FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL

A Thoughtful Day in Wall Street.

CONGRESSIONAL PROBLEMS.

Speculation Waiting on Events--A Halt.

A VETO POSSIBLE.

Ease in the Money Market.

GOLD ADVANCING.

Government and Railroad Bonds Firm.

WALL STREET, MONDAY, Dec. 15—6 P. M.

Wall street, considered as a mere theatre, a neighborhood, an entity, to-day represented just such conditions as were from hour to hour created by the reports from Washington. Few influential minds ran in the same groove. Few influential results followed. The policy of either the Cabinet or of Congress was not sufficiently definite to make absolute converts. It was evident, however, that the idea of inflation that has been started is acquiring strength and pupils—a class of men who are building

HOUSES ON SAND,

and who, in their eagerness to achieve present wealth, will probably be swept away by future misfortune. Is this inflation likely to take place? The answer depends on the strength of President Grant and his immediate advisers. These men represent a party; they hold a whip lash over every man in Congress. Centralization of power has knitted a cobweb around these co-called "Representatives of the people" to such an extent that election and retention of place depends on the will of the Executive. Can and will they resist his decree? It was only yesterday that we read an account of the manner in which the President "snubbed" Mr. Dawes, the Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means in the House. Can this gentleman carry with him a sufficiently

STRONG PARTY

to defeat the financial demand of the President without practically causing a dissolution of the republican party, and making such a split as in another country would compel the resignation of a Cabinet Minister? The situation is not a simple one to contend with. Great principles and grander results are at stake. On the one hand is the strong, aggrandizing power of the people finding voice through their representatives. On the other hand is the stronger, equally serious and better considered power of a government that has become somewhat individual in its character. In a financial point of view we have seen this individuality illustrated. Wall street especially knows what it means. The influence is possibly at work now, even while members of Congress are

MADLY EFFERVESCING

over the situation. The Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means in the House is evidently on the fence. Officially he opposes taxation in order to increase the revenue, and prudently he refrains from the expression of an opinion on inflation. Still there are others who are more or less influential, among whom we count Sheldon, Kelley, Wood and Niblack, who are for an expansion of the currency. Private telegrams from an official source state that a member who has canvassed his brother members from the South and West is satisfied that they also will vote for inflation. The question, however, has been postponed until after the holidays; therefore time is allowed for a more careful consideration of the subject. During this interval Wall street will experience many

"UPS AND DOWNS,"

but, in the end, we look for such a thorough consideration of the problem and such a fixed purpose not to undo the financial good which the panic has already achieved as will vindicate the judgment of President Grant when he expressed the purpose in his Message to bring the currency of the country to its best and legitimate value. Whatever may be the schemes of the schemers or the buncombe that may find a place in the Congressional reports, the President still possesses the veto power, and the solid business men of the country will look to him when the time comes to make a distinction between sense and claptrap.

THE MONEY MARKET.

Money was very easy to-day, and some holders found difficulty in placing their funds. Call loans were arranged on the basis of 5 and 6 per cent. The nominal rate was 7 per cent. Foreign exchange was strong and higher, the leading bankers having advanced their rates to 109½ for sixty days sterling and 110 for sight; actual business was at 109 and 109⅞. Commercial bills sold at 108¼ a 108½.

THE GOLD MARKET

commanded unusual interest, being active, buoyant and full of promise. The price advanced from 110⅝ to 111⅛. A large short interest is said to exist, but this does not seem to deter the action of those who are basing their speculations on the weakness of the government and its inability to check any "bull" movement that may be initiated. A strong undertone is observable, and it will not be astonishing if gold should advance, between the present time and the 1st of January, to 113, or even higher. The advance is somewhat remarkable, because it comes at a time when gold is not easy to carry and there is little domestic use for it. The prospect of inflation is the only excuse. It answered formerly, and members of Congress who favor more currency may advantageously watch the straws that indicate the breath of the wind. The rates paid for carrying were 7, 6 and 4 per cent. The operations of the Gold Exchange Bank to-day were as follows:—

Gold balances	$1,364,194
Currency balances	1,557,492
Gross clearings	42,201,000

CLEARING HOUSE STATEMENT.

