NEW-ORLEANS BEE.

BY BULLITT, BULLEN & MAGINE.
No. 81 Chartres street.

"TRUTH IS OMNIPOTENT AND PUBLIC JUSTICE CERTAIN."

NEW-ORLEANS:
MONDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 4, 1839

FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
HENRY CLAY,
OF KENTUCKY.

Subject to the decision of a National Convention.

EARTHQUAKE AT MARTINIQUE.

The Pauline which arrived yesterday from St. Pierre, (Island of Martinique,) which she left on the 14th inst., brings us the sanguinest intelligence, that on the 11th, a dreadful earthquake took place in the that colony.—The town of St. Pierre has suffered greatly, but the destruction has been far greater at Fort Royal, in which town the number of victims to this dreadful calamity is not less than FOUR HUNDRED,—at the departure of the Pauline, however, the entire extent of devastation produced by the earthquake, was by no means accurately ascertained.

Hundreds of plantations on the Island had been utterly destroyed, and intelligence of new disasters was continually pouring into the town.

The following is an extract of a private letter from St Pierre, under date of the 12th.

The Pauline being ready to sail, I transmit you in great haste, a few details of the catastrophe we have just experienced. Yesterday, on the 11th inst. at 6 o'clock A. M. a very severe shock of an earthquake was felt in this town, which lasted about five minutes, with the same intensity. Many of our houses have been overturned or shattered to pieces; among others two in the street in which we reside; two individuals have been buried beneath the ruins of the latter. At Fort Royal the calamity is far more frightful; from the news received this morning, we learn that the number of victims already withdrawn from the ruins amounts to more than THREE HUNDRED. Nearly all the houses in that town are destroyed. In short, it is said that this unfortunate city is nearly entirely overwhelmed and destroyed."

To augment if possible this sad calamity, the yellow fever commits terrible ravages. Among other victims is Mr Lucette, aid de camp to the governor.

We subjoin the governor's proclamation, for a copy of which we are indebted to the politeness of the French consul.

PROCLAMATION OF REAR-ADMIRAL, GOVERNOR A. DE MOGES.

CITIZENS OF FORT ROYAL:—

You have been visited by a frightful misfortune. Your houses are overthrown; you seek beneath their ruins your parents, your children, your friends.

France and the king will soon learn this dreadful calamity, and will come to your aid.

In the interim, let all those whose courage does not fail them, who possess manly hearts and strong arms, unite with the garrison and marine to give a free passage to the waters, to open the streets, to prop up all the buildings in danger of falling, and thus prevent new misfortunes.

The assistance of the king's government, together with that of the rest of the colony who have suffered less than yourselves, will not be wanting, and you will succor each other with your accustomed generosity

CITIZENS OF ST. PIERRE:

I have this moment learned that your city has suffered greatly in common with other parts of the island; my utmost efforts shall be exerted, to aid you in sustaining and repairing your misfortunes.

Fort Royal Jan. 11th, 1839.

Rear admiral governor A. DE MOGES.

We have received Havana papers to the 31st Jan. We do not, however, find much of interest, either political or commercial.

The *Diario* of the 20th contains a note to the captain general from the French consul general Havana, which states, that malevolent reports had been circulated against the French marine, in relation to the loss of the *Grande Antilla*, at Sacrificios. The reports are stated to be calumnious, and the consul signifies that he will instruct the admiral, to the effect that the affair may be investigated.

The American brig Chieftain had arrived at Havana

WHIG SENATOR FROM MISSISSIPPI.

The legislature of Mississippi, has elected HENDERSON, whig, by a majority of FIVE VOTES, to fill the vacancy in the U. S. senate, occasioned by the resignation of R. J. Walker.

ANOTHER STAR.—AUGUSTA, the *danseuse*, arrived last night by the packet ship Nashville from New York.

BOISSY D'ANGLAS.—On Saturday last the members of the legislature paid a visit this *chef-d'œuvre* of the French school. Yesterday, the public exhibition took place, and will continue for a few weeks. Every lover of painting ought to examine this magnificent production.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.]
Washington, Jan'y 24th, 1839.

