NEW-ORLEANS BEE.

BY BULLITT, BULLEN & MAGNE.

At No 81 Chartres street.

TRUTH is OMNIPOTENT and PUBLIC JUSTICE CERTAIN.

NEW ORLEANS:
TUESDAY MORNING, MAY 7, 1839.

FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

HENRY CLAY,
OF KENTUCKY.

Subject to the decision of a National Convention.

THE BANKS AND THE COMMUNITY.

The present situation of the business and money affairs in this city is, probably, without a parallel in the commercial annals of New Orleans; and unless the means of relief are speedily devised, it is impossible to foresee the ruinous consequences to which it may lead. A national bank and a national currency would undoubtedly correct the evil at once; and although public attention has been diverted from that subject, in consequence of the late experiment of the Jew banking law, it is now fast returning to it as the only permanent remedy for the confusion of a fluctuating and uncertain currency. The conviction is rapidly gaining ground, even among the most clamorous advocates of free banking, of the absolute necessity of such an institution. But this is too deferred and distant a resource for the present emergency, and though, in our opinion, it will be impossible for state institutions, increased and extended as they may be, and organized either on the present or former plan, to afford the constant and regular facilities required, still the banks of New Orleans can at least greatly mitigate, if not entirely relieve the present deplorable posture of affairs.

We are advocates of banks: we believe in their necessity and great and apparent usefulness, and therefore, will not be suspected of any wish to injure them in public estimation by the reflections which we feel called upon to offer: still it cannot be denied that a portion of these institutions, and particularly the largest and strongest banks, have recently pursued a course calculated to embarrass, and which has embarrassed the business of the city, and reduce mercantile interest to a condition of extreme distress.

There are few practical men, who do not now acknowledge that Mr. Biddle was correct in the opinion that the resumption of specie payments was premature. The proofs of this are daily developing, in every quarter. In several states the resumption has not been maintained, in others it is kept up with great difficulty—and in all with great sacrifices. At the time that Mr. Biddle promulgated this opinion, the most intelligent men in the country coincided with him: many of them fully foresaw the consequences. But the legislature of New York having passed a positive law compelling the banks of that state to resume upon a fixed day, and the New York banks and merchants finding themselves completely fettered, under the necessity of a compulsory resumption or a surrender of their charters, adopted the alternative of a resumption, and waged a crusade against all banks which did not follow their example. Unfortunately the New York banks, exerted an influence which included the banks in other states to do voluntarily what they had done under compulsory legislation. Had the resumption of our banks been postponed until the close of the business season, great embarrassment and loss would have been avoided. But as the banks did resume, even before the period agreed upon, they should have marked out a course of liberal policy that would have diminished if not altogether averted the consequences of so premature a step. Have they done so? And are they now acting up to such a line of policy? Some of them are to the full extent of their ability—others, to regret to say, not only decline acting thus, but more over cripple the usefulness of those which have, or would have come forward to the assistance of the community.

In the first place the rigid erection of specie balances when the creditor banks are amply supplied with the precious metals, is a proceeding fraught with material injury.—The former facit understanding between the banks that these balances should remain until wanted was called for, had nothing objectionable in it and greatly facilitated their operations. Though it is now the rule that these balances shall be ascertained and settled weekly, there is no obligation to exact their actual payment. But unfortunately the actual payment of these balances is now insisted upon, and those banks which least need an accession of specie are most inexorable in requiring a settlement of their balances. The consequence is, that any one of the large banks by contracting its discounts, creates a large balance in its favor, which being called for in specie, alarms all the banks and cramps their operations—obliging them in turn to curtail their facilities, and inflict additional injuries on the business of the city.

Now, it is a notorious fact, that whilst a great number of the banks have every disposition to accommodate our merchants to the extent of their ability, there are two or three of the largest and strongest institutions, whose want of liberality, weighing like an incubus upon the majority, prevents them from giving the required relief. If the large banks do not choose to make loans at this crisis, they should not act in a manner to prevent others from doing so. Under the existing circumstances, the moment a discount is made the paper put in circulation is snatched up by these banks which decline business, and the specie for them is demanded. The inevitable result is, that no bank is willing to extend its lines of discounts—but on the contrary, all are naturally anxious to strengthen themselves by curtailments. Hence, the community is suffering all the injury attendant upon an unnatural contraction of the currency.