Currency exchanges	$76,150,650
Currency balances	2,629,698
Gold exchanges	11,717,227
Gold balances	1,400,024

THE FOREIGN MARKET.

The following are the late London quotations:—Consols for money, 92; consols for account, 92⅛; five-twenty bonds of 1865 (old), 94⅝ a 94⅞; five-twenty bonds of 1867, 95⅛; ten-forty bonds, 92⅝ a 92⅞; new fives, 92⅛ a 92⅜; Erie Railway shares, 37 a 37½; New York Central shares, 78⅞ a 79⅛. American securities are reported steady. Rentes at Paris were strong at 59.20. The Bank of England gained £93,000 to-day.

THE UNITED STATES TREASURY.

The Treasury balances to-day at the close of business in Washington were as follows:—

Currency	$780,000
Coin	84,250,000
Certificates	31,250,000
Legal tenders outstanding	374,000,000
Increase since Saturday	779,000

The Assistant Treasurer paid out to-day $58,000 on account of interest and $227,000 in redemption of five-twenty bonds. It is announced that the public debt in December has increased $5,000,000.

GOVERNMENT BONDS

closed strong at the best prices of the day:—United States sixes, 1881, registered, 116; do., do., coupon, 119¾ a 120; do. do., 1862, registered, 113½ a 114; do. five-twenties, 1862, coupon, 114¾ a 114¾; do. do., 1864, registered, 114¼; do., do., coupon, 115¼; do. do., 1865, 114½ a 115; do., do., coupon, 116; do., do., new registered, 115¼; do., do., 1865, coupon, new, 118¾ a 118⅞; do., do., 1867, registered, 115½; do., do., coupon, 119½ a 119¾; do. do. 1868, registered, 115; do., do., coupon, 118¾ a 119; do. ten-forties, registered, 112¾ a 112¾; do. do., coupon, 112¾ a 112⅞; sixty-fives, 1881, coupon, 112 a 112⅜; six per cent bonds, Pacific Railroad, 113 a 113¼.

SOUTHERN SECURITIES

were quiet. Missouri sixes sold at 93¼, Tennessees at 79½ a 80, and South Carolina, January and July, at 11¼a 11¼. The latest bids were:—Missouri sixes, 93¼; do. do., Hannibal and St. Joseph issue, 91¾; do. do., sixes, Asylum or University, 90; Tennessee sixes, old, 77; do. do., new, 79½; Virginia sixes, consolidated, 59; Georgia sixes, 65; North Carolina, North Carolina Railroad Company, coupon, 35; do., do., ex coupon, 25; do., do., funding act of 1863, 16; do. do., new, 14; do. do., special tax, 11; South Carolina sixes, 24; do. do., January and July, 10¾; do. do., funding act of 1866, 12; Texas tens, 1876, 83.

RAILROAD BONDS.

There was a strong feeling in railroad bonds. In Union Pacific firsts the sales amounted to $59,000, and the prices advanced from 84¾ to 86. Central Pacifics brought 94½, Western Pacifics 85, and Union Pacific incomes 69⅞ a 70. A sale of Canada Southern firsts was reported at 64. The latest bids were:—

