THE DAILY BEE.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JAN. 30.

Subscriptions by the Week.

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A NEW CITY CHARTER.

The Committee of the Board of Aldermen to which the subject of Municipal reform was referred, has drawn up a plan for a new City Charter, the document is now before us. The very first glance at this plan shows that it is prolix and cumbrous to the last degree. It occupies no less than thirty-eight pages, and consists of one hundred and thirty-eight sections. To read it would require some hours; to optimize it would be still more laborious. This Charter presents the fault that shrivs most of our legislation. It is unnecessarily elaborate and complicated. Nothing but candid and repeated perusal would enable a lawyer to determine whether its manifold provisions were consistent with one another, and whether there was no contradiction between them.

We can only hope to lay before our readers the most prominent features of this Charter, especially those which differ materially from the existing Municipal organization. By it, New Orleans is divided into three instead of four Districts, the Bases of division being Jackson, Canal, Toulouse street, and the lower line of the city. The Council is to consist of two Boards; the Aldermen, seven in number, to be elected by Districts, and to hold their office four years; the Assistants, thirteen in number, to be chosen for two years, likewise by Districts, except one who shall be elected by the city at large. One Mayor, three Recorders, a Treasurer, a Comptroller, Street Commissioner, Board of Assessors and Board of Supervisors of Assessors are to constitute the executive power of the city—the Mayor to be chosen by general ticket, the Recorder by Districts, and the other officers, together with a Surveyor, Attorney and three Assistant-Attorneys, by the Common Council.

The Mayor is to be vested with increased powers. He shall appoint police officers, policemen and watchmen, and discharge the same at pleasure, but his appointments must be subject to the advice and consent of the Board of Aldermen. The names of the police officers are such as are prescribed in the present charter, except that the Treasurer and Comptroller are required rigidly to account for all moneys disbursed by them, faithfully to keep their accounts, and periodically to report to the Common Council.

All real and personal property shall be liable to taxation, with some specific exceptions. The Common Council shall lay an equal and uniform tax; but this tax, added to the Consolidated Loan tax, and special railroad tax, shallnot exceed $1 50-100 on $100 of valuation. The Council shall elect a Board of Assessors, to consist of twelve persons, and three Supervisors, who, together with the chairman of the Finance Committee, shall compose the Board of Supervisors of Assessments. Minute and extremely lengthy regulations are laid down for the government of the Assessors; in the manner in which the city is to be divided into assessment districts, the mode of ascertaining the owners of taxable property, the preparation of the assessment rolls, the rectification of errors in assessment, the affidavits to be taken, &c., &c. This portion of the charter is exceedingly detailed, and adds greatly to its length. Much of it more properly comes within the scope of ordinances to be passed by the Council, than within the meaning and intent of an organic law.

Other sections authorize the laying of taxes for licenses, and provide for the periods of payment, for the payment of other taxes, for the collection of unpaid taxes by legal process, for the seizure and sale of real and personal property in default of the payment of taxes, for the preparation of a book of plans, on which shall be described every tract, square and lot of ground, and for a general plan of the city.

From the very hasty remand of the leading clauses in the proposed charter, it will be perceived that several very important changes are contemplated. One breaks up the sectional division of the city, and substitutes others more arbitrary, but better adapted to do away with the distinctions heretofore subsisting between the Anglo-Saxon and Franco-American portions of the population. Another diminishes the number of members of Council, and prolongs their term. A third reduces the Recorders to three. A fourth vests the Mayor with the appointing power of the Police. And a fifth takes from the people the election of Treasurer, Surveyor, Comptroller, and Street Commissioner, and gives them to the Common Council. The changes in the appointment of Assessors, and the manner in which the assessment is to be conducted, and the limitation of the taxing power, are reforms of high importance, which we trust to see engrafted in the amendments to the charter which the Legislature may adopt. In fact the plan before us appears to embody many wholesome and necessary modifications, and only requires simplification and abridgment to render it generally acceptable.

SHERIFF'S SALE.—The Sheriff will proceed TO-DAY to sell at public auction, in the Rotunda of the St. Louis Exchange, some very important property, belonging to the estate of Adolphe Seghers. The property consists in lots of ground and buildings situated in the Second and Third Districts. The terms are extremely liberal.

SPLENDID WORKS OF FINE ARTS.—We are requested to call special attention to an extensive sale of choice works of real Italian Marble and Alabaster, Groups, Figures, Vases, &c. The sale will begin TO-DAY, at 10 o'clock, A. M., at store No. 69 St. Charles street, by H. Vigne, auctioneer. A rare chance to adorn parlors, &c.

DEATH OF JOSEPH M. FIELD.—We are pained at learning the death of J. M. Field, a gentleman of great versatility of talent, who has been actor, author, editor and poet. He died in Natchez on Monday, of consumption.