In the senate, to-day, Mr. Davis presented the credentials of Mr. WEBSTER, the senator elect from the state of Massachusetts, for the next six years, from and after the 3d of March next.

PROCEEDS OF THE PUBLIC LANDS

Mr Benton submitted a resolution to the effect that the secretary of the treasury report to the senate, whether any, and if any, how much would have been the deficit in the treasury, if the act to appropriate for a limited time the proceeds of the sales of the public lands of the United States, and for granting land to certain states which passed both houses of congress had received the approbation of the president, and been acted on, up to the 1st day of January, 1839.

Mr B said he would ask to have the resolution considered at once.

Mr Talmadge said he would prefer that the resolution should lie over, as he did not perceive the senator present who was interested in the matter.

Mr Benton. No objection, sir; I only wanted to know what the state of the treasury would have been at this time, if that bill had become a law.

Mr Benton rose to introduce a bill for the repeal of the salt tax, and went at large into the merits of the measure.

Mr Davis said it was not usual to discuss the merits of a bill on its presentation; he desired, however, to make some few observations in reply to the senator, and would do so either to-morrow or next day.

Mr Benton agreed that it should lie on the table.

Mr Foster moved to take up the special order—the bill to authorise the state of Tennessee to issue grants and perfect titles to certain lands therein described and to settle claims to the vacant and unappropriated lands within the same.

Mr Wright, here said it was his intention to have called up the document of the secretary of the treasury, in reply to the resolution of the senator from Virginia; indeed, he would have done so yesterday, had that senator not been absent. The senator from Virginia was now in his seat, and he waived the motion for to-day. He gave notice that he would call it up to-morrow.

The senate then took up the bill indicated by the motion of Mr. Foster, who addressed the senate in its favor concluding by expressing his willingness to strike from it the proviso, that after January, 1844, all the lands within the state should be unconditionally ceded to Tennessee. The bill being so amended, the question on its engrossment was decided in the affirmative, ayes 33, nays 3.

On motion of Mr. Benton, the senate went into executive session; and then adjourned.

In the house of representatives, Mr. Cambreleng, by leave, stated that the committee of ways and means wished to make a report, containing at large the views of that committee with regard to the state of finances generally, and said that the committee had come to the conclusion, that should congress authorize the usual amount of new appropriations, and the three millions proposed for fortifications, harbors, &c. it would be necessary to provide for or six millions for the treasury, in addition to all the resources or receipts existing or contemplated.

The report having then been made, it was ordered that size on the table and be printed.

Mr Haynes moved for the printing of 10,000 extra copies of the report.

Mr Sergeant opposed this motion, and was proceeding to give his reasons, when he yielded to the suggestion that unless by general consent, that motion should lie over for one day. It lies over accordingly.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

On motion of Mr. Haynes the house then went into the committee of the whole on the state of the Union, Mr. Adams in the chair.) Mr. Howard moved to take the bill for the liquidation of claims of American citizens for spoliations by France prior to the treaty of 1831.

Mr. Cambreleng said the gentleman from Maryland (Mr Chaseter read the report which had just been made, or he pressed a bill which would require the appropriation of four or five millions of dollars.

Mr. Howard said that he had often endeavored to bring up this bill, and if the gentleman had not obstructed it, he might have had an opportunity of altering his report so as to cover the necessary amount.

After further conversation between Messrs. Haynes, McKennan, Pickens, Howard, and Carey, as to the order of business, the question was taken on Mr. Howard's motion and negatived.

On motion of Mr. Haynes, the committee then took up the resolutions offered by Mr. H. for referring the several subjects in the president's message to their appropriate committees.

Washington, January 25th, 1839.

