THE DAILY BEE
BOTOUR & LIBBY, PUBLISHERS,
Office, No. 73 Chartres Street.

TERMS OF THE BEE:
Price of Subscription—Daily, per annum, in advance, $20; half-yearly, $11; quarterly, $6.
Price of the Paper—Single copies, 10 cents.
The Bee Weekly is published every Tuesday and Saturday. Subscription, $4 per annum, invariably in advance.
Rates of Advertising—Transient advertisements by the run of the paper, first insertion $1 50 per square; each subsequent insertion, 75 cents per square. Editorial Page Transient Advertisements ..... $1 50 per square.
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NEW ORLEANS:
FRIDAY MORNING, DEC. 28th, 1866.

AUCTION SALES THIS DAY.

By E. M. Jacobs, at 11 o'clock, a. m., at the corner of Jefferson and Levee streets, a lot of watches and chains; also, mules, now horse and harness, etc.

The steamship St. Louis, Captain Clamenson, sailed for Boston direct, last evening, with a full freight and passengers.

The steamship Alliance arrived from Vera Cruz, with the following passengers:

Jean Oliveney, Desire Faure, Landine Kinner, Jean Le Grand, wife and two children; Mrs McDonagh and three children; Rudolph Gitlesinger, and 8 on deck.

OUR VISITORS.

Last night, we presume, unless some unforeseen accident occurred, the Congressional excursion party arrived in this city, and took possession of the quarters provided for them at the St Louis Hotel. As we have already stated, a party of citizens, among whom were Gen. Beauregard, J. M. Lapeyre, Christian Roselius, Mr. Fellowes, and others, went up the Jackson road to meet the excursionists and escort them to the city. They will come, therefore, under very favorable circumstances, and we hope that they may have been made as comfortable upon the route that no one of the party shall utter the Crescent City feeling ill-natured; or, at exorbitant charges, annoyed by a protracted stay at Meridian, troubled by the absence of the wayside champagne, or wearied by tedious traveling. These may seem minor considerations, but they will have a great deal to do with the estimate which these gentlemen form of New Orleans. Any old traveler knows how much a man is affected by material considerations, and how often it is that wrong opinions are formed simply because the bed was hard upon which rest was sought, or because a drenching shower spoiled a new silk hat at the very moment it was wanted of all others in the world. It takes but little to upset a man and render him unfit for the nicer mental conceptions, and hence the value of attendant circumstances upon questions of importance. We expect a great deal from these Congressional visitors and we are well aware that they will form opinions and receive ideas, while here that will have great influence upon their future course in Congress. By the steps already taken for their reception, our people will see the desire on our part to make them as well as we can, and we think they will appreciate this far more than they will any unpleasant things in their journals may indicate. We can but hope that they will find things better than they expected, and that they will have no cause to regret their visit to the Crescent City.

The visit of a distinguished body like this may be a matter of more importance than our people generally imagine. Perhaps there is not a single member of the party that has not, at one time or another, believed the stories of Southern barbarity and cruelty so freely circulated by the Radical press. They have heard that there was no law nor order in the South, no justice, no sense of right; and they have been regaled from time to time with tales of Rebel contumacy and of the open defiance to authority which everywhere existed in these States. Reading only one class of newspapers—hearing only one side of the story, it is only natural that they should have conceived some erroneous impressions concerning our social condition. Those who have believed in the New York *Times* will undoubtedly come full of unjust prejudices, and may be with a half-defined fear that it is not exactly safe in this latitude. These feelings, also, would be natural, if one had given credence to the statements of the Radical press. In vain we have tried to contradict such injurious reports; in vain have we tried to gain a hearing in the North; our efforts have all resulted either in a complete failure or they have been twisted and turned into renewed evidences of Rebellion. And meanwhile we have courted the fullest and most careful investigation, we have invited Northern men to come and see for themselves, and have offered to disprove all of these false reports which we were not permitted to contradict through the same channels by which they reached the public. Should now a party of Northern gentlemen and ladies have come to see for themselves, and we hope that they may be offered every facility for forming correct opinions. True, there are prejudices which cannot be overcome at sight; before the war, and these may keep in the background, the best portion of our society, but there is hardly that there distinguished guests will not be offered every opportunity for judging whether we are still contumacious and rebellious, or anxious to become good citizens again and to take a part in the administration of public affairs under the constitution and the law. Let them see South-ern society as it is, and carry away with them the opinions and sentiments of our leading men as examples of the whole.

Mexico.

[From last Evening's Times.]

The steamship Alliance, Capt. Staples, arrived at this port this morning from Vera Cruz. She brings dates to the 21st inst., three days later than those obtained by the steamship Mexico.

