The New-Orleans Bee.

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TERMS OF THE BEE.

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The New-Orleans Daily Bee

Friday Morning, Dec. 8, 1848.

The Britannia's News

The *Pyrenees* of last evening publishes the latest accounts by the *Britannia*, but the telegraphic summary which we gave yesterday was so complete as to leave little or nothing to glean from the detailed advices.

THE CHOLERA.—The panic occasioned by the report that two cases of cholera had occurred in the Hospital, seems to have subsided, as it is tolerably well ascertained that the cases in question were violent attacks of cholera morbus. There is yet, however, some difference of opinion in respect to the nature of the complaint. We have heard one of our ablest physicians, who was present at the *post mortem* examination of the patients, declare that the pathological appearances were entirely such as are presented in fatal cases of cholera asphyxia.

Report of the Secretary of War.

This is the first in the series of official documents, which the opening of Congress invariably ushers forth. The report of Mr. Marcy is a State paper of readable length, filling barely three columns in the Washington *Union*.

A considerable portion of the report is occupied with a detail of the military operations in Mexico, from October, 1847—the date at which the last report of the Secretary closed. The history of these movements being entirely familiar to the public, and will fresh in their memories, need not be recapitulated.

The military peace establishment is now nearly the same in numerical strength as it was at the commencement of the war with Mexico—rising to about nine thousand men. The great extension of our territorial limits has required a new arrangement of military divisions and departments. The Eastern division remains unchanged; Texas and New Mexico have been added to the Western, or second; and California and Oregon constitute the third, or division of the Pacific.

Troops are greatly needed in Oregon, for the protection of the settlers from the incursions of Indians in those parts. The mounted rifle regiment, which was disbanded at the termination of the Mexican war, is now being recruited, with a view to proceeding to that territory. A part of Gen. Wool's command of regular troops have been sent to California and new Mexico, and at the time have doubtless reached their destination. One company of dragoons, and one of light artillery have been despatched to New Mexico, and two companies of the first regiment of artillery, and the second infantry have sailed from New York, for California. Troops have been ordered to Texas, to protect the Rio Grande frontier.

The amount of contributions and avails of captured property received by officers of the army in Mexico, is reported at $1,041,333 77, which will be increased by amounts collected in New Mexico and California. In adjusting accounts with the disbursements consequent thereon, has been experienced. The report recommends that the laws be so extended as to authorize the use of moneys received from contributions and other sources.

Mr. Marcy suggests the retention in service of the additional paymasters appointed for the war, as the business of this department are onerous, from our vast territory, and require much time and labor for their adequate performance. Additional medical aid is needed for the army, and recommendations for that purpose are made by the report.

The estimates for the fortifications for the ensuing fiscal year exceed those of the past year, in consequence of the increase of our territory. Measures have been taken to secure an accurate delineation of the Pacific coast, with a view to the selection of proper points for fortifications.

The estimates for the army proper required for the next fiscal year amount to $4,[illegible]. The estimates for the transportation of troops do not exceed that of any other year except of the war. The increase in this item is owing to the expense of sending troops to Oregon, New Mexico and California.

The number of persons on the Pension list is three thousand one hundred and twenty-one. More than six thousand claims have been presented for bounty land and treasury scrip.—About 10,000 have been allowed, 20,000 are pending, and some 10,000 more are yet to be presented.

Our relations with the Indian tribes on our borders are more satisfactory than usual. Large numbers have been removed to the country set apart for them—West of the Mississippi river; and on the Missouri frontier they have become less troublesome, in consequence of the payment of their annuities being regulated by their army and good faith. Within the last four years, eight important treaties have been negotiated with different Indian tribes, by which their condition has been improved, and the United States have eighteen millions of acres of land, at a cost of $1,842,000. The restriction of the sale of spirituous liquors among the Indians has sensibly diminished the amount of suffering prevalent among the tribes from this pernicious custom. Several of the tribes begin to appreciate the blessings of education, and to feel and comprehend the importance of revested religion.

