FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

An Active Stock Market, with a Flurry in the Coal Stocks.

GOLD 104 3-4 A 104 7-8.

Investment Securities Quiet and Steady.

Money on Call Easy at 2 1-2 a 3 Per Cent.

WALL STREET, WEDNESDAY, March 21, 1877.

It was "*aut Cæsar, aut nullus*" to-day. Either coal stocks or nothing. Beyond dealings in these fancies—or, for the matter of that, beyond the extensive transactions and frequent fluctuations in Delaware and Lackawanna—there was little note taken of what became of the rest of the market. In consequence the quality of the general list may be quoted as they do cotton—from fair to middling. The better grade of prices prevailed in the earlier part of the day, and the less favorable in the afternoon, and was in a great measure so established by the course of the anthracite fancies, as already suggested. On a nice figuring of freight charges as regards the proper allowance to be made for the difference of distance between Newburg and New York and Weehawken and New York, it turns out that the auction sale of the Pennsylvania Company's coal did not result so badly after all. In fact it was so much better than had been predicted that it seemed almost satisfactory in comparison. Indeed the bears, who had looked for "blue ruin," appeared so to think and so to act, as the sharp demand for stock to cover shorts went to prove. Moreover, there was the meeting of the coal magnates to be held to-day, and the possibility of a patching up of a new combination was at least upon the cards, even if it were a remote one. The strengthening breeze thus blowing from two quarters at once, naturally kicked up no end of dust and sent the price of Delaware and Lackawanna spinning from 58 to 60 and of Delaware and Hudson from 49 to 51¾. As usual, so soon as the twopenny ha'penny shorts had got under cover and the scare was well over, prices began to hesitate, then totter, and subsequently to fall. In this they were helped by the news that the meeting had adjourned until Wednesday next, without deciding upon any definite plan of action. It leaked out that a new combination was as unlikely to be obtained as the desire of a child who cries for the moon, and that attention was directed to the more feasible project of limiting production. To consider some scheme which will work out this end we are told a committee, consisting of Messrs. Dickson and Sayre, was appointed, with instructions to report at the coming meeting. Meantime stockholders are likely to remain shaking in their shoes, as they have been doing for some time past, and to continue visiting the market with sly contributions of real stock, the certificates of which have grown yellow with long keeping. At the very close of business the quotations for the coal carriers were the lowest of the day, and stood at ¼ per cent below the opening ones. As of the 217,000 shares, which was the aggregate of the day's business, over 121,000 came out of transactions in Delaware and Lackawanna, it is sufficiently apparent that whatever trade there was left must have been of the most retail description. Lake Shore and Western Union got the best of this traffic, following the movements of the favorites with fluctuations of their own, which did not much exceed one-half point each, and ultimately closing up where they began. It thus fell out that the course of the market, so far as progression goes, was about as successful as that of a circus horse which begins and finishes his rapid and sawdusty career at one and the same spot.

THE SALES TO-DAY.

The sale of active stocks to-day aggregated 219,000 shares, which were distributed as follows:—New York Central, 5,990; Erie, 2,950; Lake Shore, 31,400; Wabash, 1,700; Northwestern, 100; do. preferred, 200; Delaware, Lackawanna and Western, 121,340; New Jersey Central, 100; Delaware and Hudson Canal, 20,724; Morris and Essex, 400; Michigan Central, 464; Illinois Central, 150; Union Pacific, 100; Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, 640; Hannibal and St. Joseph, 100; do. preferred, 300; Ohio and Mississippi, 1,200; Western Union, 20,800; Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph, 525; Rock Island, 600; Milwaukee and St. Paul, 1,700; do. preferred, 2,630; Pacific Mail, 2,750; Quicksilver, 300; United States Express, 425.

OPENING, HIGHEST AND LOWEST.

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

	Opening.	Highest.	Lowest.
New York Central	92⅞	93⅛	92⅝
Erie	7⅛	7⅛	6¾
Lake Shore	48⅝	49½	48½
Wabash	5⅛	5⅛	5⅛
Northwestern	32¼	32¼	32¼
Northwestern preferred	51⅝	51⅝	51⅝
Rock Island	99⅞	100	99⅞
Milwaukee and St. Paul	18⅞	18⅞	18
Milwaukee and St. Paul pf.	47	47⅛	46½
Del., Lack. and Western	58	60	57⅝
New Jersey Central	9	9⅛	9
Union Pacific	70½	70½	70
Ohio and Mississippi	5⅛	5⅛	5⅛
Western Union	60½	61⅛	60⅝
Pacific Mail	22¾	22¾	22⅝

ADVANCE AND DECLINE.

