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NEW ORLEANS:
TUESDAY MORNING, MARCH 5, 1867.

MARDI-GRAS.—To-day, unless the weather should prove unfavorable, will undoubtedly be a gay one in this city. Report says that the annual carnival will be held and that the proceedings of last year will be grandly surpassed. For months weeks our shops have been filled with masks and costumes for use on this day, and a brisk sale has been found for them. How so much display and festivity is justified, considering the condition of the country, the very general distress throughout the South, and the inactivity of Congress, we are at a loss to understand. Until the day is past we advise no one to read Hume or Gibbon upon the Roman Empire, for it would undoubtedly fill the mind with gloomy apprehensions. Many entertainments are announced for the day, and we presume no one will be at a loss for entertainment. A large number of balls will come off to-night, some of which are announced in another column. Despite the dark events of the hour Mardi Gras promises to be unusually gay.

THE FIREMEN'S ANNIVERSARY.—The Firemen's Anniversary celebration yesterday, we may safely say, was one of the most splendid affairs of the kind ever seen in this city; and it might challenge comparison with similar exhibitions in any city of the world. In point of order, good bearing and general conduct we have never seen it equaled. The neat and gentlemanly appearance of the men; the well-polished and shining engines, tastefully, nicely decorated with emblems and flowers and bearing the silver trophies won in many a peaceful contest; the waving flags and allegorical banners; the music from the numerous bands, and last, but by no means least, the honorable scenes, many of them exempts on account of long service in the Fire Department, walking proudly before their engines and behind their masters as if fully conscious of the admiring gaze bent upon them—formed altogether a spectacle so rich and varied that few who had the good fortune to see it will ever forget the impression that it produced. The first thing that struck the attention was the quiet and gentlemanly bearing of the men. There was no noise, no loud talking, no shouting or singing of songs—the words of command even were given in a quiet tone of voice—there was none of that uncourteous, brutal and confusion usually seen on such occasions, and in all that long procession, composed of near 3000 men, there was not one satte caper to detract from the dignity of the scene. And, best of all, not one man could be seen under the influence of liquor. Walking along in that dignified, placid manner that seems to dancie conscious merit, our gallant and respected firemen won the hearts of the whole community more completely than ever before. We cannot specify here the many particular features of the procession, as it will probably be done in another column, but we may say that during the day nothing occurred to bear the complete success expected from the appearance of the men at the beginning. What more need we say? In the name of our reader we well as ourselves, we pay homage to these brave men, and though they modestly say that their own deeds is all the reward that they claim, we give them our heartfelt admiration and let them take it for what it may be worth. We cannot think of these men and the sacrifices that they make without a feeling of gratitude, and we thank them for their efforts to keep alive that zealous self-sacrificing spirit—that regard for the welfare of the city—which has ever been their characteristic aim "Always Ready," is a motto that those that use it are entitled to bear, and we could not feel that conscious security against accidental fires or the ravages of the incendiary did we not feel that each and every company was "always ready" when needed in their path of duty. An incident occurred during the march which illustrate this remark. When the procession was passing out office the fire alarm bell struck. There was a momentary halt to catch the number of strikes, and immediately the procession moved on minus the companies called for by the bells, who in their holiday attire, white gloves, bouquets, polished boots and decorated engines, rushed away to subdue the flames. At all times, at all hours, by night or by day, in winter or summer, cold or warm, we know that our firemen are ready to protect our lives and our property, and we guard the city against that destructive of the elements.

A few words about our guests may be of sufficient to these remarks. Prominent amongst the companies stood the firemen who had come over from Mobile, to join in the celebration. Their unique and pretty uniform, consisting of the usual black pants and a white flannel shirt slashed with red bands, their neat and gentlemanly appearance, attracted very general notice and in the procession a number of applauses rose from the crowd that thronged the banquette on either side. Behind them marched the company whose guests they were, and all seemed delighted at the honor of their presence on this occasion. Last night a supper was given to them, we understand, and other festivities are awaiting them to-day. They will spend Mardi-Gras in our city, and return on Wednesday. We wish them every enjoyment during their stay.

We were well pleased, indeed, with the whole affair, for it was calculated to do us a vast amount of good. It was a complete exhibition of many elements of character that should be given to the poor and distressed orphan and widows, but it was an exhibition of the courage and fidelity of a body of men who guard our interests well, serving alike to keep alive their own zeal in the firemen's path of duty and to give confidence to the citizens who saw their state of efficiency, and were able to feel that in any emergency they were "always ready."

AMUSEMENTS.

This being Mardi-Gras will be a day of amusing festivities, the most attractive of which, from all accounts, will be the labours of the Match Krewe of Comus at the Varieties theatre. We have not been favored with the programme or with invitations to the proper receptacles of our paper, whose duty it is to attend to such occasions, and for this reason our readers need not expect any report of the affair in the *Bee*.

