

All Subscriptions for the years '69 and '70 that have not been paid, must be settled for by the 1st of February, or the delinquents need not expect to receive the Democrat after that time.

The Siege of Paris.

At last accounts the bombardment of Paris was continued with fearful results. Many parts of the city have been set on fire by the Prussian shells and some of the finest buildings considerably damaged.

We can see no way to put a stop to these horrors except in a surrender of the city on the part of the French authorities. It may be a very barbarous thing to murder women and children, but all other acts of war are also necessarily barbarous.

Now that the new year is getting under good headway, small bills should be promptly paid. The men to whom they are due need the money. The little bills are the ones that generally make numberless gaps in the world of business.

The last of our sugar planters have finished rolling. Truly they had a hard season of it. The crop of the Parish was a fine one and promised an immense yield, but bad labor, and want of it, with the excessive and continued cold weather has cut the crop at least one-third short.

Business in Alexandria, for mid-winter is really slack and dull. Times are seriously hard and money more than scarce. The plain fact is there is none left with the producers; all taken up months in advance, and now a hard road is ahead to get any kind of advances for another year.

Another old citizen of Rapides has settled his last account and gone to his last rest. Jacob S. Severns, in the 60th year of his age, died at his home, in our Town, on the 17th inst.

There can be no just cause of complaint against the weather, for the past week. No more desirable sort can be prayed for at the present season of the year. The roads, with the exception of a few bad holes, are in splendid condition.

We have thanks to return to the clerks of the Era No. 10, Texas, H. M. Shreve, C. H. Durfee, Carrie Converse, 13th Era, Belle of Alton, Era No. 9, Rapides and B. L. Hodge No. 2 for late papers.

Do You Want Plenty of Vegetables? If so, send to Henry St. John's and purchase LANDRETH'S seed, they are all fresh and reliable.

Work for the coming season on plantations has not as yet commenced. The Freedmen are taking their time and a long rest.

NEW SENATORS.

Several States have recently elected United States Senators to fill vacancies that occur on the 4th of March next. Massachusetts has re-elected Henry Wilson, the "Natick Cobbler." Governor Clayton goes from Arkansas in place of McDonald.

The election of General F. P. Blair, Jr., will be exceedingly gratifying to the Democracy throughout the country. It is fit that Drake, the author of the proscription Constitution of Missouri, should be beaten by the man whose boldness and determination have done so much towards rendering its obnoxious features nugatory.

"POSTAL CARD" JOKES.—An English paper tells the following good story, apropos of the new postal cards; The Germans have their postal cards as well as we, and abuse the new institution in about the same manner.

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A Card.

I would respectfully ask the public and all those reading the Proceedings of the Police Jury of the Parish of Rapides, La., January Session, 1871, to defer rendering an opinion until both sides have a hearing, which will be February next, after which I will publish in the papers my full settlement, and would furthermore assure the taxpayers of the Parish that instead of being a defaulter that the Parish shall not lose a single cent.

Respectfully, Your obedient servant, M. LEGRAS, Assessor and Collector.

Startling Adulterations of Tea.

It would be a comparatively small thing for the Chinese to sell us their old tea leaves for new tea if they did nothing worse. But our valuable monthly cotemporary, the Food Journal, has been investigating the quality of the cheapest kinds of English tea, and in doing so has thrown some very unwelcome light into our teapots.

The London Spectator, in an article published a few weeks ago, pointed out some of the things which this man has actually done, using an occasional falsehood to keep up the public courage just as he used a host of other tools; just as that first Napoleon, who constantly occurs as a suitable comparison in treating Gambetta, was accustomed to employ the same instrument when it served his purpose.

Another mixture, sold at eighteen pence a pound, consisted of "common fannings mixed with broken stalks, rice husks, fractured tea buds, and iron filings." Another sample contained pieces of decayed wood, fragments of reeds and stones, while another contained a considerable portion of "exhausted leaves rendered astringent with catechu" and in another there were actually found a few feathers, scattered among rice and pea husks, and leaves of the Chinese willow.

But we must wait for the end before fully estimating the character and the worth of this enthusiastic, laborious, thickset, black-bearded lawyer of thirty-five, who flies over Bismarck and Von Moltke in a balloon, dashes up within rifle-shot of the enemy in a railway train, rides rough-shod over the prejudices of venerable generals, snuffs out an empire with one hand and crushes a socialist conspiracy with the other, is in every part of France at once, and keeps up the enthusiasm of a great people and of his own heart under the most discouraging circumstances known to history.

It is satisfactory to know that this adulteration is not so much the fault of our English tea dealers as of the Chinese. The demand of the English market is for cheap tea, and the ingenious Mongolians send us the cheapness if they do not send the tea. They find that whatever they send we buy.

