FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

An Active Spasm in Money at the Close.

THE LAST RATE 1-16 AND INTEREST.

An Advance and a Reaction and Decline in Gold.

WEAKNESS OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE.

Government Bonds Active, Higher and Buoyant.

STOCKS DULL AND FIRMER.

The Advance in St. Paul and Its Explanation.

The Great Rival Railway Interests in the West and Northwest.

A Decline in Erie in London and a Fall in French Rentes in Paris.

WALL STREET, TUESDAY, March 18—6 P. M.

On 'Change to-day cotton on the spot was only moderately sought after, with former figures ruling. Futures were active and advanced ⅛c. a ¼c. per lb. Flour remained dull. Wheat was nominal and corn about steady.

THE EXPORTS OF THE WEEK.

The total exports of domestic merchandise from the port of New York for the week ending March 18, 1873, were of the currency value of $4,068,213.

THE FOREIGN MARKET.

The London quotations show continued steadiness in consols. The market for United States bonds has been excessively dull for several days, and prices have remained unchanged, excepting for the ten-forties, which came ¼ lower. Erie shares were weak and declined to 52¾. The new French loan was steady, but rentes in Paris underwent a considerable fall to 55.35, possibly in consequence of the convention with Prussia to pay off the whole of the war indemnity by September next.

MONEY MORE ACTIVE.

Money worked moderately easy most of the day at an average of pretty nearly the familiar 1-32, the rate ranging from 7 per cent coin (with exceptions at 7 per cent currency) to 1-32 and interest. But in the half hour before the closing of the banks a sharp demand set in which sent the rate up to 1-16 and interest, the dealings being continued on the sidewalk for some time subsequent to three o'clock. In explanation it was said that the Fourth National Bank and the Bank of Commerce had called in between one and two millions of dollars for

REASONS NOT SPECIFIED.

At first it was conjectured that the money might have been called in by the Treasury Department, as the two banks named are special government depositories, but it happens that they have no funds to the credit of the government at present. From Washington we learn that Judge Richardson has been using the extra greenbacks again, the amount outstanding yesterday having been $1,455,000, and to-day $1,278,000, against $1,155,000 on Saturday evening. Foreign exchange was nominally unchanged, at 108¾ a 109 for prime sixty days and sight sterling; but the advance in gold and the stringency in money weakened the market, and actual transactions were reported at a concession of 3-16 a ¼ per cent from these rates.

GOLD UNSETTLED—115½ A 115⅝ A 115¼.

The gold market was unsettled and in the main lower. Before the activity in money a further advance to 115⅝ was made, the market being strengthened by the smaller return of exports (as given in a preceding paragraph) and considerable covering of speculative sales. With the actual weakness in foreign exchange the market became heavy, and the recurrence of dear terms for the carrying of gold led to an eventful decline to 115¼. The course of the market is shown in the table:—

10 A. M.	115½	1:32 P. M.	115¼
10:02 A. M.	115½	2 P. M.	115⅜
10:20 A. M.	115½	3 P. M.	115¼
11 A. M.	115½	3:30 P. M.	115⅜
12 M.	115½	3:50 P. M.	115¼
12:02 P. M.	115½	4 P. M.	115¼ a 115⅜
1 P. M.	115½		

In the gold loan market the rates ranged from 3 per cent per annum to 1-32 a day for carrying. The operations of the Gold Exchange Bank were as follows:—

Gold cleared	$43,854,000
Gold balances	1,118,023
Currency balances	1,352,200

The Sub-Treasury paid out $66,300 on account of interest and $1,700 on account of redeemed five-twenties.

GOVERNMENTS STRONG.

The government list was strong, contrary to what might have been expected of the lower ruling of gold at the close, and prices advanced quite smartly, the '67s selling at 116⅞ and the currency sixes being held at 114. The market was fairly active, the demand being stimulated by the advertisement of the government to buy a million of five-twenties to-morrow, and by orders from the Eastern cities, in connection, it is said, with the approach of April 1, when local taxes are imposed in many of the Eastern States on all personal property except government bonds, into which capitalists are, therefore, anxious to convert their wealth meantime, and thus

AVOID TAXATION.