Mr. Marcy concludes his observations on this subject, with the following interesting statement:

"There are sixteen manual-labor schools and eighty seven boarding and district schools now in successful operation among the various Indian tribes, and the number of Indian youths attending them, according to the reports received at the department, is three thousand six hundred and eighty two—of which two thousand six hundred and fifty six males, and the remaining one thousand and thirty two are females. The schools are generally in charge of missionary societies, and are well conducted. These facts afford the most gratifying evidence that nearly all the four civilized tribes are rapidly advancing in civilization and moral improvement, and I trust it may not be improper on this occasion for me to say, that for the highly improved and rapidly improving condition of the numerous Indian tribes, over which the guardianship of the government is extended, not only in regard to education but most other respects, no slender measure of credit is to be awarded to the ability, industry, and faithfulness of that branch of this department to which the management of our diversified and difficult Indian affairs is assigned."

Congress.

In the SENATE, on the 7th, Mr. King announced in appropriate language the death of the Hon. Dixon H. Lewis. He was followed by Messrs Dix and Dickinson, of New York, and the Senate then adjourned.

In the HOUSE, Mr. Ashmun offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That in order to secure a more full, orderly, and prompt publication of the proceedings and debates of this House, the Clerk be authorized and directed to enter into a contract, to take effect from the beginning of the present session, and to continue until otherwise ordered by this House, with the proprietors of the two daily papers in this city, the National Intelligencer and Union—for the daily publication in each paper of the proceedings and debates of the House, for which the Clerk shall make weekly payment, out of the contingent fund, at the rate of seven dollars and a half for a column of brevier type; provided that the proceedings and current debates shall be transferred to the country edition of each of said papers, and one copy of each of said papers shall be furnished to each member during the sessions of Congress, without additional charge.

Pending the debate on this resolution, a message received from the Senate, communicating the proceedings of that reference to the death of Mr. Lewis. Whereupon, Mr. Harris of Ala., delivered an eloquent elogium on the deceased, after which, the House, like the Senate, adjourned over to Monday, the 11th.

GOVERNMENT EXPRESS.—The Mesquite was received at the New York Post-Office, at 20 minutes after eight o'clock, on the night of the 5th, in eight hours and 20 minutes from Washington, which is the quickest time ever made between the two places.

STEALING COTTON.—Sophy Watson and Eliza Budhie, two young girls, were arrested yesterday in the First Municipality, for stealing cotton from the Levee. They will be locked up for a few days.

Correspondence of the Bee.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6, 1848.

The message of the President has furnished a theme of comment for all the political circles, and in none has it been received with more complaint, than those with which its author is associated. It is a stump speech from the throne, and in every material respect, lacks dignity, taste and propriety. The Constitution requires that the President "shall from time to time, give to the Congress information of the state of the Union, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient." It does not intimate that he shall impose political disquisitions upon Congress, or revive the discussions of mooted questions. This is the first occasion in the history of the Government upon which an Executive has undertaken to lecture the people upon the true policy which should be pursued or to obtrude his personal prejudices, after they had signally condemned the system which he had manifestly recommended. It so happens that in the recent canvass, the whole power of the President and his Administration were brought to bear upon the election, for the purpose of sustaining the very policy which Mr. Polk has now the audacity to re-argue, and that a constitutional majority of the popular will, emphatically pronounced against him and his measures. Every topic was discussed upon the hustings, and most fully discussed too than it now is in this electioneering message. Why then should the Executive attempt to put on the public records a document, the substance of which has just been repudiated from Vermont to Louisiana? If he hopes by this experiment to break his fall, he will not be gratified, for no President ever went out of power so universally despised, as the present incumbent will do on the 4th of March next. It is the last effort of the small politician to defend himself, after having been put aside and rebuked by the sober intelligence of the country.

