NEW-ORLEANS BEE.

BY J. BAYON,
Printer to the State and to the First Municipality.

NEW ORLEANS:
WEDNESDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 17, 1838.

ARRIVALS FROM SEA.

The towboats Shark, Pacific and Grampus arrived from the Passes about half-past one o'clock this morning, bringing up quite a fleet from the ocean. The vessels are noted in the Marine News, but the arrivals were too late for the manifests to be procured; several of them, however, have already been published in the Bee, furnished by our correspondents.

ACCIDENT.

We learned at a late hour this morning that the steam towboat Lion, about 2 o'clock a.m. yesterday, ran against the ship Pardonnet, and in a few moments filled and sank. The engineer of the Lion, whose name we did not learn, was killed in the concussion. The captain and remainder of the crew, we believe, came up on the Shark.

Denis Prieur, Esq. agent for negociating the loans for the first and third municipalities, will leave for New York in the packet ship Yazoo, which is expected to sail this afternoon.

MAGNETISM.

We are not about to give a dissertation on animal magnetism, that bone or wonder of the age. We place under this head a short account of a discovery made by one of our countrymen, which, in the opinion of scientific men is destined to produce results of the most important character in geography and navigation. During the last session of congress, a memorial was offered to the senate from Doctor Henry Hale Sherwood, of the city of New York, claiming to have made new and important discoveries in magnetism generally, and more particularly in the magnetism of the earth; and representing that he is the inventor of an instrument called the Geometer, whereby without the aid of the quadrant, sextant, or ordinary compass, and without taking celestial observation, it is practicable and easy, at sea and on land, and in all weathers to determine merely by the dip of the needle, the variation of the needle, and the latitude and longitude of any place on the surface of the globe, and praying the aid of congress to enable him to proceed with the publication of a work explaining these discoveries, and the uses of that instrument, and to commence the manufacture of the same in the most perfect manner. The discoveries here detailed are of the most important nature, and the memorial was referred to the committee on naval affairs, of which Mr. Tallmadge of New York, is chairman; and they reported that they were unable from their own knowledge to pronounce an opinion on the merits of these discoveries, but they had examined the subject sufficiently to satisfy them that "the efforts of Doctor Sherwood to promote the cause of science and to confer such immense benefits upon mankind are a successful result of his experiments would do entitle him to the liberal patronage of congress." The committee also stated, that they would as soon as practicable present to the senate, such a bill as would be best calculated to carry their opinion into effect.

Doctor Sherwood proposed that he should derive no pecuniary advantages from the discovery in this country, and that the benefit of it should accrue to the people of the United States, an instance of disinterested generosity as rare in circumstances of this kind, as it is honorable. He desired merely that congress should appropriate funds sufficient to defray the expenses of printing a volume which he had prepared, comprising the elaborate tables "upon which the practical rules of his geometer are based, and numerous plates illustrating of the principles of the science and uses of the instrument, together with a history of his discoveries and invention." He also desired that congress would defray the expenses of a voyage to Europe, which he deemed necessary in order to perfect his geometer by the aid of the skilful mechanical talent to be found there. In their report the committee observe that this cannot be accomplished without incurring a very considerable expense—an expense (they observe) far above the pecuniary ability of Doctor Sherwood: and they conclude their report with the following handsome and liberal expressions—"They deem the subject of so much importance, that they do not hesitate to express the opinion that an enlighted policy on the part of the government should induce congress to grant the requisite aid. By such aid, and by such aid alone, a discovery and an invention which may prove so valuable to science and so useful to mankind, may be perfected and confer everlasting honor on him who has already devoted to the subject the best portion of his life, as well as enduring fame upon the country."

The report of the naval committee, is dated the 30 July, 1838, unfortunately only a few days before the adjournment of congress. This subject was considered, and so great importance that the senate ordered five thousand additional copies of the report to be printed for the use of the members. But we fear, unfortunately, that it was too late for the introduction of the promised bill, or if introduced that congress had not sufficient time to pass it. But of this we are uncertain. If the bill did not pass, the doctor's work was necessarily suspended. It appeared that part of it had already been stereotyped, but in consequence of some unavoidable misfortune, it became necessary that all the pages thus printed should be re-written, and the whole labour begun anew. If the bill were postponed till next session, he would not go to Europe in the mean time, and his whole secret may thus run the hazard of being divulged. The publication of five thousand copies of the report of the committee, by attracting the attention of ingenious men in Europe and America, may possibly chance to discover it. It seems to have been the wish of the doctor's friends that he should avail himself of the opportunity which his discoveries and invention afforded him, to obtain the high premium offered by the British government to any one who should discover a simple method of finding the longitude. Then forward Doctor Sherwood, in a short announcement, the chairman of the committee, states that an attempt had already been made by an Englishman to ferret out the secret of the discovery, and to possess himself of the TRUTH, and that this Englishman had already sent over to his own country, all that he could possess himself of to a man of science in London, in order that he might discover the theory and construct the table, with the obvious design of anticipating Doctor Sherwood."

