STOCKS ADVANCE AS BEARS RETREAT.

Cliques Forced to Buy Heavily to Cover Short Contracts.

$500,000 GOLD IMPORT.

Both Manhattan and Metropolitan Street Railway Close with Net Gains.

Wall Street, December 18, 1897.

Excellent buying for long account and the covering of short contracts by frightened bears were responsible for the sharp upward turn in the stock market, which led to a recovery in prices in two hours, equal to the losses which the bears were able to manipulate during four days of steady pounding.

Part of the strength at the close was due to cable announcement from England that £102,000 United States gold coin had been withdrawn from the Bank of England for shipment to this country.

That the gold was intended for import here could not be verified among the foreign banking houses. The rates of exchange do not at present make gold imports profitable; though with higher rates here, which, from present appearances will prevail at least temporarily, a fall in exchange may be looked for.

This latter condition was presaged by the weekly statement of averages of the associated banks, which shows a reduction in the surplus reserve of $3,161,375, making this item $15,726,050, as compared with $33,274,725 in the corresponding week of last year. Deposits show a decrease of $5,278,500, loans a decrease of $1,046,000, and a decrease in legal tenders of $4,868,100. These changes in the condition of the banks reflect the payment of $8,538,000 cash into the Sub-Treasury on account of the Union Pacific purchase. Only for three days was this item carried in the statement, with the result of only showing half of it in the averages.

With no considerable sum from any source payable to the banks during the coming week, the prediction is made that call money may reach temporarily 5 or 5½ per cent. The payment by the Treasury Department of $80,800,000 principal and interest on currency 6s, on December 24, will benefit the banks in the following week, and interest payment coming on January 1 will provide loanable resources in excess of possible requirements after the first of the year.

Both Manhattan and Metropolitan Street Railway closed at about the highest quotations of the day, with a net advance of 1⅝ for the former and 1¼ for the latter. The fact seems to be well digested now that it is at least rather early to discount the construction of a road which cannot under the most favorable conditions be completed short of five years, by which time the increasing population will provide enough traffic for all the roads in the field.

Taken all in all, the strength and activity in the market was unusual for a half business day just on the eve of the holiday season. It reflects the excellent situation of the general business of the country, and does not indicate any rampant speculative move now, which could be injurious, as the buying was mainly by strong investors who could not be shaken out by higher interest charges or other ordinary condition likely to prevail before the first of the year.

Following are the sales of stocks and the range of prices:

Sales.	Stocks.	Open.	High.	Low.	Clos.
28075	Am S Refining	13⅞	13¾	13	13⅝
20	Am S Refining pf	113	113	113	113
220	Am Spirits Mfg	18	19	18	19
300	Am Tobacco	86½	86½	86¼	86¼
600	Am Cotton Oil	22½	22½	22½	22½
200	Am Cotton Oil pf	75	75⅝	75	75⅝
125	Atch, T & S Fe	13¼	13¼	13¼	13¼
2913	Atch, T & S Fe pf	30½	30⅞	30⅛	30⅞
600	Brunswick Co 2d i p	7½	7⅞	7½	7½
300	Baltimore & Ohio	13⅞	13⅞	13⅞	13⅞
305	Balt & O, S W pf	6¼	6⅜	6¼	6⅜
13575	Bay State Gas	5⅛	5⅜	3⅞	4
325	Brooklyn R T	32½	33	32½	32⅝
5	Canada Southern	56⅛	56⅛	56⅛	56⅛
5870	C & O W	15⅝	16	15⅝	15⅞
730	Ches & Ohio	21⅞	22	21⅞	22
400	C, C, C & St L	34¼	35¼	34¼	35¼
1700	Chic & N W	120	121½	120	121⅜
16398	Chic, Bur & Q	90	99⅞	98⅞	99⅜
11200	C, R I & Pac	96¼	97⅛	96⅞	96⅞
210	C, M & St P pf	141⅝	141⅝	141⅝	141⅝
5588	C, R I & Pacific	90⅝	90⅝	90¼	90⅞
300	Chic, Ind & L pf	30½	31	30⅛	30⅛
10	Col, H V & Tol	5	5	5	5
100	Col, H V & Tol pf	40	40	40	40
1780	Consol Gas Co	180	183	180	181¼
984	Del & Hudson	113	113½	113	113½
510	Del, Lack & W	156	157½	156	157½
200	Erie Railroad	15	15	15	15
325	Erie N Y 1st pf	38½	38⅝	38½	38⅝
65	Erie N Y 2d pf	20½	20½	20	20
400	General Electric	33	33½	33	33¼
300	Hawaiian C & S	27⅝	28¼	27⅝	28¼
700	Illinois Central	103⅝	104¼	103⅝	104¼
1500	Kan City, F & G	21⅞	21⅞	21⅞	21⅞
200	L S & Western pf	71½	71½	71½	71½
600	Laclede Gas	44	44⅝	44	44⅝
2890	Louis & Nash	56⅝	57⅛	56⅝	57⅛
12520	Manhattan Con	103⅝	104⅝	103	104½
927	Metropolitan St Ry	122½	123	122	122½
75	Met West Cent	103⅝	103⅝	103⅝	103⅝
400	Minn & St L	26	26	26	26
7000	Missouri Pacific	33⅛	34¼	32⅞	34⅛
500	Mo, Kan & T	13	13	13	13
950	Mo, Kan & T pf	36	36⅜	36	36⅜
200	Mobile & Ohio	28	28	28	28
6655	N J Central	92⅝	95	92⅝	95
100	N Y Central	107½	107½	107½	107½
300	National Lead	34	34⅝	34	34⅝
100	Nat Lead pf	104	104	104	104
300	N Y, S & W pf	34½	34½	34½	34½
200	Norfolk & W	15¼	15½	15¼	15½
810	Norfolk & W pf	48	48⅝	48	48⅝
310	Northern Pacific	21⅛	22	21⅛	22
6445	Northern Pac pf	69⅛	69⅞	69	69⅞
250	Ontario & West	15½	15⅝	15½	15⅝
200	Pacific Mail	29⅝	29⅞	29⅝	29⅞
3900	Phoenix Mining	9	10	7	9
7075	People's Gas	97½	97½	95½	97½
740	P, C C & St L	35½	36	35½	36
328	Pennsylvania R R	113	113⅛	113	113⅛
1025	Reading R R	22½	22⅝	22½	22⅝
8130	Reading 1st pf	49	49⅝	49	49⅝
5	Reading 2d pf	27½	27½	27½	27½
200	St P & W	10	10	10	10
605	St P & Omaha	77⅞	78¼	77⅞	78¼
360	Southern Pacific	20⅝	20⅝	20⅝	20⅝
400	Southern Railway	9½	9½	9½	9½
1615	So Railway pf	32⅝	33⅛	32⅝	33⅛
100	St J & G I	7½	7½	7½	7½
525	St J & G I 1st pf	50⅝	51⅛	50⅝	51⅛
325	St J & G I 2d pf	18	18⅛	18	18⅛
200	St Louis & S F	7⅞	7⅞	7⅞	7⅞
704	St L & S F 1st pf	58	58⅝	58	58⅝
460	St L & S F 2d pf	26½	26⅝	26½	26⅝
538	Tenn Coal & Iron	25	25½	25	25½
300	Texas Pacific	11	11⅛	11	11⅛
908	Union Pacific	25⅝	25½	25⅝	25⅝
100	Un Pacific D & G	7⅞	7⅞	7⅞	7⅞
200	U S Rubber	16½	16½	16½	16½
200	U S Rubber pf	67½	67½	67½	67½
100	U S Leather pf	62½	62½	62½	62½
300	Wabash	7½	7½	7⅜	7⅜
920	Wabash pf	17⅞	18⅜	17⅞	18⅜
1700	Western Union Tel	89⅞	90¼	89⅞	90¼
100	West Chic St Ry	102	102	102	102

Total sales, 199,377 shares.