The ball of the Young Men's Benevolent Association takes place at the Opera House, and balls will be given besides at the St. Charles, the National and Olympic theatres. There will be no ball at the Academy of Music, but the beautiful and fascinating dancerous the Christy sisters have a benefit, for which a most attractive programme is promised.

The Talent Brothers Association give a ball in the Lecroix Hall; the Young Men of the Stock Landing, corner of Lecroix Hall, corner of Chippewa street and Louisiana Avenue; another will be given for the benefit of the Soldier (Mandeville) Home, in the Mechanics Institute; another in the new "Orleans Hall," Orleans street, between Bourbon and Royal streets, and another in the Masonic Hall, at the corner of Bienville street and Exchange Alley.

The Crescent City Museum will be open from 9 a. m. to till midnight, offering numerous attractions, at Nos. 46 and 48 St. Charles street, opposite the St. Charles Hotel.

Bilgh's Chambers' Circus, with Albert Minnegate, comblade, and the Arabs, exhibit during the day and at night on Magazine street, between Girod and Julia.

PASSENGERS FROM PHILADELPHIA.—The steamship Star of the Union, Capt. Cooksey, sailed days from Philadelphia, brings these passengers:

Thomas John Watson, Jas M Brown, Mrs John Bailey and 2 children, Mrs E J Cordner and child, Mrs Wm Cordner and child, Mrs H W Smith and child, Mrs Dr Gibbon, Mrs Gibbon, Master Gibbon, Jas Dalgleish and wife, Mrs W H Robinson, one in cabin, 2 steerage.

Western Champion.

The New York Tribune gives the following description of the great Yankee robber:

We are a great commercial nation. We are the greatest feudal nation on the face of the earth. Let those who doubt or deny it consider the fact that everything in the shape of property, in the country, is for sale at some price or other. Whether it be real or personal property, whether it be material history or immaterial, or even lots, the humblest or the greatest of a country, whether a man's property or his reputation, his wealth, his good name, his honor, his character, his soul, everything is for sale, and is sold, if the price be high enough. Do we ever hear of a Yankee having anything that he wants not sold? And are we not all Yankees? What is there in New York but a few chosen spots, that we have not bought and sold? We sell school-houses for taverns, cemeteries for gaslight offices, churches for shoddy. We trade in everything, and we trade everywhere. We are unquestionably the great bankrupt nation on the footstool. In other countries there is a limit to "operations" in property, but here there is none. In other countries there are some things you cannot buy. You cannot buy a nobleman, nor a gentleman. The princes keep their palaces, and the peoples their consciences. The feudal ideas and principles are preserved, and the old family honors and the old family servant are suffered to die on the spoils of service. But that American prince who goes and sell his palace! and that American gentleman who does not hold his course for a price!

Two thousand unemployed sailors are now in New York, and more poverty looking for work than there for years past.

Fire.—About 1 o'clock yesterday, as the firemen were marching in procession to celebrate their anniversary, the alarm of fire was sounded, and in spite of the admirable arrangements for such contingency, was promptly responded to by Mississippi No. 2, Volunteer No. 4 and Louisiana Hose Company, specially detailed for the purpose, and consequently without materially interrupting the order of the procession. LaFayette Hook and Ladder Company No 2, also repaired to the scene of the fire, which proved to be at No. 209 Magazine street, between Franklin and Liberty streets, in an old frame building owned by Mr. Daniel Reeves, and occupied by negroes. Notwithstanding the active exertions of the firemen, the combustible nature of the building and the prevalence of considerable wind at the time, caused the building to be destroyed, together with two others of a similar character. The loss will probably reach four or five thousand dollars; but whether covered by insurance or not, we are unable to state Cause of the fire not given.

Confusion.

[From the New York Tribune.]

RETURN OF CONFISCATED PROPERTY THROUGH OUT THE SOUTH TO THE BREEZE—THE PRESIDENT'S CONSCIENCE TO BE INVESTIGATED—SEARCHING CHARGES BY OFFICERS OF THE PRESIDENT'S BUREAU.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

Washington, D. C., Feb. 25, 1867.

The Judiciary Committee had taked up the question of abandoned and confiscable property as it relates to the investigation of the charges preferred against the Freedmen's Bureau. Mr. Conway, formerly Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau in Louisiana, was summoned before the Committee, and in the course of examination, he presented a complete record of all that description of property which he held in that State. The record was deemed of such importance that the Committee prepared and offered to the House, a resolution calling upon the Secretary of War for all the facts connected with it. On Saturday last the Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau, Gen. Howard, was ordered by the Secretary of War to report without delay all facts relating to such property as was embraced in the resolution of the House of Representatives. Gen. Howard is now preparing a report on the subject. It will be presented to Congress in a day or two. The report, as called for by vote of the House, will embrace the following points, viz: date of seizure by the United States; by what order; why seized; owner of property; date of seizure; how used since its seizure; monthly rent to the Government from the date of seizure; loss of property; by whose order it was restored; to whom; how loaned since its seizure by the United States.

