

Gold.

On the 5th instant, gold, in New York, advanced to 148½, under the impression that the President's message would be threatening in relation to Mexico, the Monroe doctrine and the ravages of rebel cruisers fitted out from English ports; but the message having been published, and being construed to mean peace, gold declined to 144½, which is the last quotation we have received from the North. In Richmond, (says the Times,) brokers, guided of course by the New York market, are offering 144, and offering to sell at 145 to 146.

The question of war or peace now mainly affects the price of gold, and with good reason, for a war with one of the great powers, at any time within the next year or two, must necessitate the issue of more greenbacks to meet the increased expenses of the Government, and with their increase in volume they would depreciate in value. And a foreign war, while yet the Southern States are debarred reconstruction, by the radicals in Congress, would further infinitely enhance the value of gold by shaking public confidence. The nation going into war as a unit, with all its States and Territories represented in Congress, and unanimous against a common enemy, and with all its States recovering their industrial wealth, under restored political privileges, must enjoy a far different and higher credit at home and abroad than the same nation with a third of its States and population excluded from the national councils and groaning in hopeless poverty. It might be worth the consideration of those at Washington, whether the condition in which the Union is kept by the exclusion of the Southern States from their rights and privileges under the Constitution, will not embolden France and England in their bearing towards the United States.

But there are other lesser but real causes for the present fall in gold, in addition to the present supposed peaceful aspect of the national horizon. The Government, on the 15th instant, was to pay out \$11,000,000 in gold, the semi-annual interest on 300,000,000 of seven-thirty notes. The Treasury is, there being no prospect of war, master of the gold market, through the large sums now paid for duties on imports and the new system of gold certificates, whereby a gold currency to an amount of the gold deposits, and one-fifth over is, in effect, obtained; the belief now general that Congress will not (always supposing there is peace) authorize any further expansion of the currency; and lastly, but we do not know that it is the least potent cause, the report repeated simultaneously in New York and throughout the Union, that the President is unequivocally in favor of the immediate admission of Southern Senators and Representatives to their seats in Congress.

Our Foreign Relations.

There can be no doubt but that the diplomatic relations between the United States, England and France are becoming more and more complicated, and nothing but the most cautious and sagacious statesmanship can prevent us from being plunged into a bitter war with one or both of our trans-Atlantic cousins at no very distant day. The Northern papers are freely discussing the probabilities and results of a contest, and the administration journals South do not deny that great danger exists.

With the Wilmington Journal, we trust that these apprehensions may be unfounded, for the South is in no condition to bear her share of the burdens that such a war will entail upon the country. We have been utterly drained of our resources, and our soil is yet white with the bones of our bravest and our best. We would be willing to make almost any temporary sacrifice that does not involve our honor and self-respect to avoid a foreign contest at this juncture, but if all our prayers are unavailing, and it must come, then let it come, in God's name, and leave Him to defend the right.

CLOSING OF MAILS.—The Charleston mail closes daily at 4 o'clock p. m.; Charleston way mail, 3 o'clock p. m.; Northern mail, 4 o'clock p. m.; Greenville and Columbia Railroad mail, Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday, at 4 o'clock p. m.

THE BURNING OF COLUMBIA.—An interesting account of the "Sack and Destruction of the City of Columbia, S. C.," has just been issued, in pamphlet form, from the Phoenix steam power press. Orders can be filled to any extent.

Radicalism vs. Conservatism.

Radicalism, the Augusta Sentinel truthfully remarks, has been the cause of the most frightful evils that have beset men in the pathway of life. From it, war and all its attendant evils spring. The late unhappy struggle owes its origin to the politicians of the North and South. All its woes are to be laid to their charge. War with all its horrors, has rushed across our land like a hurricane; desolation marked its pathway, and mourning followed in its train. Demoralization, frightful depravity, and grief were its attendants. Wherever you turn your eyes, they are met by ruin. Amid all these gloomy evidences of the schism and ignorance of radical politicians, they yet clamor to rule and seek popular favor with no other claim, than that they have been consistent in wrong. Consistency in politicians is more proof of obstinate ignorance, than wise statesmanship. Political ideas must be tempered to the times. Measures that were wise in the eleventh century, are foolish in this. Principles that were suited to the exigency of the country ten years since, would be inexpedient now. Wise statesmen adopt measures fitted for the emergency. The simple seize hold of a theory without regard to its practicability, and cling to it to the last.