New York Cen 6's, '83	89	Tol & Wab 2d m	86
New York Cen 6's, r. e.	85	Tol & Wab equip bds	70½
New York Cen 6's, sub.	85	Tol & Wab cons con	74
Erie 2d m 7's, '79	97	Gt West 1st m, '88	93
Erie 4th m 7's, '80	92	Gt West 2d m, '93	79½
Erie 5th m 7's, '88	92	Quincy & Tol 1st, '90	85
Long Dock bonds	91½	Galena & Chic ex	89
Hud R 7's, 2d m, s f, '85	105	Chi, R I & Pac	103
Harlem con m & s f 6's	98	Morris & Essex 1st m	103
Alb & Susq 1st bds	101	Morris & Essex 2d m	98
Mich Cen con 7's, 1902	90	Pitts, Ft W & Chic 1st	104
Mich Cen 1st m 8's, '82	107	Pitts, Ft W & Chic 3d m	90
Mich So 7 p c, 2d m	94	Clev & Pitts con s f	90½
Mich So & N I s 17's p c	99½	Clev & Pitts 3d m	97
Clev & Tol s f	101	Clev & Pitts 4th m	87
Clev, P & A old bds	98½	Chic & Alton 1st m	103½
C, P & A new bds	90	Chic & Alton income	91
Detroit, M & Tol bds	96½	Ohio & Miss con s f	91
Buff & Erie new bds	93	Ohio & Miss con	89½
Lake Shore con r bds	91	Ohio & Miss 2d m, con	77
Pac RR 7's, gtd by Mo	98	St Louis & I M 1st m	93
Cen Pac gold bds	94½	St Louis & I M 2d m	75
Cen Pac State aid bds	100	Mil & St P 8's, 1st m, PD	104
Western Pacific bds	85	Mil & StP 1st m 7-10, PD	93
Union Pac 1st m bds	86	Mil & St P 7's, gold, RD	83½
Union Pac 1 s f 7's	75½	Mil & St P 1st m, LaCD	90
Union Pac inc 10's	69⅞	Mil & St P 2d m	74
Alt & T H 1st m	100	Joliet & Chic 1st m	104
Alt & T H 2d m pref	87	Col, Chic & Ind C 1st m	83
North Mo 1st m	82⅞	Col, Chic & Ind C 2d m	60
Chic & N W s f	100	Tol, Peoria & War, RD	67
Chic & N W 1st m	98½	Tol, Peoria & War, WD	67
Del, Lack & W 1st m	104¾	N Y & N H 6's	97½
Del, L & W 7's, con	95½	Bost, H & E 1st m	26
Tol & Wab 1st m ex	93½	Bur, C R & Min 1st 7's, g	52
Tol & Wab 1st m, St L D	85½		

THE STOCK MARKET.

The stock market for the day, measured by its opening and closing prices, exhibits in the main comparatively little change; yet between these extremes there was considerable fluctuation and feverishness that might be traced to the financial condition of the government. There was likewise an evident determination to follow certain leaders who are known to possess the power requisite to move prices at will, and who for many days have been accredited with the control of the situation; but, as reports poured in from Congress, *pro* and *con*, both "bulls" and "bears" were thrown into confusion, and the close marked decided weakness. We note that Western Union opened at 73⅞, advanced quickly to 74, fell off a trifle, but recovered and rose to 74¼, and at the close settled down to 73¾. It is said that influences are still at work to move this stock upward. Hannibal and St. Joseph common, only a little while ago neglected, showed up strong at 28. New York Central moved from 95⅝ to 96⅛, but later receded to 95⅝. Pacific Mail is moving gradually to higher figures.

A NEW HISTORY

attaches to its progress which has yet to be revealed. The new authorities are making new combinations. The prices to-day ranged between 40¾ and 39¼. Union Pacific started at 32, sold down to 30⅞ and closed at 31. Lake Shore showed a difference of about ¾ per cent, opening at 76¼, dropping to 76 and closing at 76⅝. Rock Island opened at 99 and closed at 98⅝. Wabash opened at 53½, went to 54, but finally receded to 52⅞. St. Paul was strongly speculative, the initial point being 41⅝, the highest 42, the lowest 40⅞ and the close 41. Ohio and Mississippi ranged between 30½ a 31⅜, with a subsequent decline to 30⅛. C., C. and I. C. opened at 27, sold up to 28¼ and down to 26⅜. Northwest common derived its strength and steadiness, notwithstanding the sharp advance it has already experienced, from the publication of the annual report of the company, which shows a gain of more than $1,334,000—12 per cent. It also appears that the net earnings, after deducting all charges against the property for operating expenses, taxes, renewals, rent of leased roads, dividends on Chicago and Milwaukee Railway stock and interest on bonded debt, amounted to $2,183,913 53 for the year. Dividends were made on December 9, 1872, on both common and preferred stock, and on preferred stock June 20, 1873, amounting to $2,019,640, which left a balance of income account of $1,629,967 84. No dividend was made upon the common stock in June, as the company were finishing their combined system of railroads, all of which were completed in September last. The system referred to combines the operation of nearly 1,900 miles of road. Since then the business, notwithstanding the panic, is said to show a gain.