The dinner which was given at the Revere House, Boston, on Friday, in honor of the birth-day of, Daniel Webster, is represented by the Boston papers as having been a grand affair. The president's table, says the Post, crossed the upper end of the large dining-room; of the Revere, and three long tables were ranged lengthwise the hall. Upon the centre table was a perfect representation, in confectionery, of the Marshfield house, with its walks and shrubbery, among which the favorite tree and seat of Mr. Webster were distinguishable. The house itself was a representation of the room material, of Mr. Webster's birth-place in Salisbury, with its other frame of rails, and its old shed adjacent, beneath which rested a miniature and primitive-looking cart, with various odds and ends peculiar to an old-fashioned country house. An attempt had been made to get a representation of the Franklin house, but it had been disappointed. In its stead was a beautiful pillar of slab, bearing mottoes from Mr. Webster's replies to Mr. Calhoun.

The gaming-houses of Aix-les-Bains, in Savoy (says the Union) have just been suppressed.

On the 4th ult. there were fifty cases of cholera at St. Petersburg, notwithstanding the coldness of the weather.

Wm. Ingham has just quitted Vienna for St. Petersburg, after a stay in the former capital of two months.

An explosion of fire damp took place on the morning of the 23d in the Nivelle (France) coal-pit. Twenty heads are missing, and five supposed to have lost their lives.

The Belgian papers report that M. Jobard, the sculptor, of Rheims, has discovered a compound of the Vulcan Library, a fissure of the head and bust of Charlemagne.

The marriage of M'lle Orsweth, whose real name is Sophie Lebeau, daughter of Count Orsweth, has been posted up at the Hotel de Ville, Paris.

Madame G. Sand has just had a successful appeal at the Français, entitled *L'Autre*. When read before the committee, the scene between the two ladies was found terrible, four members—for which read, it seems, the literary city of the metropolis—gave the decision in favor of the author.

The mystery of getting up an Austro-German alliance continues in Vienna, for the *Presse* says that nobody now to have been consulted on the subject. Count Rechberg, the minister for foreign affairs, is absent at Munich, and M. de Lavalette and Prussia, has now been doubled again; but it will probably not take place until the year 1858.

Baron Arnethal Mayer von Rothschild, of the great banking house of Rothschild, recently deceased, leaves never, during his life, to have forgotten, the origin of his elevated position. The banker, when in his dark and narrow street, Frankfort, dwelled the "street of the Jews," in which he and his brothers were born, was visited by him daily during the illness of his mother, who could never be persuaded to leave the humble habitation for any of the sumptuous palaces offered to her by the love and veneration of her sons. The most pleasing feature in the disposition made of this property is the provision to continue forever the weekly distribution of alms at the "Rothschild old house in the street of the Jews."

A letter from Spencer Brougham, dated at Goodwood, says: "I shudder to think what will be the consequences of the horrible weather which continues to rage with unabated violence. Not a single day of bright clear weather, which completely interrupts the elaboration on the estates.

Of Muscovadoes we have nothing new to report. For Molasses the demand continues active, with no appearance of any decline in prices. At an out-port a cargo has been bought at 7½ cts.

In Freights there prevails much less animation. We quote nominally:

Coves, or Falmouth and a-mar. £2 12s 6d a £4

Direct ports in the North Sea.. 3 15 " 4

United States.... 81 per bbl. " 81 50
62½ to $4 50 per hhd. "
60 to 90 50 " do Water's.

Exchange has further declined and is very dull. We quote:

London at..... 7 per cent. premium.
Paris at..... 4 " discount.
New York at..... 45 to 5 per cent.

LATER FROM MANILLA.

Revolt on Board of an American ship—200 Men Killed.

Letters have been received from Manilla by the *Sweden*, to the 9th instant, giving an account of a dreadful occurrence on board the American ship *Waverly*, conveying coolies from China to Peru, which Captain Loring died, the ship put into Manilla. Some disturbance took place on board, and the Chinese, to the number of 600, were driven below and the hatches closed. The cries of those opened again, 257 were found dead!

Some were killed by suffocation, and some by boiling water poured down upon them through the hatches by Captain French.

The following letter, addressed to Elwood Walter, Esq., Secretary of the Board of Underwriters, of New York, tells the frightful story:

MANILLA, November 9, 1855.

ELWOOD WALTER, Esq., Sec., &c.:

Dear Sir: We enclose herewith those of yesterday's date, in which is an account of a tragical occurrence on board the American ship *Waverly*, which vessel took on board at Swatow for Callao, and put in here the 25th ult., as far as Lobos, Capt. Pettman having died a few days before. There are many conflicting accounts as to the amount of sickness on board, and a notice published in the official Gazette, which we enclose, asserts that the captain stated to the health officer, in the first place, that Captain Wellman died of fever, and many of the —from the same disease. We are informed, however, that but two of them died between the ports and this place, and that Captain Wellman's complaint was not dysentery, so that there seems to have been not the slightest necessity for ordering the ship into quarantine; and on the first officer's coming on board the *Pharsis* was quite willing to ship in her, with the consent of Captain Rosier of the *Pharsis*, it is understood that the *Waverly* was not allowed to proceed at once on her voyage.