The demand is also the forerunner of easier money in the rural districts. The following were the closing quotations:—United States currency sixes, 113¾ a 114; do. do., 1881, registered, 118⅜ a 118⅞; do. do. do., coupon, 118¾ a 119; do. five-twenties, registered, May and November, 115⅞ a 116⅛; do. do., 1862, coupon, do. do., 116 a 116⅛; do. do., 1864, do. do., 116 a 116⅛; do. do., 1865, do. do., 116¾ a 117; do. do., 1867, registered, January and July, 114⅞ a 115⅛; do. do., 1865, coupon, do. do., 114⅞ a 115⅛; do. do., 1867, do. do., 116¾ a 117; do. do., 1868, do. do., 116⅞ a 116¾; do. ten-forties, registered, 110⅝ a 110⅞; do. do., coupon, 110⅞ a 111⅛; do. fives of 1881, registered, 113 a 113½; do. do., coupon, 113 a 113½.

THE RAILROAD BONDS.

The railroad bonds were generally strong and transactions were generally at the prices asked by the sellers. Morris and Essex firsts sold at 106, Erie fourths at 101, St. Paul firsts (8 per cents) at 108, and Boston, Hartford and Erie firsts at 42¾ for the plain and 60 for the guaranteed. The following were the bids at the regular call, as amended by prices in subsequent dealings:—

New York Cen 6's, 1883	104½	Han & St Jo lg	101¼
New York Cen 6's, 1887	92	Del, Lack & W 1st m	102¼
New York Cen 6's, reg	87	Del, Lack & West 2d m	95
New York Cen 6's, sub	87	Tol & W 1st m, St L div	89
New York Cen 7's, '76	100	Tol & Wab 2d m	93¾
Erie 1st m, extended	103	Tol & Wab equip bds	85
Erie 1st m, endorsed	98	Tol & Wab con conv	87
Erie 7's, 2d m, '73	100	Han & Naples 1st m	87
Erie 7's, 2d m, '83	98	Gt West 1st m, 1888	94¾
Erie 7's, 4th m, '80	101	Gt West 2d m, 1893	89
Erie 7's, 4th m, '88	98	Gal & Chic extended	101
Erie 7's, con m gld bds	97	Galena & Chic 2d m	98
Long Dock bonds	95	Chic, R I & Pac	102¾
Buff, N Y & E 1st m, '77	94	Morris & Essex 1st m	106
Hud R 7's, 2d m, s f, '85	104	Morris & Essex 2d m	97
Hud R 7's, 3d m, '75	101	N J Cen 1st m, n	102¾
Harlem 7's, 1st m	102	N J Southern 1st m 7's	74
Harlem c m and s f 6's	90	Pitts, Ft W & Chic 1st	106¾
Alb & Sus 2d bds	98	Pitts, Ft W & Chic 3d m	95¾
Alb & Sus 3d bds	93¾	Ft W & C 8pc equbd	97
Chic, Bur & Q 8's, 1st m	109½	Clev & Pitts 2d m	98¾
Mich So 7's c 2d m	98¾	Clev & Pitts 3d m	98
Mich So & N I 1st 7's	104	Clev & Pitts 4th m	85¾
Clev & Tol s f	101	Chic & Alton s f	100
Clev & Tol new bds	95	Chic & Alt 1st m	103
C, P & A old bds	97½	Ohio & Miss con s f	93½
C, P & A new bds	96¾	Ohio & Miss con	92¾
Det, Mon & Tol bds	96½	Ohio & Miss 2d m, con	88
Buf & Erie new bds	98¾	Dub & Sioux City 1st	92
Lake Shore div bds	95	St Louis & Iron M 1st	94¾
Lake Shore con r	99¾	Mil & StP 1st m, S & F D	95½
Pac RR 7's, gtd Mo	97	M & St P 1st m, I & M D	86
Con Pac State aid bds	111¾	M & St P 2d m, C & M	84
Western Pacific bds	96¾	Marietta & Cin 1st m	91
Union Pacific 1st m	86	Joliet & Chic 1st m	104½
Union Pacific l g 7's	78	Col, Chic & Ind 1st	91¾
Union Pacific inc 10's	70½	Col, Chic & Ind 2d	73½
Illinois Cen 7per ct, '75	104	Tol, P & W, E D	91¾
Bellev'le & S Ill 1st m 8's	95	Tol, P & W, W D	85½
Alt & Ter H 1st m	99	Tol, P & W, Burl'n div	83
Alt & Ter H 2d m, inc	81	Tol, P & W con 7's	70
Chic & N W s f	98	Bost, H & Erie 1st m	42¾
Chic & N W con bds	90¾	Bost H & Erie g'td	60
Chic & N W exten bds	90	Ced Falls & Min 1st m	79
Chic & N W 1st m	93½	Bur, C R & M 7's, 1st, g	89½
Chic & N W c gold bds	96		

MISCELLANEOUS.

