MEMPHIS APPEAL.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 1866.

Office—No. 13 Madison Street.

Our Business Office

Will be opened from 8 o'clock A. M., until 8 P. M. Advertisers will please bear this in mind and hand in their favors early.

The Mails Close,

For New Orleans, Pickaburg, Jackson and Grenada, three times a week, via Memphis & Charleston and Mississippi Central Railroad.

Nashville, Louisville and Cincinnati, daily, 2:15 p. m., via Nashville & Decatur Railroad.

For New York, Richmond, Baltimore, Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, and all Eastern cities, daily, at 2:15 p.m., on Memphis & Charleston Railroad, between Memphis and Stevenson.

Cairo, Chicago, St. Louis, and Northern and Western, daily at 4 p.m., via River to Cairo.

Fulton, and way landings, three times a week.

Mobile and Mobile, and Mobile & Ohio Railroad, three times a week, at 2:15 p.m.

Memphis & Ohio Railroad, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, at 5 p.m.

Little Rock and White River, three times a week, at 4 p.m.

LOCAL MATTERS.

PERSONAL.—Brig.-Gen. N. A. M. Dudley, has arrived in the city and is stopping at the Gayoso House.

PERSONAL.—Yesterday we had the pleasure of greeting our old friend, Mr. Thomas Dobbins, who has just returned from California, where he has been sojourning for the past eight years.

BOREEEY.—The store of Chapsky, Kenzler & Co., on the corner of Poplar and Second streets, was entered on Wednesday night last, and robbed of tobacco and cigars, amounting in value to over four hundred dollars. The thieves escaped.

QUARTERLY COUNTY COURT.—The Quarterly County Court adjourned on Wednesday last to Saturday next, at which time it is desired that all legal justices of the peace of Shelby county will attend. Business of great importance to the county will be brought up.

THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN AND CONCRET SALOONS.—Alderman Tour offered a resolution at the last meeting of the Board, requesting the City Attorney to submit his opinion in regard to the means necessary to be employed in abolishing those "institutions."

RECORDER'S COURT.—The city has been remarkably quiet during the past two or three days. "The conservators of the peace" arrested nine persons on Tuesday night, and had them locked up. Nothing transpired before Acting Recorder Cotton yesterday morning. Fines and costs amounting to forty-three dollars were collected.

FREEDMEN'S COURT.—The following negroes were tried in the Freedmen's Court, this morning: George Parks, for whipping his wife, fined ten dollars; John Lane, misdemeanor, five dollars; Frank Cole, misdemeanor, fined five dollars; Bill Horn, drunk and disorderly, five dollars; John Hardwig, misdemeanor, five dollars; Richard Jordan, driving on sidewalk, five dollars.

THE CONCERT AT CAPEN'S CHAPEL.—The concert given for the benefit of Capen's Chapel, under the auspices of Prof. Winkler, passed off last evening in a most pleasing and satisfactory manner. The ladies and gentlemen present displayed throughout the affair the liveliest appreciation of the exertions of the vocal and instrumental music selected for the occasion, in which ability of a very superior order was displayed.

NUISANCES.—From the following extract, taken from a communication presented to the Board at their last meeting, by Chief of Police Garrett, it appears that our streets and alleys are not in the most excellent condition: "In regard to nuisances, I respectfully state that every street and alley, in their present condition, I consider a nuisance. I have no report that all crossings on the streets, which were ordered to be rounded up in the last two months by the Street Commissioner, are now covered with mud from six to ten inches deep."

FESTIVE.—Want of space compelled us to omit a notice of the grand ball given on board the steamer Van Phul, in our issue of yesterday morning. Several of our cotemporaries have, however, noticed it, in a very complimentary and deserving manner. Suffice it for us to say, that it was an unfeigned delight to witness the joyousness and merriment of the most fashionable character, and one reflecting infinite credit on the officers of the boat, Capt. Allen and Messrs. Burwell and Syland.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.—This Association, as will be seen by their advertisement in another column, appeals to the support of the public for the worthy purpose of increasing the collection of books and general literature, at present on the shelves of their Librarian's room, and proposes giving the public in return for the money a series of musical and literary entertainments, commencing on Tuesday evening next. The appeal should be promptly responded to by all good citizens, as the object aimed at by the Association is a most excellent and deserving one.

EXTRALIZY RESOLUTIONS.—The following resolutions were offered by Alderman Tour, at the Council meeting, on Tuesday night last. They are suggestive of great good:

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed by the Chair to examine and report to this Board what steps should be taken with the view of inducing Congress to reestablish a United States Naval Depot at Memphis.

Resolved, That the Ordinance Committee be and is hereby instructed to prepare an ordinance, and report the same to the next meeting of this Board, prohibiting the laying of Main street from Beale to Market, with Nicholson or other pavement, said ordinance to be in accordance with the provisions of the City Charter.