The Globe of last night published with a great flourish of trumpets the speech of Duncan, of Cincinnati, delivered during the debate on raising the select committee of inquiry into defalcations. It is an elaborate effort to defend the administration against the charges which were brought against it with so much force and spirit by Wise, Prentiss, Menefee, Garland, of Louisiana, Lyon, Hoffman, and others. The *material* of this oration, it is well understood here, was furnished by Duncan by Woodbury and Kendall, from whom he received letters, and by their subordinate clerks, who he admitted, had furnished many of the statistical statements he had made, consisting principally of the pitiful excuses of certain officers, clerks, messengers in the departments, their salaries, &c. When Duncan finished his oration, Mr. Stanley, an able and patriotic member from North Carolina, rose and exposed the true character of this champion of the administration. Among other things illustrative of his position, Mr. Stanley referred particularly to a letter written by Duncan, when a candidate for congress, which smells with the grossest vituperation, slavekolders and their institutions. In this letter Duncan declared slavery "is an evil greater in its effects and corrupting tendencies than any other human evils put together." It is an evil that has direction, and will in all time to come, while it exists, involve in it, as well in the present possession, as in its future operations, crime, fraud, theft, robbery, murder and death.

Again, he drew a picture of the condition of the slaveholding states, in which he represented "*every thing material bearing the impress of poverty and dilapidation.*" He said "all looks as if pestilence and famine had been making sad innovations. The anger of God and the vengeance of heaven seem to rest upon every thing on which you turn your eyes; every thing seems to be withered by the frown and disapprobation of avenging justice, and violated humanity. Almost every institution, every prosperity, public and private, seems to be sickening and dying from the corrupting and corroding effects of slavery. *But the curse be on the heads of those who sustain such institutions.*"

This is the language of the champion of the government and the advocate general of the president—the "northern man with southern feelings and principles!" Let those who will dare to circulate the mass of fabrication and calumny which he has now produced, tell the people of the south that the author wrote the above libel on their country and institutions.

After a variety of miscellaneous business of little importance, Mr. Davis of Mass. intimated a wish that the senate should take up the bill introduced by Mr. BUCHOS, for the repeal of the duty on salt: and said he was prepared to reply to the observations with which the Missouri senator had prefaced the introduction of the measure, especially to his strictures upon the system of fishing bounties.

Mr Wright here rose, and reminded the senate that the secretary of the treasury, and the secretary of war in reply to calls from Mr. senator Rives of Va. for information respecting the fiscal relations subsisting between the government and the United States bank of Pennsylvania, were made the special order of this day, and he wished to reply without further delay to the remarks of Mr. Rives.

The question being put from the chair, the senate resolved to take up these report.

Mr. Wright then proceeded to speak at great length in defence of the administration in reference to the part it has taken on the subject of the sale of United States Bank bonds. He went into a historical review of the proceedings of congress and the department in regard to the finances, and commented on the correspondence between the treasury and the bank, with the view of showing that course of the departments was throughout perfectly right and proper.

Mr. Rives replied in a speech of great force and spirit. He declared that after having listened with the greatest attention he became more and more convinced that the transactions between the government and the bank of the United States were wholly unsuscepible of justification.

Mr. Rives then briefly recapitulated his former objections to the proceedings in the sale of the first bond, the anticipated payment of the second bond, and the interference of the secretary of war in making terms of agreement with the bank of the United States.

This subject will probably give rise to a lengthened debate. Several senators appeared to be taking notes. Among them was Mr. WEBSTER.

This was a dull day in the house of representatives. It was devoted entirely to the consideration of private bills.

At a meeting convened on the steamer Sultana, for the purpose of ascertaining the sentiments of the gentlemen respecting the next presidential election, January 25th, 1839, Edward Blackburn, Esq of Kentucky, was called to the chair, and Wm. S. Botts appointed Secretary.

Henry Clay, Martin Van Buren and Wm. H. Harrison having been respectively nominated, it was ordered that the vote be taken by states, which vote was as follows: viz.

	Clay.	Van Buren.	Harrison.
Kentucky,	20		
Alabama,	1		
Indiana,	3	2	
Virginia,	3		
Mississippi,	3		
Maryland,	4		
Louisiana,	4		
Pennsylvania,	3		
Ohio,	1		
North Carolina,	1		
Total,	40	2	0

Ordered that the proceedings of this meeting be signed by the president and secretary, and handed to the editor of the New Orleans Bee for publication.

E. H. BLACKBURN, Chairman.
WM. S. BOTTS, Secretary.

The Republican Banner of the 29th, states that it was raining briskly. The river had fallen to three feet on the shoals, and would most probably rise again.

We are indebted to our representatives, H. G. JOHNSON, and RICE GARLAND, Esq., for a number of interesting public documents.