Capt. Staples reports everything quiet at Vera Cruz. From the circular issued by the ministers of Maximilian, and published in the *La Verdad*, of the 21st inst., we glean some items of interest.

Maximilian has accepted the throne of Mexico in deference to the wishes of the people, and asks the co-operation of the inhabitants generally in the pacification of the country. The ordinary and extraordinary sources of the revenue having been deranged, the ministers state that everything possible will be done to place them in a brief period in regular operation.

The Emperor hopes that guarantees will be obtained, and strong and powerful arrangements made for the perpetuation of peace. The long continued civil war had depressed the national energies, and had thrown great obstacles in the way of collecting and making proper use of the military resources. And within this condition, the announcement that the Emperor Napoleon, for political reasons, would no longer continue his alliance and the support which he had formerly extended, made it incumbent upon the people of the country to protect themselves and their institutions from the numerous bands of murderers and malcontents. The approaching departure of the French auxiliaries might encourage these disturbers of the peace, and would demand greater exertion than usual from the friends and defenders of the Government.

The revolution had left the country without those complete defenses which are requisite for peace, prosperity and happiness. This might inspire with confidence the enemies of order and induce them to make further efforts for the destruction of the country, but it was hoped that the patriotism of the better portion of the community would be successful in averting all danger.

The attitude of the United States, and its opposition to the formation of a monarchy and the intervention of Europe was looked upon with disfavor, and was a cause of sorrow to the Emperor.

The Emperor had announced his determination to call together an extraordinary parliament, in view of the contingencies arising out of the Franco-American mediation, and the situation of the country, and would leave to it the question of extending or continuing the monarchy.

We find in *La Verdad* no confirmation of the embarcation of the French troops.

THE SUPREME COURT AND THE PRESS.—The *National Intelligencer* of the 20th says:

That the Union is saved, is the full integrity of its three great divisions, has become a majestic commonation by the unanimous voice of the Supreme Court in vindication of the civil institutions of the country. The moral weight of the decision in the Milligan case cannot be measured by that of any of the great constitutional questions which shook the Republic in days gone by. For neither in the breadth of the issue, the extravagance of contemporary heresies on the subject, nor in the magnitude of the stake, could any past cause before that high court compare with this. But more than all, the unanimity of the whole bench on all that was vital in this great question is without previous example.

The New York *World* of the 19th says:

The fact that the Supreme Court has escaped the servile contamination of the times, and pronounces an independent opinion which vindicates a party so tradduced and maligned as the Democracy, is full of encouragement. If a majority of the Court dare stand up for the Constitution, on this question, there is solid ground for trusting its fidelity on all others. If Congress assumes that the Constitutional Amendment is carried by the ratification of merely the representated States, and proceeds to legislate on that hypothesis, the Supreme Court will set aside all such laws. If Congress undertakes to degrade Southern States into Territories, its measures will be stranded on the same barrier. If Congress undertake to resist the judgments of the Supreme Court, the Commander in Chief of the Army will have some duties to perform in such a conjecture.

DOUBTFUL GREATNESS.—Keeller had a nephew, a Guinea trader, who one day called to pay him a visit when the poet Pope was there. "Nephew," said the painter, "you have the honor of seeing the two greatest men in the world. The honest dealer in human flesh looking at him in the light of so much marketable commodity, and seeing that neither was of imposing dimensions, said: "I don't know what you mean by great, but I think very little of your looks. I have often bought a man much better than both of you put together, all muscles and bones, for ten guineas."

HUMPHREY MARSHALL PARESIDES.—The President has purchased Hon. Humphrey Marshall of Kentucky. He has declared to be a candidate for the United States Senatorship from his State. His first act as a loyal man is to be the prosecution of somebody for coining and selling his law library. He now thinks somebody will be Enoch Carson, of Cincinnati.

The New Orleans Bee.

OFFICE 73 CHARTRES STREET. NEW ORLEANS, FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 28, 1866. Vol. XXVII—New Series. Vol. XVII—Whole—14 009.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Another Murder.—A desperate affray occurred yesterday morning, between 3 and 4 o'clock, on the levee at the foot of St. Philip street, in which Vincent Sanson was stabbed four times, to-wit: in the right side, between the fifth and sixth ribs; in the left side, between the sixth and seventh ribs, and twice in the abdomen—any one of which wounds, according to the testimony of Dr. Haven, who held the *post mortem* examination, would successfully have proved mortal. The Coroner commenced the inquest yesterday, and a number of witnesses were examined. One of them, A. D. Derivas, a customhouse night inspector, testified, that he was at the Picayune Ter—saw Vincent Gregorio and Pascal Gregorio, (both of whom are now in prison) have a quarrel with deceased and his brother, Mariano Sanson—one of the former said something sounding like an oath in Spanish or Italian, then drew a dagger—deceased, also, seemed to draw a weapon of some sort, and a general fight commenced—one of the brothers Gregorio fired and wounded Mariano, deceased ran some ten or twelve feet, was caught by the brothers Gregorio, and one of them held deceased while the other stabbed him.