His attack upon the doctrine avowed by Gen Taylor touching the veto power in the Allison letter, is a pitiful specimen of special and pleading and of puerile impertinence at the verdict which condemned him to disgrace, and his party to defeat.

There will be no business transacted in Congress during the present week. The Hoosiers elected on Tuesday, Mr. Gorley, to-day, and the death of Mr. Lewis will probably be announced in both branches to-morrow, after which they will adjourn over till Monday.

Mr. Douglass, of Illinois, Chairman of the Committee on Territories, has given notice of a bill in the Senate, (which will probably be introduced on Monday,) by which he expects to overcome the difficulty on the slavery question, in reference to the new territories. He proposes to admit California and New Mexico as a single State, giving to them two members of Congress at the outset, and establishing two judicial districts, with Circuit and District Court jurisdiction according to the Constitution of Kentucky, by which immediate appeals to the Supreme Court would be secured. The act of admission to contain a reservation for the creation of States, east of the Sierra Nevada, and the contemplated State of California to be embraced between the mountains and the Pacific, which would afford an area of nearly 60,000 square miles. The territory east of the range of mountains is sufficient for the formation of four or five States larger than Pennsylvania. As yet there is considerable reserve of opinion as to this proposition, particularly among the members of Mr. Polk's party, who are not desirous to relieve Gen. Taylor's administration from any impediments with which it may be embarrassed. We shall be better able to understand the probabilities of its adoption after the bill has been formally before the Senate.

The Chairman of the Committee on Post Offices in the House, Mr. Goggin, has signified his intention to introduce a bill, at an early day, establishing a uniform rate of postage on the following basis—5 cents for letters not exceeding half an ounce in weight for all distances; 1 cent for newspapers exceeding 1900 inches; half cent when under 1900 and over 500 inches, and 1-4 cent when under 500 inches. After supposing the cheap system throughout and throwing everything in the shape of the experiment, the President and his Post Master General, now, that it has defeated their predictions have complacently put themselves forward as the friends of cheap postage, and assume to speak of it as a measure which owes its success to their countenance. The assurance which has characterized the career of this administration, exhibits itself quite as strongly now, in the midst of its death struggles, as it did when flushed with victory, it first seized the reins of power.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury will be presented to the House on Monday next. Until it is examined no proper idea can be formed of the condition of the Treasury, and even then considerable allowance must be made for the inaccuracy of Mr. Walker. The official statements were corrected three several times at the last session, the aggregate errors amounting to something like ten millions of dollars.—We have yet to understand what amount of corrections will be required for the present report.

The Legislature.

SENATE.—The Committee of Conference reported a resolution to adjourn on Wednesday next. The resolution was adopted without opposition.

HOUSE.—A bill was passed providing for the interchange of Judges in the 7th and 8th judicial districts.

Mr. Smith, of Orleans, introduced a number of bills. Among them are the following: A bill to prohibit the sale of spirituous liquors to slaves. A bill relative to persons employed by the Tehuantepec Company. The bill makes it the duty and the power of the Governor to report telegraphic despatches they receive, under the penalty of $1000 and three months imprisonment. Read three times and passed. Also a bill prohibiting officers of courts to offer or compose any indictment or petition before it is offered to the court by the intervention of the clerk or judge of said court, and to exercise the profession of lawyer, except in cases allowed by law. Laid on the table.

The House concurred in the report of the Conference Committee, fixing the day of adjournment for Wednesday next.

☞ The *National Intelligencer*, referring to the fact that the President has taken occasion in his message to bring in and denounce the whole Internal Improvement system, including even that of the Jackson and Van Buren era, pointedly asks: "What the country would desire and has a right to know, in respect to this matter of Internal Improvement, in this: Have the President's Cabinet approved of this part of his message? Has Gov. MARCY revoked his vote in the Senate for River and Harbor Improvements, and his recommendation of them in estimates accompanying his first report as Secretary of War? Has Mr. BUCHANAN recalled his votes on the same subject, both in the Senate and the House of Representatives? Has Mr. WALKER changed his views on this question? Has he recalled his votes in the Senate for a dozen sessions in favor of River and Harbor Improvements, and not only votes but enthusiastic speeches, going as far as he who goes farthest? Do these gentlemen now unite with Mr. POLK in denouncing as corrupt and unconstitutional, the system which they have heretofore supported with so much zeal?"