The following shows the advance and decline in the prices of the principal active stocks, as compared with those of yesterday:—

ADVANCE.—Western Union, ⅜; New York Central, ⅝; Lake Shore, ⅝; New Jersey Central, ½; Morris and Essex, ⅜; Hannibal and St. Joseph preferred, 1⅛; Atlantic and Pacific, ⅜; Delaware and Hudson, ⅜; Michigan Central, ¼.

DECLINE.—Erie, ⅛; Union Pacific, 1; C., C., C. and I., ⅛; St. Paul, ⅛; Ohio and Mississippi, ¼; Delaware, Lackawanna and Western, ¼; Burlington and Quincy, 1.

CLOSING PRICES—3 P. M.

The closing prices were:—

	Offered.	Asked.		Offered.	Asked.
Pacific Mail	22¾	22⅞	C. C. C & I	26	27
W U Tel	61⅛	61¼	C. C & I C	2	2½
A & Pacific	24⅝	24¾	D., L & West	57⅝	57⅞
Quicksilver	10⅞	10¼	Erie	6⅞	7
Quicksilver pf	22	24	Han & St J	10½	11
Mar L & M Co.	5¼	6½	Han & St J pf.	20½	20¾
Mar L & M Co. pf	5½	7	L S & M S	49½	49¾
Adams Exp.	101	101¾	Mich Central	42¾	42⅞
Amer Exp.	53	55	N Y & Har	136	137
U S Exp.	43½	44¾	N J Central	8⅞	9
Wells-F Exp.	84¼	84¾	Erie pf	6	6½
Chi & Alton	91⅝	92	Ohio & Miss.	5⅛	5⅜
Clev & Pitts.	89½	90	Panama	122	125
Chi & N W	32¼	32⅜	Tol & Wabash	5	5⅛
Chi & N W pf.	51¾	52	Union Pacific	68	70
Chi & R I	99⅞	100⅛	Del & Hud	48¼	48⅝
Chi, M & St P	18	18⅛	Mo Pac	2½	3
C, Mil & St P pf	46¾	46⅞	Ill Cen	50	50¾

THE MONEY MARKET.

Money to-day was easy at 2½ a 3 per cent, and closed easy at these figures. The following were the rates of exchange on New York at the undermentioned cities to-day:—Savannah, buying ⅛, selling ¼; St. Louis, 75 premium; Charleston easy, ⅛ a ⅜ premium; Cincinnati very easy, buying par, selling 1-10; New Orleans, commercial ¼, bank 1-16, and Chicago, 50 premium.

THE GOLD MARKET.

Gold opened at 104⅜ and closed at 104⅜, all the sales of the day having been at those figures. The carrying rates were 1⅜, ½, and 1 per cent. Loans were also made flat and at 1 and 2 per cent for borrowing.

Gold clearings at the National Bank of the State of New York:—

Gold balances	$1,195,058
Currency balances	1,251,800
Gross clearances	9,090,000

UNITED STATES TREASURY.

Revenue receipts to-day, $300,000. Customs receipts were $450,000. Bank notes received for redemption, $770,000.

GOVERNMENT BONDS.

Government bonds closed steady at the following quotations:—United States currency sixes, 123 a 123½; do. do., 1881, registered, 111½ a 111¾; do. do., do., coupon, 112¾ a 112⅞; do. do., 1865, registered, 108⅛ a 108¾; do. do., do., coupon, 108⅛ a 108⅝; do. do., do., new, registered, 108⅛ a 108⅝; do. do., do., coupon, 108⅛ a 108⅝; do. do., 1867, registered, 111½ a 111¾; do. do., do., coupon, 111⅝ a 111¾; do. do., 1868, registered, 113 a 113½; do. do., do., coupon, 113 a 113½; do. ten-forties, registered, 110¼ a 110⅝; do. do., coupon, 111 a 111½; do. fives, 1881, registered, 109⅞ a 110; do. do., do., coupon, 109⅞ a 110; do. 4½'s, 1891, registered, 106⅛ a 106¼.

THE FOREIGN MARKET.

