

The Columbia Spy. The great financial crisis through which we are passing, has not affected the people of the country in a very startling manner. Speaking of the few failures which have recently occurred in New York, the Times declares that at this moment there is no ground whatever for representing the trade of the city as an unwholesome or insecure condition, and it severely denounces the mischievous and unscrupulous sensationalism of every business casualty occurring. There is no ground for the slightest justification for the attempt to convert into evidence of extended insolvency and disaster in every business community suspension and failures, from one cause or another, continually happen; and this city at the present time forms no exception to the rule. But this we say unhesitatingly—the many recent failures are neither more numerous nor more serious than may be heard of in any city of the same size at any period of the year. All of them are, by comparison, unimportant in amount, and the cause of nearly all must be sought without reference to the decline in gold or the condition of the market. In some instances, they are the result of outside speculation. Wall street gambling or ventures having no connection with legitimate trade; in others, again, they proceed from extravagant habits, and the maintenance of a scale of expenditure in business disproportionate to the capital, or the business done. The year has been marked by a prosperity seldom, if ever equalled. Even with the stringent money market the readiness with which people have invested in holiday goods and festivities, is a sure proof that they do not see in the near future, a terrible crisis. Probably as a people, we are disposed to profligate, yet this charge can only be laid at our doors. We possess our virtues, and among these the faculty of making money rapidly. With some it may be questionable whether this is a virtue. As to the number of business failures, a reliable mercantile agency of New York furnishes us the following data.

On Wednesday last gold touched the lowest point it has reached since September 1862, when our defeat at the first Bull Run had started it on its upward flight. The opening price in the morning was 120 1/2, but it gradually sank to 119 1/2, recovering finally to the opening figure. The Treasury is about opening a sluice gate of the precious metal in payment of the January coin interest on the public debt, while the banks have a surplus of old time money. However, gold has become a commercial commodity. Just now the supply is in excess of the demand. With all this decline Wall street is less expectant of an immediate return to specie payments than when gold took its downward turn from 130 a few weeks ago.

Accident to a Christmas Eve Party. We learn that an unfortunate accident occurred at Greene, in Coventry, last night which might also be called fortunate, as many persons were put in mortal jeopardy, and yet escaped with unimportant hurt. A Christmas party had assembled under the auspices of the Ladies' Sewing Society, in the hall of a new building recently erected near the depot at Greene, and were engaged in pleasant festivities appropriate to the occasion. The company numbered something more than two hundred. About ten o'clock, just as Santa Claus, in full costume, entered the hall on his beneficent errand, the floor gave way without warning, and the party were precipitated upon the floor below with so much force as to carry that down also, and crushed humanity and broken floor timbers were tumbled in one promiscuous heap into the cellar. Nearly half an hour elapsed before all could be extricated. Then, wonderful to relate, it was found that no one was killed, that probably not more than three or four had received fractures of their limbs, and not more than twenty-five had suffered very serious injury from the terrible crash. It seems almost a miracle that the half dozen kerosene lamps were harmlessly extinguished in the crash, and that the store filled with glowing, ethereal gas so near the chimney that it did not fall. If the burning coal had gone down together with struggling mass in the cellar, the result might have been appalling.—R. I. Journal.

The Onondaga Inauguration. Light From Iowa. An article has appeared in The Dubuque News, written by a gentleman at Fort Dodge, Iowa, which claims to throw light on the Cardiff giant. About the 6th of June, 1865, two men registered their names at the St. Charles Hotel, Fort Dodge, as George Hall of Binghamton, N. Y., and H. P. Martin of Boston. For several weeks after movements of suspicious character were noticed, and they finally purchased an acre of gypsum land from John McDermott, paying \$100. They built a shanty on the ground, and employed men to open a gypsum quarry for the purpose of "they said, to send a large stone to New York." They got out a large stone, dressed 14, eleven feet three inches in length, and three feet two inches wide, and loaded it on a railroad car. The theory is that Hall and Martin took the stone to Chicago, where it was worked into a statue, thence to Binghamton, and thence to Newell's farm. The correspondent expressed the opinion that Col. Wood, formerly of the Chicago Museum, is concerned in the affair, as he happened to be around just when they were digging up the giant. It is said that the man who carved the giant is now in Chicago, but prefers to be quiet.

In the United States Senate on Thursday last, a resolution was passed closing the accounts of Ex-Secretary Colonel John Forney. At the request of Senator Cameron it was referred to the First Comptroller of the Treasury, who reported, showing that the accounts of Col. Forney had been fully adjusted, and that Mr. Cameron said, that having made some objection some months ago to the account of Colonel Forney, it was his duty now to acknowledge that, so far from Col. Forney having done wrong he had unfortunately been the subject of the wrong doing of others; the confidential officer of the late Secretary having misappropriated money to the great injury of his principal. The account of Colonel Forney had been satisfactorily closed, the deficiency having been made up by the gentleman himself, and the Government had not a cent. This amends honorable of Senator Cameron should be as widely published as the accusation which he now recalls.

MAMMOTH SALE! Four Hundred Thousand (\$400,000.00) DOLLARS WORTH FALL AND WINTER CLOTHING, IMMEDIATE WEDNESDAY MORNING, December 1st, 1869. There will be Commenced, at the GREAT OAK-HALL BUILDINGS, SIXTH AND MARKET STREETS, PHILADELPHIA, AT HALF-PAST SEVEN O'CLOCK. At which the People will remember they secured the best BARGAINS in CLOTHING MADE IN THEIR LIVES. Held here one year ago, AT WHICH THE PEOPLE WILL REMEMBER THEY SECURED THE BEST BARGAINS IN CLOTHING MADE IN THEIR LIVES.

NOTICE. The annual meeting of the Stockholders and the election for President and Directors of the COLLEGE OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, will be held at the City Hall, on MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 1870, at 2 o'clock P. M. The polls will be open at 2 o'clock and close at 4 o'clock P. M. WALTER W. WETTER, Secretary.

Let Us Live White We Live. HOLIDAY GROCERIES! Christmas-Sugar, New Year Coffee. VALUABLE REAL ESTATE. A LOT OF GROUND. Situated on the south side of Walnut Street, between Second and Third Streets, in the Borough of Philadelphia, bounded on the east by the property of the City of Philadelphia, and on the west by property of Edward Leas, containing in depth 80 feet, to an alley. The improvements thereon are:— TWO-STORY FRAME DWELLING. In the best condition, having been recently repaired, and containing 14 rooms, with a front porch, and a side porch, and a garden in depth 80 feet, to an alley. The improvements thereon are:— TWO-STORY FRAME DWELLING. In the best condition, having been recently repaired, and containing 14 rooms, with a front porch, and a side porch, and a garden in depth 80 feet, to an alley.

THE COLUMBIA SPY. THE COLUMBIA SPY! THE NEW YORK INDEPENDENT! Grant & Colfax!

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