HIGHEST AND LOWEST PRICES.

The following table shows the opening, highest and lowest prices of the day:—

	Opening.	Highest.	Lowest.
N.Y.C. and H. R. stock con.	95¾	96⅛	95⅝
Harlem	122	122½	122
Erie	45	45½	45
Lake Shore	76½	77¼	76
Wabash	53¼	54	52⅞
Northwestern	56½	57½	56
Northwestern preferred	70⅛	71¼	70
Rock Island	99	99¼	98⅛
Mil. and St. Paul	41⅝	42	40⅞
Mil. and St. Paul pref.	64	64	63½
Ohio and Mississippi	30½	31⅜	30⅛
New Jersey Central	100	100¼	100
Union Pacific	32	32¼	30⅞
C., C. and Ind. C.	27	28¼	26½
Pittsburg	83¾	83¾	83½
Western Union	73¾	74½	73⅛
Pacific Mail	40⅝	40¾	39¼

MEMORANDUM.

The following are the earnings of the Erie Railway Company for the past week:—

	1872.	1873.
For week ending December 7	$319,396	$363,987
Previously reported	3,563,098	3,452,444
Total earnings since Oct. 1	$3,882,494	$3,816,431
Increase for week		$44,591
Decrease for two months and one week to date		66,063

SALES AT THE NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE.

Monday, Dec. 15—10 A. M., Before Call.

500 shs West Un Tel	73⅞	100 shs B, H & E RR b3	2⅞
400 do	74	200 Chi & N W RR	56⅞
200 do	73⅞	300 do s3	57
600 do	73¾	700 do	57⅛
1700 do	73⅝	100 do	57¼
200 do c	73½	200 do	56⅞
800 do	73⅞	300 do b30	57
600 do	73¾	200 do	56⅞
500 do	73⅞	100 do	56¾
1500 do	73¾	1100 do	56½
17 do	74½	200 do s15	56½
600 do	73¾	200 do	57
1300 do	73⅞	100 Chi N W RR pf	70⅛
1600 do	74	400 do b30	70½
100 do b3	74	300 do	70⅞
800 do	74½	100 do s3	71
400 Pac M SS Co	40¾	113 Chi & R I RR	99
500 do	40¾	100 do	99¼
400 do	40¾	200 do	99
200 do	40¾	200 Tol & Wab RR	53¼
400 do	40¾	200 do	53⅛
1700 do	40¾	300 do	53¼
500 do	40¾	300 do	53½
500 do	40	400 do	53
100 do	39⅞	200 do c	53½
500 do	40	500 do c	53¼
300 dp b3	40¼	300 do	53½
700 Han & St Jo RR	28	400 do	53½
100 do	27½	300 do	53⅝
50 do	27⅞	1100 do	53¾
100 do	28	100 do	53⅞
1100 N Y C & H R RR	95⅞	100 Mil & St Paul RR	41⅝
1200 do	95⅝	400 do	41½
1200 do	95⅞	300 do	41⅝
100 do c	95¾	200 do	41¾
100 do	96	100 do	41⅞
1200 Un Pac RR	32	100 do	41⅝
800 do c	31⅞	100 do c	41⅝
1900 do	31⅞	100 Mil & St P RR pr	64
1200 do	31¾	300 Ohio & Miss RR	30⅞
1000 do c	31⅝	200 do	30⅞
4600 do	31¾	100 do	30⅞
800 do c	31⅞	600 do	30⅞
1000 do	32	100 do	30⅞
1700 do	32¼	400 do	30⅝
600 do	32⅛	100 do	30½
200 L S & M S RR	76⅝	300 do b3	30⅞
300 do	76⅞	700 do	30⅞
200 do	76⅝	1100 do	31
1000 do	76	500 C, C & I C RR	26⅞
500 do c	76⅛	100 do	27
600 do	76⅛	100 do	27⅛
200 do c	76⅛	100 do	27¼
1500 do c	76⅛	100 do	27⅛
200 do	76¼	100 do	27
100 do	76⅜	100 do	26⅞
800 do	76⅝	400 do	27
200 do s3	76⅝	100 do	27¼
1000 do	76⅝	200 do	27⅛
200 B, H & E RR c	2¾	300 do	27

10:15 and 11:30 A. M.