The London advices report a decline of ⅛ per cent in consols, United States bonds being irregular—old 1865's and new fives being a shade lower, ten-forties improving a fraction and 1867's remaining steady. Erie sold at 7 for the common and 17 a 17⅛ for the preferred. New York Central, which closed last evening at 94¼, was quoted at the opening to-day at 93, then at 92 and at the close at 92⅝, the cable neglecting to inform us whether the price was ex-dividend or otherwise. Illinois Central was steady at 50. The rate of discount in the open market at London has risen to 1⅞ a 2 per cent. The closing prices in London were:—Consols for money, 96⅜ a 96⅝; do. for account, 96⅜ a 96½; five-twenty bonds of 1865 (old), 105¾ a 105⅞; do. of 1867, 109⅝; ten-forty bonds, 108¾ a 108⅞; new fives, 107⅞; Erie, common shares, 7; do., preferred shares, 17 a 17⅛; New York Central, 92½; Illinois Central, 50. In Paris rentes closed at 108f. 15c. and exchange on London at 25f. 17c. Bar silver, 53¾d. per ounce.

RAILROAD BONDS.

Railroad bonds were dull and irregular, with the following changes in prices compared with last previous sales:—An advance of 1 per cent in Albany and Susquehanna seconds, ½ in Michigan Southern sinking funds and Lehigh and Wilkesbarre consols, ⅛ in Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific sevens, and ⅛ in Erie fourth mortgage and Union Pacific sinking funds. There was a decline of ⅛ in Milwaukee and St. Paul gold sevens, ⅜ in Chicago and Northwestern consols, Union Pacific sevens, land grants, C., C. and I. C. firsts and Central Pacific gold bonds.

STATE BONDS.

State bonds at the Board were ¼ higher for Georgia sixes and Missouri long sixes, and steady for Tennessee sixes, new, to which dealings were confined; District of Columbia 3.65's were steady at 72¼ a 72⅜.

BANK SHARES.

The sales of city bank shares were:—Fourth National at 100, Metropolitan at 133 and Phenix at 103.

MINING SHARES.

The following were the opening quotations for mining stocks at San Francisco to-day:—Gould & Curry, 11; Savage, 6; Chollar Potosi, 51; Ophir, 20; Hale & Norcross, 4; Crown Point, 8; Yellow Jacket, 11; Belcher, 6; Imperial, ½; Virginia consolidated, 41; California, 44; Overman, 56; Raymond & Ely, 4; Eureka G. V., 3; Best & Belcher, 27; Kentuck, 6; Union consolidated, 7; Alpha, 16; Meadow Valley, ½; Sierra Nevada, 6; Mexican, 15; Caledonia, 6; Silver Hill, 5; Eureka consolidated, 17; Justice, 11; Julia consolidated, 4½. The closing quotations were as follows:—

Alpha	15¾	Justice	10¾
Belcher	5¾	Kentuck	5½
Best & Belcher	26	Leopard	—
Bullion	13¾	Mexican	13½
Consolidated Virginia	41½	Northern Belle	25¼
California	43¾	Overman	58¾
Chollar	50	Ophir	20¼
Confidence	6¾	Raymond & Ely	4½
Caledonia	6½	Silver Hill	5
Crown Point	8¼	Savage	11
Exchequer	4¾	Seg. Belcher	52
Gould & Curry	10¾	Sierra Nevada	6
Hale & Norcross	4½	Union Consolidated	6¾
Imperial	1¼	Yellow Jacket	10
Julia Consolidated	3¾	Eureka Consolidated	16½

The sales of mining shares as officially reported in New York were:—

FIRST BOARD—11 A. M.

100 shs Alpha	s30 17¾	100 shs Hale & Nor.	s30 5
100 Belcher	s60 6⅞	200 Henry Tunnel	5½
200 do	s30 7	100 do	5½
100 Bertha Gold Co	9¾	200 do	5½
100 do	9¾	100 Lucerne	1½
100 do	9½	200 do	1½
100 do	9½	500 Merrimac	b3 6⅞
100 California	s10 47¾	200 do	b3 6⅞
100 do	47¾	200 do	6⅞
100 Consol Va	s10 46¼	200 do	6⅞
100 Exchequer	6¾	500 do	6¾
100 Cleveland	c 6	100 do	b3 6¾
100 do	c 6	100 Northern Belle	77½
100 do	6⅞	100 do	77½
100 do	6	100 Ophir	22½
100 do	b3 6	200 Raymo'd & Ely	s30 4½
100 Granville	2½	100 do	4½
100 do	2½	200 Savage	b30 6⅞
100 do	2½	200 Seaton con	bc 4½
100 do	2½	500 do	bc s30 4½
500 Hukill	bc s30 4½	200 do	bc s10 4½
100 do	bc c 4½	100 do	bc 4½
100 do	bc b10 4½	100 do	4½
100 do	4½	500 do	4½
100 do	b3 4½	100 do	b15 4½
100 do	c 4½	100 do	4½