The April coupons of the Arapahoe County Railroad will be paid by the Fourth National Bank.

Proposals for $1,800,000 City Improvement stock will be received by Comptroller Green, at his office, until Thursday, March 20. The stock will bear 7 per cent interest, payable semi-annually, and the principal will be redeemed November 1, 1892. A very desirable investment is offered in this loan.

SOUTHERN SECURITIES DULL.

The Southern State bonds were dull and neglected, outside the Tennessees, which were offered freely at 86, but were steady at 85¼ a 86. The new South Carolinas were offered at 18. The following were the closing quotations:—Tennessee, ex coupon, 85¼ a 86; do., new, 85¼ a 86; Virginia, ex coupon, 46 a 50; do., registered stock, old, 37 a 40; do. sixes, consolidated bonds, 56¼ a 57; do. do., deferred scrip, 14 a 15; Georgia sixes, 70 a 80; do. sevens, 87 a 90; North Carolina, ex coupon, 30 a 32; do. to North Carolina Railroad, 60 a 61; do. funding, 1866, 20 a 25; do. do., 1868, 18 a 22; do., new, 17 a 18; do., special tax, 13 a 15; Louisiana sixes, 45 a 50; Alabama fives, 57 a 60; do. eights, 80 a 85; South Carolina sixes, 30 a 40; do., new, January and July, 17 a 18; do. do., April and October, 18 a 22; Arkansas sixes, funded, 40 a 43.

STOCKS DULL AND STRONG.

The stock market was indubitably dull, the lack of animation being an utter puzzle to the speculative classes of the street. At the same time a firmer feeling prevailed, and until the occurrence of the spasm in money noted as happening just before the close of banking hours, prices were disposed to advance, and in most instances did undergo more or less improvement, Pacific Mail, New York Central, Lake Shore, St. Paul and Union Pacific rising ⅝ a 1¼ per cent. In other cases the advance was only nominal. The market resisted the influence of

DEARER MONEY

quite stubbornly, and parted only reluctantly with any of the advance in prices. Erie was exceptionally lower, in sympathy with the London market, the decline in which was probably in turn the result of advices by cable concerning the investigation at Albany. St. Paul rose to 57¾, and "acts as if" a "bull" party were manipulating it. In confirmation of this hypothesis we get word from our correspondent in Madison, Wis., that the State Legislature has just awarded to the St. Paul Company the famous St. Croix land grant of 1,280,000 acres, valued, in cash, at all the way from six to ten millions of dollars, the legislation having been secured under circumstances indicating

A TEMPORARY ALLIANCE

if not an eventual consolidation with the Northwestern road, the alliance having been promoted by the Lake Shore party to head off the Pennsylvania railroad interest. An active demand for Terre Haute (St. Louis, Alton and Terre Haute), with sales at 25, was referred to a further westward extension of the Atlantic and Great Western movement, the Terre Haute road being a continuation of the C., C., C. and I. road to St. Louis, but sub-leased at present to the Pennsylvania Railroad. These leases, however, are beginning to be regarded as not binding, in view of a recent judicial opinion that a corporation chartered by a State cannot transfer its rights to a foreign corporation, as would be a railroad company in another State. A decision in the Boston, Hartford and Erie litigation is promised in the morning.

HIGHEST AND LOWEST PRICES.

The following table shows the highest and lowest prices of the principal stocks during the day:—

	Highest.	Lowest.
New York Central	101¾	100½
Erie	65¼	64¾
Lake Shore	94¼	93¾
Wabash	73¾	73¼
Northwestern	81¾	81¼
Northwestern preferred	88¾	88¼
Rock Island	115¾	114¾
St. Paul	57¾	56¼
St. Paul preferred	76¼	76
Ohio and Mississippi	45¾	45¼
Union Pacific	35	34½
C., C. and I. C.	40¾	40¼
Western Union Telegraph	86¾	86½
Pacific Mail	57¾	57

In Philadelphia Reading was steady and fairly active at 116.

