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The New Orleans Bee.

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THE DAILY BEE.

SATURDAY MORNING, JANUARY 22

STATE DOCUMENTS.

The annual message of the Legislature is the period provided by law for the transmission of a large number of official reports. We gave yesterday a synopsis of the contents of those of the State Treasurer, Board of Currency and State Librarian. We shall endeavor to-day to present an abstract of some others.

THE INSANE ASYLUM AT JACKSON.—The institution is in a prosperous condition, the Asylum having entirely escaped a visitation of the epidemic. The receipts of the Asylum have been as follows: Balance on hand, $8,693 65; from State Treasury, $30,000; from pay patients, $3,799 65. Total, $31,893 33. Expenditures, $26,187 24. Balance, $5, 706 09.

The Asylum is still unfinished, and the Legislature is urged to complete the outbuildings, kitchens, dining rooms, washhouse, &c. An appropriation is imperatively needed for improvements and repairs. The estimates for the year 1859 are: for subsistence, $21,000; for repairs and improvements, $3000. The report calls attention to the fact that several criminals acquitted on the plea of insanity, and sent to the Asylum, have recovered with amazing celerity.

The whole number of patients in the Asylum within the past year was 200. Of these 32 were discharged cured; 5 discharged improved; 4 removed improved; 2 removed not improved; 3 eloped; 21 died. Number remaining, December 31st, 1858, 137. Among the deaths we notice one by suicide. The number of inmates steadily increases from year to year. The report contains much interesting matter respecting the causes of insanity, the treatment of mental aberration, etc., which, however, we are compelled to pass over for the nonce. Perhaps we may return to the subject.

THE LOUISIANA PENITENTIARY.—The report of the Board of Control of this institution is unusually voluminous, but a large portion is occupied with statistics. The profits of the Penitentiary for the past year amount only to $2,574 86, in consequence of the small demand for cotton goods, and the necessity of keeping a large supply on hand. For the coming year it is expected that every yard that can be manufactured will be sold at handsome prices. Certain repairs and improvements are suggested as indispensable to the buildings and grounds.

Eighty-eight convicts were received in the Penitentiary during the past year. A number of these were for the second time, one for the third time, and one for the fifth time. Fifty-four of the convicts were from New Orleans. Sixteen were guilty of murder. During the same period there were eighty-eight discharged, having served the time of their sentence. Three were pardoned, six died, and two escaped. The convicts remaining in the Penitentiary number 326. The proportion of crimes is as follows: Manslaughter, 44; larceny 39, assaulting white persons 21, arson 20, robbery 20, burglary 14, horse-stealing 12, stabbing 11, attempting to kill 10, forgery 7, negro-stealing 7, attempt at rape 6, shooting 7, poisoning 4, attempt at poison 4, rape 4, counterfeiting 3, insurrection 3, entering house to steal 3, setting letters on fire 3, perjury 2, aiding slaves to escape 2, drawing checks to defraud 1, unknown 2. Louisiana supplied 52 convicts, Ireland 54, Germany 18, Scotland 4, France 10, Spain 8, England 8, Mexico 3, other foreign countries each one or two, and the remainder from various States of the Union.

The report of the Chaplain enforces the necessity of kindness towards the convicts, consistent with safety, and of seeking to arouse and cultivate their self-respect. He suggests a grated door, bedstead, table, book shelves, slate, pencils and stationery for each cell, additions to the library, and a chapel for religious exercises and Sunday school exercises.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION.—Another document of considerable dimensions. The sums apportioned among the different parishes during the past year amount to $303,324 34, leaving a balance on hand of $77,015 66 to the credit of the Public School Fund. The enumeration of 1857 fixes the number of educable children in the State at 75,000. Many assessors have failed to make accurate returns, and power is asked to remedy the evil. About one-third of the children attend school. Since the adoption of the public schools, in 1847, nearly four millions of dollars have been expended for the same, with very satisfactory results. The Superintendent has examined the public school systems of other States, and find their success due to their efforts to advance education, rather than to practice economy.