Mr. Derivas then ran to find a watchman, returned a few minutes afterwards with a police officer, and saw Vincent give a pistol within 3 inches of his breast. Police-officer Cook gave chase, and succeeded in arresting Vincent. Pascal turned as though to rescue his brother, but, another policemen coming up, he ran from the Levee across the deck of the lugger Continental, firing at the police as he ran, and then got on board the schooner New Orleans, where he hid himself in the hold. The police followed him up and arrested him, as well as Wm Papino, another Sicilian, who was hid near the same place.

Mariano Sanson was taken to the Charity Hospital, and his wounds—a pistol ball in the left thigh—pronounced by the surgeons, and the deceased taken to the Second District station, where the post mortem examination was held, proving that the deceased had been stabbed as above described, but there was no pistol shot wound in the body.

The jury of inquest did not give any verdict, but adjourned the investigation over till Saturday, for the purpose of taking the testimony then of Mariano Sanson, and perhaps that of Wm Papino, who still remains in prison, together with Vincent and Pascal Gregorio. The deceased is perhaps between 35 and 40 years old, and is said to be a cousin of Vincent and Pascal Gregorio.

Accidentally Shot.—Albert Martin, a colored boy, was accidentally shot and dangerously wounded in the abdomen, Wednesday, by the accidental discharge of a pistol in the hands of a white boy named J. D. Adams, who was playing with it at the time. The wounded boy was taken to the residence of his parents, at the corner of Romano and Esplanade streets.

Fire.—At 8:22 last night a fire broke out in the fourth story of the brick building No. 8 Camp street, occupied by the lower story by Walter A. Peck as a wholesale shoe establishment, the upper stories as offices, and the fourth as a storage and manufactory of paper boxes. The alarm was given by Mr. Walter T. Perry, messenger of the City Hotel, and the fire department arrived promptly. For half an hour, however, the scarcity of water prevented the firemen from working to advantage, and the third and fourth stories of both buildings, No. 23 and 34, were destroyed, and the stock of Mr. Peck and the stock of jewelry kept by Mr. Lilienthal at No. 23, greatly damaged by water. We were unable to learn the exact extent of the damage, but estimate the loss at about $60,000. The fire was probably the result of accident.

Badly Beaten.—Joseph Kelly, a soldier of the 1st U. S. Inf., was found Wednesday night alongside of the track of the Hampart street railroad, having been struck and severely wounded in the head by some person or parties unknown. He was taken to the military hospital, at the corner of Levee and Girod streets.

Found.—A pocket-book containing $10 and a gold breast pin was found yesterday, at the corner of Royal and Canal streets, by a girl who left it with the police at the Prefecture station, where the owner can go and get it.

Postal Arrangement with France.

A Washington dispatch of the 20th makes the following announcement:

An arrangement has been made with the General Post Department of France for the exchange of mails by means of the new line of French mail packets established between Havana and New Orleans, running in connection with the French line of packets carrying mails between St. Nazaire and Vera Cruz. Under this arrangement, the New Orleans post office will make up mails for and receive from the agents of the mails embarked on board these French packets, to comprise not only correspondence to and from France, Algeria, and countries to which France serves as an intermediate point, but also letters for Cuba, Mexico, Aspinwall, Porto Rico, St. Thomas, Venezuela, United States of Colombia, Guadaloupe, Martinique, French Guiana, English Guiana, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Grenada, Dutch Guiana, Dutch Indians, Marquesas Islands, Low Islands, Society Islands, Bolivia, Chili, Ecuador and Peru. The French packets of the regular line from Havana to New Orleans will leave on the 6th of each month, on arrival at the port of the packet which left St. Nazaire, France, on the 19th of the previous month, and will arrive at New Orleans on the 9th; returning, will leave New Orleans on the 13th, to arrive at Havana on the 16th, in time to make connection with the French Vera Cruz packet at St. Nazaire. The postage thereon upon letters sent and received by this route, via New Orleans, are as follows, viz: For or from Guadaloupe, Martinique, French Guiana, English Guiana, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Grenada and Trinidad, 13 cents per single rate of half an ounce, prepayment optional, which is in full to destination. For or from Dutch Guiana, 11 cents per single rate; prepayment optional, which is also in full to destination. For or from Cuba, Mexico, Hayti, Porto Rico, St Thomas, Venezuela and the United States of Colombia, 10 cents per single rate; prepayment required upon letters sent and optional upon letters received. For or from Bolivia, Chili and Ecuador, 31 cents per single rate; prepayment required. For or from Peru, 22 cents per single rate; prepayment required.