$2000 U S 5-20, c, '62, called bonds	110⅞	$1000 Us 5-20, c, '68	118⅞
1000 Us 5-20, r, '65 c	114¼	500 do b c.c	118⅞
4700 U S 5-20, r, '65 n	115	1500 US 5's 10-40, c	112½
6000 US 5-20, c, '65, n	118⅛	10000 US 5's 10-40, r	111⅞
500 do small c	117⅞	10000 do	111⅞
1000 US 5-20, c, '67	118⅞	20000 do b c	112
500 do small c	118⅞		

First Board—10:30 A. M.

$2000 Tenn 6's, old b c	80	200 shs L S & M S RR	76⅞
4000 do	79½	200 do	76⅞
15000 S C 6's, n, J & J	11⅛	300 do	76⅞
10000 do	11½	1300 do	76⅞
8000 Missouri 6's	93¼	200 do	76⅞
2000 N C 6's, old b c	24	1600 do pr	76⅞
2000 Long Dock bds	92	300 Harlem RR pf	121
1000 L Shore div bds	89	50 Clev & Pitts guar	83¾
2000 Cen Pac gld bds	94¾	100 N J Cen RR b c	100
3000 W Pac bonds	85	100 Panama RR	98½
1000 Gt West 1st m, '88	94	100 do	99
10000 Mich Cen 7's b c	92	100 do b c.b20	99
4000 Un P RR 1st m	84¾	100 do b30	99½
1000 do	85	41 do b30	99½
8000 do	85¼	300 Un Pac RR b c.c	32½
5000 do	85½	1000 do c	32½
6000 do	85¾	1000 do	32¾
5000 do	85⅞	200 do c	32¾
31000 do	86	400 do	32⅞
8000 Un Pac 10's, inc	70	700 do s3	32
2000 do	69⅞	300 do c	32
2000 T & W 1st, St L D	85½	500 do c	32¼
1000 Tol & Wab 2d	86	200 do c	32½
14000 Chic & Alt 1st	103¼	1100 do b3	32½
5000 St L & I M 2d	75	600 do s3	32½
50000 Ohio & M con b c	30	300 do c	32½
1000 C, C & I C 1st	83	500 do	32½
7000 Ca South 1st m	64	1700 do	32
1000 C, C, C & I 1st	99¼	500 do	31⅞
30 shs B'k State N Y	108	300 Del, L & W RR	101
10 Irving Bank	125	35 do	101½
5 Am Ex B'k	105	100 Chi & NW RR b c	56⅞
300 Con Coal	49	100 do c	56⅞
25 Wells-Fargo Ex	73¼	100 do b3	57
50 Adams Ex b c	90½	200 do	56⅞
25 West Un Tel	73½	100 do s3	56⅞
900 do b c.c	74⅛	500 do	56⅞
3200 do	74⅛	200 do	56⅞
100 do	74⅛	100 do	56⅞
600 do	74⅛	100 Chi & NWRR pf b c	71⅛
1600 do	74⅛	100 do b10	71⅛
2000 do	74⅛	200 do	71
200 do s3	74⅛	100 do b10	71⅛
500 do	74⅛	200 do c	70½
200 do	74⅛	100 Bos, H & E RR b c	2¼
400 do	74⅛	200 Mil & St P RR b c	41⅛
700 do s3	74	300 do	41⅛
300 do	74	100 do	41⅛
400 do	74⅛	100 do	41⅛
300 do	74⅛	100 do	41⅛
500 do	74⅛	600 do	41⅛
1300 do	74	300 do	41⅛
100 Erie RR b c	45	500 do c	41⅛
400 N Y C & H RRR b c	96	100 do	41½
200 do	96⅛	100 do	41⅞
300 do	96	25 do	41¼
300 do	96⅞	200 Mil & St P RR pf	64
100 Chi & R I RR b c.b30	99⅝	600 do b c	64
100 do b3	99	100 Tol, W & W RR b c	53⅞
200 Pac M SS Co b c.s3	39¾	1000 do	54
100 do	40½	100 do c	53⅞
500 do	40	300 do	53¼
100 do	39⅞	700 do	53⅛
300 do	39¾	1000 do	53⅛
500 do s3	39½	200 do	53⅛
300 do	39½	300 Ohio & Miss RR b c	30⅞
100 do	39½	400 do	31
100 do s3	39½	100 do b2	31
300 do	39½	100 do	30⅞
600 do	39½	300 do	30⅞
400 do	39½	100 do	30⅞
100 do	39⅝	100 Ohio & Miss RR pf	57
1000 do	39⅝	100 C, C & I C RR b c.c	26⅞
200 do	40	200 do	26⅞
200 do	40½	200 do b60	101⅛
1200 do	40	5 do	102
100 do b10	40	200 do b c.b60	102
200 do c	39¾	100 Ros, H & E RR b c	2⅞
100 do	39¾	200 Morris & Es RR	88
100 do s3	39⅝	50 Ohio & Miss RR b c	31¼
500 do	39½	300 do	31⅛
600 Mar L'd & M'g b c b30	8½	500 do	31⅛
400 N Y C & H R RR b c	96½	100 do	31½
300 do s3	96½	700 do	31⅛
1100 L S & M S RR b c	77¼	300 do	31½
100 do c	77¼	100 Han & St Jo RR b c	27⅞
1400 do	77¼	300 C, C & I C RR b c.b3	27⅞
200 do s3	77⅛	300 do	27⅞
800 do	77	100 do	27
100 Panama RR b c.b3	98	100 do	26¾
600 Un Pac RR b c	31⅞	200 do	26⅞