The banks ought to recollect that the business season is rapidly drawing to a close,—that collections are nearly impracticable, and the passenger list and accommodation in their vicinity have become absolutely necessary: and that if the present state of affairs be pushed much further it will assuredly drive into actual suspension many, who by leniency and reasonable facilities, would struggle safely through their difficulties and liquidate their liabilities in full. Intelligence is more essential at the present moment, as account of an immense amount of cotton being locked up by the recent operations of a great speculator—a circumstance which is now acting on the community as an absolute abstraction of so much capital for the purposes of commerce, and greatly increases previous embarrassments.

It is asked, how are the banks to afford relief? First Let all our banks follow the example of the City bank and extend all renewable notes until December next, upon payment of 20 per cent, either in cash or in good business paper that will be paid in full at maturity. Second Let every bank agree not to exact its balances in specie unless it be absolutely necessary to do so—Experience will soon prove that specie is only required to pay these balances as there is no demand for it on the part of the community. It might be best to enter into an arrangement not to demand the specie for these balances, except upon necessity, until December next, by which time business will have resumed the activity of the winter season, and the merchant will be better prepared to the extent of the coming crops, to meet their engagements. Under this arrangement there is not a city bank which should not extend its discount line, more or less, as well as gram an extension on its own paper.

Other plans might be suggested—but any to do good requires a concert of action amongst the banks themselves, which unhappily does not now exist.—Without some uniform system it is idle to talk of relief. At the north, the banks, at such a crisis, would immediately mature a plan of success and set up to it. There would be a general understanding between them, and they would enter upon their plans unanimously and with good faith. Should all the banks agree to discount 10 per cent more than their weekly income for these three or four weeks, this small amount would afford great assistance, whilst the relative balances would not be affected. Almost any plan would be efficacious, provided it was generally adopted, and few banks, so far as the amount of specie in their vaults goes, are in a better condition to expend their usefulness than those of this city. It is an anomaly in banking, that these institutions should display such distrust of each other's condition, when the public indicate great confidence in their solvency and credit. This continued transmission of specie through the streets from one bank to the other, above all things is calculated to weaken confidence in their stability; yet notwithstanding the practice has been kept up during the winter, their credit does not appear to be in the least impaired. It is a fair conclusion, that as the banks have thus far withstood the greatest danger that could possibly have threatened them—the evident and avowed distrust of each other—they have nothing to fear from a course of action, which would release the community, whilst it strengthened the general confidence by exhibiting a mutual confidence in themselves. If there was ever a time when monied corporations should strain a point in sustaining the credit of the city that time is now. A little at this time would subserve greater ends, than much hereafter. Commerce is nearly stranded,—a slight swelling of the waters would enable it to float in safety; a small reduction and its wreck is inevitable.

Our readers will remember the case of the "democratic" senators from North Carolina, Messrs. Brown and Strange, who refused to obey the resolutions of their state, instructing them to vote against the sub treasury. The following anecdote exhibits an excellent example of the manner in which this recreancy was brought home to one of the honorable senators.

"As the honorable Bedford Brown was recently passing in the cars from Henderson Depot towards Oxford, he had for a fellow passenger a reverend parson of Granville county. The road was rough, and the honorable senator was treated to pretty much such a jostling and jolting as is in store for him at the meeting of the next legislature. He raised heavily against the bad condition of the road, and the parson did prevail, half jocose manner, said to the parson—"Ah!—this is the disadvantage of living in a whig county—You certainly have no democrats in this part of the wood." The parson replied gravely, but humorously, "I don't know, there are so many, but the overseer of this road is a democrat," "Indeed," replied Mr. Brown, "why, then, do you not instruct him as to his duty—he is your officer, say to him, that it is your wish that this road should be made better, and I will warrant, if he is the true grit, he will, in knowing your wishes, immediately repair it, or give way to a whig overseer." Ah!" responded the parson, "this will do to talk about, but the matter of fact is, he has been notified, requested, told that he would go in accordance with our wishes, by working the road, but because we are so civil to my self to him—yes reason, yes sounder sir go and have the road repaired—and they do not so." The senator looked blank and dropped the subject.

Raleigh Register.

CAMO BONANNA, the mulatto who committed murder on the body of Antoine Marcon about three months since, and for whose arrest a reward of $500 had been offered by Gov. Roman, was arrested on Saturday through the courage and vigilance of capt. Younes of the third municipality guard.

REVOLT AT THE BATON ROUGE PENITENTIONARY.