The postage upon letters sent to or received from France and Algeria, by this line, is 15 cents per single rate of quarter of an ounce; prepayment optional.

The United States Supreme Court.

The late decision of the Supreme Court does more than rescue Dr. Watson from the insolent clutches of a military commission. It is a thunderbolt over the head of the tyrannous domination which would fain deprive our civic tribunals and time honored customs of the land, by substituting therefor a session of military bloodhounds to arbitrarily take questions of the law and perpetrate farce or tragedy as the mood of the usurper may happen to incline. These foul bats and venomous creatures must now go back to their caves and holes before the dawning light of freedom and constitutional liberty. For this timely and effective rebuke to usurpation we have to thank the United States Supreme Court. When history shall take up her pen proudly to record the history of the rise of the law and the Constitution had been thrown down by military despotism, the principles of liberty were picked up from the dust and set again on high to be honored and obeyed. The record of that praise will be due to that august tribunal, and the words in which that decree shall be described, will be read with glowing cheek by the children and the children's children of those who pronounced it.

The decision is a bomb-shell in the Radical camp. It prostrates at one blow a large portion of the edifice of tyranny. No better proof of the power and effect of this decision can be given than the rabid fulminations of those the enemies of the Constitution now throw off all their previous disguises. The Washington *Chronicle*, foaming, with rage, declares that treason has "sought refuge in the bosom of the Supreme Court of the United States." The New York *Herald* goes further. It admits the decision to be "hardlike to the "strict letter of the Constitution," but then goes on to affirm that the Constitution has been superseded by the war, and that inasmuch as the Court will not violate their oaths and act upon this theory, Congress must proceed to "reconstruct the Court in conformity with the decisions of the war." Here we have the Radical party forced to assume the position of avowed hostility to the Federal Constitution and to the Supreme Court because it faithfully administers that Constitution. It matters not that the Court were unanimous on the main point, that a majority were Mr. Lincoln's appointees, and we see the desperate straits to which Radicalism is driven. It is a great thing in moral combats to strip off the veil of hypocrisy and unfold the ulterior designs of your enemies. The avowal of these doctrines will not fail to bring the Nemesis of popular rebuke.—Richmond *Examiner*.

RECOVERING BACK GAMBLING LOSSES—DECISION UNDER THE STATUTE RELATIVE TO GAMBLING.—Justice McCann of the Superior Court, has rendered a decision in the case of John B Sullivan against Henry Eyring, in which the plaintiff sought to recover back monies lost by gambling, under the revised statutes. The defendants counsel moved to dismiss the complaint, on the ground that it did not constitute a cause of action. The judge sustains the defendant, stating that the complaint exhibited no cause of action—not specifying the amount lost, or at what time or sitting it was lost. The decision concludes as follows: On reason and authority the complaint in this action is fatally defective. I cannot permit the plaintiff to amend. In this particular the code invests the Courts with a very liberal discretion, but it prescribes one reservation, which is that the amendment must be in furherance of justice. I cannot see how justice would be promoted by enabling a person to recover money which he had fairly staked and lost, when, if he were winner, he would indisputably pocket his gains. I will administer this law where a senior brings himself under its operation, but I will not strain its construction for his benefit. The plaintiff has clearly entitled to no indulgence.—*N. Y. Sun.*

RICH MEN'S SONS.—Henry Ward Beecher, in a sermon delivered at Plymouth Church, last Sunday evening, produced the following picture of rich men's sons:

Men seem ashamed of labor, and often, often you shall find men who have made themselves respected in labor, have built up a business and amassed a fortune, who turn to their sons and say: "You shall never do as I did; you shall lead a different life; you shall be spared all this." Oh, these rich men's sons! They are bolstered up in the very artificiality and conditions of the law and perpetrate farce or tragedy as the mood of the usurper may happen to incline. These foul bats and venomous creatures must now go back to their caves and holes before the dawning light of freedom and constitutional liberty. For this timely and effective rebuke to usurpation we have to thank the United States Supreme Court. When history shall take up her pen proudly to record the history of the rise of the law and the Constitution had been thrown down by military despotism, the principles of liberty were picked up from the dust and set again on high to be honored and obeyed. The record of that praise will be due to that august tribunal, and the words in which that decree shall be described, will be read with glowing cheek by the children and the children's children of those who pronounced it.

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BY TELEGRAPH.

[To the New Orleans Bee.]

FROM WASHINGTON.

Heavy Robbery in Philadelphia.

Burning of Steamer Fashion.

Twenty Lives Lost.

2,600 Bales Cotton Burned.

More Pardons by the President.

NEWS FROM EUROPE.

Interesting General Intelligence.

