundred.

My duties are to protect these people. I have nothing to do with Indians but in this connection. There is scarcely a day in which I do not receive the most heart rending appeals to save settlers from the cruel fate which may come upon them, and I am forced to the alternatives of choosing whether I shall regard their appeals or allow them to be butchered in order to save myself from the hue and cry of people who know not the Indians, and whose families have not the fear—morning, noon and night—of being ravished and scalped by them. The wife of the man at the centre of wealth, civilization and refinement is not more dear to him than is the wife of the pioneer of the frontier.

I have no hesitation in making my choice. *I am going to stand by the people over whom I am placed and give them what protection I can.* We have not the troops to place at each man's house to defend it, and have sometimes to take the offensive to punish for crimes already committed in order to prevent the perpetration of others. In taking the offensive I have to select that season when I can catch the fiends, and if a village is attacked and women and children killed, the responsibility is not with the soldier, but with the people whose crimes necessitated the attack.

During the war, did any one hesitate to attack a village or town occupied by the enemy, because women and children were within its limits? Did we cease to throw shells into Vicksburg or Atlanta because women and children were there? If the women and children were saved in those places it was because they had cellars to go into; and should any of the women and children of the Piegans have lost their lives, I sincerely regret that they had not similar places of refuge, though I doubt if they would have availed themselves of them, for they fight with more fury than the men.

The soldiers do not want to kill the Indians. After long years of Indian frontier service I am satisfied that they are the only good practical friends the Indians have.*

We cannot avoid being abused by one side or the other. If we allow the defenceless people on the frontier to be scalped and ravished we are burnt in effigy and execrated as soulless monsters, insensible to the sufferings of humanity. If the Indian is punished to give security to these people, we are the same soulless monsters from the other side. This is a bad predicament to be in, but, as I have said, *I have made my choice and am going to stand by the people whom the government has placed me here to protect.* The reservation is the last ditch of the wild Indian, but to get him there he must be forced on by the troops. Those who think he can be induced to go there by other means are mistaken. When on the reservation he will have to be kept there by the presence of the troops, and thus become tangible for the good work of civilization, and he can only be protected in his rights while there by the troops keeping off the emigrants who encroach on his land.

All these points are practically exhibited each year. The Cheyennes, Arapahoes, Comanches, Kiowas and Apaches have just been forced on by the troops. During the last year, as soon as I withdrew the troops from the Sac and Fox Reservation, the emigrants took possession. A flood of emigration almost ten thousand strong moved in solid mass and occupied the Osage Reservation, because there were no troops there to keep them off. All the other reservations on which the Indian may yet be placed will be lost in the same manner unless guarded by the military. Yours truly,

P. H. SHERIDAN, Lieutenant General.

CHESS MATTERS.

Consultation Game.

On Saturday last, the opening night of the new and spacious chessrooms at 102 Chatham square, the event was inaugurated by a grand consultation game between ten strong players, five on each side. Captain Mackenzie, Messrs. Delmar, Richardson, F. Perrin and Moore were opposed to Messrs. Breuzinger, Cilberg, Captain Michaelis, Munoz and Whitman.

The following well-contested game was played. Its duration was about two hours:—

(Evans' gambit.)

Mackenzie and Allies. White.	*Breuzinger and Allies. Black.*
1—P to K 4	1—P to K 4
2—Kt to K B 3	2—Kt to Q B 3
3—B to K B 4	3—B to Q B 4
4—P to Q Kt 4	4—B takes Kt P
5—P to Q B 3	5—B to B 4
6—P to Q 4	6—P takes P
7—Castles	7—P to Q 3
8—P takes P	8—B to Kt 3
9—Kt to Q B 3	9—Kt to Q R 4
10—B to Q 3	10—Kt to K 2
11—P to Q 5	11—Castles
12—B to Q Kt 3	12—Kt to K Kt 3
13—Q Kt to K 2	13—P to Q B 4
14—R to Q B sq	14—B to Q 2
15—Q to Q 2	15—P to K B 3
16—K to R sq	16—R to Q B sq
17—Kt to K Kt 3	17—P to Q R 3
18—Kt to K B 5	18—B takes Kt
19—P takes B	19—Kt to K 4
20—Kt takes Kt	20—Q P takes Kt
21—P to K B 4	21—P to Q B 5
22—B to K 4 (a)	22—P takes B P
23—R takes K B P	23—B to Q B 2
24—R to K R 4	24—P to Q Kt 4
25—B to Q R 3 (b)	25—P to Q B 6
26—Q to K 2 (c)	26—B to Q 3
27—Q to K R 5 (d)	27—B takes B (e)
28—Q takes R P, ch	28—K to B 2
29—Q to K Kt 6, ch	29—K to K 2
30—R to K (f)	30—K to Q 2
31—P to Q 6	31—B takes P
32—Q takes Kt P, ch	32—Q to K 2
33—Q to K Kt 4	33—R to K R sq
34—R takes R	34—R takes R
35—B to Q B 6, ch	35—Kt takes B
36—R takes Q, ch	36—Kt takes R
37—Q to K 4	37—B takes K R P
38—P to K Kt 4	38—B to K 4, dis ch
39—K to Kt	39—R to R 7
40—Q to Q Kt 7, ch	40—K to K
41—Q takes B P	41—P to B 7
42—Q takes Kt P, ch	42—K to B
43—Q to Q B 4	43—R to Q 7
And the white allies resigned.	

