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"Truth is omnipotent, and Public Justice certain."

FOR GOVERNOR
HENRY JOHNSON.

NEW-ORLEANS:
SATURDAY MORNING, DEC. 25, 1841.

☞ We wish all our readers, and the world beside, a happy Christmas.

☞ On our extra sheet will be found the official proceedings of the legislature.

THE BANKS.

The banks seem to be "sufficiently amused" with one day's hubbub occasioned by their refusal to receive each others notes. As we are not in the counsels of these institutions we can give no explanation of the causes of the episode in the money market of Thursday. Yesterday they all, with one exception, received the notes of other banks in payment of dues, and with two exceptions they received each others issues upon deposit. We infer hence that there could have been no reasonable foundation for the flare up the day before.

We regard the whole affair as exceedingly unfortunate for the banks as well as the community. It is one of the easiest things in the world for monied institutions to throw suspicion upon their own issues, and it is perhaps the most difficult for them to restore the confidence of the public when it is shaken by themselves. If the alarm of the note holders becomes as great as that of the banks appeared to be on Thursday, one day's business will do more discredit to our currency abroad than a season can remedy.

If there was no foundation for their singular course on Thursday, they have certainly played a most child. ish game. If they were not really frightened themselves, they most effectually alarmed the community, and the misfortune is, they cannot pacify the holders of their notes as easily as seem to have allayed themselves. Cannot the Presidents of our banks adopt some plan that will last through the business season? to enable traders to deal with security? The great staples of commerce are crowding upon us, requiring a steadfast currency for their sale and shipment. If one portion of our banks intend to discredit the issues of the others, they ought to make their determination known so that buyers and sellers may know what to rely upon; and they should particularly abstain from paying out any description of notes that they will not receive themselves. If a bank gives currency to paper by paying it out it should also receive it in payment, according to our notion of right and wrong.

Two days will elapse before business opens on Monday, within which time it would be a great advantage for all parties if some permanent arrangement could be made by which the receipt of paper will be regulated for the balance of the winter. We have no reason to believe that there will be a repetition of the scenes of Thursday; but we have reason to hope that the banks have especial cause to dread their occurrence.

MR. CLAY.

By referring to our Washington letter, it will be seen that Mr. CLAY is not upon any of the Standing Committee of the Senate. In Washington this is regarded as indicating an intention to resign his seat in that body as soon as the Kentucky Legislature meets and appoints his successor

EXHIBITION OF DUBUFE'S PAINTINGS.

We visited yesterday the two paintings—one by Dubufe and one by Paris, now being exhibited in Camp street next to the Arcade. That by Dubufe is of transcendent merit. It represents a scene from Lord Byron's poem of Don Juan, and the artist has transferred to the canvas with exquisite skill and fidelity the poets conception and graphic portraiture of an impressive incident. Don Juan and Haidee have just awakened from slumber, and behold before the Greek pirate gazing stormy upon them the story of his past career. Without pretending to any connoisseurship, we will only say that the picture appears to us to possess the truthfulness and magical effect, according and blending its contrasts of light and shade; its variety of expression; its decided tone and character of color, that the longer the eye is riveted upon it, the more luminously do its beauties develope themselves, and after simply a long and lingering look, we reluctantly withdrew our gaze from a picture that is full of delicacy and grace, and may be viewed by the most sensitive and modest lady without the slightest fear of encountering any thing repugnant.

The portrait of Mrs. Monroe, by Paris, disappointed us. We have not been able to find with the painting, though we have seen pictures by BURLY that were far superior as specimens of the painting art. But supposing it to be a likeness, it lacks the glorious beauty, the expression of genius, and the high intellectual character which fame assigns to the countenance of SHERIDAN's grand daughter.—Paris has in any respect bear an instant comparison with Dubufe's splendid painting.