CHANCERY COURT.—Motion day was postponed in this Court yesterday, to Saturday next. Several important cases were disposed of. The following cases were set for trial to-day:

20. D. H. Gordon vs. E. Cheek, et al.
266. Thomas W. Hunt vs. R. H. Benson, et al.
268. James P. Holmes vs. Jas. M. Walton, et al.
271. Charles R. Dalton vs. C. J. Morton, et al.
285. Jesse H. Bostick et al. vs. J. H. H. Bostick et al.
286. James Davis et al. vs. Jas. L. Jenifer, et al.
288. John R. Hill vs. M. M. Walker, et al.
289. James Young vs. Wm. Young, et al.
290. George J. Bibb vs. Buford Brown et al.
291. Mary Sheldon vs. James H. Sheldon.
310. E. A. White, et al., vs. Harriet A. Yoe, et al.
311. James A. Rodgers et al., vs. Sarah A. Anderson et al.
312. Jesse C. Saint vs. Austin M. Cook et al.
319. George Dixon, adm'r, vs. James Wickersham et al.
320. W. S. Rainey, adm'r, vs. Bertille G. Rainey et al.
322. Henry L. Cleveland vs. William Ferguson et al.
324. Jethro Harrison vs. L. S. Burr & Co.
327. Wm. Peck vs. A. W. Grawold.
328. Charles Scott & Co. vs. William Silberger.

SHOCKING MURDER.

Mr. Samuel Howell Assassinated and Murdered in Cold Blood by a Negro.

THE NEGRO EFFECTS HIS ESCAPE.

Intense Excitement Prevailing in the Neighborhood.

On last Saturday night a most horrid and cold blooded murder was committed by a negro, named Armstead Randolph, on the person of a peaceable and unoffending citizen, Mr. Samuel Howell, living in the neighborhood of Lafayette depot, in Fayette county, Tenn., thirty-five miles east of this city, on the Memphis and Charleston Railroad. The negro had been in the employment of Mr. Howell some three or four days, and was in the same cabin with Mr. Howell and his wife and children, until about seven o'clock on the evening previous to the occurrence. At about this time Mr. Howell stepped out and went to his stable, followed in a few moments after by the negro, who, with an axe in his hand, perpetrated the shocking and horrid murder, by striking him repeatedly with the sharp edge of the axe. It is supposed that the jugular vein was almost instantly severed. Many other evidences of violence were found by the jury of inquest. Such was the cool deliberation of the murderer that he immediately returned to the house, and when asked by Mrs. Howell where her husband was, he said that Mr. H. was at Mrs. Crow's (a near neighbor), trading for another horse, having bought one in the morning, and produced the pocket-book of Mr. H., containing the sum of two dollars, which he had taken from his person. He told the lady that Mr. H. wanted thirty dollars more, which she handed him, and with which he left, and took the cars at Lafayette, on Sunday morning, for this place. On Sunday morning Mrs. Howell found the dead body of her husband in the yard, in a horribly mutilated condition, but enough evidence to show the manner of his death. The axe which the monster had used on the occasion was lying in close proximity to the dead body.

Mr. Howell was a gentleman of about twenty-five years of age, and leaves behind him a wife and two children. He was regarded by all who knew him, as an honest, peaceful and unoffending citizen, and our sympathy for his untimely death is extended to his bereaved family.

Mr. Howell was a member of Mount Moriah lodge, of Lafayette, and was buried with the honors of a member, in good standing, of the Masonic fraternity. The negro is of a copper-colored hue, of ordinary size, prominent eye, and very bad countenance, and was well known to the neighborhood before he entered the service of Mr. Howell. The negro has said that he came from near Brownsville, in Haywood county, Tenn. The effect has created the greatest excitement in the neighborhood, and it is much to be feared that troubles of a very serious nature will ensue if the negro, who are not known in the vicinity of this atrocious murder. The matter has been made known to the civil authorities in Shelby, and every exertion is being made by them to capture and bring to justice the inhuman monster, whose hands are yet reeking with the blood of his innocent victim.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

For Rent.—Attention is called to the eligible store, 202 Front street, for rent. jan 21

A Continual Rush At Menken Bro's for the cheap and beautiful Dress Goods, at 50 cents a yard, worth 75 cents.

Lumber.—Those desiring a good quality of Lumber of any kind, will consult their own interest by calling on T. J. Rice, on Adams street, between Front and the levee.

Every Lady in Memphis Should see the great bargains at Menken Bro.'s & Co. Flannels at 50 cents, worth $1 00; Bed Blankets, at $6 00 a pair, worth $10, and a hundred other articles at half their regular price. Go there at once.

The Great Success of Menken Bro.'s & Co.'s Dry Goods House, is that they sell cheap. Go and see the bargains they offer.