COMMENTS ON THE GAME.

(a) A considerable difference of opinion in the committee existed on this move. It appears to us that B to Q Kt sq was the correct reply, but B to K 3 was also worthy of consideration.

(b) A difficult move for black to answer.

(c) R takes P seems preferable to this move.

(d) Premature. They should first have exchanged bishops.

(e) It required considerable nerve to effect this capture in face of the terrible attack which white obtained thereby.

(f) P to Q 6 would have led to some very interesting variations.

ENFORCING SANITARY LAWS.

Civil Actions in the Sixth District Court to Compel Obedience to the Health Board.

Tenement Houses—Prominent Politicians Prosecuted—The Fat Boiling Nuisance to be Worried Out of the City—Weights and Measures.

Perhaps the greatest activity in any public office in this city may be said to be displayed in the Law Department of the Metropolitan Board of Health. However inefficient the doctors of the Board may be in the discharge of their duties, and however well-grounded reasons the suffering public have to complain of the red tape manner of the Board of transacting its business, the attorneys of the Board should not be included in the blame. Yet it should not be lost sight of that this increased activity on the part of these lawyers springs not solely from an honest desire to serve the people well. In every case brought into court in the name of the Health Board and which results favorably for the complainant, "costs" are taxed and generally collected, which go to increase the income of the attorney, and thus constitute quite an effectual incentive for filing complaint upon complaint against such as fail to comply with the thousand and one provisions of the health ordinances. Hence since the organization of the Board no less than 7,302 civil actions for the recovery of penalties have been instituted in the Sixth District Civil Court, presided over by Judge Thaddeus H. Lane, holding forth at present on the upper floor of the stable on the southwest corner of Eighteenth street and Fourth avenue, back of the Everett House.

THE CASES NOW PENDING.

About a thousand of these cases are still pending in this court undetermined, all of them being against owners or lessees of tenement houses, the penalty sought to be imposed varying according to the nature of the complaint, from $150 to $250. The cause of action is generally stated to have accrued because the tenements described were not kept in proper order, as for instance, that the bedrooms were dark and had no ventilating or transom windows; that there was no fire escape; that the yards, cellars and stairs were in a filthy condition; that the vaults were not cleaned; that there was no sewer connection with the street sewers; that there was not sufficient area in front of cellar-lodgings, and many other similar shortcomings of the tenement landlords are thus complained of.

AFTER THE POLITICIANS.

There are some prominent politicians among those who were sued by the Board. Against Terence Farley, of the Nineteenth ward, there are three suits pending; two against John B. Haskin, of Fordham, in Westchester county; one against John Kelly, the late Sheriff of this county, whose tenement house, No. 15 Frankfort street, is complained of for a variety of reasons. A Mr. Burke has nearly thirty complaints pending against him for keeping his tenement houses in a filthy condition. Levy Brothers have also twenty suits against them for like offences.

HOW SETTLED.

It is but rarely, however, that the full extent of the penalty is inflicted and enforced. The persons complained of in perhaps three-fourths of the cases proceed to abate the nuisance before trial, and the matter is settled on their paying "taxable costs." Only where parties remain stubborn and refuse to do anything the whole amount allowed by law is entered in judgment against them and payment enforced.

A MARKET NUISANCE.