SECOND BOARD—1:30 P. M.

100 shs Bertha	9¾	200 shs Hukill	c 4
100 do	9¾	200 do	c 4
100 Cleveland	c 6	200 do	c 4
100 Hukill	bc 4¼	100 Merrimac	b3 6¾
100 do	4¼	500 do	6¾
100 do	4¼	500 do	6¾
300 do	c 4¼	200 do	6¾
200 do	b3 4¼	500 Seaton	bc 4¾
200 do	b.15 4¼	100 do	4¾
200 do	3¾	200 do	4¾
100 do	4	200 do	s.30 4¾

MEMORANDUM.

The following sales of stock were made at the New York Open Board of Stock Brokers to-day:—

QUARTER OF EIGHT A. M.

100 shs Erie RR	7¾	100 shs Northwestern	32¾
100 Lake Shore	48¾	100 Del, Lack & West	59

HALF PAST TWELVE P. M.

100 shs NY Cent RR	93⅛	200 shs Lake Shore	48¾
100 do	93⅛	100 do	s3 48¾
100 West Un Tel	60⅞	100 St Paul	b3 18½
100 M Cent RR	s3 42	100 St Paul pref	46⅞
300 Del, Lack & W	59	100 Northwestern	32¾
100 Del & Hud	50⅝	100 Rock Island	99⅞
100 do	50½	100 Ohio & Miss	5⅜

QUARTER PAST THREE P. M.

100 shs NYC & Hud	93⅞	200 shs Lake Shore	49¼
200 Del, Lack & West	57½	100 do	b3 49¾
100 West Un Tel	61¼	100 Mil & St Paul	18½
200 Del & Hud	48⅝	100 Mil & St Paul pf	46¾
100 do	s3 48½	100 Chic & NW	51¾
100 Lake Shore	s3 49½	100 Del, Lack & West	57½

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE SALES

WEDNESDAY, March 21, 1877.

BEFORE CALL—10 A. M.

$10000 Dis Col 3-65's	72¼	100 shs Mich Cen	42
3000 do	72¾	300 Lake Shore RR	48⅝
10000 do	72¼	400 do	48½
2000 But, N Y & E 1st	94½	100 do	48⅝
50 shs N Y C & H RR	93	100 do	48¾
100 do	92⅞	1000 do	48⅞
220 do	93	4300 do	49
900 do	93⅛	400 do	49⅛
100 do	b3 93⅛	900 do	49
300 do	93⅛	600 do	s3 48⅞
100 Del & Hudson C	49	100 do	b3 49
100 do	49⅝	600 do	48⅞
200 do	49½	900 Del, Lack & W RR	58
500 do	50	500 do	58¼
100 do	c 50⅛	200 do	58⅞
200 do	50⅛	800 do	58¾
300 do	s3 50⅛	1800 do	58⅝
200 do	s3 50⅛	1000 do	58¾
300 do	50⅛	500 do	58⅞
800 do	50⅛	1400 do	59
300 do	51	500 do	59⅛
100 do	51⅛	500 do	59⅛
300 do	51	600 do	59⅛
300 do	51¼	1500 do	59⅛
100 do	51¼	1500 do	59⅛
600 do	b3 50⅞	1800 do	59⅛
100 Pacific Mail SS	22⅛	900 do	59⅛
100 do	22⅛	100 do	59⅛
150 Erie RR	7⅛	2200 do	59⅛
100 do	7	1500 do	59⅛
1000 do	6⅞	600 do	59⅛
1515 West Un Tel	60⅞	400 do	59⅛
345 do	61	4200 do	59
300 do	61⅛	100 do	c 59
100 do	b3 61⅛	1000 do	58⅞
400 do	s3 61⅛	400 do	58¾
550 do	61⅛	100 Union Pac RR x d	70⅛
100 do	c 61⅛	100 St Paul RR pf	47⅛
200 do	61⅛	100 Han & St J RR pf	20⅞
200 do	61⅛	40 Chic, B & Q RR	98½
800 do	61⅛		

10:15 AND 11:30 A. M.