Bonnets and Fine Millinery Goods.—A la Parisienne.—Ladies who desire the latest style of Dress goods and notions, and who desire the latest Parisian styles of Millinery, should not fail to call on Mrs. Goven, at No. 355 Main street.

Attention, Ladies!—Millinery at 328 Main Street, will be sold by Mrs. Gogen at very reduced prices before moving to her new store, 355 Main street.

Gold Eagle Restaurant.—Birds, beasts, fish, vegetables, sauces, spices, relishes and stimulants. Everything that the appetite, whether vicious from abstinence, feeble from indulgence, or weak from sickness, can crave, can be found at the Golden Eagle Restaurant, it is nearly opposite the APPEAL office on Madison Street.

Fenian Brotherhood.—The usual weekly meeting of the Mitchell Circle, of this city, will be held this evening at 13½ Jefferson street, at 7 o'clock. The Secretary has received important letters from the Senate and President, bearing on the issue between both parties, which will be laid before the meeting. A full attendance of all members, including those admitted at the late meeting, is desirable.

Columbian Gin.

We Stop to announce that there will be a great stock sale at 41 and 43 Court street. There is a fine lot of Plantation and Plough Stock, and it will be sold to-day.

White Laborers.—By reference to the advertisement of Messrs. Goodman & Merrill, it will be seen that these gentlemen are prepared to supply Emigrant Laborers to Southern Planters at low wages and on reasonable terms. Parties wishing to gain any information on the subject can do so by calling on Mr. Goodman, the senior of the firm, at his office in the Jackson Block, on Main street.

Valuable Property.—Messrs. Benton & Maclean advertise in another column valuable property on very reasonable terms. Full particulars may be had at the Eclipse Saloon or at the business house of C. Aldridge, No. 338½ Main street.

Stock! Stock!! Stock!!!—Horses, Mares, Mules, Carriages, Spring Wagons and Harness this, Thursday morning at ten o'clock, by Geo. Kellogg, at Lutz, Windle & Co.'s Stable, Nos. 41 and 43 South Court street, (Court Square).

The Columbia Athenæum.—It is gratifying to learn that this school, formerly so continued to be so fashionable, now in full operation, having escaped the ravages of war without any damage to its costly library, philosophical and chemical apparatus, musical instruments, paintings, statuary, etc. 1t*

Great Reduction continued at Mack Bros. & Bohm, No. 351 Main street, who will close out their entire and immense stock of Dress Goods, Cloaks, Shawls, Balmorals, Blankets, etc., at less than cost. Ladies, now is your time to purchase bargains, and when you go out shopping call at Mack Bros. & Bohm. jan3 2t

Columbian Gin.

For Rent.—A Large Hotel, on Main street, No. 282, fourth story, size 25 by 85 feet.

For particulars apply on the third story of same building, within two or three days, to the undersigned.

Jan 3—2t WM. M. PERKINS.

Mules.—Sixty head of fine young mules, well broke. Also, twenty head of fine Kentucky horses are for sale cheap at Cross & Evans' livery stable, on Third street, opposite the post office.

20. D. H. Gordon vs. E. Cheek, et al.
266. Thomas W. Hunt vs. R. H. Benson, et al.
268. James P. Holmes vs. Jas. M. Walton, et al.
271. Charles R. Dalton vs. C. J. Morton, et al.
285. Jesse H. Bostick et al. vs. J. H. H. Bostick et al.
286. James Davis et al. vs. Jas. L. Jenifer, et al.
288. John R. Hill vs. M. M. Walker, et al.
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324. Jethro Harrison vs. L. S. Burr & Co.
327. Wm. Peck vs. A. W. Grawold.
328. Charles Scott & Co. vs. William Silberger.

Just Received and for sale to the trade, and retail, 50,000 valentines, in lots to suit purchasers. Also, 50 dozen diaries for 1866.

jan2 1t EMMONS & SON,
No. 10 Jefferson street, Memphis, Tenn.

Cheap, very cheap Goods at Menken Bros. & Co.

CITY NEWS.

Thanks.—Messrs. Bielock & Co., have our thanks for full files of late Northern and Eastern papers.

Late Papers.—Messrs. Emmons & Son have just received New York weeklies and dailies of the very latest dates. Among others they have received *Harper's Weekly, Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, Army and Navy Gazette, New York Weekly* and *New York Mercury*.

RIVER MATTERS.

Since our last report the following have been the

Arrivals.

Steamer Virginia, from New Orleans.
" St. Patrick, from Louisville.
" Justice, from White river.
" Robert Burns, from Cincinnati.

During the same period the following have been the

Departures.

Steamer Van Phul, for New Orleans.
" Indiana, for Cairo.
" Zephyr, for St. Louis.
" St. Patrick, for Louisville.
" Nannie Byers, for Cincinnati.

The following is a list of the remaining

Boats Lying at the Landing.