An interesting case, and which will come to trial at the next trial day of this court, is one against Patrick Carroll, collector of market rents. The complaint is that Centre Market, on Centre street, between Broome and Grand streets, is kept in a filthy condition; that the waste pipe intended to carry off the sluice is allowed to be closed, keeping the floors wet and dirty, emitting an intolerable stench.

THE FAT MELTERS' NUISANCE.

Lately the attorney of the Board has turned his attention upon the fat melters and bone boilers in the vicinity of Thirty-eighth street and Eleventh avenue, since they defy the authority of the Board and decline to remove their offensive establishments north of 110th street, as ordered by the Board. The penalty imposed by the health ordinance is fifty dollars for each and every day these establishments continue work on the present site after due notice to quit. The policy adopted in these cases is to commence an independent suit for each day's penalty for so long a time as the nuisance is continued. By this multiplication of suits, and the consequent increase of the costs to be taxed and collected, it is believed that the fatemelters can be made to yield obedience to the orders of the Health authorities. The following are the actions of this nature now pending in the Sixth District Court, all the defendants doing business on Thirty-eighth street, near Eleventh avenue:—Against Patrick Thorp, No. 25; Donohoe Brothers, No. 25; Henry Weil, No. 40; George Selzer, No. 25, and Francis Egner, No. 8. A number of similar complaints are now being prepared against the New York Rendering Company, and the actions will shortly be commenced.

FORM OF THE COMPLAINTS.

The following is a copy of the complaints as filed in these fat melting nuisance cases:—

The complaint of the plaintiffs above named shows to this court:—

First—That they are the Metropolitan Board of Health, created under the laws of the State of New York.

Second—That in pursuance of law they duly passed and published in the manner required by law a certain code of sanitary ordinances, one of which is in the words following, to wit:—"On and after the 1st day of October, 1869, no person shall boil any offal, swill or bones, nor any fat, tallow or lard (except at once upon the same being taken from the animal, and while the same is fresh and otherwise inoffensive); nor shall the business of bone crushing, bone boiling, bone grinding, bone burning, shell burning, gut cleaning, nor skinning of or making of glue from any dead animals or parts thereof, nor the storage or keeping of scrap, fat or grease or offensive animal matter be permitted to be conducted, nor any place in the city of New York south of 110th street, nor in the built up portions of the city of Brooklyn; nor shall any business hereinbefore mentioned be conducted at any place in the city of New York, nor at any place in the city of Brooklyn, without a special permit from this board; nor shall the business of boiling or rendering the fresh lard, fat or tallow aforesaid be conducted within either of said cities without a like special permit from this board, and such permit must be applied for in writing, specifying the nature and precise location of the proposed business, and such application will not be acted upon until the second regular meeting, two weeks after such application;" and that such ordinance was in force and binding in the city of New York at the time hereinafter named.

Third—That on or about the 3d day of January, 1870, at premises on West Thirty-eighth street, near Eleventh avenue, in the city of New York, being a place south of 110th street, in said city, the defendants Donohue Bros. did violate the said ordinance in this, that they did, then and there, and without a permit from the said plaintiffs, conduct the business of boiling fat, and did keep or store scrap, fat, grease or offensive animal matter upon said premises.

Whereby an action has accrued to the said plaintiffs to demand and recover from the said defendants the sum of fifty dollars. Wherefore the plaintiffs demand judgment against the defendants for the sum of fifty dollars, besides the costs of this action.

The complaints are sworn to by Colonel Emmons Clark, in his capacity as secretary of the Health Board.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Messrs. Riley and Ferris, official inspectors and sealers of weights and measures, under the ordinances of this city, have also commenced about twenty actions in the court against parties who refused to have their weights and measures inspected and sealed. They seek not only to recover the fees to which they are entitled under the ordinance, but also the penalty imposed on such refusal. The inspectors have informed the officers of the court that they are preparing a large batch of additional complaints against numerous other parties, being determined to have the law strictly enforced for the protection of the people dealing at the retail stores and entitled to good weight and full measure for their money.

THE MIDLAND RAILWAY.

Meeting at the Produce Exchange Yesterday—A Packed House—The Resolutions Amended—Other Resolutions for the Consideration of Prince Erie.

An adjourned meeting from the 19th inst. of the members of the Produce Exchange generally, and those interested in the Midland Railroad in particular, was held yesterday afternoon at the Produce Exchange, Mr. A. E. Masters in the chair. The minutes of the last meeting had been read as far as the resolutions, when on a motion their further reading was dispensed with.