It is a great art to know what colors go best together. Green looks well with gold violet or red; pale blue with scarlet, pink, with black and white, and gray with scarlet or pink. A cold color generally requires a warm tint to give it life. White and black are usually safe for any complexion. Pink is becoming to some, but not if there is much color in the cheeks or lips. Maize or straw color is particularly becoming to people of dark complexion, with black hair and eyes. Above all, whatever be the color of the dress, the ornaments and trimmings, throughout, should be correspondent one with the other.

A room with pictures in it and a room without pictures differs by nearly as much as a room with windows and a room without windows. Nothing, we think, is more melancholy particularly to a person who has to pass much time in his room, than blank walls, for pictures are loopholes of escape to the soul, leading it to other scenes and other spheres.

Gambetta.

The Boston Post very graphically summarizes and speculates upon this very extraordinary young man. We quote its lively, readable article: It is not easy for an observer of the Saxon race to appreciate this Leon Gambetta. His lofty contempt for truth is the salient point which offends our Yankee sense of propriety, as it offends our British cousins. Punch, not long ago, recognized his existence in a cartoon; but it was a sketch showing him insolently shutting the door in the face of Truth, and resenting her attempt to communicate with France as she stood fondly conning over a bulletin of delusive victories.

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He has introduced discipline, not only among soldiers, but among generals, neither of whom in France, for the past ten years, have known the meaning of the word. And he has done this without military training or experience in public administration, a young man whose one great gift, that of fervid eloquence, has not been generally deemed a sign of qualification for the duties of practical statesmanship.

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SWEET POTATO VINES FOR HAY.—A South Carolina farmer says: I have long been in the habit of going into my potatoes before frost—say about the 10th of October—pulling by hand the vines, and immediately putting them into compact cocks about twice the size of a flour barrel. They remain thus four or five days, when the cocks are thrown down for three or four hours' sun, and then hauled in and housed. It makes an excellent hay. Horses eat it with avidity. The greater facility with which the potatoes are dug, after the bed are cleansed of the vines, repays the expense of making the hay.

HEART AND HEAD.—It were well if those who always talk to the heart recollected that men have heads as well. Now the Savior was a preacher whose head was in his heart, and whose heart was in his head. He never addressed the emotions except by motives that command themselves to the reason, nor did he instruct the mind without at the same time influencing the heart and conscience.

An Arkansas editor apologizes for the "thinness" of a late issue, by saying that all his time has been occupied in answering challenges and arranging for the duels and funerals, a number of such matters having accumulated on his hand.

Truth being founded on a rock, you may boldly dig to see its foundations; but falsehood being laid on the sand, if you examine its foundations, you cause its fall.

John Covode, a well known and leading Radical Congressman, is dead.

WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENCE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 17th 1871.

San Domingo is still the question of most prominence and importance here. Rumors with regard to every move made in it are "thick as leaves in Valambrosa." But from present appearances the job will not be consummated this session, and its chances will be worse the next. The President and his friends have given up all hope of purchasing Dominica, through a joint resolution of Congress, though he is still anxious to have the commissioners sent to San Domingo to report on the condition of the Island etc. Mr. Joseph W. Fabians, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Dominican Republic, who is here, says that if the commissioners will leave New York on the 15th inst. and land at Puerto Plata, on the North side of the Island and get horses, and cross the Island in a South-Easterly direction, passing through the towns along the route, and stopping at some of the principal places, and after reaching Legueza, which is 50 miles from Puerto Plata, they might continue their journey direct to St. Domingo City, where a steamer could be ready to convey them to Azua, one of the principal cities, where the labors of the commission might be brought to a close.

Ben Butler and Mr. Orth, the latter who expects to be one of the commissioners, assure the President that the resolution will pass the House this week. A new treaty is all that is left for Grant, and he will clutch at that plan of accomplishing what has now turned out to be an administration measure and the party have been whipped and enjoined or brought into its support. The message of the President in answer to Senator Morton's resolution with regard to the condition of the South, and especially the doings of the Ku-Klux, will probably be sent in to-day. The description by the Ghost in Hamlet, of the horrors of his prison house, which he did not tell but only hinted at, but if he had told would have made young Hamlet's blood freeze in his veins and his knotted and combined locks to part, and each particular hair to stand on end like quills on the fretful porcupine, and divers other consequences of a like nature, is pleasant and agreeable reading compared with the horrible and bloody deeds which will be related to "loil Senators" though the medium of the President's message. The only reason why the blood of Senators will not congeal in their veins at the recital of the bloody Ku-Klux deeds, will be because of the intense heat of the Senate chamber, and the why their hair won't stand on end with horror, is because most of them have none, and some have a kink in it, for example, Revels, the negro, and Conkling, the blonde. But their ever "loil" hearts will bleed, and their indignation will boil over and then, as a soothing syrup, Morton will urge that a dose of reconstruction be administered to the Southern States, to purge them of the terrible bile of Democracy which Grant knows is bad for the Radical succession and must be got rid of at once. That Grant can carry his design of again applying the screws of reconstruction, is not so certain. The recent elections, wherein the people spoke so plainly, will be heeded by some Radical Senators, who read the signs of the times aright. Yet in their desperation, and lack of every feeling of right, honesty or justice, there is no telling how far they may go.