THE MAYOR AND 2D MUNICIPALITY REPORT.

[Continued from the Bee of Thursday, Feb. 1.]

From an attentive examination of the laws existing anterior to the adoption of the law of division, it will be found that the mayor possessed the following powers.

1. To veto any resolution or ordinance adopted by the council.

2. He exercised general supervision over every department of the city government; no money could be paid without his warrant

3. He was charged with the custody of the seal of the city.

4. He nominated to office all persons except those charged with the custody of the treasury, and the private officers of the council.

5. He was justice of the peace in criminal matters, as he now is.

All these powers are in strict accordance with the then system of government.

Under the existing law

1. He has not the power to veto any resolution relating to the revenues and expenditures of either municipality The 24th section of said law says, that each council *must have the sole control over the same.*

2. The 23d section, in connexion with the 20th, gives to each council full power to establish a treasury, appoint a treasurer, define his duties, and exercise *the entire control of the treasury.* This deprived the mayor of the power of signing warrants on the treasuries, or other money obligations, unless authorised by the councils respectively.

3. The custody of the seals is taken from him, and each municipality is authorized to possess its own separate seal. (Section 4.)

4. He is not authorized to appoint any officer except those appertaining to his own office; but is permitted to remove them from office once during their term for which they may be elected for good and sufficient reasons, of which the councils are to judge. (Section 8.)

5. He continues to be a justice of the peace, but each of the recorders within their respective municipalities, have concurrent jurisdiction and power in that capacity. (Section 19.)

6. It continues to be his duty to exercise a general supervision over the execution of all resolutions and ordinances, (except those concerning the receipts and expenditures,) and to advise with the council thereon. He remains the chief of the police, and is required to make, every two weeks, visits through all the wards of the three municipalities, to see that the laws and ordinances are enforced. Act 14th March, 1836.

For the mayor then to say that "as power was taken from the executive office (the mayor,) it seems so extraordinary to the undersigned, that they were induced to believe that his honor has not attentively examined the laws, under which he is acting, as the chief magistrate of the city.

The mayor proceeds to say, "I cannot think it was the intention of the legislature to close the eyes of the mayor to the fiscal situation of the municipalities, for that intention is neither apparent in the law of 1836, nor would it be reasonable on account of the responsibility imposed on that officer, by making it his exclusive duty to issue all orders on the different treasuries, for the payment of whatever sums may be due." The committee have already shown that no such responsibility rests on the mayor, the power to draw warrants on the treasury, is derived from an ordinance of the council of the second municipality, regulating the treasury department, and not from any existing law; He then proceeds to say, that "impressed with this opinion, and *suspecting from indirect information,* that part of the three hundred thousand dollars, in bonds discounted by the City Bank, for the purpose of redeeming the notes in circulation of the second municipality, *had been applied to purposes not contemplated by the ordinance of the council,* I concluded to apply to the only source for correct information, &c."

From this it seems to the undersigned, that if the mayor had received indirect information of so respectable a character, as to be entitled to his notice, and to lead him to suspect the probity of the members of the council the most frank and honorable course would have been to have informed that body of it, and to have requested information, further, that if his object was to know, whether the money borrowed of the City Bank, which he erroneously imagined, was solely intended to redeem the small note circulation, had been improperly applied, it seems quite inexplicable to the undersigned, that the information he asked of the comptroller was in no manner calculated to enlighten him. He does not ask what disposition has been made of that money; he asks not what amount of notes has been paid since the loan was effected, but inquires what is the total amount of the debts of the municipality; one would suppose that it was important at least to know what money remained on hand, but all inquiries, as to the means of the treasury were carefully avoided.

The undersigned will rely on the following documents, to prove that the mayor did not understand the contract made with the City Bank; that the officers have never acted upon the supposition that the power of the mayor should be closed on the fiscal condition of the municipality; that his suspicions were groundless, and that his informer, whoever he may be, is a vile and contemptible calumniator.

TREASURER'S OFFICE, SECOND MUNICIPALITY
23d January, 1839.

JOHN CALHOUN, Esq. *Comptroller.*

Sir—Be pleased to inform the finance committee, for the use of the council, what disposition has been made of the proceeds of the bonds sold to the City Bank, say $240,000.

