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The New Orleans Bee.

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THE DAILY BEE.
WEDNESDAY MORNING, DEC. 22.

COMPULSORY EDUCATION.

Under this head the London *Star*, of the 22d November, has the following:

A case has occurred in France which will probably excite fierce indignation in this country, as it may be held to be an outrage on the rights of Protestant conscience. There is a French law which makes it obligatory on manufacturers to send to school all their factory children under the age of twelve. The school is of course a public one, which is of course Catholic. Mr. Walker is an English cotton manufacturer in St. Pierre, and he has been summoned for having two English children in his service without sending them to school. He pleaded that they were Protestants and the school was Catholic. That plea did not avail for the judge, who said that a free school could not be refused to every sect, decided against Mr. Walker, fined him six francs and costs, on the ground that the defendant's argument tended to create for foreign Protestants a position which would enable them to act with impunity with Frenchmen. This is a specimen of the absurdities and absurdities inherent in every system of coercion.

We are by no means sure that the conclusion declared by the *Star* is correct. It is evidently not compulsory education that is open to such absurdities, but something else. Where, for instance, would be the injustice of a law requiring every member of the body politic to be able to read and write, under the penalty of exclusion from the privilege of suffrage or of a law compelling in direct terms every parent in the State to teach his children, or have them taught the rudiments of knowledge? In a free country, education is the basis on which liberty reposes. It enlarges the mind and expands the entire genius, and thus enables the recipient to exercise understanding and the law making power. So thoroughly is this vital principle appreciated in the United States, that free schools are almost universal, and all possible facilities and inducements are proffered in the way of gratuitous instruction, so that ignorance should not plead poverty as its excuse. In the principle were carried to an extreme point, and education were rendered compulsory, we cannot conceive that any special harm would ensue. Happily in this country such coercion is unnecessary, as parents eagerly avail themselves of the opportunity of securing regular and free instruction to their children.

The kind of formal quoted above appears confounds two very distinct things, to wit: education and religion, and we perceive that the same disposition to blend the two existing in portions of our own country, and has given rise to much undue excitement. It is not stated in the paragraph cited from the *London Star* whether the Catholic school in St. Pierre mingled secular with religious instruction or not. If it did, there was a palpable wrong inflicted. If it did not, we can see no more reason for complaining that the teachers were Catholics, than if they were Protestants or Jews. A compulsory religious education—especially a sectarian education—would be a gross and of revolutionary character, and would be resisted by every child of a different persuasion from the one inculcated. Public schools are not to be considered, and cannot be legitimately made seminaries of propagandism. The proposition is obvious and simple. Children are sent to school to learn to read, to write, and to cipher, and acquire certain elementary notions of history, geography, and the like. While attending school, the bounden duty of the preceptor is to see that they so far obey the moral law as to observe the discipline established—to be truthful and truthful and decent in their deportment, to give due attention, and to avoid idleness and mischief. He has no proprietary right in the bodies or minds of these children.

Nothing can be more keenly alive than our people to the immeasurable importance of religious training. We regard it as the only dependence for human progress and the maintenance of public order and virtue, without which the people must be corrupt, depraved and hopeless slaves. But it is the function of the proper pastor to inculcate the priceless germ of religious truth. The tree schools is the resort of children of every possible creed and sect. Priests of the Catholic faith are sent to them, there repair the multitude of Israel. Protestant ministers visit the schools, and expound to the believer in the revealed word of the New Testament. It is impossible to conceive any other than the most beneficent results of religion in a public school, with its varying creeds and modes of debate. The mere reading of a chapter in the Bible—even without note or comment—must be exceedingly repulsive to the child, which hears all the words of holiness be uttered successively by the different ministers of that church. In like manner, it is the law be not rigidly aggravated at certain times, as during a controversy about the mode of the ordinance enforced with the New Testament. Hence the wiser and the more moderate course of law, it would have practically reduced the teachings of our public schools to the development of the understanding, leaving the sacred subject in regard to home instruction and parents. And here we may add that fathers and mothers, in their duties are guilty of unpardonable sins of omission in weakly neglecting the transcendently momentous duty of the government. Too often do they imagine that they have accomplished every thing, and that all the responsibility devolves upon others, when they have regularly sent their children to the public schools to receive the benefits of their training. A more grievous and more fatal error cannot possibly be conceived. The proper field for cultivating religious and moral truth is at home. There should the child be taught the Divine precepts, and the parent is responsible to God for the issue of their training. There is the place—by the fireside circle, at the mother's knees, or seated around the father's—for impressing on the youthful mind those grand principles of faith, and principles of moral life which underlie every form of Christianity, and, indeed, every creed among civilized nations. There should be such proceed *pari passu* with the acquisition of external knowledge. Such is the public practice. There should be effectual care developed, the love of God and of the neighbor taught and illustrated, and the duties explained. The doctrinals set forth in the church will serve as the foundation on which parents should seek to rear a structure of religious faith and practice, and thus the schools, on the one hand, are improper and beyond the intellectual, and on the other, would purify the moral sense, quicken the conscience, and engrave upon the heart the eternal distinctions between right and wrong.