R. Hamblston, Pilgrim — Harry Dean, Justice, Guidon, Commercial, Gleaner, Amelia Poe.

Weather and Business.

Yesterday was cloudy, chilly and unpleasant. Business on the levee was only tolerable.

The river still continues to rise slowly.

Miscellaneous.

The St. Patrick left with a tremendous trip of passengers and freight.

The St. Patrick met the Morning Star and City of Cairo at Hickman, the City of Cairo aground.

A correspondent in the St. Louis *Democrat* says: "I am satisfied that by constructing two stone dykes in the Mississippi, above St. Louis, our harbor would be preserved in navigable order every winter, without fail. The current of the river would by these dykes be confined to a narrow passage, and the results would inevitably be to cause 1st. The floating ice to gorge immediately above the dykes. 2d. To prevent a flow of ice through the harbor, and render out of the question any gorge at widow Waters' landing, twenty-two miles below the port. Thus, I am confident, would navigation from St. Louis to the South be preserved throughout the year, and an incalculable benefit accrue to our commercial interests."

It is well known that the closing of our harbor with ice is invariably caused by the choking of the river at widow Waters' and that nearly every winter, there is good navigation below that point. It is very plain that if, above St. Louis, a narrower place is made than the channel at the landing of widow Waters', the latter will no more be gorged so as to cut us off from river communication with the South.

The Henry Von Phul departed for New Orleans last evening with an immense trip.

Some time since a committee was appointed to inquire into the amount of tonnage employed on the Mississippi river and its tributaries, with a view to the improvement of that great commercial artery. The result of their inquiry shows a total of 815 steamers, with a capacity of 272,144 tons, valued at $24,566,800. St. Louis has 230 steamers, with a capacity for 76,798 tons, valued at $8,500,000. The next principal port is Cincinnati—128 steamers, with a capacity of 25,370 tons, and valued at $7,800,000. New Orleans 81 steamers, Pittsburg 78 steamers, and St. Louis; Louisville 64, Memphis 60; Wheeling 54; St. Paul, 53, etc.

The recent big rise in the Cumberland has been taken advantage of by the coal men at Cumberland City. And they succeeded in floating safely over the falls, sixteen barges filled with anthracite. One of the boats was lost on the trip, but Hissen arrived safely yesterday. These barges contain 700 an average about six thousand bushels, and the total amount received is about ninety thousand bushels. Another fleet is expected in a few days.

The Cincinnati Commercial of January 1st, says freights are abundant for Memphis and Nashville, with adequate tonnage, however, the strong competition making rates ruinously low, viz: 20 cents to Nashville, 25 cents to Memphis, and 60@65 cents per 100 to New Orleans.

The Rivers Above.

Our latest dates from points above are to the 1st.

The Cincinnati Commercial of the above date says:

The weather was clear and cold yesterday, with a slight effect at snow or rain. At Pittsburg the river is falling with eight feet in the channel by the Monongahela marks. Here the river has receded three feet during the twenty-four hours ending last night. There are thirty-eight feet hence to Louisville. There is twelve feet over the Falls, and twenty-five feet on the shoalest bars along the Lower Ohio. Navigation is still suspended in the Mississippi, from St. Louis to Cairo, by ice. There is twenty-eight feet, and falling, in the Cumberland.

The Nashville *Gazette* says:

The Cumberland was still rising yesterday, with a sufficient depth on the shoals for the largest class steamers, and considerable to spare.

Boats Leaving Port.

FOR CAIRO, LOUISVILLE AND CINCINNATI.—The splendid passenger packet Amelia Poe, leaves for Cincinnati, touching at all way points, this day at five o'clock P. M. This boat maintains an excellent reputation, and we would advise shippers and travelers to call on board for freight or passage.

FOR CINCINNATI.—The Robert Burns, a magnificent passenger packet, swift and reliable, leaves the wharfboat this day at 5 o'clock, for the above and intermediate points. Passengers and shippers are directed for particulars to Larry Harmistead, No. 14 Jefferson street, and Enoch Taylor, No. 20 Front street.

FOR NEW ORLEANS.—The splendid and commodious passenger packet Mississippi, leaves as above on this day, at 12 o'clock M. This is one of our best and most comfortable steamers, and commanded by an efficient and agreeable corps of officers, all of whom are favorably known to the public. J. V. Lewis, agent.

FOR CAIRO AND CINCINNATI.—The splendid and swift passenger packet Harry Dean, leaves our wharf for the above and way points this day at 5 o'clock P. M. Shippers having freight for above have a splendid opportunity by this boat and passengers may assure themselves of a pleasant trip. James T. Bourne & Co., No. 12 Jefferson street, and Elliott & Miller, No. 21 Madison street, agents.