The action of some of our State Conventions furnishes the most striking illustration of the latter class. Assembled in the most eventful period of the history of the States, at a time when all the talent and power of the Conventions should have been used to provide for the future; amid all this responsibility, they ignored the public good to preserve a record of consistency. Instead of doing all in their power to assist President Johnson in his great work of reconstruction, and at the same time assist themselves, they acted in direct opposition to the policy he had determined to adopt, and which, with their support, he might carry out; and so conducted in many respects as to strengthen the radicals in the North—and give aid and comfort to men who have been for years their enemies, and who would now continue their oppression had they the power to do so. Is it not strange to see the extreme Southron marching under the banner of the ultras of the North?

Conservatism will yet rule the country. It is the life-blood of a Republic; while radicalism is its greatest foe. The people are the power, and they will soon arouse themselves and rebuke radicalism in an unmistakable manner. They will not suffer themselves made fuel to warm into life dead issues. The policy of President Johnson is a conservative policy, and shows that he is a friend of the people. The South should exert herself to the utmost in supporting him.

Legislature South Carolina.

Friday, December 15, 1865.

SENATE.
The Senate met at half-past 10 a. m. Messrs. Hemphill, Sullivan, Thompson and Arthur submitted reports of committees.

The President laid before the Senate a communication from the Hon. H. D. Lesse, accepting the office of Chancellor. Mr. Davant presented the account of J. P. Thomas, for salary as Superintendent of the Arsenal Academy; also, the accounts of J. B. Patrick, for corn furnished to the South Carolina Military Academy, and for his salary and expenses as Secretary and Treasurer of the Board of Visitors of the same.

Mr. Davant, from the Committee on Accounts, Vacant Offices and Printing, reported that the term had expired for which the Trustees of the South Carolina College had been elected, and offered a resolution providing for the appointment of a committee of nomination—inviting the House to join the Senate in the appointment; which was agreed to. Adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.
The Clerk called the roll, the Speaker took the Chair, and the proceedings were opened with prayer by Rev. Mr. Pringle.

Messrs. Stackhouse, Barton, Weatherly, Walsh and Warley submitted reports of committees.

Mr. Butler introduced a resolution, which was agreed to, and ordered to be sent to the Senate, that a special commission, consisting of two members of the Senate and one member from each Congressional District in the House, be appointed to investigate and report to this General Assembly at its next regular session, the complaints made of excessive and unequal charges by the different railroad companies of this State, and to inquire and report if, and in what manner, they have violated their respective charters; that the said commission have power to summon such witnesses, and require the production of such books and papers as may be necessary; and also to inquire and report what charters are subject to amendment, and in those cases where amendments are practicable, what changes should be made to protect the interests of the public.

The appropriation bill was discussed and amended. On motion of Mr. Lucas, the courtesies of the House were extended to Right. Rev. Bishop Lynch, and he was invited to a seat on the floor of the House. Adjourned.

Foreign News.

We extract the following from the mails by the Asia:

ACTION OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT.
Representations have certainly left the French Foreign Office for the French Minister at Madrid, concerning the blockade of the Chilean ports by a Spanish squadron. As far as I can learn, from my limited sources of information, the French Government, in a spirit of reconciliation, draws attention to the injury done to French commerce by disputes between the republic and Spain, which it thinks may be removed if negotiations were opened by some friendly mediating powers. The French despatch may be less decided in tone than that of England on the same subject, but no doubt the views of the Governments of England and France are identical. It is believed here that the Chilean difficulty may be settled by mediation eventually.—Paris (Nov. 23) Correspondence London Post.

MR. BIGELOW'S INTERVIEW WITH THE CHILEAN ENVOY.

The usual weekly sitting of Ministers in Council takes place to-day at Compiègne, under the Emperor's presidency, and it is understood that a very resolute attitude is to be taken towards Spain, should there be no immediate countermand issued to the Spanish blockading squadron. The American Minister, Mr. Bigelow, had yesterday a long and serious interview with the Envoy from Chile, that republishing assured from every quarter that Washington will not allow it to be bullied. The previous attack of Spain on Peru found the United States in the throes of a new birth, and it would have called forth prompt and vigorous repression. Never was there such a general hue and cry raised in both hemispheres against the reckless aggressions of an insolent power.—Paris (Nov. 23) Correspondence London Globe.