2:30 to 3 P. M.

$1000 St L & I M 2d	75	900 shs Un Pac RR b3	31½
2000 L Shore con r bds	92	1600 do	31½
100 shs Del & H Canal	113¼	600 do	31½
1000 West Un Tel	74	100 do	31½
300 do	74¼	200 do	31½
1100 do	74	200 do	31½
500 do	73⅞	100 do b3	31½
800 do	73¾	700 do	31½
1600 do	73¾	300 do	31¼
800 do	73½	200 do	31½
20 Adams Ex	92½	1600 do	31¼
700 Pac Mail SS Co	39½	500 do s3	31⅛
10 do	39	100 do	31
100 do	39¼	400 do	31⅛
100 do b30	39¾	400 do b3	31⅛
300 do	39¾	400 do	31
400 do	39¾	1600 do	30⅞
400 do s3	39¾	300 do s3	31
200 do	39¾	800 do	31
21 Harlem RR	122	300 do b3	31
100 N Y C & H RR	95⅞	157 Del, L & W RR	101
200 do s3	95⅞	100 Mil & St P RR pf b3	64
100 do	96	900 Mil & St P RR	40⅞
400 do	95⅝	500 do	41
100 Chi & N W RR	56⅞	300 do	41
100 do	56¼	20 do b3	41⅛
100 do	56⅞	200 do b3	41⅛
200 do	56⅞	300 do	41
100 do	56⅞	100 do	41
300 do s3	56¼	700 Ohio & Miss RR	31⅛
100 do	56¼	300 do	31
500 do s3	56	300 do	30⅞
200 L S & M S RR s3	76⅞	100 do	30⅞
100 do	77	100 Tol & W RR	53¼
400 do	76⅞	200 do c	53⅛
700 do	77	400 do	53⅛
500 do b3	77⅛	100 do	53⅛
200 do	77⅛	200 do	53
200 do	77	300 do	52⅞
200 do	76⅞	600 C, C & I C RR	26⅞
300 do	76⅞	100 do b3	26⅞
300 do	76⅞	800 do	26¼
100 Chi & R I RR	98⅞	400 do b3	26⅛
200 Un Pac RR	31	500 do	26⅛
700 do	31¼	1000 do	26½

CLOSING PRICES—3 O'CLOCK P. M.