Commercial and Other News.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Treasurer Spinner, in a circular, represents that reports reach the department of deposits by agents of the Government with banks, bankers and others not authorized to receive public money, which can only be legally deposited with a Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer of the United States, or with National Banks designated as depositories. He calls attention to the severe penalties to which both depositors and unauthorized receivers are liable.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Special orders have recently been issued to Collectors of the Internal Revenue to personally and thoroughly inspect every distillery and summarily close such as are not conducted in exact conformity with the law.

The Pacific Railroad is in operation to a point 365 miles west of Omaha.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Ex-Confederate Brig. Gen. Wm. A. Quarles and John M. House, both of Tennessee have been pardoned by the President.

The Commissioner of Indian affairs telegraphed Gov. Throckmorton, of Texas, today, to purchase $3000 worth of provisions for distribution among the friendly Indians of the border. The policy has been resolved on to colonize them on public reservations. It is also said commissioners will be appointed, including Gov. Throckmorton to treat with the wild Cammanches. An order has also been sent to purchase clothing for the friendly tribes.

The report of the Fifth Auditor shows the secular system of the United States in a self-supporting condition for the first time since the organization of the Government.

The expenses of assessing the Internal Revenue for the last fiscal year were $965,079. The amount paid for Internal Revenue Inspectors for salary and traveling expenses, $163,897.

The resolution of Mr. Julian, of Indiana, that no claims due prior to April 1st, 1861, should be paid, unless to active and outspoken Union men, is already regarded by some Treasury officers.

The sixth auditor has refused payments to Pennsylvania mail contractors for some due prior to the date mentioned, unless these contractors can comply with the requirements of this resolution, which as yet has only passed the House.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Our Consul at St. Croix, West Indies, reports that on account of the prevalence of cholera, small-pox, and yellow fever at St. Thomas, the English Islands have established a quarantine on vessels from St. Thomas for twenty-one days, and on the Spanish Islands for forty days.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Supreme Court decisions: Christy vs. Trigdon, Eastern District of Texas, judgment affirmed with cost; Mitchell vs. Lessee, steamer Maxent, Northern District of Florida, do; Lanfear vs. Hidley, Supreme Court of Louisiana, judgment affirmed with costs; New Orleans, Opelousas and Great Western Railroad vs. Lindsey & Co., Eastern District of Louisiana, do; Christmas vs. Russell, Southern District of Mississippi, do; United States vs. Dabiel, Western District of Texas, judgment reversed with costs and new hearing ordered; United States vs. Allsbury, Western District of Texas, affirmed; Wm. Walker, Nicaragua vs. United States, Eastern District of Louisiana, dismissed for want of jurisdiction; McKeope vs. Sheriff, Supreme Court of Arkansas, reversed with costs.

In the matter of taxing swamp lands in Arkansas, the Court decides the illegality of State taxation during the ten years of exemption by Congress. This decision applies to a number of cases from other States.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Mr. Rollman, who furnished the supper on the occasion of welcoming Congress to Washington, has sued several committees for his bill of $2500, none of which has been paid.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Gov. Patton, of Alabama, is in the city on an official visit.

John C. Noble, of Kentucky, and F. M. W. Holliday, of Virginia, have both been pardoned.

Gen. Grant is better this morning.

Secretary Seward is attending the Portuguese minister's funeral in New York.

Philadelphia, Dec. 27.—A respectably connected girl, who abandoned her home for a house of ill fame, was dangerously shot by her brother last night.

At 1 o'clock this evening the safe of C. P. Bayard & Co., bankers at No. 309 Chesnut street, was robbed of a quarter of a million dollars in Government securities and stocks. Two men kept the person in charge who was badly in consternation, while a third stole the box containing the treasure. There is no clue to the robbers.

New York, Dec. 27.—The reported failure of Bell and Black lacks confirmation.

A storm to the eastward prevails and we are still without cable news.

New York, Dec 27.—Gold opened at 131¾, 1 P. M., Gold 131⅝, Sterling Exchange 109¼, money at 6 to 7 per cent, sixes 110, fives 108¼, 10-40's 99¼, new fives 107⅛.

Baltimore, Dec. 27, noon.—Wheat dull—receipts light. Corn heavy at 94 to 97c. Oats inactive at 56 to 60c. Seeds very dull. Flour neglected—lower grades heavy. Provisions dull and unsettled. Groceries heavy. Whisky dull.

New York, Dec. 27, 1 P. M.—Cotton dull at 32½ to 33c. Flour dull—sales 200 bbls. Southern at $11 10 to $16 50. Wheat dull and heavy. Oats heavy. Pork dull—sales 700 bbls. New Mess at $29 to $30 50. Lard dull at 11 to 12½c. Whisky quiet.