Our readers will probably by this time feel some anxiety to be acquainted with the personal history of an individual, whose name is doubtless destined to become one of the most illustrious in the annals of science. We extract the following particulars from the interesting letter of Doctor Dwight, alluded to above. Sherwood is a native of Williamstown, in Massachusetts, and emigrated in his infancy with his parents to the State of New York. Through the kindness of an uncle, he received an academical education, and afterwards was regularly instructed in the medical profession, which he has pursued as the means of subsistence.

"About twenty five years since his attention was turned to the science of magnetism, and a short course of experiments showed him that many of the arrangements relative to it in the books were erroneous; that many of its important principles and laws were unknown; and that the facts so ably known were stated in the best treatises, with so little regard to principle and arrangement, that magnetism scarcely deserved the name of a science. From the discoveries which he made, taken in connexion with the figure of the earth, and the circles described on its surface, he became early and immovably convinced that an instrument might be devised, by the aid of which the latitude and the longitude of every place on the surface of the earth might be determined. This conviction and the immense importance of the subject, led him to devote all the time and effort, not necessary for the support of his family, to the prosecution of these discoveries, and to the completion of the devised instrument. This, rather than his profession, he has made for many years the commanding business of his life."

Doctor Dwight then proceeds to give a long and minute history of the principal discoveries in magnetism, effected by the labours of those who preceded his friend Sherwood. Results of magnitude await the disclosure of this last discovery and the operation of the geometer, which will form an era in geography and navigation, not less remarkable and important than the first discovery of the polarity of the load stone. The various phenomena of the compass have for some centuries past occupied the attention of all civilized nations. The patronage of governments has been extended to assist the researches of science, and that of England has been characterized by liberality above all others. For nearly years the Board of Longitude offered a premium of 20,000 pounds sterling, as a reward for a method of finding the longitude, and the maker of the best chronometer used by Captain Parry in his northern voyages, is said to have received ten thousand pounds sterling. This grand secret appears at last to have been discovered by one of our own countrymen, and we hope that congress will rewhisl him with a liberality worthy of the representatives of a great and free nation, and commemorate with the benefits which his genius will have conferred upon mankind.

A BATCH OF SLANDERS.

The Boston Courier, one of the most uncompromising federal journals in the country, observed of the notorious James Watson Webb, after the murder of Jonathan Colley, that he was a political braggart, a millstone round the necks of the whigs, which, unless it were shaken off, would consign that party at no distant day to irretrievable discomfiture and destruction. The words of the acute journalist appear to have been written in a spirit of prophecy, forever since the agency of this gracious Webb in that foul affair, the party of which he was the sponsor, has been suffering defeat upon defeat, it has lost state after state upon which it was wont to rely, and will ere long surrender to the democratic hands, every portion of the confederacy which panic and delusion had enabled it to conquer.

A political blunder is highly perilous at the present moment. The supremacy of the whigs, even now tottering to its fall, requires only some gross and glaring oversight,—some false and if may allegation to complete its overthrow, and Webb, the informer, in the plenitude of his unscrupulous but impotent cunning, has just taken the nice easy step for its accomplishment. That worthy imagined that by the fabrication of an incident and vile piece of mendacity against the sons of the president, he might excite public odium to a sufficient extent to influence materially the coming contest. But the besotted vanity of the whig leader render him wilfully blind to the fact that, his utter lack of honesty, character and moral responsibility would effectually prevent even his own party from attaching the slightest credence to his inventions, while the exposure of his falsehoods by the democratic press would give a deeper hue to the infamy which clings to him, and differ every honest man from the support of a party, headed by such a worthless varlet. Evenhanded justice has returned the ingredients of his poisonous chalice to the lips of him who sought to dispense it to others; and the amiable godfather of the hideous brood, besides substantially injuring his party by his disgraceful act, was himself once more in the delightful dilemma of being deserted by his friends, and still more deeply detested by his foes. He is in a complete category, he certain Truck would say.