The report already presented by Mr. Conway, covering about 30 pages, each as large as one page of the *Tribune*, shows that the value of the kind of property held by the Government in Louisiana, was somewhere between fifty and a hundred millions of dollars; that the value of property held by the Government in the report, is hardly one-fifth of the actual value at the time the report was made; that the whole of it was restored to the rebel owners by the President, under the order given by him at the time, of which the following is an exact copy:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, August 16, 1865.

The records of this office show that B. F. Loan has been duly pardoned by the President on the 27th ultimo, and has already restored to all his rights of property, except as to slaves. Notwithstanding this, it is understood that the possession of his property is withheld from him. It is, therefore, to direct that General Fisk, Assistant Commissioner at Nashville, Tenn., be instructed by the Chief Commissioner of Bureau of Freedmen to relinquish possession of the property of Mr. Loake held by him as Assistant Commissioner, etc., and that the same be restored immediately to the said Loake.

The same section will be had in all similar cases.

ANDREW JOHNSON,
President of the United States.

Gen. Fullerton, who was sent by the President to relieve Mr. Conway of the duties of Assistant Commissioner of the Bureau has acknowledged to several persons in New Orleans, at the time he reached there, that he had private instructions from the President touching this property. A resolution appearing therefrom and in the course resumed. The record was given up. The record presented by Mr. Conway to the committee showed that nearly all had been restored, either by direct pardon by the President or by the order of his faithful servant Gen. Fullerton. Those who are acquainted with the laws of Congress touching rebel property held by the Government, or either abandoned or confiscable, say that the President had no shadow of authority to restore, and that his action without such authority is an usurpation of the most serious character.

Various generals in the army, all of whom have held this description of property, have, over and over again, decreed that to be property by the Government, was as legal as the possession of any property could be. Gen. Canby, who was in command in the State of Louisiana at the time this property was restored, frequently gave a record his opinion, that this property, being abandoned in the sense of the laws of war and of nations, is the property of the United States.

At the time when this property was restored to its former owners many of it had been loaned out by the Government under warrant of law of Congress on the subject. What is extraordinary about this feature of the question is that the loans were also granted by Gen. Fullerton in some instances, and, as a belief, under the private instructions given by the President to Gen. Fullerton. In the resolution concerning this property, which has passed the House, in the case of Duncan F. Kenner, of New Orleans, is specially mentioned, coupled with that of J. W. Mackey, a Charleston merchant, who was a rebel during the war: Kenner's plantations had been loaned under the law of Congress. He was among the most distinguished since Saturday to 70 the most prominent of all the Rebels. He was in the Rebel Congress, and a chairman of one of its important committees. The failure of his plantations was discussed in very limited terms, noting under the President's private instructions, as he said, and the property, with the growing crops belonging to the lessee, was all returned.

The facts connected with the recovery, by the Rebels, of all this kind of property in all the States of the South will startle the public. They can not only be shown from the records of the Bureau in Louisiana, but from those of the Bureaus in all the Southern States.

What is Thought of the Military Bill in Richmond.

Diabolus, says the Richmond *Enquirer* could not have contrived one more utterly unwise, unjustifiable, inhuman and tyrannical. It is useless to argue against such embodied passion as alone could have suggested and adopted it. "He who spits against the wind, spits in his own face." The fundamental proposition of the whole, is that which denies the existence and integrity of our State organizations. Our defence lies in traversing this position. Our only mode of making this defence is by an appeal to the courts. This it is our to say to make. A case must be made up, and we suppose it may be speedily done on the question of eligibility to office. It will be contended by the hangers and thinkers that the proscription will displace those liable to it, who are now in office. An order for ejectment, or an application to prohibit it, will get the question before the Courts. If it be held that our State Governments are valid, according to the Constitution, then all the attempts to alter our suffrage, and to dictate qualifications for State office, will be pronounced void.

We must bring to judicial test, also, the right of Congress to pass martial law, and to subordinate the civil to the military in these States, in a time of profound peace, publicly proclaimed. To speak of the scheme as one of Reconstruction, is the bitterest of irony. There is no reconstruction in it. It is a proclamation of indefinite duration, and permanent unrest. The greatest of conditions, all extremely odious, and some of them have to be impossible, blind where the race begins—with the mere phantom of Congress. "If," and "if," and "if," and "if," all rolled into the mere dream of Congress at least. How that discussion of Congress closed, we have been sufficiently taught. It would depend on the state of political parties, and the anticipated effect of Reconstruction upon them. A party in power will not vote itself out of power, or imperil its sway, by admitting the Southern States, no matter what Constitutions may have been submitted to, or what Constitutions framed. The universal guarantee demanded is, that the South shall become Republican and Radical. This is the significance of the alleged objections are only concealments.