SALES AT THE NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE.

Tuesday, March 18—10:15 A. M.

$1000 US 6's, '81, c	118⅝	$1500 US 5-20, c, '65, n	114⅞
25000 US 5-20, r, '65	116	10000 US 5-20, c, '67 s3	116¾

10 A. M.—Before Call.

200 shs Pac M SS Co	57	200 shs Erie RR	65
500 do	57⅛	500 do	65⅛
700 do	57¼	1300 do s3	65¼
700 do s3	57	400 Un Pac RR	34¼
100 do	57⅛	100 do c	34¼
800 do	57¼	400 B, H & E RR	6¾
500 do c	57¼	100 do c	6¾
300 do	57⅛	400 do s3	6¾
500 do	57⅛	200 L S & M S RR	93¼
200 West Un Tel c	86½	500 do c	93⅜
500 do	86¼	200 do c	93⅞
200 do	86¼	400 do c	94
1900 do	86⅜	300 do	94⅛
300 do	86¼	300 do s3	94⅛
200 do	86⅜	700 do	94⅜
100 do b3	86⅝	500 do s3	94
100 do c	86¾	500 do	94
400 do	86¾	20 do	94¼
300 do c	86⅞	200 do c	93⅞
1000 do s3	86¼	100 Chic & R I RR c	115
200 do	86⅛	400 do	115
200 do	86⅞	100 C & N W pf c	88⅞
100 do s3	86⅝	100 Mil & St P RR	56⅜
100 New Cen Coal	45⅞	100 do	56⅝
500 Con C of Md	57⅛	100 Mil & St P pf	76⅛
400 N Y C & H R RR	100½	200 do	76⅛
300 do	100⅝	100 Ohio & M RR c	45¼
100 do	100⅞	400 do	45⅜
100 do c	100⅞	900 do	45⅜
100 Harlem RR	138½	300 C, C & I C RR c	40⅜
400 do	139	200 do	40⅜
100 do	138¾	200 do	40½
900 do	138		

First Board—10:30 A. M.