After proceeding to the anchorage ordered, distant some seven or eight miles from them, and a mile or two from Cuapte, preparations were made to land the body of Capt. Elwood W. on shore, when the firing of the coolies occurred. It would appear by evidence since collected that there were but few troublesome characters among them, that these were the leaders, the rioting being quelled almost immediately after a few shots from the crew, which killed about a dozen, two or three coolies only, the rest retreating below. The hatches were put on and chains or other fastenings placed upon them, and remained in this state until the agent heard from the charterers of the vessel, who ordered one of these parties to proceed with Capt. French upon so inhuman an act, which threatened to result in great loss of life. In fact, upon removing the hatches, it was thought that a number, variously stated, and upwards of forty bodies were taken out, when the Coolies were again ordered below, and the bodies taken on board. Eventually, as we hear it, it was found that two hundred and ninety had perished—a part, as examination has proved, from the effect of boiling water poured down the hatches by order of Captain French, and the remainder from suffocation. The officers are now in prison here, and a judicial investigation is in process.

The Boston *Post* of Friday says:

"The master of the ship *Waverly*, of Boston, who was buried at Manilla, Nov. 9, was Captain Francis O. Wellman, brother to the late deputy collector of this port. His family reside at Chelsea, and one of his daughters is married upon hearing of his decease yesterday morning in one of the schools of that town.

RHODA WAKEMAN.—One of the editors of the New York *Tribune* has visited Rhoda Wakeman, the murderess of Junius Matthews, and has enlisted from her a confession of faith. The articles of her belief may be enumerated as follows:

1. A belief in the genuineness of the Bible.
2. A belief in God as a Supreme Ruler.
3. That Jesus Christ came into the world to save it from sin.
4. That she is a messenger sent by God to redeem the whole world from sin, and build up Christ's kingdom on earth.
5. That the Devil has this power over death, and whomever his female majesty chooses may sinner must die!
6. That the curse was put on the world by the evil spirit, but that God will take it off for Christ's sake.
7. That she has the power to destroy the world at pleasure, by using the influences whenever the wishes to do so.
8. That God has invested her with supreme power, and that she can exercise this power on earth.
9. That she has the power to forgive sins.
10. That she knows the thoughts of people by looking at their eyes.
11. That the Devil puts the evil spirit upon everybody that does not believe her doctrines.
12. That it is not legal to marry, and that all marriages are the consequence of worldly lusts.

William Russell, the historian of the day of Balaklava, he who told the fearful tale of the destruction of the British army, has additionally received from the Crimea, Mr. Russell, in one of his recent letters to the London *Times*, has given a description of the terrible scenes that prevailed in the British camp and regiments that the cause of the disgraceful disorganization was to be found in the lovely paradise which the soldiers were forced to occupy. He recommended that 50 a day should be withdrawn from each regiment to the rear, and that there were hospitals established. Mr. Russell's letter arrived in the Crimea, it gave rise to a great excitement among the privates, and a number of the officers, on reading the letter, wrote home to the public journals to protest against the charges of Mr. Russell's letter, and to express their opinion that the statements of their body contained that of the whole army. These letters, which were published, contained a denial that rations were withheld from the troops, and that the men were frequently wanting in many of the necessaries which were in those countries, and could not be got at any price. Mr. Russell, however, has published a letter in reply to these statements, in which he says that he took care to have his statements confirmed by the officers of the regiments, and that he has in his possession many letters from officers of the army, which confirm the statements he has made.

Commerce.—In the Shoreham steamship *Ocean Queen*, which arrived at this port on Saturday, there were received from Europe 1,000 packages of merchandise, consisting of 500 packages of dry goods, 200 packages of hardware, 200 packages of cutlery, and 100 packages of fancy goods. The value of the cargo is estimated at $200,000. The steamship *Ocean Queen* is the largest vessel that has ever entered this port from Europe. She is 1,200 tons burthen, and has been built but a few months. She is commanded by Capt. Comstock, who is well known as a skilful navigator.

Among Chiefs, three of Mr. Edward Walsh, was arrested on Saturday last, charged with having stolen $1,000 in bills and $1,000 in gold. The prisoner was taken before Justice Osborn, and committed to answer the charge. Mr. Walsh is a young man, and has been employed as a clerk in the store of Messrs. Ackley and Co., Broadway, for several years past. He has always borne a good character for honesty and integrity, and the circumstances under which he is now placed are truly painful.—*Tribune*.

Supreme Court.—The following decisions were rendered this day:

Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40,