FOR PINE BLUFF AND LITTLE ROCK.—The commodious and elegant passenger packet Gleaner, will depart for the above and intermediate points, on this City, at 5 P. M. This boat is fast gaining favor with the shipping and traveling public, and with the urbane and attentive officers now in command she will omit no time to receive a considerable share of patronage. For particulars apply to R. W. Lightburn, Secretary, or N. S. Green, No. 278 Front street, agents.

FOR JACKSONPORT.—The elegant steamer Des Arc, leaves for the above and intermediate points Friday at 5 P. M. For safety and comfort, this boat is unsurpassed. Larry Harmistead, No. 14 Jefferson street, agent. R. W. Lightburn, Secretary and N. S. Green, 278 Front street, Superintendent.

FOR JACKSONPORT.—The fine passenger packet Justice, will take leave for Jacksonport on this evening, at 5 o'clock P. M. She is an elegant boat—possessing everything that is essential to the comfort and pleasure of the traveler—and we take pleasure in commending her to the consideration of freighters. James T. Bourne & Co., No. 12 Jefferson street, agents.

FOR LOUISVILLE.—The regular weekly packet Tarascon, will leave for the above and all way points this day at 4 o'clock P. M. Passengers on this boat will find superior accommodations, and shippers may depend on its reliability. James T. Bourne & Co., No. 12 Jefferson street, agents.

FOR VICKSBURG AND NEW ORLEANS.—The magnificent passenger steamer Commonwealth, will leave as above, on this day, at 5 o'clock P. M. This is one of the most splendid packets on the river, and passengers and shippers would find it to their advantage to call on the agents, Johnson & Wright, No. 262 Front street.

FOR NEW ORLEANS.—The magnificent passenger steamer Kingfisher, will clear for the above and intermediate points on Monday, at 5 o'clock P. M. James T. Bourne & Co., No. 12 Jefferson street, agents.

ON 'CHANGE.

We have a sincere conviction that we are amiable. In addition to this, if the late war has bequeathed to us one moral which substantiates every other doctrine of the decalogue, it is its total alteration. Two reasons for this obviously suggest themselves. One is, that we might get the worst of it. The other need not be stated, the first being satisfactory. This natural, and thoroughly educated desire for peace, has been sorely exercised by the President of the Memphis & Charleston Railroad.

It is sufficiently embarrassing to be taken to task, when one has wilfully erred, but to be snubbed for what we fondly supposed was a praiseworthy act, is enough to arouse the fallen humanity within us.

In an article published some time since, with reference to the trade of North Alabama, we offered several statements, which bore reproachfully upon the Memphis & Charleston Railroad. Statements of a similar character had reached us before, but in the instances under review they were avouched by so respectable a witness, that we decided to allow them a public expression. The purpose which that publication emanated, could hardly have been misconstrued by Mr. Tate, except on the unfounded supposition that he was personally impeached. The general tenor of the article, and its express declaration show that the injection of awarding an accusation of injurious, never entered into its design. On the contrary, the Memphis & Charleston Railroad was invited, and even invoked, to vindicate itself from charges, which seriously injured Memphis, if they were true, and which greatly traduced her own fame, if they were untrue. Reports were in popular circulation, which reflected a considerable dissatisfaction with the management of the Memphis & Charleston Road. We collated these reports, and opened our own columns to the road, as a channel of defence. Surely this evinced no spirit, inimical to its interests. We claim to be free from all bias, hostile to it, or its president. We have no interest in any rival route—a circumstance we sincerely regret—and we certainly have no ill will against Mr. Tate. So far from it, we only know that gentleman by character, as a capitalist, and a capitalist is an object, to which we always lift our cap with respectful deference.

Our surprise may therefore be well imagined, when on our return to the city, we read the communication published in our absence, over the official signature of the President of the Memphis & Charleston Railroad. One portion of it, we perused with unaffected pleasure. We refer to that part, which presents a comparative table of the tariffs, prevailing on the different roads connected with Memphis. We congratulate Mr. Tate upon that directive exhibit. Assuming these figures as a basis, it is put beyond debate, that the Memphis & Charleston Railroad is the cheapest route which has to do with this city. It furnishes a triumphant vindication of his road, and himself, which would seem to be his cardinal purpose, and silences the voice of detraction, in a manner at once summary and conclusive. This is precisely the *denouement*, which our obnoxious article sought to provoke. We were anxious to see the road direct itself of the odium, which a disadvantageous public opinion attached to it, and we adopted as we thought at the time, the shortest and most satisfactory method to achieve it. Had Mr. Tate furnished us with the facts to which we now allude, instead of presenting them himself, we should have published them with pleasure, and urged them with honest zeal. If in the course of the argument, it became necessary to diverge into an episode of independent public service, the history of these services would perhaps have fallen with more potent effect, coming from the pen of a third party. This however is matter of taste, which we do not assume to discuss.