In reference to the letter from Mr. Clairborne, in which Gen. Taylor is represented as having said that when the North attempted to interfere with the slave question, he was ready to draw the sword and throw away the scabbard, the Natchez *Courier* remarks:

"We can set this matter right in a few words. Judge Boyd has either been misunderstood or misrepresented, very grossly. In the conversation that occurred between Gen. Taylor and Judge Boyd on the subject of slavery, not one word, so we understood Judge B. to say, was uttered having reference to the Wilmot Proviso, Slavery in the Territories, or any other question growing out of the subject of slavery in the States, further than that concerning the right of *Property* in slaves, in slave States, General Taylor said that if the northern fanatics attempted to interfere with that, he was in favor of drawing the sword and throwing away the scabbard. He said nothing further concerning the Slave question, and all the bubbub raised at the North and elsewhere, about these alleged remarks, has no authenticity or foundation. There is no respectable man, or set of men, at the North, who wish to interfere with the rights of property in the South, and should it be attempted, we opine that there will be some others down South, besides Gen. Taylor, who will draw the sword and throw away the scabbard." These remarks were made by Gen. Taylor in social conversation with Judge Boyd, of this city, who afterwards repeated them, as they occurred to his friends, not with the most remote idea that they would be misrepresented or misconstrued, and telegraphed to Washington."

☞ The Cincinnati *Gazette* states that the will of the late Gen. James Taylor, of Newport, Ky., has been set aside agreeably to the wish of the heirs and legatees, and an equitable division of the immense estate left by the General has been made to the satisfaction of all parties. About forty slaves belonged to the estate, and the heirs, without a dissenting voice, determined to give all of them their freedom and to make liberal provision for the support of the old and the young who are unable to support themselves.

☞ It has heretofore been stated in this paper that the King of Denmark presented his Comet Medal to Maria Mitchell, the American, for her discovery of the Comet which bears her name. This is the first honor of the kind ever bestowed upon an American, and we believe Miss Mitchell is the only lady of any country that has ever received this high compliment.

Miss Maria is not the daughter of Professor Mitchell, of Cincinnati, as stated in the London Athenæum. She is the daughter of the distinguished Wm. Mitchell, of Nantucket.—*National Intelligencer.*

TREMENDOUS GALE.—We were visited at about 12 o'clock on Friday night by a heavy gale, which continued with but little abatement during the night. The wind blew from the southwest, and was a very seldom witnessed in this city.

We understand that several chimneys, sheds, &c., were blown down, and the south wall of the new brick house on Eighth street was driven to the extent of about eight inches, causing the joists to protrude—rendering the wall unsafe.

The steamer Pike No. 7 encountered the gale near Horse Sue, and striking her against a snag, which was caressed, the water washing over the deck, and in the struggle to get out of the difficulty, the tiller-rope broke, and the boat was blown ashore. No damage of any great consequence was done, except such as may result from the flight to passengers.

The steamer Brilliant was taken by the storm below Portsmouth, and for a few moments her decks were swept by the tremendous surges, and the whole boat was enveloped in a cloud of spray. The pilot house was moved from its place, some bed ropes blown overboard, but the boat stood up bravely against the storm with no serious damage.

We hear of fishboats, &c., being sunk, and some steamers being stranded, but have no definite information as to details.

Cincinnati Commercial, 6th inst.