SPANISH FEARS OF AMERICAN INTERVENTION.

War between Spain and Chile is now therefore a fact, since the blockade of the ports constitutes a measure of this class. We nevertheless entertain the hope that the mediation of the foreign diplomatic body will have prevented a conflict between the Spanish squadron and the Chilean forces, as well as the announced bombardment of the ports. It is to be desired that matters do not go so far as to render pacific means useless or impossible. The expedition to the Pacific and the energetic course pursued by Spain towards the Peruvian Government amply suffice to give strength and prestige to the Spanish flag in those regions. It is certain that the determination of the Chilean Government denying access to or departure from its ports of vessels supplying provisions to our squadron was not befitting a neutral nation, and afforded ground for the demands presented by Admiral Pareja. Nevertheless, it is not every act of indirect hostility that should produce a war, particularly when one has just been terminated with honor. In the present state of things in America, and in view of the impression produced throughout that continent by the policy and conduct of the Spanish Government in the Peruvian question, it would have been preferable for our interests and more prudent had matters been prevented from taking their present turn. Spain should not go to America except to gain honor, and with it the friendship and respect of American States. For that the occupation of the Chincha and the satisfaction obtained from Peru suffice. A constant menacing by Spain of these republics, accustomed to see more powerful nations tolerate from them, in the interest of trade and from consideration for their weakness and the instability of their popular Governments, what they certainly would not endure from more powerful States, will cause great disturbance of trade and raise and unite these republics against us. It will very greatly prejudice the interests of Spanish subjects, and will expose us in the long run to more serious complications, the more to be apprehended from the present condition of North America, accustomed to action, possessing great military resources, and proud of her triumphs and the spectacle she has just given to the world. The very weakness of the South American republics as military and naval powers, and their mercantile importance, augment the difficulty of rigorous measures. The bombardment of an important port would give rise to serious complaints throughout Europe; the blockades of the ports and coasts cannot, at so great a distance, be effective, and we should see it justly, perhaps, unrecognized and broken, besides giving rise to a multitude of remonstrances. These inconveniences would be trifling if the honor and the reputation of the country required that a lesson should be inflicted upon a nation unaccustomed to Peru, rigorous measures are necessary for that purpose. Let us take one thing into consideration, that since the termination of the civil war in the United States, America is a source of anxiety for the strongest nations of Europe; that a great maritime war may break out at any moment, and that good policy and prudence demand that we should keep ourselves unembarrassed in order to meet such a case, instead of attracting the attention and animosity of the whole American continent, and involving ourselves in enterprises not only adventurous but unnecessary.—Madrid Epoca, Nov. 13.

DISSATISFACTION IN THE SPANISH CAPITAL.
The news of the proceedings of Admiral Pareja towards the Chilean republic has produced a feeling of dissatisfaction in Madrid, and exercised an unfavorable influence upon the public funds. It is felt that a war in that quarter is peculiarly opportune at the present moment, when Spain has so much need to economize her resources. Considerable apprehension is also expressed at the prospect of deprivations upon Spanish commerce by Chilean privateers, for which Spain could make no reprisals in any way compensating for the loss she would sustain.—Madrid (Nov. 19) Despatches to London P. ess.

ENGLAND'S INTEREST IN THE QUESTION.
A special meeting of the Bradford Chamber of Commerce was held on Wednesday, to consider what steps should be taken in

reference to the Spanish aggression upon Chile. Mr. Jacob Behrens occupied the chair. The chairman referred to the great interests that were at stake in the quarrel between Spain and Chile, and stated that the exports of British produce to Chile in 1863, were £1,431,814, of which worsted and woolen goods amounted to £200,000. The railways of Chile, representing a capital of four and a half millions sterling, had been built and were owned by Englishmen, and most of the internal commerce of the country was carried on by Englishmen and foreigners, the Chileans themselves taking very little part in it. The interests of British subjects which were threatened by the blockade and the property which would be destroyed by a bombardment of Valparaiso were enormous; and it appeared to him that if Spain and Chile were to fight, Englishmen would receive all the blows. Mr. R. Kell, also adduced a number of facts in illustration of the magnitude of the British interests involved, especially with regard to the Bradford trade, and concluded by submitting a memorial on the subject to Lord Clarendon, praying that the Government will take measures for the protection of British interest against all dangers arising from the present dispute.