But to the point. Monday's mail brought us a number of details in relation to the cruelty and heartlessness of Mr. John Van Buren's alleged implication in the arrest of Webb. In several of the newspapers the whole affair is minutely mentioned, and Webb's statement satisfactorily proven to be a most wanton and wretched piece of fabrication. The Albany Argus lays bare the entire business so clearly and conclusively, that, we subjoin it in full. The public will please recollect that Webb addressed a letter to the Albany Evening Journal, dated Sept. 24, 1838, in which he declares that on leaving America in May last, there was among a number of business papers, one drawn at eighteen months, which would fall due in a few days—this note, he states, had been obtained under false pretences, and the holder had agreed never to present it for payment if he would consent to keep secret the circumstances under which it was obtained, and not subject the holder to an indictment for swindling. Notwithstanding this, however, Webb adds that "a political opponent obtained possession of it, endorsed and lodged it in the bank of Albany for collection, caused it to be regularly protested when due, and sent it out to England for prosecution." He continues to assert that a process was issued against him out of the King's Bench, *upon the affidavit of* Mr. John Van Buren, that he was arrested, and would have been incarcerated had it not been for the prompt sympathy and effectual interposition of Robert Bright, Esq. who became his bail. The expatiates upon the refinement of hatred exhibited in thus arresting him in Bristol where he was unknown, rather than in London, where he had numerous friends whose assistance would have been immediately proffered. He concludes by an appeal made up of the lachrymose and the indignant, and counts the part of an injured and oppressed man in a manner well worthy of his experienced powers of imitation.

Now for the "plain tale" that shall "set down" this shameless fabrication.

[From the Albany Argus.]

THE VIRTUOUS FABRICATION.

We have by the Great Western, and through other channels, the facts in relation to the arrest of Webb, at Bristol.

The note was for $2,760. It matured on the 7th of June, two weeks after Mr Van Buren's departure from the country. Of the existence of the note, Mr. V. B. was altogether ignorant. It was sent out by the first indorser to Baring Brothers & Co. London, for collection. Webb, an active political friend of Webb, and who caused this agent in London, with its instructions to proceed to his collection, but to do so with all delicacy. Webb, in great Wrath, wrote to the indorser of the note regarding that individual, the London agent address it him, a private note, advising him of the demand sent to his hands, and expressing his readiness to place the matter upon the most favorable footing. For the rest, the London agent will speak for himself.

"21 Cheapside, London, 19th July, 1838.

"Sir: I received yours of the 9th ult., but have received no further instructions than those contained in your letter.

"Upon its receipt, I immediately proceeded to find out Mr. Webb, and was informed by Mr J. Odon that he was a resident at Easton's hotel in St James street. On inquiry there I learned that he had left the premises three days previously, and had gone to Liverpool, but that he intended being in London and remaining there for about a fort night previous to his leaving the country. I called on Monday next, at his hotel, and was informed that he did not know where to forward letters to him, and I have but just learned that he intended leaving this by the Great Western steam ship, which sails on Saturday next, and I therefore conclud that *it was a reason for misleading* the landlord. I shall, by to-night's mail, send down a confidential clerk to apply to him for payment, and in the event of his not getting cash or security, to bind him to bail, *as his conduct and offence in regard to the note, leads me to believe that he is in difficulties, or apprehensive of arrest.*

"I remain yours truly,

"H. Lloyd.

"——, Esq., New York."

Of these proceedings Mr. Van Buren was in no respect cognizant; and his only connexion with the affair was, when called upon by the agent in London to testify to the signature of Judge Lansing of this city, before whom the affidavit in relation to the note had been taken.

It is from this circumstance alone, and with a perfect knowledge that Mr. V. B. participated in no respect in the affair of the collection of the note or the arrest, that the patriots of the Courier & Enquirer have deliberately planned and carried out an attack upon that gentleman unparalleled for vaulteness and villainy. Than Webb and Wood should resort to a mutual scheme to defame an absent American citizen at any violation of truth and decency, will surprise no one to whom their general profligacy of character is known. But that the Daily Advertiser of this city, in the absence of Mr Van Buren, should volunteer a repetition and endorsement of the statement, with a full knowledge of the denial of the allegations by the friends of that gentleman, but without an allusion to it, will be a matter of surprise such as had expected, under impressions derived from its general course, other things attis hands.

With regard to the legality of the demand upon Webb, we know nothing. It is sufficient for our purpose, and for all the interest we take in the matter, to show that Mr. V. B. has been in no respect a party to the affair, and that the statements under the responsible signature of Webb," and repeated by the Evening Journal and Daily Advertiser, are wanton and deliberate calumnies. But if the demand be illegal—if the note was "obtained under false pretences"—and if "the holder in March last agreed that it never should be presented for payment" if Webb should obtain from making known the circumstances under which it was obtained, and no go before a grand jury to ask an indictment for swindling"—if all these allegations be true, it is then a matter to be settled between Webb and his personal and political friend Mr. D. K. Minor, late of the New York American, by whom the note was obtained, and by whom it was transferred, as valid paper, to other hands. We will likely never know, however, that this note left the hands of the present "bold" *since July* 1836, and that on occurrence, as is falsely said, to have taken place in *March last*, is a fabrication, in any manner or form, so far as he is the question.