$4000 US 6's, '81, c	112⅛	$12000 5-20, c, '67, bc s3	111⅞
$500 US 5's, 10-40, c	111⅛	1000 Us 5-20, c, '67	111⅞
20000 Us 5-20, c, '65, b	111⅛	4000 do bc	111⅞
10000 do bc b3	108⅛	50000 US 6's, cur, bc s3	123⅛
13000 do bc s3	108⅛	13000 US 4½, r, '91	106⅛
2000 5-20, c, '67	111⅞	4000 do bc	106⅛

FIRST BOARD—10:30 A. M.

$2000 Georgia 6's	102	100 shs Del & Hud C	51⅛
10000 Tennessee 6's, n	44⅛	300 do	51⅛
5000 Mo 6's, 1 b	bc 105¼	100 do	51⅛
5000 C & R I & Pac 7's	107¾	200 do	51⅛
1000 Mil & St P 7's gld	89	100 do	c 51⅛
3000 Chic & NW con	105	100 do	51⅛
6000 C & NW con c g	b 88	100 do	51⅛
1000 C & Alton 1st	114¼	100 do	51⅛
2000 Albany & Sus 2d	95	5 American Ex	bc 56
5000 Erie 4th	104⅞	50 do	55⅞
5000 do	105	50 do	55⅞
1000 Mich South & L	111⅛	50 Wells-Fargo Ex	84½
1000 do	112	130 Un States Ex	bc 45⅞
1000 D M & F 1st, 1506	106⅞	1400 Erie RR	bc 6⅞
1000 Hun R 2d, s f	114	200 do	6⅞
1000 Ohio & Mis, 2d	50	100 do	6⅞
1000 Cen Pacific g bds	106	50 Mich Cen RR	bc 42
4000 do	105⅞	114 do	42¼
10000 U Pac RR 1st	104	500 L S & M So RR	bc 48⅞
5000 Union Pacific s f	93	1400 do	s3 48⅞
2000 U Pac 7's, l g	bc 109⅞	1300 do	48⅞
1000 C, C & I C 1st	91⅞	400 do	b3 48⅞
1000 C Falls & Min 1st	80	200 do	48⅞
3000 Le'h & W B con	33	300 do	48⅞
2000 Mor & Essex 2d	108	900 do	48⅞
2000 G West 1st, ex c	87¾	400 do	s3 48⅞
3000 Del & Hud, s f	97	11 Clev & P RR, g bd	89
54 shs Fourth N'l Bk	100	100 C & N W pb	bc 60½
8 Metropolitan Bank	133	100 N J Cen RR	bc 9
25 Phœnix Bank	103	300 Chic & R I RR	bc 99⅞
600 Maryland Coal	bc 8	200 do	s 3 100
100 do	s3 8	300 C, M & St P RR	bc 18⅞
400 West Un Tel	bc 61⅛	100 do	18⅞
700 do	61	300 C, M & St P pf	bc 46⅞
1100 do	60⅞	100 Chic, C & Q RR	98
200 do	s5 60⅞	30 do	bc 98
1200 do	60⅞	400 Wab RR p r	b3 5⅞
900 do	b3 61	500 do	5⅞
100 do	60⅞	500 do	5⅞
100 do	61	200 Mor & E RR	bc 82
100 Pacific Mail	bc 22⅞	100 do	81⅞
400 do	s3 22⅞	100 N J So R	bc 7⅞
400 do	22⅞	10 N Y, N H & H RR	bc 152
50 do	22⅞	200 Del, L & W RR	bc 58⅞
100 At & Pac Tel	bc 24⅞	3500 do	58⅞
400 do	24⅞	3000 do	58⅞
200 N Y C & H RR	bc 91⅞	1000 do	59
300 do	93⅛	200 do	59⅛
200 do	93⅛	600 do	59
300 Del & Hud C	bc 50⅞	800 do	58⅞
100 do	s4 50⅞	1400 do	59
400 do	50⅞	800 do	59⅛
600 do	50⅞	2000 do	59⅛
100 do	50⅞	900 do	59⅛
300 do	49⅞	2500 do	59⅛
100 do	s3 50	1400 do	59⅛
100 do	c 50⅞	500 do	59⅛
320 do	50⅞	300 do	59⅞
100 do	s3 50⅞	1200 do	60
400 do	50⅞	600 do	59⅞
64 do	50⅞	1500 do	59⅞
100 do	c 50⅞	1300 do	59⅞
100 do	50⅞	1000 do	59⅞
100 do	c 50⅞	100 H & St Jo RR pref	20⅞
200 do	50⅞	100 do	bc 20⅞
1350 do	51	200 O & M RR	bd s3 5⅞