Secret Organizations.

In another place in this paper will be found an article from the New York *World*, very forcibly exposing the objects and purposes of a secret organization known as the "Grand Army of the Republic." From the tenor of the exposition of the *World*, it will seem that this secret order assumes military organization and commanding officers, that there are enrolled in it about 500,000 of the late soldiers of the Union army. One of its objects is supposed to be, in case of Congress, to support Congress in any attempt that may be made to depose the President.

The State of New York has been back divided into military districts by the orders from headquarters and post and district commanders have been assigned throughout the State. Such an organization is repugnant, we, at least, consider, the spirit of an American republic, and if it were conceived with an attempt to govern the country by a military organization, it would be illegal as the question of any property could be. Gen. Canby, who was in command in the State of Louisiana at the time this property was restored, frequently gave a record his opinion, that this property, being abandoned in the sense of the laws of war and of nations, is the property of the United States.

At the time when this property was restored to its former owners many of it had been loaned out by the Government under warrant of law of Congress on the subject. What is extraordinary about this feature of the question is that the loans were also granted by Gen. Fullerton in some instances, and, as a belief, under the private instructions given by the President to Gen. Fullerton. In the resolution concerning this property, which has passed the House, in the case of Duncan F. Kenner, of New Orleans, is specially mentioned, coupled with that of J. W. Mackey, a Charleston merchant, who was a rebel during the war: Kenner's plantations had been loaned under the law of Congress. He was among the most distinguished since Saturday to 70 the most prominent of all the Rebels. He was in the Rebel Congress, and a chairman of one of its important committees. The failure of his plantations was discussed in very limited terms, noting under the President's private instructions, as he said, and the property, with the growing crops belonging to the lessee, was all returned.

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The New Orleans Bee.

OFFICE 73 CHARTRES STREET. NEW ORLEANS, TUESDAY MORNING, MARCH 5, 1867. Vol. XXVII—New Series. Vol. XVII—Whole—14,065.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

THE FIREMEN'S CELEBRATION.—Yesterday was indeed a gala day in the history of the firemen of New Orleans, being the occasion of the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the organization of the Fire Department in this city.

The programme so extensively announced in the papers was admirably carried out, the procession forming on Canal street, and marching through numerous streets, indicated, from one end of the city to the other, so that every person was afforded an opportunity of witnessing the beautiful pageant of neatly uniformed men, with fine horses in the lead of each company, and the members holding to handsome cords, drawing after them their gaily decorated engines, while numerous bands of music, enlivened the spectacle, and the reciprocating guides of the fair women and gallant firemen, as they are justly termed, lent a charm to the occasion which even poets would admit could be better imagined than described.

At the head of the procession we recognized Col. I. N. Marks, Grand Marshal; Judge G. W. Brengles, Chief Engineer Leidner and some Volunteer's Steam Engine No. 1, with about seventy-five men, T. Schurman, foreman, and A. Washbaum, marshal. Two steam engines, the Excelsior and the Champion, were in their charge.

Next came Pelican Fire Company No. 1, of Algiers, about forty men; Frank Wish, foreman, and T. H. Jones, marshal, with a hand engine and music by the band of the 30th Louisiana Infantry. They had just been presented with a new banner by the ladies of Algiers, through one of their fair representatives, Miss Olivia Jones.

Next came Washington Hook and Ladder Company No. 1, also of Algiers, about thirty men; Dan Hartwell, foreman, and Peter Fink, marshal, with hand engine prettily decorated with festoons of flowers and ribbons.

Then came Brooklyn Fire Company No. 2, of Algiers, about forty men; F. Oser, foreman, Wm. Riller, marshal, with hand engine, followed by a small (boys) engine, Brooklyn No. 3, Master P. Cunningham, acting foreman.

Next followed Good Intent Fire Company No. 1, of Gretna, with their Davy Crockett hand engine, numbering about forty men, under the direction of J. W. Sprague, foreman, and M. Edmunds, Marshal.

Next, Wm Tell Hook and Ladder Company No. 1, of Gretna, about thirty men, A. Michel, foreman, and Peter Cliche, marshal.

Next, Home Hook and Ladder Company No. 1, of Jefferson, twenty-five men, D. O'Brien, foreman, J. Brennard, marshal.

Next Pioneer Fire Company No. 1, of Jefferson, sixty men, with hand engine, George Blaffers, foreman, George Haas, marshal.

Next, Middlesex Fire Company No. 1, about thirty five men, with hand engine, C. Evershade, foreman, M. Peraudat, marshal.

This Company brought up the close of the First Division.