We have but a single remark to add. It is a request that the Bulletin, which has had the extreme condescension and kindness to republish Webb's correspondence on the subject, will reprint the refutation of his charges by the Albany Argus. It is a matter of some moment, aside from party considerations, that our country and the sons of those who enjoy the highest offices in the gift of the nation, should not be slandered with impunity and without contradiction. It would be disgraceful enough, were it true, that Mr. John Van Buren could descend to the petty meanness of pen-cutting as contemptible a character as James Watson Webb; and it is but an act of simple justice, that the *only* paper in New Orleans, which has virtually endorsed the libel by its republication, should, upon sufficient evidence of its improbability, insert the reply.

ST. CHARLES.

The performances in the Rent Day on Monday evening, were scarcely above mediocrity, yet the intense, the pastoral drama, was not for a moment suspended—Perhaps the only defect in the production, rich as it is in the warmest feelings and tenderest emotions that can elicit sympathy, is that cause in which relief is unnecessarily afforded to the afflicted and desperate family of the Heywards—it smacks somewhat too much of the marvelous, and would convey a more powerful moral were it more natural. We do not know but that even this slight censure is hypercritical, and so beautifully progressive in other respects are the development of the plot, and the display of character, that we can well pardon a minor defect.

The new Farce of "Forty and Fifty," is amusing, with a good deal of the happy equivoque of the French vaudeville about it, but as it is *but not* jest too free, at least for the purity of the American stage. Factor was most admirable—the exquisite husband, zealous to absurdity from the consciousness of having once committed a few carnival proceedings, was most faithfully depicted. Mrs. Smith too, merits commendation—middle aged and elderly ladies are quite her forte—let her never meddle with juvenilities, and she will seldom disappoint.

☞ Those who love flowers would do well to give a call to Mr. Dizy in Common street, opposite the Hospital. His collection of plants and flowers is very extensive, varied and beautiful. We have a *bouquet* on our table culled from his garden. It is composed of a variety of flowers of richest hue and exquisite odor. The Dahlias are remarkably beautiful—in not they emulate the Iris and no art could imitate the perfect symmetry with which nature's hand has arranged their petals.

As an evidence of the hardy character of the *morus multicaulis*, a French journal mentions that all the trees cultivated in France, the mulberry was the last to suffer from the severe frosts of the preceding winter. It flourishes in almost every degree of latitude from 42 or 43 to 25, and possesses powers of resistance to cold scarcely displayed by any other tree.

[C. MUNICIPALITY.]

PAVING—FLAT STONES.

As the public mind seems much excited at the present time with regard to paving, allow me to make a suggestion to whoever was the advocate of flat-stone pavement. Such a pavement can never stand when a gutter is placed on each side, and the centre of the pavement is elevated. But let the gutter be thrown into the centre and the flat stones be placed with an inclination from the edge to the centre, and I am convinced, the pavement would be as solid as any other. The pieces that compose an arch must either be very small and peculiarly shaped or else be of a material flexible in its nature.

Let the gutter of Bank alley be placed in the centre and the flat stones be placed on an inclination from the edge to the centre of the street, and take my word it will be perfectly strong, solid and firm. The above is the description of the flat stone pavement found at Pompeii and as it exists at Florence at this time.

PAVIOR.

From the Globe.

FAMILIAR DIALOGUES BETWEEN A MERCHANT AND A FARMER.

Farmer.—Well, squire, your bank has resumed specie payments, I understand.

Merchant.—Yes, we have resumed.

F.—Now, did you tell me and all my neighbors when came to your store to buy goods, that the state banks never could or would resume, and congress established a bank of the United States to regulate them?

M.—Yes, I told you so.

F.—The actual resumption of the state banks without the establishment of a bank of the United States, proves that you were mistaken in that opinion, doesn't it?

M.—I suppose it does.

F.—Those, then, you will give up that argument in favor of a national bank.

M.—I don't know.

F.—And you told me you had to give ten per cent to get New York funds to pay for goods, and that things would never be better until a bank of the U. States was established to regulate domestic exchanges, did you not?

M.—Yes, I did.

F.—How much do you have to give for New York funds now?

M.—One per cent.

F.—So, domestic exchanges are *regulated* without a bank of the U. States, are they not?

M.—They have come down.