BEFORE CALL—12:30 P. M.

$11000 N W, c g 1d b	88	800 shs Lake Shore	48⅞
6000 Morris & E 7's '71	100	500 do	s15 48⅞
25 shs A & P Tel	24⅞	1243 do	48⅞
20 Adams Express	101⅞	100 do	s4 48⅞
200 Del & Hud	51	100 Mor & Essex RR	82⅞
100 do	50⅞	100 Dub & S City	s3 6⅞

COMMERCIAL REPORT.

COTTON: SPOT QUIET; FUTURES CLOSED STEADY—FLOUR STEADY—WHEAT QUIET—CORN FIRMER—OATS STEADY—WHISKEY FIRMER—PORK AND LARD HIGHER—PETROLEUM DULL—SPIRITS OF TURPENTINE AND ROSIN QUIET—OILS FIRM—COTTON STEADY—SUGAR NOMINAL—FREIGHTS QUIET.

WEDNESDAY, March 21—6 P. M.

Business was fair in most departments to-day, and some commodities were in better demand at full or improved prices. The markets were generally firm, and there was no manifest disposition to force sales. On 'Change flour was steady. Wheat was quiet, but without decided change. Corn was firmer. Oats steady. Whiskey firmer. Pork and lard were higher. Freights were quiet. Cotton on the spot was quiet; futures closed steady. Coffee was quiet but steady. Sugar was nominal. Oils remained firm. Petroleum dull and naval stores quiet.

COFFEE.—There was no change in Brazils. Mild coffee was quiet. Sales during the past week were 6,117 bags Maracaibo, 1,496 do. Laguayra, 1,442 do. Costa Rica, sold in lots for consumption within the range; 21,811 mats Java, ex Alice, sold before arrival on private terms, and 3,075 bags St. Domingo in transit to Europe. The stock of mild coffee is 27,629 grass mats, 4,389 bags Maracaibo, 4,044 do. Laguayra, 2,040 do. Jamaica, 6,522 do. St. Domingo, 964 do. Costa Rica and 602 do. Mexican. Total stock, 18,561 bags and 27,629 grass mats. We quote:—Ordinary cargoes, 17c. a 17½c.; fair do., 19½c.; good do., 20c.; prime do., 20⅝c. a 21c.; extreme range for lots, 17c. a 22½c.; Santos, fair to good, 19½c. a 20c., gold, 90 days; Java, government bags, 22c. a 23c.; do. grass mats, 23c. a 24c.; Singapore, 19c. a 21c.; Maracaibo, 18½c. a 20½c.; Laguayra, 19c. a 20½c.; Jamaica, 18c. a 19c.; St. Domingo, 16c. a 16½c.; Porto Rico, 18c. a 20½c.; Costa Rica, 18c. a 21c.; Mexican, 18c. a 20c.; Manila, 18c. a 19½c.; Angostura, 19c. a 20½c.; Savanilla, 18⅝c. a 20c.; Curacca, 16⅝c. a 19c.

COTTON on the spot was quiet, but unchanged. Liverpool news was unfavorable; market being dull at 1-16d. lower on spot cotton and easier on arrivals. Our market opened at about ⅛c. decline, but soon reacted and May sold at 11.50c. Late advices from Liverpool were more favorable, the market being reported steady both for spot cotton and arrivals, and our market improved slightly and closed steady, with an advance for the day of from 8 to 12 points. The closing prices of to-day compare with Tuesday's as follows:—