The Second Division was headed with Mississippi Fire Company No. 2, about 70 members, Taylor Gaiche, foreman, and Walter T. Perry marshal. They presented a superb appearance and were preceded by a Confederate band of music.

Next came Vigilant Company No. 3, 70 men, with hand engine, Charles Armand, foreman, and Louis Balzac marshal. They had just been presented by the ladies of the Second District with a beautiful banner, the presentation being made through Recorder Gastinel.

The engine, including two the spokes of it wheels, were beautifully decorated with wreaths of evergreen.

Next, American Hook and Ladder Company No. 3, about 65 men, Alex Smith, foreman, and Cuthbert H. Slocomb, marshal. The truck was in unison with a stuffed eagle, the genuine truck being filled out to perfection, and being carried so lightly as to be almost animated by the motion of the wheels.

Next, Columbia No 5, with 70 men, C. W. Grandjean, foreman, and Joseph R. Purcell, marshal. The engine was draped with white muslin.

Next, Louisiana Steam Hose Company, 40 men, A. T. Koningsley, foreman, and E. Lynch, marshal.

Next Mechanics' No. 6, 70 men, P. H. Walsh foreman, J. B. Prague marshal.

Next Eagle Steam Engine Company No. 7, and Eagle Steam Hose No. 7, 60 men, F. Berger, foreman, and Joe Marcus, marshal.

This company closed the Second Division, about half of the immense procession, and we regret that our want of space admonish us that we must bring our report rapidly to a close.

The Third Division commenced with Washington No. 8, of Mobile, the guests of Phoenix No. 8 of this city, both of which presented a fine appearance. We must compliment our sister city upon its representation.

Hope Hook and Ladder No. 4, and Pelican Hook and Ladder No. 4, were elegantly represented both in *material* and *personal*. To the last named we return our thanks for the compliment of a serenade to our office. Mr. T. Allen is foreman, Paul Lecort assistant foreman, William G. Robinson president, and W. E. Fitzgerald, vice-president.

Jackson No. 18 had a fine horse named "Joe Johnston; Jackson No. 20 another called "Robert E. Lee," and Orleans 21 another called "General Forrest."

The festivities of the day closed with numerous collisions in the afternoon and ball at night, including the elegant dinner given to the Mobile Company, at Carroll Hall, in the Third District, by Phoenix No. 8, which we were unable to attend. We regret that we could not notice more fully all the interesting features of the day.

The Population of New Orleans—The effect of the late war in the South has been to drive vast numbers of persons, white as well as colored, from the country into cities, and from this cause and numerous others which we might mention there has been a tremendous influx of people into New Orleans, independent of the natural growth of the population.

It has been pretty accurately determined by a census of the City Assessors that there are in round numbers 49,000 white and 23,000 colored persons in the city, between the ages of six and eighteen years. As a great many children die before they are six years old we may safely estimate the number under six years at about 21,000, making a total of 90,000; to which add 90,000 between eighteen and thirty-six, 45,000 between thirty-six and fifty, 35,000 between fifty and seventy, and 5000 between seventy and one hundred years of age, and we have a total of 265,000 inhabitants. But as the data on which we base our estimates—the number of children—is imperfect, because many are not reported for fear of the parents that the object is to tax them, and as many were doubtless absent when the Assessors made their returns, we may add 10,000 more persons of all ages, making the population of New Orleans, according to our estimates, 275,000 souls.

Serious Affair.—Sergeant Gibney reports that a man by the name of Thomas Rodgers was cut, and, it is supposed, dangerously wounded in the side, about half past six o'clock last evening, on Girod street, between Fourcher and Tchoupitoulas street, by a man named Thomas Wallis, who effected his escape. Rodgers was sent to the Charity Hospital.

Officer Mellon, of the Second District, was last night struck on the head with a clasp shot by a colored man, when he was endeavoring to arrest a negro, who, he says, had been subsequently arrested. The officer was taken to his residence, corner of Conti and Rampart streets.

About 7 o'clock last evening an affray occurred on board the steamboat Arundelle, lying at the foot of Constantinople street, between the porter, a colored man, and the barkeeper, resulting in the former being shot and dangerously wounded by the latter in the abdomen. The porter was taken to the Charity Hospital. The names of the parties and cause of the difficulty are not known—we report the police record of the affair. We could get no particulars concerning it.

Larceny of $700—We hear some enterprising chief has taken from the vault of the Jackson Railroad Company, at their office, on Carondelet street, a coloured boy, both containing $700 in money. A young man named James McHugo has been arrested, suspected of the larceny, but we have not learned anything that could fix on him. The police are at present engaged in ferreting the matter out.—*Press.*

To the Editor of the N. O. Times.—Sir: The above item, cut from your paper, is incorrect. The boy referred to evidently only $400, and was stolen from the vault at the depot, and not from ship office.