F.—There goes another of your great arguments in favor of a national bank. Did you not tell us that commerce was dead, and would never revive without a national bank?

M.—Yes, I did.

F.—Is not commerce fast reviving, and becoming very active?

M.—Yes.

F.—So, there goes another of your arguments in favor of such a bank.

Did you not tell us that the price of produce was coming downwards and that we should soon get nothing for our wheat, corn, and cattle, unless a bank of the U. States was established?

M.—I suppose I did.

F.—Are not wheat, corn, and cattle higher than ever?

M.—Yes, higher than I have known them for many years.

F.—So, there goes another of your arguments in favor of a national bank.

Did you not tell us that a vast number of laboring people were out of employment, and never would get any thing to do until a bank of the U. States was established?

M.—Yes, such was my opinion.

F.—Are they not all now employed that choose to be, and at high wages too?

M.—Yes, I believe it is so.

F.—So, there goes another argument in favor of a national bank.

Did you not tell us that the government could never get along without a bank of the U. States?

M.—Yes, I told you so.

F.—Well, has it not got along without such a bank ever since 1833, and has it not get along without the bank of any bank since May 1836, and do not the treasury and the post office departments collect and disburse millions of dollars a year, without unusual difficulty or trouble?

M.—They say so.

F.—Well, there goes another of your great arguments in favor of a national bank.

Now, I should like to know, squire, what arguments you have left in favor of a bank of the United States.

M.—We want a general currency to accommodate travellers. If you are on a journey with notes of the state banks, you can scarcely go a hundred miles until you get beyond the circle of their circulation, and they worst pass. The notes of the bank of the U. States are good as silver every where.

F.—Is not gold as good every where as the notes of a bank of the U. States can be?

M.—I suppose it is.

F.—Here, then, is a general currency to accommodate travellers, without a bank of the U. States; is there not?

M.—But gold cannot be had every where in sufficient quantities.

F.—You must admit, however, that the quantity of gold coin in the country is constantly increasing, and that they are steadily diffusing themselves among the banks and the people. There is scarcely a bank which has not more of less, of them. I understand your bank has a considerable quantity of gold. Has it not?

M.—Yes, we have a hundred thousand dollars or more, but we do not pay it out.

F.—Don't you pay it out to persons who are going on journeys, and want it to pay their expenses?

M.—No it is many convenient to keep than silver.—Besides, we do not mean to be instrumental in obviating any of the inconveniences the people feel from the want of a national bank.

F.—Indeed! So, although you enjoy *special privileges* upon consideration that you will *accommodate* the people, you will not accommodate them unless they surrender their independence, adopt your opinions, and follow the policy you dictate!

I'll tell you what, squire, there is a way to make you shell out your gold, whether you will or not.

M.—Indeed! I should like to see you try it.

F.—We can do it by making runs on you, until you become accommodating.

M.—That would be monstrous.

F.—How monstrous?

M.—There not is gold enough in the country to supply the banks and meet the wants of the people.

F.—Is not there specie enough in the banks in the country? but there soon will be. Our southern gold mines supply a million or two every year, and almost half of the many millions of dollars brought into the country annually by emigrants, go into gold. You cannot deny that the quantity of gold in the country has greatly increased since the passage of the gold bill.

M.—That cannot be denied. Formerly, we never saw a gold piece; now we see such pieces almost every day; but still there is not enough to make gold the only legal tender.

F.—Well, I told that gold is the only legal tender for considerable sums in France and England, and in most European countries, and I have no doubt it would have been better for the people if it had been so here; but that is not what I am contending for. All I insist on is, that if the banks will not afford the people all reasonable accommodations in this respect, the people may make them do it, by organizing among themselves. The banks, if they will, may render any change unnecessary; but if they force an inconvenience on the people, and use that inconvenience as an argument in favor of a national bank, the people have a right to remove the inconvenience by adopting a simple and constitutional process of *forcing the privileged institutions to shell out all their specie—gold and silver.*

M.—I have no doubt that our bank will pay gold whenever any of our citizens may want it to pay travelling expenses.

F.—Very well; then our citizens can get as gold as several hundred dollars in travel upon as the notes of a bank of the United States. Can they not?

M.—Yes—no doubt of it.

F.—Then there goes another of your arguments in favor of a national bank. Is not the state banks will not be equally just and liberal, the people have only to make them so by law; for the people are the government in this country.

M.—Well, you cannot get a safely send a gold coin in a letter as a bank note, and it would be a great convenience if there were a bank furnishing a general currency for remittance.

F.—Do you pay it out to persons who are going on journeys, and want it to pay their expenses?

M.—Not