London Telegraph, Nov. 24.

ABDICATION URGED ON THE QUEEN OF SPAIN.
The Queen is still at La Granja, and the official Gaceta, which so stoutly gave out its bulletin reassuring the world as to her Majesty's perfect health, had to acknowledge at last that Isabel II. had been suffering, not from cold merely, but from some nervous complaint, from which a little bleeding had afforded her relief. The cause of her Majesty's indisposition has been very confidently ascribed by persons who are looked upon as well informed to some indiscreet overture on the part of the ministers as to the expediency of her resigning the Crown in favor of her son, allowing thus room for the formation of that regency to which Marshal O'Donnell is said to aspire, and which it is easy to conjecture could hardly be attained by him without becoming an apple of contention for every ambitious soldier of fortune. However, the fever of passion into which, according to report, the Queen was thrown by the bare mention of abdication, (a hint to that effect has been very rashly thrown out in some of the Government organs,) holds out no great encouragement to those who are said to be "badgering" her, anxious to come in for a "living woman's shoes." History is full of examples of male sovereigns "retired from business," but there is only one solitary instance, I believe—only one at least that occurs to my memory at the present moment—of an abdicating queen.—Madrid (Nov. 20) Correspondence of the London Times.

The eighth wonder of the fashionable world is Sozodont. Ladies, as they see their unsullied teeth and rosy gums reflected in their toilet mirrors, and gentlemen, as their white incisors flash through their dark moustaches, wonder how the benighted folk of twenty years ago got along without the teeth-beautifying, breath-perfuming Sozodont.

MARRIED.

On Tuesday evening, 12th December, by the Rev. Mr. Pringle, at the residence of the bride, Mr. A. STEVENS, of Enfaula, Ala., and Mrs. A. E. CROMIE, of Columbia, S. C.

CRACKERS.

10 BARRELS, assorted, at E. POLLARD'S, on Main st., Dec 17 3* Centre of old Brick Range.

RICE THAT IS RICE.

10 BBLs. more of that superior NEW RICE, direct from the Charleston Mills, just received and for sale at the Auction Room of LEVIN & PEIXOTTO, Dec 17 3

TOOLS! TOOLS! TINNER'S TOOLS.

NEW MACHINES and HAND TOOLS of all descriptions, for sale low by FRANCIS H. DUC, 422 King street, Charleston, S. C. Dec 17 43

Two Furnished Rooms to Rent, in a desirable locality; suitable for single gentlemen. For terms, &c., apply to P. B. GLASS, Dec 17 2 Gen. Commission Agent.

New York Daily Papers RECEIVED every morning. Also, Illustrated Weeklies—bound volumes for 1862, '63 and '64. For sale at P. B. GLASS' Bookstore, Plain street, opposite Bedell's Row. Dec 17 2

CHEESE!

10 BOXES very superior GOSHEN CHEESE, at 30 cents per pound. At POLLARD'S, on Main street, Dec 17 43* Centre of old Brick Range.

Wanted—\$4,000.

I HAVE the above amount on hand. I would like to engage as clerk in some good mercantile establishment, with a view to future partnership. Address J. W. NEWTON, Columbia, S. C. Dec 17 3*

LATE ARRIVALS OF TRUSSES, COX'S GELATINE, Cooper's Isinglass, American Singlass, (for clearing coffee,) Chevalier's Life for the Hair, Burnett's Cocoa, Sozodont, English Honey and Glycerine Soap, Patent India Rubber Enema Pipes, and a general assortment of pure Drugs and Chemicals. DR. C. H. MIOT, Corner Lady and Pickens streets. Dec 17 1*

Local Items.

CASH.—Our terms for subscription, advertising and job work are cash. We hope all parties will bear this in mind.

NO NORTHERN MAIL.—We are again without any Northern mail, the stage from Charlotte not having arrived at a late hour on yesterday afternoon. We understand that the schedule on this road has been changed.