$2000 Tenn 6's, old	85¾	400 shs N Y C & H R	101⅝
2000 Tenn 6's, new	85¾	400 do	101⅛
6000 do	86	100 do b3	101¼
20000 do b60	87	100 do	101¼
6000 Mo 6's, H & St Jo s3	91	900 do	101⅜
5000 C, P & Ash, new	97	500 do	101
1000 Lake Shore con r	100	100 Erie RR	65⅜
7000 Cen Pac gold bds	103½	25 Am M Un Exp	69
5000 In Pac 1st m	96¼	5 Adams Ex	95
5000 Chic & N W con	91	5 Mich Cen RR	106
1000 C & N W c coup b	96	300 Harlem RR b c	139
2000 Quin & T 1st m	92	200 do b3	139
2000 Mor & Es 1st m	106	100 do c	138⅞
2000 C & R I & Pac 7's	102½	100 do	138¾
1000 Ohio & M con s f	93¾	200 L S & M S RR b c	94
1000 Ohio & Miss 3d m	88	100 do	94⅛
1000 St L & I M 1st m	94⅛	100 do b2	94⅛
3000 M & St P 8's, 1st m	107	1600 do	94
1000 C, C & I C 1st	91⅝	100 do c	93⅞
9000 do	91⅛	200 do	94
7000 C, C & I C 2d	73	200 do	94⅛
5000 B, H & E 1st	42¼	1300 do	94⅛
10000 B, H & E gt'd	60	100 do	94⅛
1000 L Shore div bds	96	100 do	94
20 shs Am Ex Bank	111½	100 Panama RR b c	119⅝
5 do	111¼	100 do	119
34 Bk North America	103½	117 C, C & I RR	88
5 Continental Bank	79	25 do	88⅛
5 St Nicholas Bank	109	27 do	88¼
54 Central Nat Bank	97⅝	100 Un Pac RR b c	34⅛
10 Bank of Commerce	117½	100 do	34⅛
200 Con Coal of Md	57½	200 do	34⅜
100 do b c	57⅝	500 do	34¼
100 do c	57⅝	800 do	34⅞
100 Penn Coal	230	100 do	35
1100 West Un Tel b c s3	86⅝	100 do b3	34⅜
400 do c	86⅝	100 C & R I RR b c	115⅛
200 do	86⅝	100 do	115¼
400 do b3	86⅝	100 do	115⅛
300 do	86⅝	400 do	115
100 do s3	86⅝	100 do	115⅛
300 do c	86⅝	200 do	115⅜
1200 do	86⅝	400 do	115⅜
300 do c	86⅝	5 N J Cen RR	105
300 do	86⅝	400 M & St P RR b c	56⅜
100 do c	86⅝	600 do	56⅞
900 do	86⅝	100 do	56¾
1300 do	86⅝	800 do	57
105 Del & Hud Canal	119	100 do	57⅛
52 do	118⅝	100 do c	57⅛
100 do b c b3	119	100 do	56⅞
100 Canton Co b c	100	100 T, W & W RR b c	73⅛
100 Pac M SS Co s3	57¼	200 Mil & St P pf b c b30	76⅛
200 do b c s3	57⅛	200 do b30	76⅛
600 do	57⅛	100 do b3	76⅛
300 do c	57⅛	100 do	76⅛
900 do	57⅛	200 B, H & E RR b c	7
1300 do	57⅛	400 Del, L & W RR	101⅜
1300 do	57⅛	100 Chic & Alt RR	111
100 do s3	57⅛	135 Chic, Bur & Q RR	112
300 do c	57⅛	200 Mor & Essex RR	105⅞
1100 do	57⅛	100 Mo, Kan & Tex RR	35
1800 do	57⅛	200 St L, K C & N pf b c	60⅜
100 do b3	57⅛	300 Ohio & M RR b c	45⅜
400 do	57⅛	400 do	45⅜
100 do	57⅛	200 do c	45⅜
200 do	57⅛	200 do s3	45⅜
200 do b3	58	300 C, C & I C RR b c	40⅜
20 N Y C & H R	100⅝	200 do s3	40⅜
500 do b c	101	700 do	40⅜
100 do c	101	500 do	40⅜

12:15 and 2:15 P. M.

$3000 US 6's, '81, r	116⅝	$18300 US 5-20, c, '67	116⅞
3600 US 6's, 1881, c	119	10000 do	116⅞
9000 US 5-20, c, '65	116⅞	100000 US 5-20, c, '68 b c	116⅞
1000 US 5-20, r, '67	115		

12:30 P. M.—Before Call.

100 shs Con Coal	57⅞	500 shs C & R I RR	115⅞
100 West Un Tel b3	86⅝	100 do s3	115
200 do	86⅝	600 do	115
100 Pac M SS Co	57⅛	100 do c	114⅞
500 do	57⅛	100 do b3	115
100 N Y C & H R RR	101	200 do	114⅞
200 do	100⅞	200 Chic & N W RR	81⅜
200 Erie RR	65⅛	400 Ohio & Miss RR	45½
200 L S & M S RR c	93⅞	100 do	45½
1200 do	93⅞	500 Mil & St P RR	57
100 Panama RR	120	500 Mil & St P pf	76
100 do s3	120	100 Bost, H & E RR s3	7
100 Un Pac RR b2	34⅜	100 do	7
200 C & R I RR	115¼	300 do	6⅞

Second Board—1 P. M.

$20000 Tenn 6's, new b3	86	100 shs Harlem RR	138¾
5000 Un P 7's, 1 g b	78	100 do b3	138
1000 C & R I & Pac 7's	102¾	200 do b3	138
3000 do	102½	200 do b c	138¼
5000 B, H & E 1st	42½	1800 L S & M S RR b c	93⅝
5000 do	42¾	100 do b30	94⅛
10000 C, C & I C 2d m	73½	100 do c	93⅝
20000 Erie 4th m	101	700 do	93¾
9000 Gt West 1st m, '88	94¼	500 do b5	93¾
7000 Ohio & M con s f	93½	300 Panama RR	120
25 shs St Nicholas Bk	109	300 do b c	120
200 Con Coal b c	57⅜	100 Un Pac RR b c s3	34⅜
200 N Cent Coal b c	45⅝	100 C & N W pf b c b30	89
300 West Un Tel b c	86¼	155 C, C, C & I RR	88¾
600 do	86¼	200 C & R I RR b c	114⅞
100 do s3	86¼	200 do	115
600 do	86⅜	100 Mil & St P RR b c	56⅜
100 Mar L'd & M'g b c	14⅜	500 do	56¾
50 do	16	300 do b3	57
200 Pac M SS Co b c	57⅛	100 do	57
600 do	57⅛	7 P, Ft W & C gtd	95
100 do c	57⅛	300 D, Lack & W RR	101⅝
10 N Y C & H R RR	101	300 B, H & E RR b c	7
100 do b c	100⅞	200 Chic & Alton	110⅞
100 do b3	100⅞	100 Chic & Alt RR pf	112⅜
500 do	100⅞	200 C, C & I C RR b c	40⅜
400 Erie RR b c	65⅛		