The Motley-Fish correspondence will be before the Senate in a day or so, probably to-day. The letters are said to be both sharp and spicy, and will be highly relished by those who enjoy such dainty morsels, and who have no regard for the dignity of the Senate or the Government officials. The Senate chamber is hardly the place for the Radical wranglers to wash their dirty linen. The reading of the correspondence will injure both Grant and Motley. Fish was only acting as the tool of Grant in the furtherance of his petty spite towards Sumner by hitting his friend Motley. Grant evidently has another job on the tapis. He wants Chief Justice Chase, out of his position, and has promised the odoriferous blonde, Senator Conkling, of New York, that he will get rid of the Chief Justice, he can have his place. Shades of Marshall, Ellsworth and Tauey! could any but Grant con-

ceive such a thought? To accomplish this, a law will be passed pensioning off the Chief Justice on full salary during life. Not so fast my masters. The Chief Justice is on his way here to resume his seat and will show you that all men are not to be bought, and that in applying your Radical rule, that all men can be bought, you have made a slight mistake in his case. May Heaven protect Judge Chase, in his health and strength, for it would be a National calamity if aught should happen, to give the present tyrant at the White House, the power to appoint a Chief Justice. What decision is to be made or reversed, that the President wants Conkling to attend to? I sent from afar either cash or town lots in this wish of the President; or probably he only wants the Supreme Court to give some decision, which will affect his succeeding himself as President. We shall see.

Washington, that is the Members of Congress, and the politicians of the Conservative and Democratic stripe, was all agog last week over the withdrawal of the name of Governor, J. W. Hoffman, from the Presidential race, by the New York World, New York Telegram and other New York papers, especially the organ of Tammany, The Leader, who not only withdrew his name, but expressed the warmest preference for Ex-Senator Hendricks of Indiana, as the Democratic candidate in 1872. The feeling here was one of great satisfaction that New York has conceded the candidate to the great West and none were better pleased than the Members of Congress from New York State. The great desire is to give the West the candidate in 1872, and in return, give it to the Empire State in the favor of their favorite son, Governor Hoffman, in 1876.

The Revenue Bureau presents a lively appearance just now. The new commissioner, General Pleasonton, is completely run down by the politicians, who desire to retain their friends in office, from the vice-President down to members of Congress, and also our last new Minister to England, Schenck, all are after the man who has so much pap to lacerate out loily and Radicalism.

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SICKNESS A MINOR.—Sickness takes us aside, and sets us alone with God. We are taken into his private chamber, and there he converses with us face to face. The world is afar off, our selfishness is gone, and we are alone with God. Many are the words of grace and truth which he then speaks to us. All our former props are struck away, and now we must learn of God alone. The things of earth are felt to be vanity, man's help useless. Man's sympathy deserts us, we are cast wholly upon God that we may learn that this praise and his sympathy are enough.

TO SCPTICS.—The almost daily receipt of voluntary testimonials from every part of the country, from Physicians, Clergymen, old and young, male and female, is sufficient to convince the most sceptical that Dr. TUTT'S EXPECTORANT is the most valuable LUNG BALSAM of the age; many wonderful cures have been performed by it, as may be seen by hundreds of certificates in the hands of the proprietor.—Try it and you will doubt no longer.

The presence of God's glory is in heaven; the presence of his power on earth; the presence of his justice in hell, and the presence of his grace with the people. If he deny us his powerful presence, we fall into nothing, if he deny us his gracious presence we fall into sin; if he deny us his merciful presence, we fall into hell.

The Virginia newspapers have sensational reports of the doings of a ghost at the residence of Rev. Mr. Thrasher, of Buchanan, in that State. The manifestations—whistling, slamming of doors and violent rattling of the window sashes—never occur until the family has engaged in evening prayer.

It seems to be a well established fact that the black women of the South are far in advance of the males of their race in point of intelligence and quickness and comprehension. A good argument for the women agitators.