The Baton Rouge Gazette of the 4th inst, contains he particulars of an attempted revolt in the penitentiary in that town, which occurred on the 3d, at about 12 o'clock, M. The attempt was got up in the wheelright and sadler's shop, by three of the convicts, Monroe, Murray and Pierce, who, says the Gazette, suddenly seized on two of the guards at that post, knocked them down, and though they resisted manfully, succeeded in arresting their pistols from them—The captain of the guard, Mr. Chappin, and Mr. Isett, clerk, were fired at by the villains and narrowly escaped being killed. Mr. Isett then wounded Monroe in the legs and the captain and some of the guards succeeded in shooting the ringleader Murray. By his time a numerous concourse of citizens commanded by Col. A. Mata, appeared under arms at the penitentiary. The convicts were brought out, and ragged opposite the armed citizens, and in the area between them Monroe and Price received a severe whipping. The Gazette adds the following:—

"The prompt side and energetic conduct of the citizens, no doubt, prevented this affair from being a general revolt, and very fortunately too, considering the number of convicts, their capacity and information for mischief, and the comparatively defenceless state of the public arsenal at this place, where arms and ammunition are kept in great abundance.

The convict Murray was shot through the body and and and received several wounds in the head and neck—it is thought he will recover.

TEXAS.—The Galveston of the 30th April has been received. It is entirely destitute of interest.

FATAL DUEL.—On the 27th April, an affair of honor took place between Jo. Jewell Jones, of Shocco, N. C., and Mr. H. Wright Wilson, of the city of New-York, near the Dismal Swamp canal. The parties met about 12 o'clock, near the house of Mr. J. F. Foreman, in Norfolk city, Va. and Mr. Wilson fell dead at the first fire. The quarrel had originated at Petersburg, during the late races at that place. The cause of quarrel was the following words, spoken by Mr. Wilson, in presence of Mr. Jones: "I know a rough of southern people to know that they never comply with their obligations." They fought at a distance of six paces.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.—The committee on the judiciary, in the New-York assembly, have reported a bill against the petitions asking for the passage of a law abolishing capital pubishment in all cases. They say:—"The conclusion, so far as human reason can ascertain and discern the correspondence of motive to action is, to your committee, inevitable; that any relaxation of the existing penalty of death for murder aforethought, would be but a frequent premium for its more frequent occurrence."

THE EXPRESS MAIL of yesterday arrived at seven o'clock, but its contents are particularly devoid of interest.

MESSRS. ED STOKES, two of the individuals who absconded Recorder Baldwin, on the shell-road last fall, will be executed to-morrow. Carter has been reprieved.

FIRE IN BOSTON.—The Howard street bodies, in Howard street, Boston, was totally destroyed by fire in the morning of the 26th ult.

LIBEL SUIT.—In an action against the editor and proprietor of the Boston Mercantile Journal, for a libel on one Asa H. Stone, which occupied the supreme court several days, the jury returned a verdict in favor of the defendants.

THE ORLEANIST REPUBLICAN is now edited by Gen V. Bradbury only, in consequence of the death of his co-editor C. R. Rodney.

THE LOUISVILLE POST MASTER.—Mr. Campbell after post office at Louisville, has published in the Journal a flat denial of the various rumors in circulation, charging him with peculation. He says that he has been for some time aware of these rumors, and is willing to meet his opponents in open field. He denies the assertion of his filling blank vouchers with any name he pleased, and declares that the receipts referred to were never filled with a large amount—that his clerks received, with the addition of a reasonable commission for board. He concludes by saying: "I shall be ready to meet the promised proof, whenever it is presented."

MT The Terre Haute, in. congressional district has selected the Hon. John Ewing for congress. The whigs of the first congressional district have nominated God. H. Proffit for congress.

STEAMBOAT ACCIDENT.—The steamer Havana, on her downward passage, about 18 miles below Pittsburg, a few days ago, struck a rock. Her hull was so damaged that she was compelled to return and repair.

DAVID PORTER, esq. minister of the United States at the court of Turkey, and Mr. Poteau, U. S. consul at Constantinople, sailed from Boston for Smyrna, about ten days since, in the ship Hamilton.

We are requested to state, that the meeting of the stockholders of the Citizens' Bank, held yesterday at 3 o'clock P. M. adjourned to 11 o'clock to-day.

BANKS' IMPERIAL GINGER BEER is a remarkably pleasant and refreshing beverage which ought to take precedence of the more sparkling but less healthy soda water. It is sold at No. 47 Magazine street, and at the corner of St. Louis and Charters streets. We do not know a cooler, more agreeable and innocent drink for summer than the ginger beer.

FROM RIO GRANDE.