Augusta, Ga., Dec. 27.—The steamship E. B. Sonder, for New York, is ashore on Battle Soare Shoals. It is feared she will be a total wreck. Her crew and passengers have arrived at Charleston.

New York, Dec. 27.—Arrived, brig Wm. Mallory, from Port Lavaca, Texas.

New York, Dec. 27, evening—Gold 132⅜, 6's 110, new fives 107⅛, Tennessee 69⅛. Cotton closed heavy, with sales of 900 bales at 33 to 33½c for Middling Uplands, chiefly at 33½c. Flour—Southern more steady; sales 600 bbls. Common at $11 10 to $13 50; fancy and extra $13 40 to $16 50. Wheat firm; sales 23,000 bushels at $2 15 for mixed Milwaukie. Corn dull, heavy and drooping; sales 27,000 bushels at $1 15 to $1 15 for mixed Western in store; $1 14 to $1 15 for do. afloat. Naval Stores are quiet at 69 to 70c for turpentine, $4 50 to $4 75 for rosin. Petroleum dull. Rice quiet. Coffee dull. Sugar in moderate request—sales 500 bbls. Cuba Muscovado at 10½c, and 600 boxes Havana at 10½c. Molasses dull. Pork firmer—sales 4900 bbls. at $29 87 to $29 50 for New Mess and $18 62 to $19 12 for Old Mess, closing at $19 12 cash, and $17 to $17 50 for Prime. Beef is dull and heavy. Beef Hams are firmer—sales 610 bbls. at $30 to $35. Bacon is quiet. Cut Meats are heavy—sales 120 packages at 9 to 10c for Shoulders, 10 to 12c for Hams. Dressed Hogs are firm at 7¾ to 8c for Western and 8 to 7¾ for city. Lard is dull—sales 600 bbls. at 11 to 12½c for old and new. Butter steady at 15 to 26c for Ohio and 26 to 36c for State. Cheese is quiet at 10 to 17c.

The Money market is steady at 6 to 7 per cent. for call loans. Foreign Exchange is dull at 109 to 109¼ for first class bankers' bills.—American Gold is higher—opening at 131⅛, declining to 131¼, and closing at 132⅜. Government Stocks are ¼ to ⅛c lower, and dull. Freights are dull.

New York, Dec. 27—night.—Money less active at 7 per cent on call. Sterling exchange dull at 109 to 109¼. Government securities dull and easier; Coupons sixes of '81, 109¾ to 110; do. of '62, 105 to 105¼, do of '64, 104 to 104¼; do. of '65, 104¼ to 104⅝.

Mining shares are active and firm. Shares of Ayers' Mill and Mining Company have been advanced from $1 to $15, and stricken from the list. Charges are made of fraud.

Vicksburg, Dec. 27.—The steamer Fashion, from Vicksburg, bound to New Orleans, was destroyed by fire this evening about twelve miles above Bacon Bayou. Twenty lives were lost. The officers were saved. Her cargo, consisting of 2600 bales of cotton, was lost.

Galveston, Dec 27.—The Galveston Reception Committee will meet the Congressional Delegation as soon as they learn their decision about visiting Texas. The sales of cotton yesterday were 255 bales at 29½c. The receipts were light.

Wilmington, Dec. 27.—Turpentine lower—Yellow Dip $4 30, Hard $3 25 Spirits firm at 61c. Rosin 3 to 6c. Tar $1 to $1 50. Middling Cotton 30½c.

Chicago, Dec. 27.—A fire occurred at Stillwater, Minnesota, yesterday morning, which destroyed twelve buildings, involving a loss of $250,000, on which there is very little insurance.

Sweetsbury, Dec. 27.—The jury in Crowley's case returned a verdict of guilty. Mr. Devlin asked the Court to delay passing the sentence. The delay was granted until to-morrow. Edward Gilman was put on trial.

Boston, Mass., Dec. 27.—The proprietors of the Parker House, Young's Hotel and the keeper of the Revere House saloon, have been fined $50 and sentenced to three months' in the house of correction for selling liquor. They have appealed.

Fort Laramie, Dec. 27.—A messenger just in reports the formation of a grand coalition of 12 tribes of Indians for the common cause against the whites in the territories of Dakotah and Montana. The number of warriors is estimated at 11,000.

New York, Dec. 27.—The steamer City of Boston brings later dates from Europe.

Prussia will demand the expulsion of the King of Hanover from Austrian territory. He is accused of exciting his late subjects to hostility. A decisive compliance is doubted.

The Pope intends establishing four new dioceses in the United States.

The Paris *Moniteur* says the Queen of Spain has granted the right to an American coal company to build an ocean telegraph line between Cuba and the Florida coast.

Count Bismarck is threatened with softening of the brain.

Baltimore, Dec. 27, night.—Cotton firm—White 93c, Yellow $1. Oats 1 to 2c lower. Flour steady.