That feature of his article which particularly excites our amazement, is the theory on his part, that we were actuated by an elaborate desire to impugn him individually. We were under a general impression, that the affairs of a railroad were entrusted to its directors, and did not suspect that the president absorbed all ministerial functions. Mr. Tate however appears to entertain the reflection, that he stands at the road, which is not directed personally against him. In fact, a disinterested person upon reading his communication, might not unnaturally infer, that Mr. Tate and the Charleston R. R. were synonymous terms, each being but a convenient synonim of the other. Now we blush to confess, that Mr. Tate was not in our mind, when the article in question was written. We wrote under what we conceived to be the instigations of a public duty, and become aware for the first time, when we read Mr. Tate's letter, that we were running an unconscious tilt against the rectitude of his official life.

We repeat then, that so foreign to our mind is the idea of proclaiming a crusade against the Memphis & Charleston Railroad, that we are rejoiced to see it purified from aspersion, and gold our columns always open, to advocate its interests, and thus contribute to its prosperity. And as for the respected president, it is not impossible that it shall yet tell to our lot, to compose a eulogistic biography of him, commemorating his great services in behalf of Memphis. These of our cotemporaries who have published Mr. Tate's communication, will sincerely oblige us by recording a similar favor to this, our rejoinder.

Exchange.

The partial anarchy which the New York Sight exhibited on yesterday, has acquired to-day a more general dominion. A brakeless of movement is its characteristic at nearly all of the counties, and although none of the heavy transactions, which were a synecdotic feature of yesterday, appear in to-day's market, the operations are nevertheless sufficiently imposing and numerous, to diffuse a cheerful tone. The buying rate continues at ½ per cent. discount, and the selling rate, generally, at par, although rising in exceptional instances, to ¼ per cent. premium.

The improved quotations of New Orleans Sight, have not been illustrated to-day in any considerable transactions. Its movement on the whole is stagnant, and only trifling operations in it are reported to us at its previous figures; buying at par, and selling at ¼ per cent. premium.

Time Bills.

Time Bills we are grieved to relate, are gradually becoming offensively dull, and even city scrip-ish. Holders have ceased to offer them at the counters, and the counters sympathetically abstain from dispensing them. We have again to report, both New York and New Orleans, under a nominal decline. Five-day Bills on New York ¼ per cent. off, Ten-days ¾, Fifteen-days 1 per cent., and Thirty-days 1½ per cent. off. Five-day Bills on New Orleans 1 per cent. off, Ten-days 1½, Fifteen-days 1¾, and Thirty-days 2 per cent. off.

Loans.

The stream of applications for discount is continuous, and heavy, and we are glad to announce, that the response on the part of the Banks grows a little more reciprocal. Quite an array of operations are reported to-day, at unchanged quotations. Prime Five-days Paper is taken at ¼ per cent. discount, Ten-days at ⅜, Fifteen-days ½, and Thirty-days at 1 per cent. discount.

City Scrip.

City Scrip presents an aspect of insurmountable difficulty, all the nominal rules of it being, and so selling.

Stocks.

Seven-Thirties offer no unseemly boast, over the fallen fortunes of their near neighbor in distress. We therefore quote them nominally, at ⅝ buying, and ¾ selling, with accrued interest.

Gold and Silver.

Generally speaking Gold is dull, manifesting itself in small transactions, at ⅜ buying, and ½ selling. Exceptional to the above, we were advised of one large buying operation, at ⅜. Silver exhibits to-day a marked improvement in demand, and we are notified of considerable transactions at from ⅜ to ½ buying, and ⅝ selling.

Uncurrent Funds.

The threatening cloud which has lately overcanopied the horizon of Southern money, begins to disclose a vague suspicion of silver lining. The improved request adverted upon yesterday, has lost nothing of its promising tone, and all of the transactions reported to-day, exhibit great firmness of tone. In none of them however, was there any appreciable variation in the quotations previously submitted.

COMMERCIAL.

COTTON.—The unfavorable news of Tuesday was succeeded by still less favorable intelligence. A dispatch of noon quoted Middling at ⅝ cents." Under these circumstances all the buoyant feeling which opened the week was destroyed, and a very irregular market, with very little doing, was the consequence. Still there was some even running lists of Middling sold at full prices; we report to-day Middling at 62½, and 118 at 63. Rates were too irregular and unsettled to establish quotations, which we therefore omit. The unfavorable news from New York is greatly disturbing the operations of dealers and excites much surprise. The desire for the next steamer's news is great. We stated before this change in New York had occurred, that many of our dealers were looking for a check on the advance, if not a decline in Liverpool by the next steamer, and the same anticipation is probably existing in New York. The following sales were reported to us: 1 bale at 56, Mixed; 3 at 58, Repacked; 7 at 59, Ordinary; 37 at 60, 61 at 61, and 22 at 62, Low Middling; 35 at 62, 52 at 63, 17 at 63½, 61 at 64, 30 at 64½, and 118 at 65, Middling; 38 at 65 Strict Middling.