The brig Hannibal, arrived on Saturday from Rio Grande to the 23d of February. Captain Bogart informs us that the Rio Grande was still besieged by the forces of Porto Alegre, the capital of the province. On the 18th of January, the president left the city with 3,000 men to see if he could raise the siege with the assistance of the government forces that were expected from St. Catherines by land, and the garrison of Porto Alegre; but after being joined by captain Olivera with 300 horse on the 20th, and ascertaining the position and force of the besiegers, he returned to the city on the following day. The prospect for peace in this province here are no hopes of a settlement of any kind, as the government is resolved to make no concession, what ever to the rebel party. A few days before the Hannibal left, the government party lost in a night near Porto Alegre two direct mail robbers, one was taken on the other flank by the Farrapos. The production of the country, such a hides, &c. are very scarce.—*N. Y. Gazette.*

Swiss Anecdote.—The March number of the Bibliotheque Universelle contains a very interesting article, by C. W. Wyss, entitled "Reminiscences of Switzerland and Among a variety of anecdotes therein related, is the following, of the celebrated painter Hollein.

"On one occasion he had contracted with an opulent citizen to paint in fresco the facade of his house. The work, however, advanced slowly in consequence of the long libations which the thirsty painter used to take at a neighboring *traiteury*, for which the inclement druggist was often obliged to drive him almost *par force*. At length Holbein hit upon a plan of escaping the importunity of the other, which succeeded for a few days. He invited the host to attend, and constructed for his labor which was covered by a curtain, two legs hanging down, which produced so perfect an illusion that the Argus thought he was always at work, and complimented him upon his indefatigable assiduity.

A happy reply.—A young gentleman of Boston, who has been for some time a correspondent of this paper, being at St. Petersburgh not long since, solicited an interview with the emperor Nicholas, by virtue of the letters he took out with him, to our resident minister. M. Dallas, to whom he prays the bearer of dispatches from our government. Having understood that the American was intelligent and well educated, the emperor expressed a wish to have a conversation with him.

At an appointed time, a court coach was sent to his lodgings in Dallas. Upon entering the palace, after the usual ceremony through the anfleres room, where many nobles, courtiers, and magnates of the empire were waiting, his name was finally announced at the door of the private cabinet, when his imperial majesty, the Autocrat of all the Russias, immediately came forward with extended hand to bid a welcome in the most friendly manner. The emperor conducted the conversation in French, but after a while it was carried on in English, as the American was not perfectly *au fait* in speaking the former tongue. The emperor, in his turn, spoke English rather indifferently, and shortly exclaimed, "Sir, you speak French." "Ah, I see I must call in my interpreter." He left the room for a moment, and shortly re-appeared, leading in a lady and two young girls, whom he introduced to his wife, his eldest daughter, and his second daughter. "Now," said he, rubbing his hands, "we shall understand each other perfectly." The empress and the young grand duchesses spoke English fluently, and the good graces of conversation were soon in full play. America stands sufficiently high in the emperor then appreciated him about his Russ, and asked if he had acquired much of the language during his residence in Russia? "A very little," was the answer. "What, no words at all?" "Bonjour Tzar to-day" said he with a polite bow. These are the Russian words for *God save the tzar.* The emperor was quite delighted with the quick and apt reply, thanked him with much cordiality, and retained the anecdote long after to the minister of war, to Mr. Dallas, and ten number of others, as being the best thing he had heard for a long time. *Boston Post.*

From the Vicksburg Whig.

Mr. EDITOR.—By request, I will give you a succinct account of an attempt to murder in the Yazoo swamp some two weeks since, by a man named Gibson, upon the person of Jesse Gibson. It appears Gibson was in the habit of whipping another negro slave, for the purpose of getting out timber. Shortly after his arrival there, Greenlee tried to get up a difficulty between Gibson and another man, but, in failing in that determined to "take the responsibility" upon himself, and shot down (Greenlee's) camp, attacked Gibson with a Bowie knife; at the onset, Gibson seized an axe handle and struck at Greenlee, who perceiving Gibson thrusted the knife and ran. Gibson immediately started to his own camp, about a quarter of a mile up the bayou. He soon as Gibson fell, Greenlee took his rifle, made a road through the woods, and headed Gibson just as he arrived opposite his camp; Gibson hailed one of the hands at the camp to bring him a boat to cross the bayou. Greenlee answered the call by saying he would bring him over, and immediately levelled his gun and shot Gibson through the hips, of which wound, in all probability, he will die. After the discharge of the gun, Greenlee stood and then observed, "I now leave this country forever." After he started, he met one of the men and told him he had killed Gibson, and all he feared was that he had not killed him." Greenlee has not been heard of since.

FROM MATAMORAS.

We have received from our correspondent at Matamoras, dates to the 20th inst. Every thing remains in statu quo. The Mexicans are still fortifying the city, and the Texians are still encamped on the Rio Grande. Col. Wharton has left Matamoras for Texas, and Col. Hamilton has taken command of the Texian forces.