Charleston, Dec. 27.—Cotton has declined ¼c. Middling 31½c. The receipts for the week were 7100 bales, and the exports 7400 bales. Rice 7¼ to 8¾c.

The steamer Emily B. Sonder has arrived at her wharf, with her rudder post disabled and leaky. Her cargo is not much damaged.

Memphis, Dec. 27.—The river is falling. The weather is clear and cold. Business to-day was dull.

Arrived, Sam Gaty, T. L. McGill and White Cloud No. 2, from New Orleans; Die Vernon, St. Patrick and Lida Norvello, from Vicksburg; Messenger, from Cincinnati; Indiana, from Louisville; Comet and Paragon, from St. Louis; Guidon, from Little Rock; Lady, from Osceola; Dee Aro, from White river; Natomah, from St. Francis.

Departed: F. L. McGill, White Cloud and Sam Gaty for St. Louis, Norman for White River, Indiana and Southerner for New Orleans, Sarah Sharkey for Fort Smith, Anna for Cincinnati.

In port: St. Patrick, Die Vernon, Clifton, Natomah, Dee Aro, Lina, Justice, Comet, Guidon, Lady, Lida, Morrell.

The Cotton market is heavy in consequence of the continued stringency in money! Middling 30c to 31c.

Cairo, Dec. 27.—Gen. Sherman and his secretary passed here to-day. The former is en route to St. Louis, and the latter to Philadelphia.

Louisville, Dec 27.—The owners of the Argonaut No. 2 have abandoned her. The steamer Underwriter will commence wrecking her without delay.

Cincinnati, Dec. 27.—Flour slightly improved in higher grades—Superfine $9 25 to $10 25, Extra $10 to $12 40; Family $12 75 to $13 50; Fancy $14 to $15. Wheat dull at $2 10 to $2 85—the whole range. Corn dull at 52c for new Ear. Oats dull at 50 to 51c. Pork $19 25 to $19 50, according to age—some lots held at $20. Green Meats steady at 9¾ to 9¾c. Bulk Meats steady at 9¾ to 10¼c, the latter packed. New Bacon scarce. Lard dull—Leaf 11¾c. Sugar-cured Hams quiet at 18c for new plain, and 20c for old canvassed. Whisky $2 25. Cotton inactive—Middling nominal at 30c—Gold 133.

Louisville, Dec. 27—Sales 43 bhds of Tobacco, prices firm and active. Common logs $3 05 to $3 60; Medium good leaf $17. Flour—Superfine $9 50. Red Winter Wheat $2 75, new white corn-shelled 65c to 68c. Ear corn 60c. Oats 63c to 64c. Hogs $6 40 to $6 50 for Choice; receipts 1000 head to-day; total receipts 138,000 head. Mess Pork $30. Low Middling Cotton 30c to 32c; Middling 30c dull. Whisky in bond $2 28.

St. Louis, Dec. 27.—Col. Sawyer, Adjutant General on Gen. Sawyer's staff died last night of typhoid fever.

Tobacco unchanged. Cotton nominal at 30c. Flour quiet and unchanged. Provisions quiet and unchanged. Business small. Whisky unsettled.

PRIVATE DISPATCH.

Baton Rouge, Dec. 27, 1866.

Mrs. Dinwiddie, 216 Camp street:

The steamer Fashion is burned. Mrs. Fowlers, daughter and myself are saved.

DINWIDDIE, Clerk.

Last Evening's Dispatches.

The Fenian Smith Sentenced—Jury Unable to Agree in the Cases of Others.

New York, Dec. 27—11:30.—Gold 131⅜; Cotton dull and prices nominal. Exchange steady.

New York, Dec. 27—12 M.—Gold 131⅜. Cotton dull, holders unwilling to make concessions. Uplands 33½c, Orleans 33c. Exchange steady. U. S. 6's, 104 to 105. Coupons, 105¼ to 105¾.

New York, Dec. 27.—The Albany *Argus* reports that a quantity of Flour and Grain left at tide water this year, reduced to barrels, is something over one million barrels less than at the same time in 1865.

Sweetsbury, Canada, Dec. 27.—The Fenian Smith has been sentenced to death on February 15th.

In the cases of McDonald, Crostly and others, the jury were unable to agree.

The Stay Law.

[From the Richmond Examiner.]

The following communication is the production of an able and thoughtful mind, on a subject of the greatest importance, and while we are not prepared to adopt all of its suggestions, we commend it to the careful consideration of those who have to pass upon the matter.

The authorities of all the Southern States are so obstinately addressing their attention to the subject of relief against old debts. While a repudiation of that class of debts has received approbation in many colonies, something must be conceded to the powerful feeling against this class of debts which pervades large communities of people. The utter waste of resources which the war has occasioned; the destruction of property and income upon which credits rested, give origin and justification to the prevailing clamor against the enforcement of old debts.