It is suggested that the office of Parish Superintendent be re-established, and that all white children between the ages of eight and eighteen be admitted into the schools. There are other recommendations of some importance. One is that the section of the act be repealed which allows the teacher of a private school, where the children of the district attend it, to have the same compensation for each child taught, as if he had charge of a public school; another proposes to pay teachers in proportion to the number of children taught. Normal schools are highly commended, and the establishment of a journal of education is suggested.

DR. E. HEARNE.—Physician for diseases of the lungs, throat, heart, liver, &c.—is still in our city, and many of our citizens are under the treatment, who will attest to his success in these diseases, and fully corroborate the flattering recommendations he brought with him. We are informed that he is very candid in giving his opinion of the condition of a patient, and will in no case promise a cure without a fair prospect of performing it. All who are suffering with any of the above diseases should consult him immediately, as his stay in our city will be limited.

His rooms are 140 Canal street, over the Crescent City Bank. Entrance at Dr. Nelson's.

ELECTRO BIOLOGY.—The last lecture on the extraordinary phenomena of electro-biology will be given this evening by Dr. Hale at Odd Fellows' Hall, on which occasion many rare and astonishing experiments will be performed in illustration of the lecturer's expositions.

To-day, at noon, a lecture to children will be given by the Doctor, at the same place, followed by experiments. Admission for children 10 cents; for adults, 25 cents.

On Monday, at 11½ o'clock, the first of the regular course for ladies' lectures will be given by Dr. Hale. The entire course is to consist of six lectures, tickets for which cost but one dollar each. These lectures will embrace important information—the origin and means of cure of nervous derangements.

MRS. BLUNT'S POETICAL READINGS.—The lecture room of Odd Fellows' Hall was well filled last evening, and Mrs. Blunt fully confirmed the impression she made by her first readings at Lyceum Hall. We hope she will give a long course of these readings—as we are sure that they will be appreciated when it is known how beautifully she acquits herself.

A free lecture will be delivered at Armory Hall on Sunday evening, 23d inst., by Prof. O. S. Fowler. Subject—The Moral Nature. Such a lecture from one who has been so long a student, at the head of his profession, will no doubt prove interesting and profitable.

NEW MUSIC.—Our thanks are due Ph P. Werlein, No. 5 Camp street, for the following new music:

Good Night, Beloved! a serenade, composed by Balfe. This is one of the author's happiest efforts, and is full of sweetness and pathos.

Sonny Mabrel, one of Wood's Minstrels' songs. Words by McNaughton. Music by F. H. Brown. Quite a pretty and expressive air.

Blossoms, by Forder. The choice melodies of Lucia di Lammermoor are here arranged for the piano in rather an easy style for moderately good players.

L'Absence, a romance, for the piano, by **Wallace.** A fine study for a good performer, requiring careful execution.

Brilliant Variations, by Grobe, on Wallace's **Melody** "There is Darkness on the Mountain," another capital exercise for somewhat advanced pupils. Mr. Grobe is famous for the spirit and brilliancy of his variations.

CHOICE ARTICLES AT GUION'S.—By reference to our advertising columns it will be seen that Guion has received at his new store, No. 20 St. Charles street, some remarkably fine and beautiful articles, such as his warranted silver-steel razor, by which shaving is made a luxury; the celebrated Austrian fan, prize medal opera glasses, and genuine Meerschaum pipes. These are guaranteed genuine and particularly recommended to amateurs, who can likewise procure at Guion's a pure and delicious Turkish smoking tobacco.

By Telegraph.

[TRANSMITTED TO THE NEW ORLEANS BEE.]

LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE.

BATON ROUGE, January 21.—The proceedings of the Legislature to day were of an unimportant character. Nothing of interest transpired in either house.

Both houses have adjourned over till Monday.

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS—UNITED STATES SENATOR.