Following are the sales of bonds, expressed in $1,000s, and range of prices:

64	Atchison adj 4s	57⅛@ 58
32	Atchison gen 4s	89⅝@ 89⅞
4	Ann Arbor 4s	83⅝@ —
10	Austin & N W 1st	89½@ 89½
26	Brooklyn R T 5s	92½@ 93
10	Ches & Ohio con 5s	112 @112⅝
80	Ches & Ohio gen 4½s	80 @ 80⅝
1	C, B & Q consol 5s	119¼@ —
45	C, B & Q 4s, Neb. ex	98 @ —
1	C, B & Q 7s	118⅝@ —
5	C, C, C & St L 4s, St L div	94⅝@ —
7	Canada Southern 1st	112⅝@112½
5	Canada Southern 2d	107½@ —
12	Central Georgia con. 5s	91½@ —
5	Central Georgia 2d inc	15 @ —
5	Central Pac 6s, '98	102⅝@ —
1	Ill. Cent. gen. 5s	102 @ —
10	Ch., St L & N O, Min. div. 1st	105⅝@ —
154	Chicago Terminal t. r	46 @ 46½
6	Chi. & Erie 1st	111 @ —
5	Det., M & M. inc	17⅞@ —
4	Det., L & B. S. 1st	101⅞@ —
5	Erie con. 1st pf	145 @ —
31	Erie prior bonds	92½@ 92⅝
81	Erie gen lien 3-4s	72 @ —
4	Ft. Worth 1st	72 @ 72⅝
3	H. & G. N. G. 1st	55½@ —
1	Gal., H. & H. 1st	89½@ —
23	General Electric deb. 5s	110 @ —
10	Hocking Valley 5s t. r	100 @100½
10	Houston & T C 1st 5s	75¼@ —
19	Ind, Dec & Hn. 1st	78 @ 78¼
1	Int. & Gt. N. 2d	105 @ —
5	Iowa Central 1st	84½@ —
10	Keok. & D. M. 5s	99 @ —
11	Kansas & Texas 4s	107 @107½
10	Kansas & Texas 2s	86⅝@ —
6	Lake Shore 3½s	92⅞@ —
18	Louis & Nash. g. 4s	104 @ —
4	L. N. A. & Ch. 1st	87⅛@ 87¼
12	Mo., Kan. & T. 1st	115 @ —
5	Mobile & Ohio 4s	94 @ 94¼
7	Manhattan Railway 4s	95⅝@ 95¾
20	Metropolitan St. Ry. 5s	113⅝@113⅞
25	Metropolitan Elevated 2d	103⅝@ —
1	Mobile & Ohio new 6s	121 @ —
1	So. Pac. con	94⅝@ —
1	Morgan's L. & T. 7s	129 @ —
62	Nor. Pac. gen. 3s	69⅛@ 69
25	Nor. Pac. pr. 4s	95½@ 95⅝
10	N. J. Central gen. 5s	110 @ —
16	N. J. Central gen. 5s	112⅞@113¼
3	N. Y. Central deb. 5s	110⅝@ —
10	N. Y. Ch. & St. L. 4s	106½@ —
42	N. Y. W. gold c. 4s	110⅛@ —
1	N. Y., L. E. & W. 4s	90⅝@ —
41	Oregon R. & N. 4s	93⅛@ 93½
1	Oregon Short Line 6s	123⅛@ —
5	Oregon Short Line 1st	98⅝@ 98⅞
9	Oregon Imp. 1st t. r	101⅝@ —
27	Ore. R. & N. 2d t. r	73 @ —
5	P., C. & C. 1st con. 6s	114⅝@ —
14	Rock Island 6s	134⅛@ —
8	Rock Island ex. 5s	107½@ —
152	Reading gen. 4s	85½@ 85½
10	So. Pac. of Arizona 1st	105 @ —
10	St. P. 1st, S. W. div	121⅛@ —
1	St. P. 1st, S. M. div	120⅞@ —
2	St. P. 1st, W. & M. 5s	116½@ —
2	St. Paul & Duluth 2d	107½@ —
12	San A. & A. P. 1st 4s	60⅛@ 60¼
5	S. C. & Ga. 1st	95 @ —
30	Southern Railway 5s	94⅛@ 94¾
2	Standard R. & T. 6s	50⅛@ 50⅝
1	Texas & Pac. 1st 5s	97⅝@ —
71	Texas Pac. 2d inc	28½@ 29½
1	T. C., I. & R. 6s, Bir. div	86½@ —
2	Union Pac. 1st, 98, t. r	116 @ —
77	Union Pac. pfd. ctfs	111 @ —
5	Union Pac., D & G. 1st, t. r	50 @ —
2	Wabash 1st	107½@ —
1	Wabash 1st, D. & C	100 @ —
16	West Shore 4s	111⅝@111⅞

Total sales of railway bonds (par value), $1,461,000.