A FEMALE IMPORTUNIST.—Accounts from Porto Rico, represent that Island to be in a dreadful state of alarm, the property and every moment in expectation that the slaves would revolt, and perhaps massacre the free inhabitants. [The slaves, we believe, constitute but about one-tenth of the whole population. There are, however, a large number of free blacks—four times as many as there are slaves. The slaves and free blacks together, make about half the population of the Island, which is not far from 400,000.] The militia and regular troops were constantly on duty, and intercourse with the Island was prohibited as much as possible. The Spaniards, it is said, feared that the slaves would receive assistance from the Haytiens, and a report was current that the Haytiens had threatened to make descent upon Porto Rico.—*Boston Traveler.*

☞ Whitley in the banner county of Kentucky! beating little Harlan *one hundred votes!* In Whitley, Gen. Taylor received 564 votes to 93 cast for Gen. Cass. In Harlan, Gen. Taylor received 250, and Gen. Cass received 56 votes! If the Whigs of Harlan had cast one vote more for Taylor, or if the Democrats had given one vote less to Cass, Harlan would have been entitled to the banner! It is a very close race—almost a drawn battle. They are twin sisters in the Whig family, and although Whitley bears off the banner, the gallant Whigs of both Whitley and Harlan are entitled to the gratitude of their Whig brethren of Kentucky and the Union.

Of the minority, Harlan gave an aggregate vote of more than one thousand votes, and Garrard has given the largest proportionate majority.

Commonwealth.

City Intelligence.

BALL TO GEN. TAYLOR.—We learn with much pleasure that Gen. Taylor has consented, at the invitation of the ladies of this city, to attend a ball and supper, to be given at the Armory Hall, on Monday, the 8th of January.—The better day, the better deed.

CHARGE OF OBTAINING MONEY UNDER FALSE PRETENCES.—C. D. Benoe made an affidavit yesterday, before Recorder Genois, setting forth that on or about the 10th January, 1847, Williams Fellows came to his store in Canal street, and presented a check purporting to be drawn by Isaac Waite on the 'Mechanics' and Traders' Bank, dated 15th April, for $275, on which, by false and fraudulent representations, he obtained from him, as agent of A. J. Tollers and wife, the sum of $270. The accused represented that said money was wanted for E. Waite to make a cash payment on a Bathers' land of lumber, that Waite kept a bank account with the Mechanics' and Traders' Bank; and that the check would be promptly paid on the date thereof. The deponent further states that on 15th April, Fellows came to him and represented a renewal of the check for one week, representing that Waite had been disappointed in receiving the money to take up said check, and guaranteed most positively that the amount should be paid at the end of the week, upon which the check was renewed by giving another for the same amount on the same Bank, bearing date the 22d April. Deponent further affirms that all these representations were knowingly false, and made with intent to deceive him, inasmuch as the said Waite never had an account with the Mechanics' and Traders' Bank, and that the money so received was not intended to be used in the purchase of lumber, as pretended, but was obtained for the express purpose of paying, and was appropriated to the payment of a note due from Waite, and which Fellows had previously dishonored him, and all of which he was perfectly cognizant.

The deponent furthermore adds, that on or about the 17th April, the accused came to his store and tendered another check drawn by Waite on the Canal Bank, for the sum of $250, dated 22d April, on which he obtained an advance of $57, on the strength of a representation that said Waite kept an account with the last named institution, and that the check would be positively paid. All these affirmations, however, were false and put forth designedly for the purpose of swindling him. The Court ordered that a warrant be issued for the arrest of both parties.

ATTEMPT AT ARSON.—Benjamin Mar-house made an affidavit yesterday, before Recorder Souzeneau, charging Green Anderson with an attempt to set fire to his premises, situated on Elysian Fields street, Third Municipality, on the night of the 7th inst. The accused was arrested.