General Market.

The jobbing market exhibited but little animation. Feed still looks upward, except Bran, which is scarce and firm, and Oats which remains unchanged.

CLEAR SIDES.—Still irregular; sales of 4 casks at 18½; small lots are sold as high as 19½ cents.

HAMS.—Sales of 3 casks, Plain, at 18½c.

LARD.—Sales of 5 tierces at 21½c.

CHEESE.—Sales of 25 boxes at 22c; 10 boxes Choice at 24c.

FLOUR.—Sales of 30 barrels XX, at $10 00; 15 barrels Prime XX, $11 50; 10 barrels XXX, at $13 00. Harrison's sells at $16 50 @ $17 00.

SUGAR.—Sales 7 barrels Fair, New Orleans, at 16½c; 4 barrels Crushed and Powdered at 17½c.

COFFEE.—Sales 5 sacks Inferior at 30c; 3 sacks Rio at 32½.

CANDLES.—Sales of 15 boxes at 25c.

WHISKY.—Sales of 7 barrels, Common, at @ 30 @ $2 50.

ORANGES.—Sales of 3 boxes at $15; 7 boxes fine Lemons at $18; common Lemons sell at $7.

COCOA NUTS.—Sales 2 casks at $12 50 per 100.

POTATOES.—Sales of 50 barrels, Peach blows, at $4 00.

ONIONS.—Sales of 25 barrels, Choice, at $5 50.

APPLES.—Sales 50 barrels Prime Gentlemen at $6.

FEED.—Corn is again lower; sales of 600 sacks at $1 15. Hay was very weak; sales of 75 bales Choice at $30. Sales of 200 sacks Oats at 60 @ 65c. Bran sells at $25 @ $26.

Imports.

THURSDAY, Jan. 4.—The imports of yesterday, as copied from the books of the Merchants' Exchange, are as follows, viz:

Aaron Lindsay, 55 pkgs Hay, 481 bales Furniture, 118 pkgs. Hides, 196. Cotton, 102 bales. Vehicles, 2.

LETTER FROM GEN. SHELBY.

The following extracts from a letter from Gen. Joe Shelby, will give the reader an idea of the climate, soil and productions of Mexico. The letter was written to a private friend, without any expectation of its being published, but it is none the less interesting for that fact:

CORDOVA, MEXICO, NOV. 12, 1865.

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This is the best country I every saw. The finest climate I was ever in. I am satisfied the climate here would entirely restore your health, beside, I know the land would suit you. Everything under the sun grows here to perfection. I have seen cotton, sugar, coffee and tobacco, corn, rice, and every kind of vegetables you have in Missouri growing to perfection: fruit of every variety that can be found on earth, is to be found here; oranges, lemons, pineapples, in fact so many varieties, that the sheet of paper would not contain half their names. The land lies as pretty as in Lafayette or Saline. The government is very liberal; it offers to foreign colonists six hundred and forty acres of land free, to every man of family, at one dollar per acre, on five years time. The lands are not more than five or ten miles from the railroad, which will be completed in twelve months to this place. I am fully satisfied that any good farmer can make a fortune here in six or ten years. If our people emigrate at all, it is the best thing for them, and not Brazil. Any place but Brazil. They make two crops of corn a year here. The seasons are regular and fine, abundance of rain, and, unlike the most of Mexico, there is no fever or fevers here; corn grows beautifully, plenty of timber and fine water. It is never colder here than in September in Missouri, and it is never warmer than your May weather. We have ice here and never out of sight of snow. You will ask, how is this? I will answer, that the mountains ten miles off afford ice, and their tops are always covered with snow. If our people had this country, it would be a paradise. A farmer, ten miles from here, a German, told me he sold his coffee crop last year, the proceeds of sixty acres, for sixteen thousand dollars. He only worked ten hands, except while gathering, and then double that number. Labor here is from twenty-five to fifty cents per day; they board themselves, and only get pay for the days they work.

I have secured a section of land for you, and will hold it until I hear from you.

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We have various reports of how things are managed in Missouri, and if they are as we hear, they are horrible indeed.

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Many of your old acquaintances are here, among them, George Young; he is perfectly delighted; is going to farming immediately. I see Frank Gordon has returned. Where are your living now? My mother writes that Maury Boswell has returned. Tom is with me and doing well. Col. Frank Mitchell is up about St. Louis Potosi; has rented a large hacienda, and is planting cotton largely. But that is no such country as this. Slayback and Gen. Price are here; in all about one hundred Confederates, who intend settling. Mr. Tory's brother, Dick Collins, Charley Jones, Bill Fell. A great many who have become discouraged, out of money and away from their loved ones, have returned. Many come back. Tobacco can be made very profitable here. It grows as well here, Gen. Price says, as he ever saw it in Missouri or Virginia.

