NEW-ORLEANS BEE.

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"Truth is omnipotent, and Public Justice certain."

FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
HENRY CLAY,
OF KENTUCKY.
Subject to the decision of a National Convention.

NEW-ORLEANS:
THURSDAY MORNING, NOV. 7, 1839.

THE MERCHANT

What are those merchants, that the energies of a great and powerful government should be strained to overwhelm and blast them? In what way does their business or their prosperity interfere with the general happiness, that they are thus trampled down and oppressed? Are they enemies to public liberty whom the executive is called upon to destroy? Are their employments treasonable, that the administration goes mock at their misery and deride their despair? The government that should protect, is waging a ruthless war upon them; and the myrmidons of power rend the air with their shouts, as the honest merchant sinks beneath unprovoked persecution, and the accumulated pressure of the times. Are they not now that their sufferings awaken no sympathy? Are they not citizens, that the government treads upon and grinds them in the dust? Who are they, that there is no compassion for their woes, no commiseration for their anguish?

Let the honest citizen turn from the purchased ribaldry of the loco foco press, and read the history of the merchant as it is inscribed upon the pages of human deliberation. He need not go back to the period when mercantile enterprise erected a Palmyra in the desert, or an Alexandria upon the sands of the sea shore. Let him look abroad upon the world as it is, and answer the questions which the monuments of civilization are perpetually suggesting to his mind. Turn in any direction he may, he will find the earth strewed with the noble evidences of mercantile energy and intelligence. He will find that cities are built up and nourished by merchants; he will learn that their enterprise has penetrated the remotest regions, carrying the light of learning and religion to realms but yesterday unknown to civilized nations; that he has whitened the ocean with canvass in collecting the harvests, and rich fabrics of distant latitudes, for the comforts and convenience of his fellow men; that he has braved "the accumulated cold of both the poles" in carrying his country's flag to regions of perpetual winter, that he has to encounter the perils of the sea, the inhospitality of climates and the danger of infected districts in distributing the fruits of the soil amongst the people of the earth, and bringing back in return the productions of many nations. He pours into the lap of his country the manufactures of Europe and the spices of Arabia; the ivory of Africa and the tissues of the East.

Look for a moment at the actual progress our country had made, and was making, in civilization and wealth, until she fell into the snares of loco-focoism. Who has crowded our rivers with those magnificent floating palaces, which, defying the resistance of our seas and the power of adverse winds, "walk the waters as if endowed with intelligence, annihilating space and bringing distant places into close proximity?" The merchant. Who is it that has penetrated to the sources of the great Father of Waters, bringing back the fires of the north, opening to the industrious a wide field for exertion, and adding to the stock of human information intelligence of an unexplored and unknown country? The merchant. Let the honest enquirer go through the cotton districts of the south, and behold the vast possessions redeemed from the wilderness and made to blossom as a rose, through the credit and resources of the merchant, and league with his opprressors if he can. Let him stand upon our wharves and contemplate the innumerable vessels which have brought to our shores the wants and luxuries of life, filling the public coffers with imposts and the country with plenty, and curse the merchant if he dare.

Can the citizens of New-Orleans look upon those noble structures which are at once the pride and ornament of the city—the Merchants' Exchange, the splendid edifices of St. Charles and St. Louis, and the Verandah, and federate with their enemies? The merchants have also supplied the city with water, and lighted it with gas. They distribute charities with a liberal hand, and obey the calls of distress with alacrity. The wants of the needy and the necessities of the sick are supplied by their generosity; and if in thus contributing to the behest of agriculture, the embellishment of cities, and the happiness of others, they have endangered their own peace of mind, calculations indeed must be the heart that could rejoice at their misfortunes or aggravate their griefs.

Turn from the persecuted to the persecutors. Who are they? At the head of them stands Martin Van Buren—a man who has never yet originated a measure for the advancement of society or the prosperity of the general good—whose public career has been marked by no peculiar feature save duplicity, and has exhibited no resources except cunning—who is a bye-word into favor by the partiality of a popular idol—whose entrance upon the duties of chief magistrate has been signalized by the downfall and destruction of every interest. Evil has followed all his political acts. He possesses neither statesman ship or popularity, and even now masquerades the country in General Jackson's military toggery, for the purpose of keeping up the relation which the ill-starred preference of that chieftain threw around him. Who party then includes the people of the United States protect? Let the good and evil which each has conferred upon the country, guide them in the decision.