Have the goodness to state whether you have ever refused to give any information verbally, in relation to the finance department of the municipality, when asked by the mayor or any alderman, and whether you have ever refused to exhibit any books or papers belonging to your office, to the mayor.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,
SAMUEL J. PETERS.
Chairman of the Finance Committee.

COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE, SECOND MUNICIPALITY.
January, 23d. 1839.

SAMUEL J. PETERS, Esq.
Chairman Finance Committee.

Sir—I am requested in your letter of this date to inform the Finance Committee, for the use of the council, what disposition has been made of the $240,000 received for bonds recently sold to the City Bank

The bonds referred to, were taken by the City Bank on condition that the proceeds should only be drawn upon when required to meet the current payments of the municipality, and the amount due the bank from the municipality should be immediately paid, as will more fully appear from the cashier's letter of the 27th November last, proposing for the bonds. By a resolution of the council, passed on the 4th December, the proposition of the bank was accepted, and the sum due that institution was deducted from the proceeds of the bonds, viz $68,804 34

Since that time we have paid on bills payable, held by the bank 17,000

And the bank yet holds a note payable on the 28th inst for 8,000

Making a total of $93,804 34

which deducted from the $240,000, leaves a Balance to be applied to the redemption of the municipal notes of $146,195 66. Of this sum, a part has been drawn out for the payment of such municipal notes as have been presented for redemption, and a part remains on deposit in the City Bank according to the terms of agreement.

You desire me to state whether I have ever refused to give any information verbally, in relation to the financial department of the municipality, when asked by the mayor or any alderman, and whether I have ever refused to exhibit to the mayor any books or papers belonging to my office.

To these questions I reply in the negative. So far from refusing information when desired so to do by the mayor and alderman, but to any citizen, I have always considered it my duty to give the fullest information when called upon in relation to our fiscal affairs. The mayor has several times called upon me for verbal information on certain points, when the books have been exhibited to him, and such explanations given as were calculated to throw light upon the subject of his investigation. My reasons for declining to give him certain written statements, requested in his letter of the 27th December last, being both properly understood and appreciated by the council, I refrain from repeating them.

I am very respectfully, your obedient servant,
J. CALHOUN, *comptroller.*

CITY BANK, NEW ORLEANS, 27th March, 1838.

To the Recorder and Alderman of Municipality No. 2.

GENTLEMEN—I am instructed by the board of directors of this institution, to propose for the $200,000 bonds, authorised to be emitted by an ordinance of the 25th September, 1837, as follows, viz: eighty dollars for every $100, the interest to be payable in this city, or at the bank in New York, as may be hereafter preferred by this bank. The money to be drawn from the city bank, as required to meet the current payments of the municipality, including the sums due this bank for open credits.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
ROBERT J. PALFREY, *cashier.*

This proposition was unconditionally accepted by the council.

It will also appear, from the following correspondence between the commissioners of the sinking fund and the comptroller, that the suspicions of his honor the mayor, at least with respect to one of the members of this council, namely, the chairman of this committee, did not rest on

Of the nature of the information on which the chief magistrate of the city, should have determined to interrogate the principal officer of this council, in such a way as to imply a direct charge of dishonesty on one of the members of this council, the undersigned are ignorant.

SECOND MUNICIPALITY OF NEW ORLEANS,
January 23d, 1839.

JOHN CALHOUN, Esq., *comptroller,*

Sir—Understanding that the mayor has called on you, and demanded to know what amount of money has been borrowed by Peters & Millard from the sinking fund, you will be pleased to state to us:

1. Whether any commissioner of the sinking fund, or any member of the council of this municipality, have borrowed, directly or indirectly, in any manner, any money from the said fund.

2. Whether any discount or loan has ever been made to any individual, commercial firm, or corporation, other than to the treasurer of the municipality, on notes belonging to the treasury.

J. BALDWIN, *recorder.*
THOS. O. MEUX.
E. W. SEWELL,
Commissioners of the Sinking Fund.

COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE SECOND MUNICIPALITY.
January 23, 1839.