Western Un Tel	73⅞ a 73½	Union Pacific	30⅞ a 31		
Quicksilver	27 a 28	Del, L & W	101 a 101½		
Panama	98 a 98½	Chi & N W	55⅞ a 56		
Adams Express	92 a 93	Chi & N W pref.	70 a 70¼		
Wells-Fargo Ex	72¾ a 74	New Jer Cen	100½ a 101		
Amer Ex	58 a 59	Chicago & R I	98⅞ a 98½		
U S Express	68 a 69	Mil & St Paul	40¾ a 41		
Pacific Mail	39¼ a 39½	Mil & St Paul pf	63½ a 63⅞		
New York Cen.	95⅝ a 95¾	Toledo & Wab	52½ a 53		
Erie	43¼ a 43¾	Ohio & Miss	30¾ a 30⅞		
Harlem	122 a 125	Han & St Jo	27 a 27½		
Hart & E.	2¼ a 2½	Han & St Jo pf.	35 a 36½		
Lake Shore	76½ a 76⅝	C, C & I C	26½ a 26⅞		

COMMERCIAL REPORT.

Cotton Firmer—Flour Firm—Wheat Higher—Corn and Oats Easier—Provisions Quiet and Easier—Groceries Quiet and Unchanged—Petroleum Firm—Naval Stores Dull and Unchanged—Freights Steady—Whiskey Higher.

MONDAY, Dec. 15—6 P. M.

There was a fair business in merchandise to-day, and the markets generally were firmer under the higher ruling of gold. On 'Change flour and wheat were firmer; the latter being wanted for shipment was decidedly higher. Corn and oats were quiet; prices tended in favor of the buyer. There was comparatively little done in provisions, and both pork and lard were easy. Freights were quiet. Whiskey was fairly active, scarce and higher. Groceries were quiet and unchanged. Petroleum was quiet but firm for all descriptions. Naval stores were dull and values to an extent nominal.

COTTON—The market was very strong for all descriptions, but inactive. No sales were reported from first hands, but the jobbing trade was reported fairs We quote:—Rio, ordinary cargoes, 21¾c. a 22c.; fair do., 23c. a 23½c.; good do., 24c. a 24½c.; prime do., 24¾c. a 25c.; extreme range for lots, 21¾c. a 25c., gold, per lb., 60 and 90 days' credit; Java, government bags, 29c. a 30c.; do., grass mats, 30c. a 31½c.; Singapore, 26c. a 27c.; Maracaibo, 24c. a 26c.; Laguayra, 24c. a 25c.; Jamaica, 22c. a 23½c.; St. Domingo, 19½c. a 20c.; Porto Rico, 22½c. a 24½c.; Costa Rica, 23c. a 25c.; Mexican, 23c. a 24c.; Savanilla, 24c. a 25½c.; Curacoa, 23c. a 24c.

COTTON on the spot was fairly active. With light offerings, owing chiefly to the continued advance in future deliveries, the market ruled higher, and average lots of low middling sold at 15¾c., and other grades on this basis Even running lots of low middling were salable at 16c. per lb. The market closed firm at the advance of ¼c. per lb. indicated in the subjoined quotations. Future deliveries were in good demand and advanced ¼c. per lb., part of which, however, was subsequently lost. We quote:—

	Uplands.	Alabama.	N. Orleans.	Texas.
Ordinary	14¼	14¼	14¼	14¼
Good ordinary	15	15¼	15¼	15¼
Strict good ordinary	15¾	15¾	15 11-16	15 11-16
Low middling	15¾	15¾	16⅛	16⅛
Middling	16⅛	16⅛	16⅜	16⅜
Good middling	17½	17¾	17⅞	17⅞

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

	To-day.	Sat.	Evening.	Total.
Export	835		693	1,528
Consumption	812		390	1,202
Speculation	133		100	233
Total	1,780		1,183	2,963