Let them weigh the extension of agriculture against the evils of a depraved currency. Let them judge between the building up of cities and the destruction of commerce—let them decide between benevolence or charitable societies and the tyranny of a cold and heartless proscription. If a vitiated circulation is preferable to the independence of the planter, if confusion in commerce is more desirable than the growth of cities if tyranny is more acceptable than liberty, let loco-focoism prevail, for those evils will ever attend its predominance.—Let commerce and credit perish and the merchant alone burn up his ships his steamboats his ware-houses. Return to the wilderness as the forms that have been opened by his credit. Consume all fire the public buildings he has erected. Destroy the railroads, banks, canals, and other works that owe their construction to merchants. Let not a vestige of mercantile enterprise or the taint of trade remain to wound the eyes or offend the nostrils of pontifical loco-focoism. Dispense with a class of men which has been found necessary to society from the dawn of civilization till now, and do it at once.

If, however, the people are not prepared for so great a revolution, let them remember that no settled trade, no regular business can flourish under the auspices of modern democracy—that loco-focoism or commerce must give way; and let them decide which of the two they will protect, and having decided, do it effectually.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE.

We perceive by the tone of the loco-foco press, both northern and southern, that the administration party have determined to run Mr. PICKENS, of South Carolina, as their candidate for speaker of the house of representatives, at the ensuing session of congress—for it is to render the Van Buren party have displayed a fact and judgment by which the opposition may well profit.

Maugre the whig majority in the popular branch of congress, Mr. Pickens stands an excellent chance of being elected. He will obtain the vote of every loco-foco present. The loco-focos proper have no will of their own, and are just as submissive in bestowing their suffrages on a rank nullifier and inveterate opponent of Gen. Jackson, as they would be in supporting the most faithful and consistent of their own party. In addition to a full loco-foco vote, the Van Buren leaders ex'culate, not unreasonably, upon securing two or three state rights men from the south—members who are nominally whigs, who will ever sustain the whigs on most of the questions at issue between the two parties, but who, we fear, will be too much flattered at this marked concession to their peculiar sectional views, to withhold their approbation from unfortunate for the opposition, that they have to run individuals who are neither so thorough going or so flexible as the loco-focos. The unquestioning obedience to party dictation that distinguishes the latter, while it draws down upon them the unmitigated contempt of honest and independent minds, not unfrequently contributes almost exclusively to their success.

We suggested some time since the propriety of consulting availability in choosing the whig candidate for speaker. We acknowledge cheerfully the pre-eminent claims of the honorable JOHN BELL to the support of the whigs. But we are grievously mistaken if that distinguished member is not the very first to withdraw his pretensions, when he becomes convinced that his chances of success are less probable than those of others. If the opposition run a south-state right *loco foco*, we feel assured that they will triumph. There is no incongruity, no departure from principle involved in such a course. The state rights politicians of the south are the natural allies of the whigs. They abandoned general Jackson at an early period of his presidential term, and with the exception of a fraction which has faithfully adhered to Mr. Calhoun throughout his manifold political vagaries, they have continued steadfast in their attachment to the whigs. One of the Georgia or Virginia delegation would, we believe, stand an equal chance of success with Mr. Pickens. The state rights whig would then consistently uphold the interests of the party with which they are identified, without sacrificing their peculiar principles.

STEAM SHIP NATCHEZ.

This splendid vessel arrived at our wharf yesterday morning, in nine days from New York, under the command of captain Switzer. Since the Natchez has fallen into the hands of her present owners she has been greatly improved; more than twenty thousand dollars have been expended in strengthening her—her guards have been removed, and other improvements made, so as to render her in every way a safe and seaworthy boat. The passengers by the Natchez speak of her as a most complete in arrangement, comfortable in all respects, and perfectly safe. Captain Switzer is well known in this community as an efficient and able officer; and we trust he will be met with due encouragement in his present undertaking.

It has not been determined in which trade the Natchez will be employed; we would suggest the propriety of her running between this port and Havana. If the public could be satisfied that a regular communication would be kept up between the two ports, if so persuaded, that the travelling would be greatly increased, and the boat liberally patronized.

THE FRENCH THEATRE

Our music-loving Creoles, and the amateurs in general of the most delightful of arts, will be gratified at learning that the *Theatre d Orleans* opens this evening. The selection of pieces is exceedingly judicious. The opera of *L'Eclair* is one of the finest of the semi-serious operas. It abounds in spirit and humor, and the music is of a character at once pleasing, pathos, and the music is of a character at once pleasing, pathos, and the music is of a character at once pleasing, pathos