SALES AT AUCTION—THIS DAY.

By Grinault & Delassus, at 10 o'clock, a. m. at 12 St. Louis street—gin and brandy.
By the same, at 12 o'clock, at the City Exchange—property.
By the same, same hour and place—property.
By Joseph A. Beard, at 10½ o'clock, on the court house levee—groceries, teas, &c.
By Dejoie & Fernandez, at 12 o'clock, m. at 114 Chartres street—piano and table.

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

THE NEW-ORLEANS MARKET.

DAILY REPORT.

COTTON.—The market continues very inactive, sales not exceeding 1,000 bales per day, holders are firm at the quotations for large lots—on small lots a concession of ¼ cent is allowed. Large sales of steam inferior New Orleans cotton are reported at 10½ cts—Mississippi and Louisiana, ordinary, 12 @ 12½ cts middlings 12½ @ 13½ cts; fair 13½ @ 14½; good fair 14½ @ 15½; good fair 17 @ 17½; good fine, 18½; Tennessee and North Alabama, 13 @ 15½

SUGAR.—The transactions continue light, confined mostly to the interior trade; shipments, consequently, being very small. Prime sugar is very scarce in the market, and would readily command 7 cts. The demand for common and ordinary sugars is very small, and as the stock consists mostly of this latter qualities, the market is consequently dull.

MOLASSES.—We continue our quotations at 3 @ 35 cts, at which prices the sales are inside. The stock is small, and diminishing rather rapidly. Continued good demand for the western markets.

TOBACCO.—We have a dull market, with no change in prices.

BAGGING AND ROPE.—We continue the quotation to 22 @ 23 for bagging, and 9 @ 9½ for rope, with a quiet market.

PROVISIONS.—There is a very fair demand for provisions in a retail way, and prices are well sustained. The sales generally are for house use, very little shipping. Pork, we quote for old, at 18½ @ 19; new, 19½ @ 20; prime beef, 9½ @ 10; mess, 12½ @ 13; prime lard, 9½ @ 10; new, 10½ @ 11; packet ham 7½ @ 7½ sales. Monongahela 10@11; Cincinnati do 11 @ 12, dulls 9½ @ 10½; Shoulders 7 @ 7½; Lard 11 @ 11½; store sales 12½ @ 13.

FLOUR.—We notice no change in the quotations, the several sales were made yesterday of small lots and we understand no large sales have been made of late. Holders of flour are quite ready to bring their descriptions. The receipts are light, and a fair supply in store.

WHISKEY.—The note sales on the Levee yesterday at 23 cts small lots in store are held at 24 @ 25.

CORN.—There was a good demand for corn yesterday, with sales on the Levee of white and yellow mixed at 70 cts, and in the store at 75 cts.

OATS.—Sales of several hundred bushels have been made within two or three days at 55 cts. Held at 55 @ 56.

HAY.—Western sold yesterday at 80 per ton. We quote it @ 80.

EXPORTS.

Philadelphia.—Per ship Bendora—282 sacks corn, 227 pkgs flour, 17 bales cotton, 2 hhds 2 tcs sugar, 543 bbls pork, 189 bbls tongues, 25 do hams, 228 empty casks, 1 lb gunpowder, and 31 sundries.

Per ship Constance—34 bags feathers, 5 bales cotton, 1 bale sundries, 81 hhds tobacco, 2234 sacks corn, 1220 bbls flour, 3 hhds bacon, 100 casks lard, 5 do tobacco, 5 do bulk pork, 60 bales cotton.

Cadiz.—Per brig Merced—170 hhds tobacco, 200 0 staves.

Vera Cruz.—Per schr Creole—30 bbls pork, and lots hardware, glass, &c. and sundries.

Matanzas.—Per schr Dolphin—Lots sent dry goods and sundries.

Gonaives.—Per schrs Naiad—325 sacks corn, 1000 ft lumber, and sundries.

IMPORTS.

New York.—Per brig Sparkler—80 tons earth stone, lots hay, corn and sundries.

Pensacola.—Per schr David Moon—8 m ft lumber to A P Simpson.

Per same, Mary Ann—40 m ft lumber to order.

Mobile.—Per Sole Exchange—5 m ft lumber to order.

New-Brunswick.—Per schr Cora—100 bbls rosin to Bell, Bourcier & Co.

Liverpool.—Per ship Columbia—1000 bbls pitch, 881 do pounce, 1 do spirits turpentine, 1 do rosin, 1 do tar, 1 do oil, 1 do resin, 1 do spirits turpentine, 1 do oil, 1 do rosin, 1 do tar