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Prospects of another war seems to be looming up. One with France; it bids fair to be a right sharp affair. Let us await and see how it goes.

Under the decree of the Emperor, you can make contracts in the United States, with your negroes for ten years, and it will be binding here; the negro will have to stick, or any person coming here can bring their servants, if they can get them to come.

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I remain yours, affectionately,
JO. O. SHELBY.

San Francisco Correspondence Chicago Times.

KNIGHTS OF THE GOLDEN CALIFORNIA.

The romantic days of Claude Duval, Sixteen String Jack, Dick Turpin & Co., are being revived on the Pacific coast, and highway robbery is of every day occurrence. But a few days ago a stage was stopped near the mouth of the Virginia City, Nevada, according to the old rules of the road. An obstruction was placed on the highway, and as the stage came up the position received orders to halt. He did as ordered, and a pistol was pointed at his head, and others of the gang made the passengers get out and stand in a row on the way side. Men kept guard over them with loaded pistols, while others relieved them of their watches, money, and other valuables. The thieves got about fifteen thousand dollars in cash, besides six gold watches, and several diamond jewels. A lady in the coach was not molested, the leader of the gang said he would "scorn to rob a woman." Wells, Fargo & Co.'s express box was robbed; the bullions was thrown away, but the coin was appropriated. After the rascals had got all that was to be had, the stage was allowed to proceed on its journey. One of the men robbed was a Boston merchant, who was out in Nevada on business. He will doubtless think it a rough country. From various parts of the State, too, we hear of robberies committed by highwaymen. In the southern portion of the State there have been gangs of these knights of the road roaming about, committing all sorts of depredations. They defy the authorities, are mounted on good horses that have been stolen, they can swoop down on the highways, do what they wish, and get back to their haunts, under a nominal law, before can start after them. One of the most serious desperados that has been in this State since the days of Joaquin—his name was Murphy—was recently killed in San Bernardino county. He was a bloody monster, and had murdered a great many men in California. A Sheriff's posse caught him by strategy, and dispatched him without any ceremony.

☞ Soon after the late war broke out, the shipments of gold from California to the Atlantic seaports dropped from about thirty-five million annually to about twelve million. All the rest was sent to foreign countries, or brought East by other conveyance, so as to escape capture by the rebel privateers. The tide has again turned, for we see, by a recent table of shipments, that twenty million five hundred and sixty four thousand eight hundred and ninety-five dollars have been sent by the California steamers to New York within the present year. The whole amount sent forward from San Francisco to the Eastern States, from January one, eighteen hundred and fifty-four, to December twenty, eighteen hundred and sixty-five, three hundred and seventy-seven million eighty thousand seven hundred and nineteen dollars. Of course this is the whole product for the time specified. Much of the gold is sent to foreign countries to pay for merchandise and to settle exchanges, and a vast deal more is sent East by other modes than regular shipment by the steamers. In a recent work published by Mr. Roman at San Francisco, the whole gold product of the Pacific country since eighteen hundred and forty-nine is set down at seven hundred and fifty million dollars.

ONE OF MAXIMILIAN'S GENERALS.

The New Orleans *Times*' Brownsville correspondent gives the following sketch of one of Maximilian's Generals at Matamoras, Mejia, who actually commands the Austrian forces at that place:

"Gen. Thomas Mejia is an uneducated man, so much so that he cannot read; his private conduct is so infamous that he seems afraid to trust his men out of his entrenchments, though the reinforcement of four hundred Austrians ought to enable him to take the offensive. He is so infamous that no decent lady would be seen in his company. So far from being of a good family, he is the son of a servant girl, a pure Indian, of the Mountain of Sierra Gordo, and of illegitimate birth. He began his career by plundering the hacienda near Queretaro during Gen. Arista's Presidency, in the rebellion of the inhabitants of Sierra Gordo in eighteen hundred and forty-nine. He sold himself to the Liberal government, delivering up his former companions. During Miramon's dictatorship he played an important part, and by his personal bravery got the position he now occupies in the armies opposed to the Liberals. Being at last disastrously defeated near the mines of Pachuca by the Liberal Gen. Tapia, he withdrew to the mountain fastnesses of Sierra Gordo, where he remained comparatively quiet until the French occupied the City of Mexico, when Thomas Mejia joined them. His life is a long catalogue of crimes of the blackest description—any of a character which cannot be published.

"Senor Robles, the Minister of Maximilian, who lately visited Matamoras, was highly incensed with some of Thomas Mejia's conduct, and reprimanded him severely. It is said he has been ordered to report to Maximilian in the City of Mexico, but he declines going or giving up his command. He is ordered to make no movement without consulting the commander of the Austrian troops, which has highly incensed him. He disposes of the revenue of Matamoras without heeding the remonstrances of the treasury officers of the Empire.

"The Austrian soldiers are kept in strict confinement, as they were deserting in numb