WHOLESALE GROCERY STORE IN CHARLESTON.—As will be seen by reference to our advertising columns, Mr. Philip Fogarty has opened a wholesale grocery store in Charleston. He is an old hand at the business, and we have no doubt will give perfect satisfaction to his patrons.

AT COST.—Our readers will notice, with regret, in our advertising columns, that Dr. P. Melvin Cohen intends returning to Charleston, and offers his stock, for one week, at retail, "at and below cost." The Doctor, by his urbane and courteous manners, has made numerous friends here, whose best wishes will accompany him on his return to the home of his nativity. All should take advantage of the present opportunity of laying in their supplies at the reduced rates.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.—Attention is called to the following advertisements, which are published this morning for the first time:

- Levin & Peixotto—Clothing, &c. —Lice.
- Francis H. Duc—Tinner's Tools.
- Philip Fogarty & Co.—Wholesale Grocers.—Groceries.
- J. W. Newton—\$4,000 Wanted.
- Dr. C. H. Miot—Trusses, &c.
- Richard Caldwell—English Dairy Cheese.
- " —English Pickles, &c.
- P. B. Glass—Gold Pens, &c.
- " —Cartes for Albums, &c.
- " —New York Daily Papers.
- " —Furnished Rooms to Rent.
- " —Toy Books.
- Jas. W. Davidson—Classical School.
- J. D. Frost—Mules Stolen.
- E. Pollard—Crackers.
- " —Bacon and Hams.
- " —Cheese.
- Scott & Heriot—Toys, Fire Works, &c.
- Dr. P. Melvin Cohen—Selling Below Cost.

FOR CHRISTMAS.

TOY BOOKS, in great variety, at Dec 17 3 P. B. GLASS' Bookstore.

ENGLISH DAIRY CHEESE!

30 BOXES prime ENGLISH DAIRY CHEESE, AND English PALE ALE, in jugs. EXTRA STOUT, in bottles. American Croton Cream Ale, in bottles. For sale at the old Upper Ration House by Dec 17 1* RICHARD CALDWELL.

ENGLISH PICKLES, &C.

ENGLISH PICKLES, in pints, viz: Chow-Chow, Piccolly and assorted American Pickles—quarts. TOMATO CATSUP. COVE and SPICED OYSTERS. For sale by RICHARD CALDWELL, Dec 17 1*

Philip Fogarty & Co., WHOLESALE GROCERS And Commission Merchants, Corner Atlantic Wharf and East Bay, CHARLESTON, S. C.,

KEEP constantly on hand a full stock of choice GROCERIES, WINES, LIQUORS, &c. Dec 17 1mo

Groceries! Groceries!

BACON SIDES and SHOULDERS. PIG HAMS, BREAKFAST BACON. BUTTER, CHEESE, LARD, FLOUR, TEA, SUGAR, COFFEE, BISCUITS. Candy, Pickles, Soap, Starch. Candles, Sweet Oil, Herrings. Codfish, Mackerel, Salmon. Raisins, Potatoes. Liverpool Salt. Whiskey, Brandy, Gin. Port, Madeira and Sherry Wine. And a general assortment of Groceries, &c., for sale low for cash by PHILIP FOGARTY & CO., Corner Atlantic Wharf and East Bay, Dec 17 1mo Charleston, S. C.

Engine, etc., for Sale. A FIVE-HORSE ENGINE, in running order, with pulleys, etc., for sale low. Apply at this office. Dec 12

FOR SALE OR RENT,

A DWELLING HOUSE, containing eight rooms, situated two miles from Columbia, on the Camden Road. On the premises are a carriage house, stable, barn and all necessary out-houses. The lot contains 180 acres, wooded. Apply to BENJ. T. DENT, At the Market. Dec 13

SOUTH CAROLINA COLLEGE.

THE Trustees of the South Carolina College are hereby summoned to meet at the Executive Parlor, at Nickerson's Hotel, on MONDAY next, 18th inst., at 7 p. m. A punctual attendance is earnestly desired, as business of importance is to be brought before the Board. By order of the President of the Board. C. BRUCE WALKER, Sec. pro tem. B. T. S. C. Dec 16 2