A QUADRUPLE CHARGE.—A man named Perry Pumans, was arrested on Wednesday, in the First Municipality, charged with going on board the steamer Hard Times, breaking a pane of glass and penetrating into one of the state rooms with intent to steal. While in the watch house during the night, he launched a man named Charles Brandis, who was also a prisoner, knocked him down, rumpled his pockets and took away his cap. Yesterday again, at two o'clock, he brutally assaulted a man named Nicholas Chavel, who was a prisoner in the same cell, and completely disfigured his face by a succession of severe blows. The Recorder sent him before the First District Court on each count.

VAGRANTS.—Thomas Reynolds and Peter Black, were arrested yesterday in the First Municipality, as notorious vagrants. The Recorder sent them before the First District Court.

SHOOTING AT HIS WIFE.—A man, named Austin Lane, was arrested yesterday in the First Municipality, charged with drawing a loaded pistol on his wife, and afterwards disturbing the peace.

FOUND DROWNED.—A white man name unknown, was found drowned on Tuesday last, near Bayou Cochon, on the Lake shore, about twelve miles below Milneburg. The deceased had on a blue coat, blue shirt and sock, red drawers and a pair of new shoes.

STEALING PITCHERS.—Simon Schwerin, who keeps a the corner of St Philip and Marais st., found a lad named Wm. Quirk making somewhat free with his crockery yesterday morning. He named in pursuit of the thief and caught him with two pitchers in his possession. Recorder Genois sent him before the First District Court.

LARCENY.—James Hemment, James Scott and John Williams, were arrested yesterday, in the First Municipality, charged with stealing a dress coat from the clothing store of J. Bach, on Old Levee street, and also two pair of boots from the store of Peter Lott, in Canal street. The property was found in their possession, and they were all three sent before the First District Court.

SLAT DOWN.—Michael McMahon was brought up yesterday before Recorder Baldwin, charged with kneeling a raw on board the steamer Atlantic, on Wednesday last, and also with stabbing the mate, G. W. Miller. He was sent before the First District Court.

U. S. DISTRICT COURT.—Albert Douglass was brought to the U. S. District Court on Wednesday, in custody of Mr. Wagner, the marshal, having been sent by the American Consul at Bordeaux to the United States for trial, on a charge of revolt and mutiny committed on board the ship Hannah, Capt. Thornton. He was sent to jail to await his examination on the charge.

COMMITTED.—John Stowell, charged with attempting to pick the pockets of Daniel Dentlin, and also with stabbing him during the scuffle which ensued, was brought up yesterday for examination before Recorder Baldwin.—The evidence against the accused was so conclusive that he was sent before the First District Court.

REMANDED.—Peter McGettrick and Charles Gallagher, who are charged with stealing a quantity of officers' army commissions and soldiers' land scrip, and several notes, papers, &c., from the office of G. C. Dunscar, in St. Charles street, amounting in value to some $700, were remanded yesterday for further examination before Recorder Baldwin on Saturday next.

CORONER'S INQUEST.—The Coroner held an inquest yesterday at the Watchouse, corner of Robin and Annunciation streets, on the body of a white man, name unknown, who came to his death by falling into the hold of the steamer Santa Claus, lying at the levee, on Tuesday evening. The deceased had on a white cotton shirt, corduroy pants, striped woollen waistcoat, and a white woollen jacket.

KIDNAPPING.—A man named Robert Glass, claiming apparent relationship to Rodolphe Gerardi, and made affidavit that within his old persons on Front Levee, Second Municipality, on the night of the 7th inst. The accused was arrested.

A DRUNKEN CHARGE.—A man named Peter Gallagher, who was arrested yesterday in the First Municipality, charged with going on board the steamer Atlantic, on Wednesday last, and knocking down a man named Charles Brandis, who was also a prisoner, knocked him down, rumpled his pockets and took away his cap. Yesterday again, at two o'clock, he brutally assaulted a man named Nicholas Chavel, who was a prisoner in the same cell, and completely disfigured his face by a succession of severe blows. The Recorder sent him before the First District Court on each count.

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