The Chairman then stated the object of the meeting to be to countenance an application on the part of the directors of the road for $1,500,000, in order to perfect the grade specially in Sullivan and Delaware counties, as the value of the road had become apparent. A motion was made and prevailed that the application to the Legislature be for a loan, and one to fix the interest at ten per cent was lost. Another to limit the amount to one and a half millions was adopted. After some discussion the following resolution were decided on;—

Resolved, That in the judgment of this Exchange the appropriation by the Legislature of $1,500,000 and no more as a loan to the Midland Railroad Company to hasten the early completion of said road would be at once a wise and judicious measure, and one to which the counties for which it is specifically designed have some just claim from, having been taxed for former internal improvements which have been of little, if any, direct benefit to them. Provided always that the company give ample security for the payment of the six per cent interest and the principal before the expiration of twenty years from date of loan.

A wag, known as "George," then offered a resolution that a further appropriation be made of $5,000,000 to drain the Jersey flats on behalf of the Erie Railroad and a further one of $2,000,000 for the same company to pay its dividends. These did not prevail, and on a motion the meeting adjourned.

HORRIBLE TO RELATE.—Old Solon Robinson, the veritable Solon, who has been for fifty years slobbering nonsense about the treatment of niggers, flied one of his colored brethren with buckshot, in Florida, a few days since.—*Columbus (Ga.) Sun, March 20.*

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

WALL STREET, THURSDAY, March 24—6 P. M.

The absence of the usual telegrams from Washington had the effect of keeping

GOLD DULL AND STEADY

in the transactions of to-day. The bulk of business was at 112¾ and 112½, with exceptional sales at 112¼ and 112⅝. The latter figure was the result of the firmer tone and advance in foreign exchange, and the former the effect of the feeling that the Funding bill will pass the House in a modified form. Both influences counteracted each other, however, and hence the dulness and steadiness at the intermediate quotations. The principal quotations were as follows:—

10 A. M.	112½	1:05 P. M.	112¼
10:30 A. M.	112½	2 P. M.	112⅜
11 A. M.	112⅜	3 P. M.	112⅜
12 M.	112½	4 P. M.	112⅜
12:30 P. M.	112¾	5:30 P. M.	112⅝ a 112½
1 P. M.	112½		

Holders of gold paid four, four and a half and five per cent to have their balances carried.

The operations of the Gold Exchange Bank were as follows:—

Gold cleared	$36,272,000
Gold balances	955,979
Currency balances	1,057,304

STOCKS IRREGULAR AND HEAVY.