The sales of United States bonds were $13,000 4s r. of 1907 at 113¼ and $4,000 4s c. of 1925 at 129½.

Commercial price of bar silver in New York, 56c. Mexican dollars were quoted at 45c. Bar silver closed in London at 25 15-16d.

Money on call, 3½ per cent. Time money, 3@4 per cent. Commercial paper, 3½@5 per cent.

The Mobile & Ohio Railroad reports gross earnings for October of $383,886, a decrease of $21,383 as compared with the same month of last year, and net $173,192, a decrease of $2,805. For the four months ending October 31 the gross earnings were $1,338,597, an increase of $70,033 as compared with the corresponding period of last year, and net $486,738, an increase of $27,926.

The Southern Pacific Railroad, of California, reports gross earnings for October of $916,769, a decrease of $32,403 as compared with the same month of last year, and net $412,717, a decrease of $23,612. For the ten months ending October 31 the gross earnings were $8,395,835, an increase of $106,030 as compared with the corresponding period of last year, and net $3,532,432, an increase of $490,678.

The Tennessee Coal, Iron & Railroad Company reports net earnings for November of $51,500, an increase of $6,591 as compared with the same month of last year, and surplus $3,723, and increase of $6,698. For the eleven months ending November 30 the net earnings were $521,190, a decrease of $146,831 as compared with the corresponding period of last year, and deficit $4,357, an increase of $145,654.

The Central Pacific Railroad reports gross earnings for October of $1,523,391, an increase of $203,033 as compared with the same month of last year, and net $755,301, an increase of $141,833. For the ten months ending October 31 the gross earnings were $11,632,058, an increase of $1,193,106 as compared with the corresponding period of last year, and net $4,952,741, an increase of $949,454.

The Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern Railroad reports gross earnings for October of $477,463, a decrease of $61,138 as compared with the same month of last year, and net $119,441, an increase of $18,631. For the ten months ending October 31 the gross earnings were $3,493,400, a decrease of $240,462 as compared with the corresponding period of last year, and net $1,010,864, an increase of $80,028.

The Pittsburg & Western, including the leased lines, reports for the year ended June 30:

	1897.	1896.	Changes.
Gross earn	$2,768,507	$3,091,302	Dec. $322,795
Net earnings	956,084	981,223	Dec. 25,139
Chgs. and tax	1,002,370	549,971	Inc. 56,399
Deficit	$46,286	Sur. $35,252	Inc. $81,538

Railway gross earnings for the first week of December as compared with the corresponding period of last year:

Bur, C R & N	$84,599	Dec.	$4,967
Georgia	34,420	Inc.	7,256
Grand Trunk	492,361	Inc.	67,146

Railway gross earnings for the second week of December as compared with the corresponding period of last year:

Canadian Pacific	$545,000	Inc.	$102,000
N. Y., Ont. & Western	73,254	Inc.	11,560
Minn. & St. Louis	39,947	Dec.	3,198
Buff., Roch. & Pitts	72,485	Dec.	14,818
Toledo, Ohio Central	39,976	Inc	163
Lake Erie & Western	69,159	Inc.	6,199
B. & O. Southwestern	136,439	Inc.	15,017
Chic. & East. Illinois	95,400	Inc.	10,200
Missouri Pacific	547,000	Inc	103,000
Chesapeake & Ohio	242,964	Inc.	8,524
Chicago Gt. Western	88,440	Inc.	7,956
Mexican Central	277,960	Inc.	54,739

Following are the closing Philadelphia quotations:

	Bid.	Asked.
Lehigh Valley	26⅝	26⅞
Pennsylvania R. R	56⅝	56½
Philadelphia Traction	76½	77
Union Traction	42½	42¾
Electric and People's Trust Ctfs	76⅞	77
Metropolitan Traction	122	123
Consol. Traction of N. J. stock	36½	37
Consol. Traction of N. J. 5s	99	99½
United Gas Improvement Co	97⅛	97¼
Welsbach Gas Light Co	40	40½
Electric Storage Battery, common	26	26½
Electric Storage Battery, preferred	28	30
Penn. Heat, Light & Power, common	18⅝	18½
Penn. Heat, Light & Power, pref	43	43⅛
Welsbach Commercial, common	12	13
Welsbach Commercial, preferred	62½	63

Following are the closing Boston quotations:

	Bid.	Asked.
Boston & Albany	216	217
Boston & Maine	167½	—
Chicago Junction, common	10½	—
Chicago Junction, preferred	—	110
Fitchburg, preferred	98	—
New England, preferred	—	80
Mexican Central 4s	65	66
Mexican Central stock	5⅞	6
Old Colony, ex div	183	—
West End lt'y common	86½	87
Dominion Coal	24½	25
American Bell Telephone	264	264½
Westinghouse Electric	20½	—
General Electric, preferred	82	85
Boston & Montana	145	145¾
Calumet & Hecla	—	470
Osceola	38	39
Quincy Mining	114	116
Tamarack Mining	126	128
Butte	24⅛	24¼
Boston United Gas 1sts	86	88
Boston United Gas 2ds	67½	70

The weekly statement of averages of the Clearing House banks shows:

Loans	$606,679,300	Dec.	$1,046,000
Deposits	639,891,400	Dec.	5,278,500
Circulation	15,751,100	Dec.	103,100
Legal tender	78,931,900	Dec.	4,868,100
Specie	104,267,000	Inc.	387,100
Reserve	$183,198,900	Dec.	$4,481,000
Res required	167,472,850	Dec.	1,319,625
Surplus	$15,726,050	Dec.	$3,161,375

The surplus a year ago was $33,274,725 and two years ago it was $17,088,800.

The imports of general merchandise, including dry goods, at the port of New York last week were $7,990,716, as compared with $6,930,432 the previous week and $7,364,968 for the corresponding week of last year. Since January 1 they were $463,209,029, and $427,730,494 for the same period last year. Imports of specie for the week were $12,335, of which $42,429 was gold and $69,906 silver. Exports of specie were: Gold, $38,255, and silver, $993,693, a total of $974,943, against $1,096,843 same week last year. The exports of specie since January 1 have been: Gold, $31,572,920, and silver, $43,304,645, a total of $74,877,565.

Latest London quotations are as follows:

Atchison	13½	Unt. & West	16
Canadian Pacific	84½	Nor Pac pf	69½
Erie 1st pf	39	Nor. & West. pf	61⅛
Erie com	15⅝	Pennsylvania	58
Ches & Ohio	22½	Reading	11⅛
Den & R G pf	47½	St. Paul	98
Illinois Central	103⅝	Southern Railway	9⅝
Kansas & Texas	13⅞	Southern R'y pf	33½
Louis & Nash	58⅛	Union Pacific	26
N. Y. Central	111	Wabash pf	18¼

Money in London 2@2½ per cent. Rate of discount in open market for short bills, 2 15-16 per cent, and for three months' bills, 3 per cent. Paris advices quote 3 per cent rentes at 103 francs 25 centimes. Exchange on London, 25 francs 24 centimes.

WHEAT PIT IN CHICAGO'S GRIP.

Speculators Wait for Developments in That Market.

PRICES A SHADE HIGHER.

Shipments from the West Very Small and Exports Continue to Fall Off.

On 'Change, Saturday, Dec. 18.