Tuesday, March 20.		Wednesday, March 21.	
March	11.26 a 11.29	March	11.34 a 11.36
April	11.27 a 11.28	April	11.35 a 11.37
May	11.42 a 11.43	May	11.50 a 11.51
June	11.56 a 11.57	June	11.65 a 11.66
July	11.67 a 11.68	July	11.76 a 11.78
August	11.75 a 11.76	August	11.85 a 11.86
September	11.62 a 11.65	September	11.67 a 11.68
October	11.39 a 11.41	October	11.49 a 11.50
November	11.27 a 11.28	November	11.38 a 11.40
December	11.27 a 11.28	December	11.38 a 11.40

Quotations are based on American standard of classification, as cotton in store running in quality not more than half a grade above or be ow the grade quoted:—

	Uplands.	Alabama.	N. Orleans.	Texas.
Ordinary	9 13-16	9 13-16	9 15-16	9 15-16
Strict ordinary	10 3-16	10 3-16	10 5-16	10 5-16
Good ordinary	10 11-16	10 11-16	10 13-16	10 13-16
Strict good ordinary	10 13-16	10 13-16	10 15-16	10 15-16
Low middling	11	11	11¼	11⅜
Strict low middling	11¼	11¼	11⅜	11⅝
Middling	11¾	11¾	11⅞	11⅞
Good middling	11¾	11¾	11⅞	11⅞
Strict good middling	12	12	12⅛	12⅛
Middling fair	12¾	12¾	12⅞	12⅞
Fair	13⅛	13⅛	13¼	13¼

—Stained—Good ordinary, 9 7-16c.; strict good ordinary, 10 1-16c.; low middling, 10⅜c.; middling, 10⅞c. Spot sales were as follows:—

	To-day.	Last Evening.	Total.
Export	300	222	522
Speculation	185	3.0	485
Speculation	—	—	2
Totals	387	522	909

—Delivered on contract, 500 bales. For future delivery the sales were as follows:—Yesterday, after two P. M.—March, 200 at 11.27c.; April, 400 at 11.27c., 900 at 11.28c., 1,900 at 11.29c.; May, 200 at 11.42c., 2,200 at 11.43c., 1,900 at 11.44c., 100 at 11.46c., 200 at 11.45c.; June, 400 at 11.56c., 600 at 11.57c., 1,300 at 11.58c.; July, 300 at 11.68c., 700 at 11.69c.; August, 200 at 11.78c., 400 at 11.77c., 400 at 11.74c., 1,000 at 11.75c., 900 at 11.76c.; December, 300 at 11.26c. Total, 15,400 bales. To-day up to two P. M., April, 200 at 11.28c., 800 at 11.27c., 300 at 11.26c., 200 at 11.28c., 800 at 11.19c., 500 at 11.21c., 300 at 11.22c., 100 at 11.24c., 500 at 11.26c., 200 at 11.28c., 2,100 at 11.29c., 600 at 11.30c., 100 at 11.31c., 200 at 11.32c., 700 at 11.29c., 1,000 at 11.26c., 100 at 11.28c., 100 at 11.27c., 100 at 11.26c., 300 at 11.32c., 900 at 11.60c., 100 at 11.58c., 200 at 11.57c., 100 at 11.61c., 2,000 at 11.62c., 200 at 11.64c., 1,000 at 11.65c., 800 at 11.66c.; July, 300 at 11.38c., 300 at 11.37c., 500 at 11.36c., 300 at 11.36c., 400 at 11.41c., 100 at 11.42c., 1,400 at 11.43c., 500 at 11.44c., 3,100 at 11.45c., 2,200 at 11.46c., 300 at 11.47c., 1,500 at 11.48c., 400 at 11.49c., 300 at 11.50c., 200 at 11.48c., 200 at 11.47c., 200 at 11.46c., 700 at 11.45c., 200 at 11.44c., 1,000 at 11.42c., 600 at 11.41c., 200 at 11.42c., 700 at 11.43c., 2,200 at 11.44c., 200 at 11.45c., 100 at 11.46c., 800 at 11.46c., 400 at 11.46c., 100 at 11.47c., 500 at 11.48c., 1,200 at 11.49c., 600 at 11.50c.; June, 1,700 at 11.55c., 300 at 11.46c., 800 at 11.47c., 700 at 11.48c., 800 at 11.49c., 2,600 at 11.50c., 300 at 11.51c., 200 at 11.52c., 100 at 11.57c., 400 at 11.58c., 800 at 11.59c., 500 at 11.60c., 100 at 11.61c., 300 at 11.62