So strong is the feeling already existing on this subject that many constituencies, it is said, will imperatively expect their representatives, if they fail to obtain legislative relief. An enforced collection of debts will result in the ruin of a vast number of our landlords, and in the destruction of that admirable element in our social system, will shock the whole organization. Many of our landholders are involved in liabilities as principal debtors or as endorsers for others, that a sale of farm lands at the low prices which would prevail when large bodies of real estate are simultaneously forced in the market, would become a general bankruptcy. Strangers would alone be able to buy, for every man at home would have too much of his own debts to provide for, and the creditor becomes a purchaser of property at any price. It is plain that in such a state of things, while the debtor would be ruined, the creditor would not get much of his debt paid. To advance the interest of both classes there must be wise and cautious legislation.

A composition of old debts is what justice and the interest of both debtor and creditor demands. Strip the landowner of the burthen of his debts, and he starts off on a new career of prosperity. Relieve the money lender of the total loss of his ventures, and he starts off in more active prosecution of his enterprises. Let the landowner feel that he has yet some interest in his own property, and let the landholder feel that there is something available in his paper, and you have hope and activity to the most important element in our social organism.

How is this to be accomplished? By strong, bold legislation which will make it the obvious interest of both parties to these engagements to have them out of the way. So long as the creditor can hope that at some time the law is to be set to work to collect their claims, and in a little time more it will enforce payment of their principal, they are not in a compromising temper. The debtor is perpetually supposed to give on real estate are anxiously sought, and the court dockets are crowded with undefended suits.

The collection of interest this winter is more than most debtors can meet, and ought only to be allowed on such debts as have been adjusted on a compromise. Debtors, who will not pay when an equitable composition of old debts is offer them, ought to be forced to pay. Creditors who will not accept a just composition, ought to have down on them the compulsory machinery of the law in enforcing their debts. If some legislation based upon this principle were enacted, and a strong and firm policy announced, the whole indebtedness of the country might be soon adjusted at about one half its par value in money, or in new and good security.

The main difficulty just now is to bring the creditor to a sense of the expediency of a just and liberal composition. The debtor stands off for the protection of the delusive and temporary relief which the present make-shift of a stay law provides. The creditor, annoyed at his total loss of his credits, waits with angry expectation for the hour when he shall be unleashed. It is close in his present temper, he will spread wide ruin. It will be adding crime to folly, if our Legislature, after enacting a bad stay law, permits it to expire without some sound substitute.

Without impairing the obligation of contracts, much can be done for the relief of the debtor, and much more redress for compensation on the part of the creditor. Judgments are liens on real estate, not by contract but by operation of law. The law can be changed. If judgments are made a lien only on real estate, a vast relief is at once afforded to the land owner. He is at once put in command of the fair credit which his property ought to give him. An act abolishing judgments would at once secure a adjustment of old debts on a favorable and just basis. A suspension of the laws authorizing the sales of property under execution, and a pre-eminent homestead law would be of vast importance. If there is statesmanship in the Assembly, a wise and beneficent policy on this great subject would be developed. The credition may be saved from disasters which he may not appreciate, and the debtor may be saved from ruin, and yet be instantiated by a repudiation of all his debts. If the Legislature fail to adopt such a policy, it will certainly receive and as certainly deserve a weight of public opinion such as have never been borne by public men in our day and generation. Let each member recognize the labor to which he is invoked by every obligation of public duty and of individual interest.

Capital and Labor.

"The autumn winds blow shrill and cold,
Black winter soon will come;
Heaven help the poor—protect the old—
And give to all a home!
Then often does the rich man pray,
With solemn tone and word;
But, ah! how seldom does he say,
"I'll be thine agent, Lord.

"The ready that around me live
Shall have my daily care,
And from thy bounty, O Lord, I'll give
To all who need a share.
And so this wealth is fast increased,
By heeding yearly my—
I will not grudgingly withhold
The profits due to them."

But, no! he has no goods to waste;
He has no time to spare;
So offering them to Heaven for help,
His conscience eased, he leaves it in there,
And turns his thoughts to earth again,
His factory or his farm;
And studies to increase his wealth
By the laborer's sweat alone.

And how to get from labor most,
And in return give least,
He turns not if his workman starve,
If he can only feast.
And so he makes the poor man toil,
Grind down with iron heel,
Until in poverty's distress
Even moved some to feel.

Men with God's impress in their soul,
His attributes on their brow,
Obeying Heaven's command to toil,
Most stress before him bow.

Arouse ye laborers! Take a new
And bolder stand—
Cast off those base, degrading chains,
Be manly in the strife;
Unite with brotherly