Following are to-day's cash prices for staple commercial products:

Wheat, No. 1 Northern	$1.01⅛@ —
Corn, No. 2 mixed	.32⅝@ —
Oats, No. 2 mixed	.27¼@ —
Cotton, middling	.06⅞@ —
Coffee, No. 7 Rio	.06⅝@ —
Flour, Minn. patent	5.20 @ —
Lard, prime	4.75 @ —
Molasses, O. K., prime	.27 @ —
Sugar, granulated	.05⅛@ —
Butter, Western creamery	.23 @.23½
Cheese, State, full cream	.08¼@ —
Eggs, Western	.23 @ —

Speculation in wheat was again restricted by the uncertainty of the situation in Chicago. The market was featureless, but prices were a shade higher on steady Liverpool news. December ranged from 98½ to 99⅛, closing at the top, a net gain of ¾c, and May from 95⅝ to 95⅞, closing at 93¾, a net gain of ¼c. Shipments of wheat continue very small at Chicago. The strength at the close was on large seaboard clearances of 656,700 bushels. Cash sales for export were 64,000 bushels. Northwest receipts were 650 cars, against 688 last year. The falling off in American exports last week will result in a decrease on passage and also in a sharp falling off in the world's shipments on Monday. The weather West is severely cold.

Corn and oats were steady.

The following is the day's range of prices:

New York.

WHEAT.

	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.
December	98½	99⅛	98½	99⅛
January	97⅝	97⅞	97⅝	97⅞
May	93⅝	93⅞	93⅝	93⅞
July	..	..	..	87⅞
CORN.				
December	..	..	..	32
May	34⅛	34⅛	34⅛	34⅛
OATS.				
December	..	..	..	27¼
February	..	..	..	27⅞
May	27¼	27⅜	27¼	27⅜
LARD.				
December	..	..	..	4.75

Chicago.

WHEAT.

December	98½	99⅛	98½	99
January	94	94¼	93⅝	94½
May	91⅞	92½	91⅞	92½
July	82¾	83¼	82⅝	83⅛
CORN.				
December	25⅞	26⅛	25⅞	26⅛
January	26⅝	26⅝	26⅝	26⅝
May	29	29⅛	28⅞	29⅛
July	30⅛	30¼	29⅞	30¼
OATS.				
December	21½	21⅝	21½	21⅝
May	22⅝	22⅞	22⅝	22⅞
LARD.				
December	..	..	..	4.42½
January	4.50	4.52½	4.50	4.52½
May	4.67½	4.72½	4.67½	4.70
RIBS.				
December	..	..	..	4.37½
January	4.37½	4.37½	4.37½	4.37½
May	4.52½	4.52½	4.50	4.52½
PORK.				
December	..	..	..	7.65
January	8.60	8.60	8.55	8.60
May	8.85	8.85	8.82½	8.82½

The Cotton Market.

Cotton was dull and featureless; the opening was steady and unchanged to 1 point advance. The fluctuations for the day were within a very narrow range, and trading dull. Cables were dull and without special feature. Thoman's estimate of the cotton crop appeared to have but little effect on the market. The visible supply of cotton is now 4,083,000 bales against 4,066,000 last year. The close was steady and unchanged to 1 point advance.

Prices:

	Opening.	High-est.	Low-est.	Closing To-day.
December	566	566	566	566@568
January	567	568	567	568@568
February	570	570	570	571@573
March	574	576	574	575@576
April	579	581	579	580@581
May	584	585	584	585@586
June	589	589	588	589@591
July	593	593	592	593@595
August	597	598	597	598@599
September	..	..	..	597@599
October	600	600	600	600@601

PUBLIC BUYING MINES.

Speculation in the Shares Broadening Every Day, and Prices Are on the Up Grade.

With the renewed interest being taken in speculation, which arises largely from the surplus means in the country, mining is coming in for its share of attention. Every day witnesses new investment buying by the public on the Mining Exchange by people who have studied the mining situation and are looking for a still greater development in this industry as the months roll round.

The result of this buying is to impart a steady, strong tone to the mining market, which, with few reactions in prices, keeps quotations constantly on the up grade. The features of the market yesterday were the marked rally in Gold Magnet, which sold up to 6½, buyer 30 days, and closed with 5½ asked on regular trades. Miami was strong as 38½, Rocky Mountain at 13⅛, and St. Frances Caribou fluctuated between $2.62½ and $2.75 per share.

Among the so-called "cheap" stocks Cannon Ball was steady at 7@7¼; Sentinel at 2¾@2¼, while Justine was not traded in at all, with bids for it at $10 and $13.75 per thousand asked.