—Included in the above are 720 bales to arrive. For future delivery (basis low middling) the sales have been as follows:—Saturday evening, after one o'clock—December, 400 at 15⅝c.; January, 400 at 15⅞c., 700 at 15 29-32c.; February, 600 at 15 13-32c.; March, 300 at 16 13-16c., 100 16⅞c.; April, 100 at 17 1-16c., 200 at 17½c.; May 100 at 17⅝c. Total, 2,800 bales. To-day up to three P. M.—December, 200 at 15⅞c., 100 at 15 31-32c.; January, 1,300 at 16c., 100 at 16⅛c., 100 at 16 1-16c., 500 at 16⅛c., 500 at 16c., 100 at 16 3-32c., 200 at 16 1-16c., 400 at 16⅛c., 300 at 16 5-32c., 300 at 16 3-16c., 200 at 16 7-32c., 700 at 16¼c., 200 at 9-32c., 100 at 16 3-16c., 100 at 16 5-32c., 400 at 16 5-16c., 300 at 16 7-32c., 1,100 at 16 3-16c., 100 at 16 5-32c., 300 at 16⅜c., 500 at 16 1-16c., 200 at 16⅜c., 200 at 16 1-16c.; February, 100 at 16½c., 400 at 16 9-16c., 200 at 16⅝c., 100 at 16 9-16c., 300 at 16⅝c., 200 at 16 11-16c., 100 at 16¾c., 600 at 16 11-16c., 200 at 16 23-32c., 200 at 16 21-32c., 500 at 16⅞c., 100 at 16 19-32c., 100 at 16 9-16c.; March, 200 at 16 15-16c., 1,100 at 17c., 400 at 17 1-16c., 200 at 17c., 100 at 17 1-32c., 200 at 17 1-16c., 100 at 17 3-32c., 100 at 17 1-32c., 100 at 17 1-16c.; April, 200 at 17⅜c., 500 at 17⅝c., 200 at 17 7-16c., 200 at 17 15-32c., 300 at 17¾c. Free on board—100 Philadelphia at private terms; 200 Charleston at private terms. Total, 15,600 bales. Grand total, 19,200. The receipts at the ports were as follows:—Galveston, 3,916 bales; New Orleans, 10,033; Mobile, 4,008; Savannah, 9,272; Charleston, 6,839; Wilmington, 1,357; Norfolk, 5,545; New York, 1,083; Boston, 73; Philadelphia, 657. Total, 41,015 bales. This day last week, 41,661. This day last year, 16,843. Rates on cotton to foreign ports were quoted as follows:—To Havre, by steam, 1⅝c.; by sail, 1⅝c.; Hamburg, by steam, 5⅝ marks per 100 lbs., equal to 1¼c.; by sail, 1¼c.; Bremen, by steam, 1¼c.; by sail, 1½c.; Liverpool, by steam, ⅜d.; by sail, 5 16d.

FLOUR AND GRAIN.—Receipts—Flour, 19,207 bbls.; wheat, 123,050 bushels; corn, 29,700 do.; corn meal, 552 bbls. and 120 bags; oats, 48,050 bushels; barley, 26, 482 do. The flour market was firm, but very quiet. The sales since last report foot up about 13,400 bbls., including 1,250 bbls. of Southern and 125 bbls. of superfine rye, all at prices within the range of our quotations. Corn meal was quiet, but firm. Sales 150 bbls., at $4 for Jersey and $4 a $4 25 for Western. We quote:—

No. 2 State	$4 50 a $5 75
Superfine State	6 00 a 6 50
Extra State	6 75 a 7 00
Choice State	7 25 a 7 50
Superfine Western	5 75 a 6 25
Extra Western	6 75 a 7 00
Extra Minnesota	7 00 a 8 00
Round hoop Ohio, shipping brands	6 75 a 7 00
Round hoop Ohio, trade brands	6 50 a 7 00
Family	7 50 a 8 50
St. Louis, low extra	6 50 a 6 75
St. Louis, straight extra	7 00 a 7 25
St. Louis, choice double extra	7 50 a 8 00
St. Louis, choice family	8 50 a 10 50
California	Nominal.
Rye flour	5 00 a 6 00
Southern, No. 2	4 50 a 5 50
Southern, superfine	5 75 a 6 25
Southern, extra	7 00 a 8 50
Southern, family	8 50 a 11 25
Corn meal, Western	3 90 a 4 50
Corn meal, Jersey	3 75 a 3 85
Corn meal, Brandywine	4 40 a 4 50
Caloric	3 90 a 4 00
Puncheons	18 00 f. o. b.

—There was a fair demand for wheat, and prices advanced 2c. a 3c. per bushel; the sales were about 123,000 bushels, at $1 56 a $1 58 for No. 2 Chicago spring, $1 62 for Milwaukee in store and afloat, $1 60 for do. deli