To the honorable
Joshua Baldwin,
T. O. Meux,
E. W. Sewell, } *Commissioners of the Sinking Fund.*

Gentlemen—In reply to your letter of to-day, this moment received, I respectfully inform you that the mayor *did* call upon me, a few days since, for a statement of the sinking fund, and requested me to inform him, particularly, what amount of discounts had been received from said fund by Messrs. Peters & Millard. I explained to him that discounts were made from the fund to the treasury alone, in proof of which I exhibited the books, with which he expressed himself satisfied.

The questions contained in your communication may be answered in a few words. No discounts, as I have stated above, have ever been made to "any commissioner of the sinking fund, to any member of the council, or to any individual, commercial firm, or corporation, other than the treasurer of the municipality, on notes belonging to the treasury."

So far from money having been taken out of the treasury or sinking fund, by any member of the council, the municipality is under great obligations to one of its own members, Mr. Peters, for large amounts advanced through his personal credit, and the facilities extended to the treasury, through his sole agency, the municipality at this moment would have littlecause to boast of its prosperous condition: for we need not be told that an empty treasury is a most effectual bar to all public improvement, and that we would have been empty had it not been for the praiseworthy efforts of the gentleman alluded to, is a fact well understood by all who have ever been connected with the financial department of this municipality.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
J. CALHOUN, Comptroller.

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

EXPORTS

Havre—Per ship Charles—12 bales cotton.
Bilbao—Per ship Sultana—44 bales cotton, 1 box fans, 3 dollar carpets, and 6 packages.
Liverpool—Per ship Telumah—1241 bales cotton.
New York—Per ship Hayne—1194 bales cotton.
Charleston—Per ship Cargo—Hightlacket—132 bales cotton, 2 ditto wool, 25 hides tanner.
Philadelphia—Per Richard Henry—240 sacks cotton, 300 bbls and tcs. rosin, 1 box merchandise.
Mobile—Per schr Pequot—30 tons pig iron, and 30 barrels molasses.
Pensacola—Per schr Elizabeth—40 bbls bread, 25 do mackerel, 10 bags corn.
Havana—Per schr Herald—40 bbls flour, 200 kegs lard, 100 boxes pork.

IMPORTS.

St Pierre, (Mart.)—Per ship Pauline—Small bls dry goods, earthenware liquors, perfumery, fancy goods, sugar, sundries, 1 bbl, household furniture, &c. for passengers on board.
Bilbao—Per ship Sultana—Nashville Assortment.
Portsmouth, N H—Per sloop Hope—40 tons hay, 60 tons pasing stones, 1 bbl dry goods.
Boston—Per ship Lafayette—Dry goods, paving stone, 274 tons granite, 120 bales hay, 60 bbls molasses, 20 do sperm, 40 do pearl ash, and sundries.
Liverpool—Per barque Caledonia—small lots of salt, coal, cheese, potatoes, and ale.
Cardiff—Per barque Caledonia—300 tons slates.
Cumberland (Wales)—Per barque Caledonia—300 tons slates.
Havana—Per schr Lafayette—300 boxes sugar, 4 0 bags coffee, 1 box fans, 1 box cigars, 1 box merchandise.
Pensacola—Per sloop Independence—Pine timber, 1 bbl, 1 box, 1 package.
Charleston—Per brig Gracian—7 boxes marble, 30 bbls tar and stores, to J Philippon, and master.

RECEIPTS FROM THE INTERIOR.

Per steamboat Independence from Cincinnati—293 bbls pork, 19 do beef, 20 do lard, 1 do tallow, 1 do soap, 1 do candles, 1 do cheese, 1 do whiskey, 1 do ale, 1 do fancy goods, 1 do boots, 1 do tobacco, 2 2 bbls pork, 11 bbls hams, 3 do do shoulders, 1 do lard, 1 do beef, 1 do tallow, 1 do candles, 1 do soap, 1 do whiskey, 200 empty bbls, 20 bales cotton and sundries.
Per steamboat A J Wheeler from Cincinnati—
Per steamboat Pocahontas from Louisville—
Per steamboat Tecumseh from Louisville—
Per steamboat Vicksburg from Louisville—
Per steamboat Tecumseh from Louisville—
Per steamboat Independence