Judging by the description of James Burns, the porter in the office, he is universally known as "Jimmy," and who has been in the employ of the company for some years. We do not believe he is implicated in any way in the matter, his integrity is unchecked, and he has the fullest confidence of the company in the discharge of his duties. Please explain this matter in your next issue.

Yours, very respectfully,
R. B. CHANLER, Treasurer.

Unfortunate Death by Coal Oil Explosion.—The daughter of Mr. Thomas McIntyre, residing at No. 280 Lafayette street, Esther Louisa McIntyre, 12 years old, died at 8 o'clock Tuesday evening, from the effects of the injuries received by the explosion of a coal oil lamp. The deceased was the eldest of the family, and is fondly and generally mourned, and the sad family home and the old family servant are endeared to die of the flame of sorrow. But that American prince who goes and sell his palace! and that American gentleman who does not hold his course for a price!

Two thousand unemployed sailors are now in New York, and more poverty looking for work there than for years past.

BY TELEGRAPH.

(To the New Orleans Bee.)

FROM WASHINGTON.

Caucus Proceedings.

Virginia Calls a Convention.

River Rising at Cincinnati.

From Europe.—Advance in Cotton.

Garibaldi and the Orsinis.

Miscellaneous News.

Washington, March 4.—The House proceeded to elect officers. The Republicans nominated Colfax, who received 127 votes. The Democrats nominated S. S. Marshall who received 30 votes.

Brooks referred to the fact that seventeen States were unrepresented, of which seven were of the original thirteen, and presented a protest from the Democrats against further proceedings. The clerk refused to receive the protest.

Colfax resumed his seat and the members were sworn.

Colfax announced that the President had signed within the legal time all bills passed within the last ten days, except that appropriating $50,000 for the Paris Exhibition, which was not signed. A protest accompanied the army appropriation bill, to the following effect: There are provisions in it to which I must call attention. The second section contains provisions virtually, in certain cases, depriving the President of his constitutional functions as commander-in-chief.

The section denies State of the Union their Constitutional right to protect themselves by means of their own militia. These provisions are out of place in an appropriation bill. I am compelled to defeat necessary appropriations if I withhold my signature. I sign the bill with this protest against the provisions named.

The veto of the last House was adopted except that during this week it shall be in order to suspend them. Carried by 120 to 30. House adjourned.

Washington.—Wade was conducted to the chair and Forney installed as Secretary. Senate adjourned.

It is not probable that the President will send a formal message to Congress to-morrow. His communication will be very brief.

Washington, March 4.—Great interest attaches to the caucus to-night. The nominations for minor offices are, N. G. Ordway, of New Hampshire, sergeant at arms; Gen. Lippitt, of Illinois, door keeper, and Mr. S. Hunt, postmaster. Those officers, speaker, doorkeeper and postmaster are Western men.

The Nebraska Senators were sworn in Thayer drew the long term.

The Internal Revenue receipts to-day were over a million and a half.

Defeated was the new Congressional Printer, has discharged the foreman and assistant foreman, and displaced Miss Kate Shortell, who had charge of the folding room.

Washington, March 4.—The increased tariff on wool includes all woolen fabrics.

There is considerable excitement about the mission of Conkling and Stanton signing of bills. It appears that the officer, being too modest to disturb the proceedings of the House, left the bills on the table. The Bankrupt bill is a law with others.

Atlanta, Ga., March 4.—A large public meeting was held here to day to consider the sudden transfer of Sherman's troops, contrary to the terms of Sherman's bill and the course recommended by Governor Brown, was rejected. The meeting was dissolved. The minority held a meeting to-night. The majority re-organized and passed resolutions counseling quiet submission but characterizing the bill as harsh and unjust, approving the bold course of President Johnson and declaring that the Southern people should not barter their manhood to honor by accepting the terms of the bill. They mean to amend that the Southern Governors take steps to test the Constitutionality of the bill.

Louisville, March 4.—Arrived: Albermarle, from Richmond.

Stocks active and lower. Gold 138½.

New York, March 5.—Bank Statement: Increase of loans $1,300,000. Decrease of specie $1,900,000. Increase of circulation $300,000. Decrease of deposits 400,000. Decrease of legal tenders $130,000.

Philadelphia, March 4.—Cupidavile convention was occasioned in the Chatham House at the failure of the Senate to confirm Collector Ashburn. Three deputies claimed the office. Admiral Porter Washington finally settled the matter. The office was given to E. Reed Murray, who was deputy Collector under Thomas, appointed some months ago by Radicalism.

Augusta, March 4.—Cotton closed easier at 29½c for middling uplands.

Savannah, March 4.—Cotton quiet at 30c for middling uplands. Sales to day 230 bales. Receipts 1200 bales.