With few exceptions stocks were heavy and lower, the miscellaneous list being especially weak and undergoing a sharp decline. In the forenoon the downward movement was started with Pacific Mail, which, upon the retteration of the reports of a $5,000,000 lawsuit in San Francisco and the withdrawal of the steamers on the Panama section, fell to 30¼. Curiously enough, and the fact gives rise to suspicions of speculative manipulation, the Senate committee in Washington agreed at noon to-day to report a bill increasing the subsidy of the China line to $1,000,000 per annum, the effect of which announcement was a recovery in the price to 32¼ in final street dealings. It seems that the company have been strongly urged to abandon the Panama section and place all their steamers on the China route, in consideration of doing which they are promised close connection and pro rating by the Central and Union Pacific Railway. They are averse, however, to abandoning the old legend of a through steamship line between New York and China, and are in hopes of a speedy completion of the project of a canal through the Isthmus of Panama, which would render them independent of the Panama Railway Company. The proposition to consolidate all their operations upon the China route is also accompanied by a suggestion to reduce the share capital to ten millions, on which amount the Pacific Ocean business alone is represented to be capable of paying a flattering dividend. As it is the price of the stock will fluctuate, while the railroad route to California continues to militate against the steamship route. When the Pacific Railway shall have become the great highway between Europe and China, as it now is between America and the East, the Pacific Ocean section of the Pacific Mail route will be the more important one. In other words, the opening of the Pacific Railway has almost annihilated the various steamship lines between New York and San Francisco. Its development will, however, gradually remedy the injury by enlarging the steamship business between California and China. In the mining shares Mariposa preferred fell to 12 without any special reason being assigned other than that the issue of first preferred stock was understood to be a new obligation, whereas it is simply the result of converting the trustee certificates as permitted by a recent act of the Legislature. Quicksilver fell to 7½. The railways were affected by this decline and were temporarily weak but rallied in the afternoon, and the market closed dull and strong at the improvement. The following were the closing prices of stocks at the last session of the Stock Exchange:—Canton, 65½ a 67; Cumberland, 28 bid; Western Union, 32¼ a 32½; Quicksilver, 8¼ a 8¾; Mariposa, 7 a 7½; do. preferred, 12; do. first preferred, 48½ bid; do. certificates, 44 a 48; Pacific Mail, 30¾ a 30¾; Boston Water Power, 17⅛ a 18; Adams Express, 60¼ a 61½; Wells-Fargo Express, 19 bid; American Express, 57⅛ a 57¼; United States Express, 46 a 48; Merchants' Union, 7 bid; New York Central consolidated, 92¼ a 92½; do. scrip, 90¼ a 90¾; Harlem, 141¼ a 142¾; Erie, 24¼ bid; do. preferred, 43 a 46; Reading, 96¾ a 96¼; Michigan Central, 119¼ a 120; Lake Shore, 87¼ a 87¾; Illinois Central, 140¼ a 146; Cleveland and Pittsburg, 100 a 100¼; Chicago and Northwestern, 71 a 71¼; do. preferred, 82¾ a 82¾; Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati, 74 a 74¾; Rock Island, 120½ a 121; Milwaukee and St. Paul, 59¾ a 59½; do. preferred, 72¾ a 72¾; Toledo and Wabash, 45 bid; Fort Wayne, 93¾ a 93¾; Alton and Terre Haute, 38¼ a 38½; do. preferred, 65¼ a 66; Ohio and Mississippi, 28⅞ a 29; Delaware and Lackawanna, 102¼ a 103¼; New Jersey Central, 103¼ a 103¾; Chicago and Alton, 112; do. preferred, 111 a 113; Morris and Essex, 90¼ a 90¾; Hannibal and St. Joseph, 105¼ a 107; do. preferred, 105¼ a 107; Dubuque and Sioux City, 107½ bid; Columbus, Chicago and Indiana Central, 17 a 17¼.

THE HIGHEST AND LOWEST PRICES.

The extreme fluctuations of the day in the leading speculative stocks are shown in the following table of the highest and lowest prices:—

	Highest.	*Lowest.*
New York Cen. & Hud. Consolidated	93	92¼
New York Central & Hudson scrip	91	90⅞
Harlem	143	142¼
Erie	24¾	24⅜
Reading	96¾	96
Lake Shore	87¾	87¼
Wabash	45½	45
Northwestern	71⅞	70¾
Northwestern preferred	83¾	82¼
Rock Island	121	120¼
Milwaukee and St. Paul	60¼	59¼
Milwaukee and St. Paul preferred	73¾	72¾
Ohio and Mississippi	29	28⅞
New Jersey Central	103¼	103
Columbus, Chicago and Ind. Central	18	17
Western Union	32¾	31¾
Mariposa preferred	17¼	12
Quicksilver	9¼	7½
Pacific Mail	32⅛	30¼

GOVERNMENTS DULL AND STEADY.

The government market was dull and without special feature. The following, which were the final street prices, were about the average of the day:—United States currency sixes, 112¾ a 113; do. sixes, 1881, registered, 113¾ a 114; do. do., coupon, 114 a 114¼; do. five-twenties, registered, May and November, 108¼ a 108¾; do. do., 1862, coupon do., 110 a 110¼; do. do., 1864, do. do., 108¼ a 108¾; do. do., 1865, do. do., 109 a 109¼; do. do., 1865, January and July, do. do., 107½ a 107¾; do. do., 1867, do. do., 108¾ a 108¾; do. do., 1868, do. do., 109 a 109¼; do. ten-forties, registered, 105 a 105¼; do., do., coupon, 105¼ a 105¾.

THE GOVERNMENT PURCHASE OF BONDS.