The Democratic members of the Legislature have arranged to meet in caucus tomorrow, for the purpose of determining upon a candidate for United States Senator for this State.

STEAMBOATS PASSING.

VICKSBURG, January 21.—The steamer Mars passed down at 8 o'clock last night; the Pacific passed down at 9 this morning; the Princess passed down at 3, and the Ingomar at 8 o'clock this evening.

CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, January 16th.

Senate.—The Senate chamber is crowded to excess, as Senator Douglas is expected to pronounce an eulogy on the decease of Mr. Harris, of Illinois.

Mr. Seward presented the credentials of Hon. Henry Wilson, as Senator from Massachusetts till 1865.

Mr. Shields offered a resolution instructing the Committee on Territories to inquire into the expediency of organizing that portion of the original Territory of Minnesota lying west of the present State boundary. Adopted.

Mr. Yulee presented the petition of Messrs. Kunhardt & Co., and other agents of steamship lines between New York and Europe, praying for a modification of the laws relating to exportations for the benefits of drawbacks. Referred to the Committee on Post-Offices and Post Roads.

Mr. Seward offered the following resolution, which was adopted—

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Treasury is requested to communicate to the Senate, as fully as it may be in his power to do so, the number of American vessels which are engaged directly in the palm oil trade on the coast of Africa, the average number of their voyages annually, their tonnage, the nature and value of their exports and imports, and the amount of duties derived from them by the Treasury of the United States.

On motion of Mr. Hale the joint resolution appointing Com. Stewart senior flag officer was taken up.

Mr. Hunter called for the yeas and nays, which resulted in the adoption of the resolution—yeas 37, nays 14.

Mr. Iverson moved to take from the table the motion to appoint Friday of each week for the consideration of private bills. Agreed to.

Mr. Johnson, of Tennessee, moved to take from the table his resolution directing the Committee on Finance to report a bill, in accordance with existing laws, to limit the government within the revenue.

Mr. Hunter, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, objected to the reference of the subject to his committee.

Mr. Gwin moved its reference to a select committee.

As the subject was debated for more than an hour, the point at issue being whether to send the resolution to the Committee on Finance or a special committee.

The consideration of the subject was suspended by a message from the President announcing the death of the late Thomas L. Harris, of Illinois.

Mr. Douglas, of Illinois, to the evident disappointment of a large number of the assembled spectators thronging the galleries and every accessible point in the chamber, who expected to hear a fine eulogium, read a brief, in a low tone of voice a brief sketch of the life and public services of the deceased.

Messrs. Shields and Davis followed in the delivery of brief eulogies, and after the passage of the usual resolutions, the Senate adjourned.

House.—On motion of Mr. Phelps, it was resolved that during the ensuing two weeks from to-day, it shall be in order for the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union to take a recess at 5 o'clock, P. M., for general debate only.

Mr. Stephens stated that Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of next week be set apart for the consideration of territorial business.

Mr. Morgan objected, unless the proviso be attached that the subjects introduced shall not include the admission of new States.

Mr. Stephens moved to lay the motion for the majority of the House to determine.

Mr. Morgan—Then I object to the introduction of the resolution.

Mr. Morris announced the death of Thos. L. Harris, his colleague, pronouncing an eulogy on his public and private virtues.

Messrs. Clark, of New York, Lamar, of Mississippi, Washburn, of Illinois, Adrian, of New Jersey, Sherrard, of Maryland, added their mournful tributes to the memory of the deceased.

The usual resolutions of respect were passed, and the House adjourned.

STAPLE AND FANCY GOODS.—Messrs. Giquel & Jamison, Nos. 16 and 18 Chartres street, offer for sale a splendid assortment of fancy and staple goods of direct importation; also a large supply of plantation goods, at the lowest market prices. See advertisements in our columns.

THANKS.—We are greatly indebted to Messrs. Laville, Fischler and Patterson, members of the House of Representatives, for their valuable favors.