Richmond, March 4.—Resolutions to call a Convention have passed both Houses.

Mobile, March 4.—Cotton—sales 500 baled. Market dull. Middling 29 to 29½c. Unchanged light. Receipts for two days 1284 bales. Closed: steamship Hale, for New York, with 217.

Vicksburg, March 4.—Up: Kate Kinney, last night. Arrived and barged at 9 a. m., Virginia with 25 bales cotton. Left at 9 a. m. Down: Alice Dean 8 a. m., Quitman 5 p. m. River rising.

Queenstown, March 4.—The Australasian has arrived.

Baltimore, March 4.—Flour steady. Corn in good request. Wheat firm at $1 62. Cotton quiet at 31c for Middling Uplands. Coffee steady in first hands light, held firm. Sugar steady. Clover seed active; old $8; new $8 50.

New York, March 4.—Cotton dull and declining; sales 800 bales at 31 to 31½c for Middling Uplands. Flour—better feeling. Southern $10 50 to $16. Corn—in fair demand and advanced 1c; Mixed Western $1 67. Pork firm at $21 50. Lard quiet. Whisky quiet. Sugar firm; Muscovado 10½ to 10½c. Coffee firm. Freights unchanged.

Augusta, March 4.—A meeting has been called to consider Brown's recommendations. The opinion is divided. Yesterday I spoke a few papers favor his views, but the majority strongly oppose them. The anxiety on the people to know the result.

Louisville, March 4.—Sales of 95 hhds Tobacco at $3 to $20 25. Flour—Superfine $10 Corn in bulk 71 to 72c. Wheat unsoldal. Prime New Orleans Sugar 14½c. Pork $20 99. Bulk Meats 7¼ to 10½c. Bacon, packed, 9½c to 12½c. Lard, in tierces, 12½c. Whisky $2 25.

Cincinnati, March 4.—Flour unchanged and steady. Wheat firmer; sales 10,000 bushels at 56 to 62c at the elevator, 77c in sacks. Cotton dull and nominal at 27 to 28c for Middling Uplands. Whisky $2 23. Sugar quiet, 9½ to 12½c. Lard, in tierces, 12½c.

Cincinnati, March 4.—Flour unchanged and steady. Wheat firmer; sales 10,000 bushels at 56 to 62c at the elevator, 77c in sacks. Cotton dull and nominal at 27 to 28c for Middling Uplands. Whisky $2 23. Sugar quiet, 9½ to 12½c. Lard, in tierces, 12½c.

New York, March 4.—Flour $5 to 10c. lower. Wheat dull and nominally lower.

New York, March 4.—The *Herald's* Mexican correspondence says that Miramon has recently passed through Orizaba. Miramon was corresponding with the Imperialists with the hope that the Empire and Confederacy might so work together as to make both successful.

Galveston Post, March 4.—10 a. M.—The fog has cleared up in river, but still thick on the bar; tried S. E. fresh. Barometer 29.70. Steamers Cleopatra, General Meade, Jamaica, Lodona, Hermion and Oriental. Ships Mokoka and brig Neversink have gone down to try and get out, but it is impossible to tell whether they have succeeded or not, as the fog on the bar is very thick.

Sailed up—brig Hope and revenue cutter Wilkinson at 11 a. m. Arrived—schooner James Sager, Capt. Sager, seven days from Matanzas, with molasses to E. Trelaize.

Steamship Peng Shuy, from New York, is reported by pilots as having been found yesterday at 7 P. M. ashore in the East Bay, with six feet water under her bow, and fourteen feet under her stern.

Owing to the fog we are not able to report anything further regarding her.

Sailed last evening, French corvette Bouvet and steamship Tabasco.

MONETARY AND FINANCIAL.

MONDAY EVENING, March 4, 1867.

The general market has exhibited only moderate vitality throughout the day Sugar and Molasses were quiet, and the movement in Western Produce was to a limited extent, attended with an easier feeling in Lard, an advance in Pork, and a decline in Flour. Corn and Oats, while operations in our leading staple were of a restricted character. Mr. Conway, formerly Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau in Louisiana, was summoned before the Committee, and in the course of examination, he presented a complete record of all that description of property which he held in that State. The record was deemed of such importance that the Committee prepared and offered to the House, a resolution calling upon the Secretary of War for all the facts connected with it. On Saturday last the Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau, Gen. Howard, was ordered by the Secretary of War to report without delay all facts relating to such property as was embraced in the resolution of the House of Representatives. Gen. Howard is now preparing a report on the subject. It will be presented to Congress in a day or two. The report, as called for by vote of the House, will embrace the following points, viz: date of seizure by the United States; by what order; why seized; owner of property; date of seizure; how used since its seizure; monthly rent to the Government from the date of seizure; loss of property; by whose order it was restored; to whom; how loaned since its seizure by the United States.