The government to-day purchased at the Sub-Treasury one million of five-twenties for the special fund in the Treasury. The proposals to sell embraced a total of nearly three millions of bonds. The accepted lots were as follows:—

$9,650 1865, r n	105.96	$16,000 1867, c	105.98
10,000 1865, c n	105.99	250,000 1865, c	106.19
150 1862, r	106.05	19,000 1865, r	106.08
12,500 1864, r	105.97	2,000 1862, c d	106.08
18,500 1865, c	106.07	80,000 1862, c n	106.08
5,000 1865, r	106.05	25,000 1865, r	105.08
10,000 1864, r	105.78	50,000 1864, r	106.08
15,000 1862, r	105.83	1,000 1862, r	106.20
16,000 1863, r	105.86	650 1862, c	106.20
103,000 1862, r	105.74	100 1864, c	106.20
29,000 1862, r	105.79	500 1865, c o	106.20
41,000 1865, r o	105.83	2,750 1865, c n	106.20
25,000 1865, r n	105.84	7,850 1862, r	105.90
28,000 1864, c	105.86	25,000 1862, r	106.09
100 1865, c	105.94	28,500 1862, r	106.11
1,550 1865, n	105.94	26,300 1864, r	106.97
2,000 1865, r	105.94	6,000 1865, r	105.25
10,050 1862, r	105.85	26,300 1862, r	106.10
6,100 1862, r	105.95	50,000 1864, r	106.09
100 1864, r	105.93	2,100 1865, r n	105.99
1,100 1864, c	105.93	5,000 1864, c	106.09
500 1865, r	105.93	10,000 1864, c	106.23
8,000 1865, c	105.93	11,000 1865, r n	106.25
1,500 1864, c	105.98	4,000 1865, c	106.24
1,200 1865, c n	105.98	5,000 1862, r	105.95
1,500 1865, c n	105.98	42,000 1862, r	105.99
15,000 1865, reg	105.98		

THE CITY BANK SHARES.

The following were the bids to-day for the city bank shares:—New York, 138; Manhattan, 142; Merchants', 124¼; Mechanics', 140; Union, 134; America, 145; City, 210; Phenix, 108¼; Tradesmen's, 152; National, 117; Merchants' Exchange, 104; Seventh Ward, 108; State of New York, 107; Commerce, 23¼; Ocean, 90; American Exchange, 114; Bank of the Republic, 115; Bank of North America, 104; Hanover, 107; Irving, 116; Metropolitan, 139; Grocers', 116; East River, 105; Market, 120; Nassau, 108; Shoe and Leather, 164; Corn Exchange, 130; Commonwealth, 113¼; Importers and Traders', 145; Park, 165¼; Central National, 108¼; Fourth National, 106; Ninth National, 110¾; Tenth National, 105; Oriental, 160¼; Gold Exchange, 55; Bankers and Brokers' Association, 118.

SOUTHERN SECURITIES—VIRGINIAS AND LOUISIANAS DECLINED.

Wall street had another demonstration to-day from the Anglo-American stock gambling combination who have been working the market on both sides of the Atlantic. Recently they operated in Illinois Central. Last year they manipulated Northwestern preferred. Now they are working in the Southern State bonds. Having run up the foreign market they sold heavily in this market. To-day the cable brings news of a collapse in the former, with the result of a sharp decline in the latter for those bonds which have been manipulated by them. The Virginias declined to 69¾, which is about six per cent of a fall from the prices to which this speculation carried them. The Louisianas also gave way, but have not declined so sharply as the Virginias. The Alabama fives were strong and rose to 80. The North and South Carolinas were steady and quiet. The Tennessees were firm and fractionally higher. The latest street prices of the Southern list were as follows:—Tennessee, ex coupon, 58 a 59; do., new, 50¼ a 50½; do., five per cent, 44 a 45; Virginia, ex coupon, 69 a 70; do., new, 69 a 69¾; do., registered stock, 57 a 58; do., registered, 1866, 66 a 67; do., registered, 1867, 62 a 63; Georgia sixes, 86 a 87; do., sevens, 93 a 93¾; do., sevens, interest payable in Georgia, 87 a 90; North Carolina, ex coupon, 46½ a 47; do., new, 27½ a 28; do., special tax, 23¾ a 23¾; Missouri sixes, 92¼ a 92¾; do., Hannibal and St. Joseph, 92 a 93; Louisiana sixes, 76 a 77; do. sevens, 80 a 81; do. eights, 91 a 92; do. levee sixes, 76¼ a 77; do. do. eights, 91 a 93; Alabama eights, 97 a 98; do. fives, 78 a 81; do. sixes, sterling, 80 a 82; South Carolina sixes, 88 a 90; do., new, 82 a 82½; do., registered stock, 80 a 82; City Memphis sixes, 51 a 51¼; City Atlanta eights, 80 a 85; City Savannah sevens, 86¼ a 87; City New Orleans consols, 75 a 76; do. do., issue of railroads, 72 a 73; Mobile and Ohio sterling, 75 a 76; do. eights, 67 a 68