MONEY IN THE DEAD LETTER.—The dead letter branch of the General Post-Office has just closed another quarter's work. During the three months which terminated on the 30th ult., there were found letters, and packages containing money amounting in the aggregate to $12,921 82. For the quarter which closed 30th June last, there were received 4549 letters, and $21,498 85 in money. For the quarter ending the 30th March, 3472 letters, and $15,157 15 in money. Quarter closed 31st December, 2352 letters and $13,361 99 in cash. Total in the year, 12,105 letters and $61,239 73 in money.

It is said that orders have been issued from the War Department similar to those which were sent to Kansas pending the former troubles, viz: to use the four or five companies of troops now there as a *posse comitatus* to enforce the laws during the present disturbances in that Territory.

A Contrast.

The Rev. Dr. Murray, of Elizabethtown, New Jersey, was recently giving an account of a prayer meeting which he used to attend, more than thirty years ago, in an "upper room" occupied by an old woman known as "Aunt Betsy." She was too infirm to go to church, and some young men were in the habit of holding informal religious meetings in her room every Sunday afternoon. The reverend Doctor stated that three of those young men are now prominent and leading merchants in New York, and one of them is one of them is a distinguished minister at a foreign court; another an ex-Mayor of New York, noted for his eloquence in public; another the president of one of the largest publishing houses in the city of his residence; and another a useful minister of religion in one of the Western States.

"I was myself (said Dr. Murray) among the youngest of the company, and, when first invited to join the circle, was not a communicant."

When these statements had been made—much more in detail than we have given them—a man rose in another part of the room and spoke as follows:

"I have, said he, "recently visited the prison at Sing Sing. As I went from cell to cell, I met with an old man, who told me a very different story from that just narrated. He said that when young he was one of a company of young men who formed a social club, and who met once a week for talking infidelity, gambling and drinking, not very far from the upper room of Aunt Betsy. And I was shocked as he told me of the end to which his companions came. 'One,' said he, 'died by his own hand; another by the hand of violence in the Dueling Ground; some of delirium tremens; and, as far as I know, I am the only one of them surviving; and here I am in the garb and daily at the work of a felon.'"

THE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS AT WASHINGTON.—The subjoined is a somewhat fuller account of the caucus held by the Democratic Senators on the 15th instant:

A caucus of Democratic Senators was held yesterday on the President's recommendation in reference to Cuba. A debate of three or four hours ensued, involving the question whether any steps should be taken in relation to it, and if so, what its character, according to the best attainable authority.

Mr. Mason made the opening speech, and was followed by Messrs. Hunter and Shields. Although favorable to the acquisition, they thought action at this time impolitic, and calculated to impair, rather than improve, our prospects in that land.

Mr. Douglas regarded the appearances as gloomy, but would support Mr. Slidell's bill, placing in the hands of the President the sum of $30,000,000, to be used in negotiation. He expressed the belief that the President would not endorse this measure without sufficient data to justify him in so doing. Mr. Douglas had long desired the acquisition of Cuba. In his judgment there was but one mode, and that was on the happening of another case similar to that of the Black Warrior, to seize the island by way of reclamation, and negotiate afterward.

Mr. Davis and others did not like the suggestions of Mr. Douglas. The discussion at this time became intensely interesting, the best ability of the participants therein being put forth. Mr. Slidell, of course, advocated his own bill.

Messrs. Davis, Toombs, Gwin, Bigler and Clay favored the idea of increasing to a sufficient extent the Army and Navy, leaving the matter to the discretion of the President as in previous cases. Mr. Iverson thought Spain could be induced to sell the question of Cuba by the repeal of such parts of our own laws as restrain the action of our citizens toward foreign powers, or something to this effect.

The determination of the caucus was, with a few exceptions, to favor the recommendation of the President, although the precise mode in which it should be communicated was not so clearly indicated, but the probability is that the Senate will pass Mr. Slidell's bill.

