

THE PANAMA STORM

The Pacific steam-ship *Acapulco* arrived at Pier No. 42 North River on Christmas Day from Aspinwall. She brought back, as ballast, about 400 tons of iron, part of a consignment of freight from New-York for Panama and Pacific ports. The specie, passengers, and bulky freight were discharged at Aspinwall and have gone forward. The cause of the return of the freight was the partial destruction, by floods recently, of a bridge at Barba-coas, 20 miles from Aspinwall, where the railroad crosses the Chagres River, which has prevented the passage of trains, and freights now lie piled up at either terminus. The rain-storm raged from Nov. 20 to Nov. 25 with unprecedented fury. The fall of rain exceeded 11 inches. The bridge is an iron structure, 600 feet in length, resting upon stone piers of 400 tons each, laid upon a foundation of spiles. The spans are about 120 feet each. The great fall of rain, and the backing up of the water in the Chagres River by the furious gales from the sea flowing toward the coast moved some of these heavy abutments from their foundations, and rendered the passage of railroad trains over the bridge impracticable until the abutments are replaced. This was one of the strongest bridges in the world, and was designed by Col. Tatten, the engineer of the road, to withstand the utmost fury of the elements. The cargo of iron brought back will not be removed from the ship, but will be returned to Aspinwall.

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