HARD-MILKING COWS.—The Canada Farmer gives the following directions for the cure of a troublesome defect in some cows:—"Any one troubled with a hard milking cow can remedy it by going to the hen-coop, taking a small feather, and just clipping off the tip end; it will then be handsomely rounded; cut the feather ends off and you have a milking tube. Get three of them. If you are careful, you can insert these and old Bim won't know it! Milk the fourth test the rest will take care of themselves. If your cow does not milk easy enough, get larger quills. Any cow can be made to discharge her milk by continuing this practice, and she will never know how it was done."

That practice will never work. You cannot wheedle "Old Red" into such a nonsensical way of giving down her milk. Every person who has had much experience in milking cows knows that if a cow is "an hard milker," she cannot be made to milk easy by tampering with her teats. If a cow's udder were all hollow like an India rubber sack, the milk might flow out through men's quills or other tubes. But the truth is, the udder is much like a sponge, so that the milk must be forced out by compressing the tubes. If the skin of the teats be thick and the interior be well filled with flabby tissue, a cow will milk hard in spite of all the milker can do.—[Agricultural Editor of the N. Y. Observer.

A young gentleman of this city, elegantly dressed, a few days ago took the Nashville train to pay a visit to his relatives, some sixty miles distant. It was a beautiful moonlight night when he left the train to walk to his uncle's. A silvery sheen was spread over hill and tree, and the very road was gilded with the mild rays of the glorious moon, over whose face not a cloud passed. As the young man neared the residence of his relatives he discovered a little animal frisking about and running across the road in front of him, which he took for a pet coon or possum, and when after its catch it. After some exertion the lovely little creature, which had stepped on the road, was approached by its pursuer, who when in the act of putting his hand upon the supposed coon, received a shock that—well, it wasn't a coon. It was a much stronger and more odorous animal. He went to the house and called his uncle, who did not seem to be told what was the matter. With his nose in one hand the uncle significantly pointed his gun to the garden, where, all among the roses in the romantic moonlight, the young man divested himself of every article of clothing, and received from his uncle an entire change. The young man's shirt was marred, and, as he felt mortified, he very unobtrusively buried his clothes and their perfume to the earth. He has no taste for coon-hunting, and despises a "possum roast."—[Louisville Commercial.

SALT—ITS EFFECT ON THE BLOOD.—Dr. Stevens, a French physician and surgeon, saw a butcher killing a pig. He observed that he stirred the blood of the animal, and added a handful of common salt to it while stirring, which immediately made it crimson, and on stirring being discontinued, the blood remained fluid. The change of the color of the blood awakened his curiosity. The butcher could give no explanation of the phenomenon except that it kept it from jellifying and spoiling. Dr. Stevens seized a vessel, caught some blood, and made several experiments, by putting salt in it, and found that the blackest blood was instantly changed to a bright vermilion to salt. "Oh," said he, "here is a fact which may lead to a practical result."

He had observed in cases of yellow fever in the army, that the blood drawn was very dark and fluid, and on adding salt it became vermilion and retained its freshness; whereas the fluidity of the blood is one of the characteristics of the yellow fever. He therefore abandoned the usual mode of treating it, and gave his patients a mixture of various salts, and in a very short time reduced the mortality of fever in the West Indies from one in five to one in fifty.

WHY EAT SO MUCH BUTTER?—The editor of the Providence Journal says some sensible things about butter. In view of the fact that it is now at a very high price, and that this will soon be higher, it is better, he thinks, that people should stop eating it, if not altogether, in reduced quantities. It is well known to others besides the editor aforesaid, that butter contains nothing that is essential to the human body—that it is not a necessity but a luxury. Besides, it causes the complexion, and is a great promoter of bilious affections. We have often thought that the economy of the American household would be rationally improved by a more sparing use of this article, which is one of the most costly things we place upon our tables.

The less we expect from the world the better we shall be. The less we expect from our fellow-men, whether of spiritual help or inspiring example the smaller will be our disappointment. He that leans on his own strength leans on a broken reed.

We are always going to have something stronger, purer and holier. Somewhere in the future there always hangs in the air a golden idea of a higher life than we are going to reach; but as we move on, the dream of better things moves on before us also.

I HAVE JUST RECEIVED DIRECT FROM LANDRETH'S GENERAL ASSORTMENT OF GARDEN SEEDS, which are warranted all fresh. To those who have not planted Landreth's seeds, and have BEEN HUMBLED by other dealers and disappointed, I would say PLANT LANDRETH'S SEEDS. H. ST. JOHN.

FOR SALE.—A LIGHT ROCKAWAY—BUILT to order and in perfect repair, can be seen at Mr. G. W. Glynn's carriage shop. Will be sold at a bargain. Jan. 25-31.

FOR SALE AT BLOSSAT'S WARE house—FLOUR, in barrels and half barrels, every grade and quality—direct from St. Louis and under New Orleans prices.