2:30 to 4 P. M.

100 shs Con Coal	57	1000 shs Erie RR	65
100 West Un Tel b3	86¾	100 L S & M S RR	93⅞
100 do	86¾	400 do	94
100 do	86¾	2000 do	93⅞
100 do b3	86¾	100 Panama RR	121
1000 do	86¾	100 do	121⅛
500 do	86¾	100 do s3	120
200 Pac M SS Co b3	57⅛	100 H & St Jo RR c	44½
300 do	57⅛	800 U Pacific RR	34⅞
400 do	57⅛	200 do b3	34⅞
1100 do	57⅛	100 do	34⅞
800 do	57⅛	200 do b3	34⅞
100 do	57⅛	300 M & St P RR	57
900 do	57⅛	300 do	56⅞
100 do	57⅛	300 do	56¾
500 N Y C & H R	101	400 do	56⅞
500 do	100⅞	300 C & Rock I RR	115
100 do	100⅞	500 do	115⅛
100 do	100⅞	50 do	115
200 Harlem RR	138⅝	400 B, H & E RR	7
200 do	138⅝	300 do	6¾
100 do	138¾	400 do	6⅞
400 do	138⅞	100 C, C & I C RR	40⅜
300 Erie RR	65⅛	200 Chic & Alt RR	111
1600 do	65	500 do	112
200 do s3	64⅞	200 do b3	112
100 do	64⅞	100 Chic & Alt pf	113⅛
1200 do	64⅞	400 Ohio & Miss RR	45⅞
200 do s3	64¾	800 do	45½
900 do	64¾		

CLOSING PRICES—4 O'CLOCK P. M.

Western Union	86¼ a 86⅜	Northwest'n pf	88¾ a 89
Am Mer Un ex	69⅝ a 69⅞	N J Central	104 a 104½
Pacific Mail	57⅛ a 57⅜	Rock Island	115 a 115⅜
N Y Central	100¾ a 100⅞	St Paul	56¾ a 56⅞
Erie	64⅞ a 65	St Paul pref	75¾ a 76¼
Harlem	138¾ a 138⅞	Wabash	73¾ a 74
Lake Shore	93¾ a 93⅞	Ohio & Miss	45⅛ a 45⅜
Union Pacific	34½ a 34¾	Han & St Jo	44½ a 45
Pittsburg	88⅞ a 89	Boston, H & E	6⅞ a 7
Northwestern	81 a 82	C, C & I C	40¼ a 40½

COMMERCIAL REPORT.

Cotton Quiet for "Spot," but Active, and 3-4c. per lb. Higher for Future—Flour Dull—Wheat Nominal—Corn Quiet—Oats Steadier—Pork and Lard Quiet, but Firm—Groceries Quiet—Petroleum Dull and Nominal—Naval Stores Easier—Metals Generally Quiet—East India Goods Dull—Wool Quiet—Whiskey Dearer.

MONDAY, March 18—6 P. M.