ELECTRIC BUSINESS.—The lectures of Dr. Hale, and his eminent and satisfactory experiments in electric business, are still continued at Odd Fellows' Hall. We repeat our advice to the citizens of New Orleans, with their families, to attend this instructive and amusing series. They will learn something new, startling and intensely interesting in physicology, and will enjoy an opportunity of familiarizing the ladies with one of the most remarkable of earth-pervading powers of mental philosophy. Go by all means.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.—The ninth anniversary of the Young Men's Christian Association of New Orleans will be held this evening at seven o'clock, in the First Presbyterian Church, Lafayette. The annual report will be read, and an address will be delivered by the Rev. Dr. Palmer.

THEIR'S MARION PAINT.—Messrs Tickner & Field [illegible] papers, the [illegible] J.C. Morgan & Co., Exchange [illegible] have sent us "The Fair Maid of Perth [illegible] six more volumes of their neat [illegible] and convenient edition of the Waverly Novels. Each of the volumes is illustrated by a superior steel engraving. The paper is of type of the admirable edition are so convenient as to tempt to peruse the immortal works of Scott for perhaps the tenth time.

GIFT BOOKSTORE.—All those who intend to offer Christmas or New Year's gifts are advised to call at Evans & Co.'s splendid gift bookstore, No. 5 Camp street. For every book in that establishment a present is awarded. A small sum laid out at that store may be very profitable to the person who invests it in a book. The scheme is a fair one, inasmuch as every one who buys a volume at Evans & Co.'s is sure to get a prize.

AUCTION SALES AT THE ST. LOUIS EXCHANGE.—We [illegible] Tuesday, at 10 o'clock, in the rotunda of the St. Louis Hotel—

A very valuable tract of land, fronting the right bank of the river opposite the Fourth District, and leased up to 1865, at $50 per annum.

Also, a very valuable and useful blacksmith, a first-rate brick store, washers, bold beds, house servants, and a fine [illegible] of [illegible] and female negroes well recommended, and warranty the [illegible] all kinds of purchasers.

Sir Bulwer Lytton, the novelist, has been re-elected Rector of the University of Glasgow by the students. His majority over Lord Shaftesbury was small, but that which he obtained over Mr. Charles Dickens was very large.

By Telegraph.

[TRANSMITTED TO THE NEW ORLEANS BEE.]

ARRIVAL OF THE ARIEL.

HER CAPTAIN KILLED IN A GALE.

HALIFAX, December 20.—The steamship Ariel, Capt. Ludlow, of the Vanderbilt line, which left Southampton on the 1st instant, arrived here to-day.

She put into this port short of coal, having been detained by severe weather and head winds.

On the 8th instant she encountered a furious gale, which she rode out in safety, so far as the ship was concerned, but a tremendous sea struck her during the gale, which instantly killed Captain Ludlow, and severely injured the second officer and two seamen.

The first officer, who was on deck, was also slightly bruised, but escaped serious injury.

The Ariel will complete her coaling and sail for New York to-morrow.

Her European advices have been anticipated.

THE ATLANTIC CABLE STILL ALIVE.

NEW YORK, December 21.—The superintendent of the Trinity Bay station of the Atlantic telegraph has telegraphed to the directors of the company that he finds an electric current passing through the Atlantic cable to-day, and has been able to get intelligible signals from Valencia station, as also one or two distinctly recognized words.

CONGRESSIONAL.

WASHINGTON, December 20.—The House have concurred with the Senate to adjourn from the 23d inst. to the 4th of January, on account of the holidays.

WASHINGTON, December 21.—*Senate.*—In the Senate the bill making appropriations for the improvement of the St. Clair flats was presented, and after some discussion, was passed by a vote of 29 yeas against 22 nays.

WASHINGTON, December 21.—In the *Senate*, the Pacific Railway bill was up for consideration. Mr. Leonard made a speech strongly advocating its passage.

HOUSE PROCEEDINGS.

In the House the Committee on Ways and Means reported the bill making appropriations for the consular and diplomatic service, and for the support of the Army.

Mr. Cavanaugh introduced a bill for the establishment of a Territorial government in Dacotah.

The discussion of the Pension bill was resumed in Committee of the Whole.

CENTRAL AMERICAN COLONIZATION.

WASHINGTON, December 21.—It is currently reported that a secret Central American and Mexican colonization association has been organized, and that its operations are widely extended through the country.

It is reported that they have selected Gen. Henningsen as their leader in carrying out their plan of operation.

Their organization and proceedings are enveloped in mystery, and carried on secretly.