Sales, with quotations, were as follows:

Sales.	Stocks.	High.	Low.	Close.
32000	Gold Magnet	.06⅝	.04	.06⅝
1000	Miami	.38½	.38½	.38½
100	Rocky Mountain	.13⅞	.13⅞	.13⅞
265	St. F. Caribou	2.75	2.62½	2.75
7000	Alamo	.03⅛	.03	.03⅛
5400	Cripple Creek con	.10	.10	.10
12000	Cannon Ball	.007½	.007	.007½
6000	Garfield Gr	.04⅝	.04½	.04⅝
500	Golden Fleece	.53	.53	.53
80000	Sentinel	.003	.002⅝	.003¼
12000	Tamarack	.009	.009	.009
6500	Work	.04⅝	.04½	.04½

Total shares sold, 176,265.

BUSINESS TROUBLES.

Joseph Hlawatsch.—Joseph Hlawatsch, plumber, of No. 871 Tinton avenue, Morrisania, made an assignment yesterday to Charles Hlawatsch, without preference.

Solomon Leichter.—Solomon Leichter, dealer in shoes, at No. 2277 Third avenue, has given a bill of sale to William F. Herz, of the Meyer & Herz Shoe Co., of New Haven, Conn.

Elias P. Roberts.—Deputy Sheriff Louh has received an attachment against Elias P. Roberts, wholesale dealer in meat, at West Washington Market, for $550, in favor of David Shannon.

David M. Jonas.—Deputy Sheriff Burnes received an execution yesterday against David M. Jonas, carpet dealer, of No. 599 Broadway, for $418, in favor of Benjamin Levy.

Herman Von Keller.—James H. Powers has been appointed receiver in supplementary proceedings for Herman Von Keller, of the firm of M. Von Keller & Co., importers of woollens, at Nos. 134 and 136 Grand street, by Judge Pryor, of the Supreme Court, on the application of Oelbermann, Dommerich & Co. The firm failed a year ago, with liabilities of $80,000, and Max Von Keller is now at Jena, Germany.

Thomas J. Blair & Son.—Judge Dykman, of White Plains, has appointed Frederick G. Herter receiver in supplementary proceedings for Thomas J. Blair & Son, carpenters, at Third avenue, near One Hundred and Seventy-seventh street, on the application of the Bradley & Currier Co., of this city.

James W. Barker.—Deputy Sheriff Simonson has received an attachment against James W. Barker, carpet manufacturer, at Norristown, Pa., for $2,245, in favor of T. J. Keveney & Co., of this city.

"Many fall while one succeeds,"
Is a maxim old and true;
Journal "wants" will meet your needs,
Bringing great success to you.

BRISK WEEK IN REALTY MARKET.

Both Investors and Speculators Showing Great Interest in Business.

LOWER BROADWAY QUIET.

Activity in Vacant Lots in the Washington Heights and Bronx Sections.

For a week so close to the holidays the showing in both investment and speculative buying of real estate was excellent. It is a good week which can present two Broadway transactions, half a dozen sales in the mercantile district and a long and interesting list of lot purchases.

So far this season the Broadway trading appears confined to the mercantile region. Both sales reported last week were of properties in that section, one parcel, Nos. 408 and 500, being located between Broome and Spring streets, and the other parcel, No. 678, being between Bond and Great Jones street. In neither transaction is the name of the purchaser yet announced, but it is known that both are of the investment class. There is but little speculative trading in Broadway realty. It is held too high to admit much speculative chance. Operators buy where they can turn quick profits and not where they have to await appreciation in values. The bulk of the dealing on Broadway of late years has been with a view to improvement, as is evidenced by the many new office and commercial buildings that loom up between Bowling Green and Fourteenth street, and even beyond the latter point.

But there will be a perceptible falling off in the character of improvement. The annual report of the directors of the Real Estate Exchange, submitted to the stockholders last week, shows that in order to prevent vacancies in the Exchange building it was necessary to make a general scaling of rents. The same condition prevails throughout the entire lower section. Owners of old buildings not only have to reduce rents, but to keep tenants new and gratis conveniences must constantly be introduced.

Quiet in Lower Broadway.