THE PAST YEAR.—The statistics of 1858 are being published. The number of persons killed in the United States last year by railway accidents was 106; injured 78. The loss of life by steamboat accidents was 685. The loss by fire in 1858 was $12,000,000. The wrecks and surprises last in the storm of the year, now gone, are valued at $4,671,000.

[COMMUNICATED.]

To the Editors of the New Orleans Bee:

The hour of closing the Eastern mail has been fixed this winter at 11 A. M. on Sundays and holidays, which is three hours earlier than on other days, and four hours and a half before it leaves the city.

By this course the period allowed for mailing letters is clearly abridged to that extent, and in fact it renders an answer by return of mail to letters received on those days almost impossible; as on Sunday, the 8th, for instance, the mails leaving were not distributed entirely till 11 A. M., the hour now of closing the *outward* mail. Thus for fifty-eight days in a year our facilities for mail purposes are rendered nugatory or greatly impaired, at a time, too, when the failures in arrival of the mails are so frequent and provoking.

Much stress is laid on every hour that is gained in the period required to transport the mail from here to Washington, and much clamor ensues if the Department is suspected of sparing efforts or means to ensure expedition.

The three hours abridgment here is more damaging than an increase of length of transit to that extent would be, for it often, or rather it usually, compels a postponement of mailing letters from Sunday to Monday, from the shortness of time allowed to reply to letters received.

Can you say whether the Postmaster has authority to close mails an unreasonably long time before they depart? and whether, if he has authority, it displays proper regard for the convenience of the public for him to exercise it in a manner so vexatious?

Hitherto it has been the custom, under winter arrangement, to *deliver* letters up to 11 A. M. Sundays and holidays, and to receive and mail letters up to 2 P. M. on those days.

LATEST FROM SANTA FE.

INDEPENDENCE, JANUARY 17.—The New Mexican mail, with Santa Fe dates to December 27th, arrived here yesterday morning. In consequence of the terrible condition of the roads, the conductor was forced to pack the mail most of the way on mules.

The Legislature of New Mexico had elected Augustus De Marle public printer, vice S. M. Yost.

In a special message from Governor Rencher, he says that the armistice with the Navajo Indians amounts to nothing, as it does not provide for the surrender of the murderer of Major Brooks's negro, nor for payment for him.

The Superintendent of Indian Affairs and the commander of the military department say that they will consent to no peace upon the terms of the armistice, but they will require the return of private and public property taken during the war, and the establishment of a line which the Indians shall neither plant crops nor graze their stock.

The commercial news from the Territory is unimportant.

There has not been a full Supreme Bench in New Mexico for years, and no regular term in the Taos district for the same time. Nothing is so prejudicial to the interests of the Territory as the. Better have military executive always, than judicial for a short period.

Just as the mail party left Santa Fe, an express arrived from Albuquerque announcing the safe arrival of Frank Green's party from Sonoita, on the 27th December, who were supposed to have been cut off.

Washington News.

A dispatch of the 17th says:

The appearance of a few of the Supreme Court for the last five years, exclusive of the Judges' salaries, have amounted to $112,500, of which over $21,000 were paid to the Clerk.

There were comparatively few members in the House to day during the delivery of the funeral eulogium of the late Mr. Harris, which consumed about two hours.

It appears from the public documents that the amount paid and incurred by the Executives of Kansas, on account of extraordinary expenditures, were as follows: By Governor Walker, $4,000; by Mr. Walker, $4,400; by Gov. Denver, $1,248. The Secretary of State recommends an appropriation for the payment of the above claims.

The resolution of Mr. Phelps, providing for night sessions of the House, is merely for the delivery of honorable eulogies. It was passed by a large majority. This is intended to facilitate the transaction of business in the House during the earlier part of the day, when it is understood that the discussion shall be strictly confined to the measures legitimately before that body.

Mr. Clemens, of Virginia, who was wounded in the duel with Mr. Wise, is unable to work or to leave his room. His strength has been reduced by confinement, but,