Postscript.—The Mobile *Advertiser* of Thursday says—As the steamboat Giraffe, stopped to wood on Dauphin Island, on Tuesday night, a dead body was discovered at the edge of the water. On examination, it was found to be a man of about 40 years of age, well dressed in superior attire, stout built, about five feet 6 inches high, with long dark hair. A mortification hung in his neck, and a ball round his body, with a sheath knife. He had every appearance of having been drowned, and could not have been out over 24 hours. He was buried on Dauphin Island by the crew of the Giraffe."

☞ We learn, verbally, that a very destructive fire took place in the town of Baton Rouge, on Thursday last, which consumed to the ground 30 houses were consumed. It is said this deplorable disaster originated in the vicinity of Post office, which, together with the building occupied the Branch of the Carrollton Bank, fell a prey to the devouring element. We were unable to obtain further details, but shall subjoin any particulars we may receive before going to press.

Plaquemine.—The election for a Representative from the parish of St. Martin in place of Mr. Boudousquie who has been chosen to the Senate, took place on the 18th inst. The returns were not all concluded at the latest dates, but there was little doubt of the election of Mr. L. D. DeBlanc (whig.)

Accident.—A few days ago a little girl was drowned a short distance below Thibodeaux: she had dropped her doll overboard in the Bayou Lafourche, and as she strove to get it, her foot slipped and she fell: she died about five minutes after she was taken out.

☞ A new paper is shortly to be published at Vermillionville, Lafayette parish, in this State, under the title of the "*Imperial.*"

☞ We are informed by the officers of the steamer *Walnut Hills* that a fire occurred in Thebe City on Sunday last, by which 800 bales of cotton were consumed.

☞ The story of the fire in Albany, which destroyed thirty houses, proves to be a hoax.

INDIANA.—The legislature of this state assembled at Indianapolis on the 6th instant. Whig officers were elected in the senate, and locofocos in the house. Of the latter J. W. DAVIS is chosen speaker.

GENERAL TICKET LAW IN ALABAMA.—This odious law has at length been repealed. The act of repeal having passed the house by a large majority, was adopted in the senate by a vote of 10 to 11.

MONS. GUILLARD, Secretary of the French Consul at Philadelphia, it is supposed has met an untimely end by drowning, as no one has heard from or seen him for some days.

☞ The bail for Green one of the parties accused of embezzling the funds of the Bank of Va., has been fixed at $10,000, but he has not yet been released, as his sureties have not come forward.

The New York papers say that the Napoleon Spectacle at the Bowery, is beyond a doubt the most magnificent and gorgeous scenic exhibition ever made in the United States.

☞ By a letter from Central America, says the New York *Courier*, we learn that the whole town of Cartago, C. A., of about 20,000 inhabitants, was, with the exception of two houses, destroyed by an earthquake, about the middle of September last.

GALE AT BUFFALO.—The *Buffalo Advertiser* states that a very heavy gale occurred at that city on the 8th instant. Several buildings were blown down and a man named Hadsell killed by the fall of one. No injury of consequence was done to the shipping in the harbor.

CHARLES A BROWNSON, the reverend reviler of our political institutions, and deerler of churches and clergymen, has written a letter to the Editor of the Boston *Post*, in which he calls every man "*liar and a scoundrel*," who charges him with being an infidel. This is remarkably refined and courteous language from a clergyman.

DESPERATE CHARGE UPON A TIGER.—We have before us, says the *N. Y. Tribune*, that Mr. Sinclair, one of the Tellers of the Mechanics' Banking Association in Wall street, having been discovered on Friday last, is now deficient in the amount of $1693 or $4700 by over-drawing his account, he was dismissed by the bank from the office he had held therein and notice given to the other banks of the fact

HEAVY DAMAGES.—In the United States District Court of New York, Judges Thompson and Betts presiding, an action was brought by S & F. Deer & Co. against Samuel Swartwout, to recover the duties illegally charged by him when Collector of the Port, on a quantity of silk twist imported by the plaintiffs. The duty was charged on an evening silk, whereas silk twist, it has been decided, is not to be considered as a non enumerated article in the Tariff. The plaintiffs obtained a verdict for $10,000.

☞ We are indebted to the polite exertions of the Mate of the steamboat *Meteor* for late St. Louis papers.

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