As the season advances the apathy in the lower Broadway market becomes more conspicuous. There has been no sale on Broadway south of Chambers street since last Summer. True, there are few parcels in that section that present known opportunities of buying, but experience has proven that it is far from always the marketed real estate that sells first. The only sale downtown for some time past was the partition week before last, of the Smith properties in Cortlandt and Liberty streets. While these properties were wanted and were secured by the owners of abutting holdings, there seems no reason why outside investors should let them go at such low prices, except for the fact already spoken of, the growing disinclination for the skyscraper style of investment, for at the values placed on these properties by some estimates nothing short of a skyscraper extending over the combined property could be expected to pay.

The week produced a purchase in the upper Fifth avenue section, which had been lying phenomenally idle for as much as a fortnight, and several sales in the better class residence districts. There was also considerable dealing in the East Side tenement districts.

Really the feature of the week was the speculative dealing in Washington Heights and Twenty-third Ward lots together with many tracts of land in the southerly districts of the new Borough of Brooklyn. In the main this buying was by operators, who will sell to builders or offer at auction, and this probably is an early day. It is an unusual thing for a church property to be purchased by another church society. During the past two or three years there have been several sales of church properties, but in every instance up to the sale of the Central Congregational property, in West Fifty-seventh street, last week, the buyer has been a speculator or a builder. The Central Church, however, goes to the Church of the Strangers, which society pays less for the property than it cost the sellers ten years ago.

There was nothing of feature in the auction market last week. There were several executors' offerings made, but with few exceptions they excited only a desultory interest, while as to the legal sales there is nothing to be said except that they were many in number and ordinary in character.

Samuel Milbank is reported to have concluded negotiations for the sale of the old Church of the Holy Trinity site, at the northeast corner of Forty-second street and Madison avenue, 147.3x88.5, with L to Forty-third street.

Sales of the Week.

James Barrett has purchased of the Katzenstein estate, through Folsom Brothers, No. 239 West Thirteenth street, a dwelling.

Captain A. Condit has sold, through Pease & Elliman, the four-story dwelling No. 155 East Thirty-fourth street, 20.10x100.

Joseph Fistere has purchased of Elmira S. Lent, through Folsom Brothers, No. 202 Waverley place, a dwelling.

Mr. Pinner has sold, through Frederick Zittell, for $24,000, No. 732 Lexington avenue, 20x75, a four-story dwelling.

H. Robinowitz has purchased of the Melvin estate, through Edward M. Crosby, at about $26,000, the old building on the northeast corner of Grand and Attorney streets, 16x63.

Margaret Reilly has sold to Mrs. Catherine Kraetsch, through Folsom Brothers, at $13,500, No. 315 East Eighteenth street, 20x42x95, a three-story dwelling.

Oppenheimer & Hammerschlag have purchased of Harriet Overhiser, through C. R. Gregor & Son, the southwest corner of Ninety-fourth street and Central Park West, 75.8½x100.

M. L. Sire has purchased of the New York Life Insurance Company the two four-story dwellings Nos. 16 and 28 East Seventy-sixth street, 19 and 20x102.2 feet.

William S. Weir has purchased of W. Frederick Layton, through Layton & Rogers, the three-story dwelling on the north side of One Hundred and Forty-eighth street, 275 feet west of the Boulevard, 16.8x65x100.

The Metropolitan Improvement Company has sold to Hugo Wesendonack, No. 10 West Eighty-eighth street, 17.6x100.8½, four and a half story American basement dwelling.

Blakeslee Barnes has purchased of the Hemenway estate the southwest corner of One Hundred and Thirty-second street and Park avenue, 100x100, vacant.

Clarence True has purchased No. 143 West Ninety-seventh street, 15.6x100.11, a four-story dwelling, giving in part payment No. 146 Rodney street, Brooklyn, for $17,500.

Joseph Cferlto has purchased of Adler & Hermann two unfinished flats on the south side of One Hundred and Ninth street, 100 feet west of Columbus avenue, 50x100.11.

Max Marx has purchased of R. M. Oilphant, as executor, the vacant plot, 50x200, on the north side of One Hundred and Eighty-seventh street, and the south side of One Hundred and Eighty-eighth street, 225 feet east of Eleventh avenue.

Marcus Nathan has sold to a Mr. Ives, for $66,000, Nos. 629 and 631 Columbus avenue, 50x100, two five-story flats