The report already presented by Mr. Conway, covering about 30 pages, each as large as one page of the *Tribune*, shows that the value of the kind of property held by the Government in Louisiana, was somewhere between fifty and a hundred millions of dollars; that the value of property held by the Government in the report, is hardly one-fifth of the actual value at the time the report was made; that the whole of it was restored to the rebel owners by the President, under the order given by him at the time, of which the following is an exact copy:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, August 16, 1865.

The records of this office show that B. F. Loan has been duly pardoned by the President on the 27th ultimo, and has already restored to all his rights of property, except as to slaves. Notwithstanding this, it is understood that the possession of his property is withheld from him. It is, therefore, to direct that General Fisk, Assistant Commissioner at Nashville, Tenn., be instructed by the Chief Commissioner of Bureau of Freedmen to relinquish possession of the property of Mr. Loake held by him as Assistant Commissioner, etc., and that the same be restored immediately to the said Loake.

The same section will be had in all similar cases.

ANDREW JOHNSON,
President of the United States.

Gen. Fullerton, who was sent by the President to relieve Mr. Conway of the duties of Assistant Commissioner of the Bureau has acknowledged to several persons in New Orleans, at the time he reached there, that he had private instructions from the President touching this property. A resolution appearing therefrom and in the course resumed. The record was given up. The record presented by Mr. Conway to the committee showed that nearly all had been restored, either by direct pardon by the President or by the order of his faithful servant Gen. Fullerton. Those who are acquainted with the laws of Congress touching rebel property held by the Government, or either abandoned or confiscable, say that the President had no shadow of authority to restore, and that his action without such authority is an usurpation of the most serious character.

Various generals in the army, all of whom have held this description of property, have, over and over again, decreed that to be property by the Government, was as legal as the possession of any property could be. Gen. Canby, who was in command in the State of Louisiana at the time this property was restored, frequently gave a record his opinion, that this property, being abandoned in the sense of the laws of war and of nations, is the property of the United States.

At the time when this property was restored to its former owners many of it had been loaned out by the Government under warrant of law of Congress on the subject. What is extraordinary about this feature of the question is that the loans were also granted by Gen. Fullerton in some instances, and, as a belief, under the private instructions given by the President to Gen. Fullerton. In the resolution concerning this property, which has passed the House, in the case of Duncan F. Kenner, of New Orleans, is specially mentioned, coupled with that of J. W. Mackey, a Charleston merchant, who was a rebel during the war: Kenner's plantations had been loaned under the law of Congress. He was among the most distinguished since Saturday to 70 the most prominent of all the Rebels. He was in the Rebel Congress, and a chairman of one of its important committees. The failure of his plantations was discussed in very limited terms, noting under the President's private instructions, as he said, and the property, with the growing crops belonging to the lessee, was all returned.

The facts connected with the recovery, by the Rebels, of all this kind of property in all the States of the South will startle the public. They can not only be shown from the records of the Bureau in Louisiana, but from those of the Bureaus in all the Southern States.

What is Thought of the Military Bill in Richmond.

Diabolus, says the Richmond *Enquirer* could not have contrived one more utterly unwise, unjustifiable, inhuman and tyrannical. It is useless to argue against such embodied passion as alone could have suggested and adopted it. "He who spits against the wind, spits in his own face." The fundamental proposition of the whole, is that which denies the existence and integrity of our State organizations. Our defence lies in traversing this position. Our only mode of making this defence is by an appeal to the courts. This it is our to say to make. A case must be made up, and we suppose it may be speedily done on the question of eligibility to office. It will be contended by the hangers and thinkers that the proscription will displace those liable to it, who are now in office. An order for ejectment, or an application to prohibit it, will get the question before the Courts. If it be held that our State Governments are valid, according to the Constitution, then all the attempts to alter our suffrage, and to dictate qualifications for State office, will be pronounced void.

We must bring to judicial test, also, the right of Congress to pass martial law, and to subordinate the civil to the military in these States, in a time of profound peace, publicly proclaimed. To speak of the scheme as one of Reconstruction, is the bitterest of irony. There is no reconstruction in it. It is a proclamation of indefinite duration, and permanent unrest. The greatest of conditions, all extremely odious, and some of them have to be impossible, blind where the race begins—with the mere phantom of Congress. "If," and "if," and "if," and "if," all rolled into the mere dream of Congress at least. How that discussion of Congress closed, we have been sufficiently taught. It would depend on the state of political parties, and the anticipated effect of Reconstruction upon them. A party in power will not vote itself out of power, or imperil its sway, by admitting the Southern States, no matter what Constitutions may have been submitted to, or what Constitutions framed. The universal guarantee demanded is, that the South shall become Republican and Radical. This is the significance of the alleged objections are only concealments.

Secret Organizations.