A CONTEST AT CHESS.

PITTSBURG, December 21.—Mr. Paulsen, the champion chess player, is here playing, has just terminated a contest with ten players of the Pittsburg club, in which he has beaten six of the players, drawing the ten games simultaneously and without seeing the board.

KANSAS TELEGRAPH LINE.

ST. LOUIS, December 21.—The telegraph line has been completed, and is now opened for the transmission of business as far as Kansas City.

NEW YORK MARKETS.

NEW YORK, December 20.—The sales of Cotton to-day were 1,000 bales. The market closed firm at previous quotations. Sugar closed firm. Molasses 32 to 33c. Coffee closed firm. Sales to-day of 7000 bags at 11½ to 11¾c.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES.

ST. LOUIS, December 21.—The steamers Champion and Mollie Morgan have arrived here from New Orleans.

The steamers Wm. M. Morrison and the Baltic have left here for New Orleans.

CINCINNATI MARKETS.

CINCINNATI, December 21.—The Flour market remains firm. Superfine is quoted at $4 50 @ [illegible]. Whisky is dull at 22½c. Western Reserve Cheese is selling at 10½ @ 11c., sales at $17 75 to $18. Sugar firm at prices ranging from 6¾ to 7½. Molasses 32 to 33c. Coffee firm at 11½ to 12c.

ARRIVAL OF THE BLACK WARRIOR.

NEW YORK, December 21.—The steamship Black Warrior, from New Orleans via Havana, has been signalled below.

STATE OF THE RIVERS.

LOUISVILLE, December 21.—The river at this point is falling slowly.

CINCINNATI, December 21.—The river here has fallen fifteen inches in twenty-four hours.

PITTSBURG, December 21.—There are eight feet and a half of water in the channel at this point.

ST. LOUIS, December 21.—The Missouri river is now stationary. The Mississippi is falling very rapidly.

STEAMBOATS PASSING.

VICKSBURG, December 21.—The steamer Pocket passed down at midnight last night, and the City of Memphis at 7 o'clock this morning.

VICKSBURG, December 21.—The steamer Planet passed down at 2 and the Natchez at half past 2 o'clock this evening.

The Southern Pacific Railroad Convention.

EXCITING PROCEEDINGS.

There was another meeting of the stockholders of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company at Armory Hall last evening—Col. Fitzgerald presiding.

It was announced that the General Committee would be unable to report till Thursday.

Mr. Chilton offered a resolution calling on stockholders present to state what services they had rendered, and what they had received, in order to effect some equalization of interests, at place all on a common footing.

C. L. Post spoke in opposition to the resolution, saying that he acted in one measure by private and other parties, but that if the same was not prepared to say—as they had obtained a large share of the stock of the company, and had given the best legal advice to what he considered a personal attack on himself the evening previous by Mr. Chilton.

[illegible] throughout was characterized by the most bitter personalities, and recrimination and recrimination, of which our report is but a meagre outline. Both sides [illegible] and the Hamilton crowd first determine the offense according to principles of the common law. If true, as the Spencer memorial says, that Judge Watrous became secretly and fraudulently interested in land claims, with the purpose of litigating it in his own court; it would be corruption, and the charge should be forthwith investigated by the Senate.

Messrs. Craige, Millson and Reagan interpreting, made some explanations, which, however, did not satisfy Mr. Stephens, who, in the course of his remarks, said that if Judge Watrous had made errors in judgment they could have been corrected by an appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States.

Mr. Houston said that the suit of Mary Ann Malone was concluded yesterday, the verdict of the jury of inquest attributing her death to injuries received by being run over by a dray, and that the driver was not the driver. A German, named Nicholas Dedinger, last Friday evening, as the little girl was crossing, the street, ran over her with a dray, and fled. The above reward is the pain to any one delivering her to the [illegible], or lodging her in some of the city jails.

Corner Iron and Levee Sts. [illegible]

Wanted.

BY a German BAKER, who speaks English fluently, a situation as [illegible] baker's shop. Apply by letter to X at the office. [illegible]

Wanted.

A [illegible] PACKER who can furnish satisfactory references, as to character and capacity. Apply to [illegible]

Packer Wanted.

A [illegible] PACKER who can furnish satisfactory references, as to character and capacity. Apply by applying [illegible]

F. F. MOTON & CO.
[illegible] Chartres and Levee sts.

Further Reduction in Looking-Glasses, Engravings, &c.

FORTY PER CENT. ON ALL GOODS.

G. DUPUY,

61 ROYAL STREET, NEAR BIENVILLE.

HAVING purchased a fully guaranteed [illegible] of respectable cards and at the above reduction, and [illegible] to the public, that I am now able to make positive [illegible] whether for retail or wholesale.

With a variety of [illegible] engravings, [illegible] Mirrors, [illegible] Cornices, [illegible] Cornices, [illegible] Cornices