The movement in general trade circles was still very irregular and very unequally divided. Many houses in the different branches of business reported the markets inactive and nominal, while others reported an increasing movement and a fair business. But one thing is certain, there are much less confidence and buoyancy than there were a few weeks ago, and many descriptions of merchandise have experienced a material decline during the past few days, the decline in numerous instances being radical. There has been an increased demand since the decline took place, however, and it now looks as if the Spring trade will be fair, though not so profitable as it was expected to be. But a movement of produce on almost any basis, which does not result in a decided loss, is a relief from the protracted period of inactivity through which the commercial interests of the city now seem about to emerge, and any indications of a more active trade movement are gladly welcomed on every hand. The cotton market was quiet, so far as active sales were concerned, but contracts were flying about thick and fast during a part of the time. At the Produce Exchange the deadlock in flour and grain was more conspicuous than ever, the demand being about as light as it could well be for almost everything in this line. Flour was dull and almost unsalable in any considerable quantities, and the same was true of wheat, which remained almost entirely nominal in the absence of sales. Corn was also dull, but steady. Oats were dull. Whiskey was in fair request and prices again favored the seller. There was almost nothing doing in provisions, but the market was nevertheless firm. Pork was very quiet, but brought full prices when sold. Lard was firmer, but not very much wanted at any advance. Freights and charters were without especial change. Tonnage remains scarce and small vessels in particular are readily taken up, particularly those engaged in the petroleum trade, while vessels of all classes find ready and remunerative employment despite the general dulness of trade. Groceries were quiet, sugar being somewhat weak and coffee entirely nominal. Petroleum continued dull. Naval stores were lower, particularly spirits. Metals were generally quiet, but firm. East India goods were neglected. Wool was quiet and unchanged.

ASHES.—Receipts for the past three days, 12 packages. The market has ruled steady since our last, under a fair jobbing demand. Pots quoted at $8; pearls continued nominal.

BUILDING MATERIALS.—There has been a moderately fair demand for brick since our last report, and former prices were current. Lime was also in fair request and steady; sales of Rockland common at $1 50, and do. lump at $1 75. Cement ruled quiet, but steady, at $2 a $2 10 per bbl. for Rosendale. Laths were steady at $2 40 a $2 50 for Eastern spruce.

CANDLES.—Aside from a fair jobbing trade nothing of importance has transpired, and prices remained the same. We quote:—Sperm, 31c.; patent do., 40c. a 42c.; paraffine, 32c. a 33c.; stealic, 28c. a 29c., and adamantine, 20c. a 21c.

COTTON.—Cotton on the spot was neglected and nominal at about yesterday's values. Future deliveries were feverish, with continued large transactions at advanced prices, the market showing an improvement of about ⅜c. per lb. We sum up thus:—

	To-Day.	Last Evening.	Total.
Export	—	1,056	1,056
Consumption	217	—	217
Speculation	59	18	77
In transit	600	—	600
Total	876	1,074	1,950

