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NEW ORLEANS, THURSDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 16, 1854.

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THE DAILY BEE.

Thursday Morning Feb. 16, 1854.

THE NORTHERN MAIL came through yesterday with the latest dates.

THE ARTESIAN WELL.

The experiment of digging an Artesian Well, now in progress in Canal street, is watched with a good deal of interest, as well by the public at large, who are attracted by the novelty, as by scientific observers who eagerly embrace this opportunity of prosecuting geological investigations. We presume that most of our readers are aware that Artesian wells are so termed, from the fact that the particular process of excavation applied to them was first used in the province of Artois, France. They are peculiar, first from their usually immense depth, and next, from the mode in which they are dug. The principle involved in the construction of Artesian wells is the tendency of water to find its level—though lying hundreds, and it may be, thousands of feet beneath the surface of the earth. Spring water, when discovered beneath will ascend in supervious rock, for were it otherwise, the fluid would force its way to the surface, or at all events to the level of its source. It follows, therefore, that wherever certain strata designated by geologists as impervious are presumed from observation and induction to lie at attainable depths, there Artesian wells may be expected with strong probability of success.

The process is extremely curious. The width of the bore varies according to circumstances. The well now digging in Canal street, has a diameter of 14 inches, which is considered ample. A circular hole is first made in the ground, and as soon as it is deep enough to work, a steel plate, serrated, is attached to a pole, and let down into the cavity by a wheel and pully, and then turned so as to detach the soil and throw it on the upper face of the plate. If water be encountered, it is removed by a tube sent down in the same way, filled and then drawn up. This operation is repeated as long as it is practicable, after which the tubing follows. The tubes are large cast iron hollow cylinders, each ten feet long, so adjusted as to screw with great nicety together, and of which the first has the lower end sharpened. The tube being raised by proper machinery and suspended over the surface of the excavation, is gradually lowered till the upper end is but a few inches above the mouth of the well. Upon this the next is screwed, whereupon the tubes sink by their own weight and the force of the downward blows. This process is repeated as long as the nature of the formation will allow. Sometimes thirty or forty feet of tubing will be sunk in a day, and sometimes very little progress is made. The well is cleared out as fast