—For future delivery (basis low middling) the sales have been as follows:—Sales last evening after three o'clock.—March, 1,400 at 17⅞c., 100 at 18c.; April, 500 at 17 15-16c., 1,000 at 17⅞c., 200 at 18c., 200 at 18⅛c., 200 at 17⅞c., 200 at 18c.; May, 500 at 18⅛c., 100 at 18 1-16c., 100 at 18c., 500 at 18⅛c., 100 at 18 1-16c., 800 at 18⅜c., 900 at 18⅜c., 3,500 at 18⅝c., 900 at 18⅜c.; June, 1,600 at 18⅛c., 100 at 18 5-16c., 200 at 18⅛c., 100 at 18 9-16c., 500 at 18⅝c., 200 at 18 9-16c., 1,000 at 18⅛c.; July, 700 at 18⅜c., 100 at 18 7-16c., 500 at 18⅝c., 2,000 at 18⅝c., 200 at 18⅝c., 300 at 18⅝c. Total, 18,900 bales. Exchange—⅛c. paid to exchange 100 April for July. Sales—to-day up to three o'clock P. M.—March, 500 at 18⅛c.; April, 100 at 18⅛c., 100 at 18 3-16c., 100 at 18⅛c., 400 at 18 5-16c., 100 at 18 7-16c., 100 at 18⅜c., 180 at 18⅝c., 100 at 18⅝c., 100 at 18 9-16c., 300 at 18⅝c., 100 at 18 11-16c. 400 at 18⅝c., 200 at 18 7-16c., 200 at 18⅝c., 200 at 18 9-16c.; May, 100 at 18 5-16c., 700 at 18⅜c., 100 at 18 5-16c., 100 at 18⅜c., 1,700 at 18⅜c., 200 at 18⅜c., 200 at 18 11-16c., 100 at 18⅝c., 100 at 18 9-16c., 100 at 18⅝c., 2,400 at 18 11-16c., 100 at 18⅝c., 500 at 18⅝c., 500 at 18 11-16c., 200 at 18⅝c., 400 at 18⅞c., 100 at 18⅜c., 300 at 18⅞c., 400 at 18 15-16c., 100 at 18⅞c., 100 at 18 15-16c., 100 at 18⅞c., 100 at 18⅞c., 200 at 18⅞c., 600 at 18 11-16c., 400 at 18⅝c., 200 at 18 13-16c., 300 at 18⅝c., 800 at 18 13-16c., 200 at 18⅞c., 300 at 18 13-16c., 700 at 18⅞c.; June, 1,200 at 18⅞c., 700 at 18⅞c., 1,000 at 19c., 100 at 18 15-16c., 100 at 18⅞c., 300 at 18 15-16c., 100 at 18⅞c., 600 at 19c., 300 at 18⅞c., 100 at 18 29-32c., 200 at 18 13-16c., 400 at 18⅝c., 200 at 18⅞c., 700 at 18 15-16c., 100 at 19c., 200 at 18 15-16c., 600 at 19c., 800 at 19 1-16c., 1,000 at 19⅛c., 100 at 19 3-16c., 600 at 19⅛c., 100 at 19c., 100 at 18⅞c., 300 at 18 15-16c., 500 at 18⅞c., 900 at 19c., 600 at 19 1-16c.; July, 200 at 18⅞c., 500 at 19c., 200 at 18⅞c., 200 at 18 15-16c., 200 at 18⅞c., 500 at 18 15-16c., 400 at 19c., 100 at 19 1-16c., 100 at 19 3-16c., 300 at 19⅛c., 100 at 19 1-16c., 300 at 19c., 100 at 19⅛c. Total, 29,500 bales; grand total, 48,400 bales. The receipts at the ports were as follows:—Galveston, 1,451 bales; New Orleans, 1,200; Mobile, 615; Savannah, 1,279; Charleston, 1,369; Wilmington, 106; Norfolk, 2,573; New York, 472; Boston, 21—Total 9,286. This day last week, 16,611. This day last year, 7,222. Rates on cotton to foreign ports closed nominally as follows:—To Havre, by steam, 1¼c. a 1⅜c.; sail, 1c. compressed; to Hamburg, by steam, ⅝d. compressed; to Bremen, by steam, 1⅜c.; sail, 1c.; to Liverpool, by steam, ⅝d. a 7-16d.; sail, 9-32d. a 11-32d. We quote:—

	Uplands.	Alabama.	New Orleans.	Texas.
Ordinary	14⅜	14⅜	14⅜	14⅜
Good ordinary	16⅜	16⅜	16⅜	16⅞
Strict good ordinary	17⅜	17⅜	17⅞	17⅞
Low middling	18	18⅛	18⅛	18⅝
Middling	19⅜	19⅜	19⅜	19⅞
Good middling	21⅜	21⅜	21⅜	21⅞

—The quotations are based on cotton in store, running in quality not more than half a grade above or below the grade quoted.

COFFEE.—The market continued dull for all descriptions. In a jobbing way trade picked up a little, but nothing of importance transpired. Messrs. William Scott & Sons report the stock of Rio in the United States as follows:—Galveston, 5,192 bags; New Orleans, 21,258; Savannah, 1,500; Charleston, 3,000; Baltimore, 40,236; New York, 26,677. Total, 97,863. We quote:—Rio—Ordinary cargoes, 16½c. a 17½c.; fair cargoes, 18c. a 18½c.; good cargoes, 19c. a 19½c.; prime cargoes, 19½c. a 19¾c.; extreme range for lots, 16⅜c. a 20c. Java—Government bags, 20c. a 21c.; do. grass mats, 20c. a 22c.; Singapore, 16½c. a 17½c.; Ceylon, 17½c. a 18½c.; Maracaibo, 18c. a 19c.; Laguayra, 18½c. a 20c.; Jamaica, 17½c. a 18½c.; St. Domingo, 16c. a 16½c.; Porto Rico, 19c. a 20c.; Costa Rica, 18c. a 20c.; Mexican, 18c. a 19c.; Manila, 17½c. a 18