



E. R. BIONSSAT, EDITOR

OFFICE—CORNER OF SECOND & JACKSON STS.

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ALEXANDRIA, LA.

Wednesday, - - Jan. 31, 1877.

Our home Packet, the magnificent and peerless side-wheeler, Bart. Able, is with us once more, having reached here early Monday morning, her regular up day. It surely reminds us all of good and lively times to see such a steamer again in her legitimate trade, and the public can rest assured that Captain Sinnott has spared neither pains nor money to repair her to a complete and perfect boat.

—H. M. LABAT was, on last Saturday evening at the meeting of the Mayor and Councilmen of our Town, unanimously elected Assessor of Taxes for the fiscal year of 1877.—This is a happy and felicitous endorsement of the competent and sterling qualifications of that gentleman, particularly when the office was not sought by him and his selection was entirely unexpected.

—We really believe it is now harder to write up our paper doings than ever—news, items, fights and senatorial gems are all dead for the present—we can't shake off "our blues" we have not had our fine "phrenzy" on in some time—but we have yet a sharp pair of scissors, and we fancy in our present issue we have used them to the intellectual advantage of our many readers.

—This month of January, up to the last four days, has been an awfully cold, wet, snowy, disagreeable weather that was ever known in this latitude. But the bad spell seems to have passed and is now replaced by just such sunshine and fair temperature as we used to have in past years.

—We call earnest attention to the business card of R. Erickson, to be found among this issue's new advertisements. Mr. Erickson is located at the favored stand, on Front street, lately occupied by P. H. Oswald, and will be found on acquaintance a thorough and correct business man.—Give him a call.

—The clerks of the Bart. Able supplied us with full files of New Orleans papers, ten hours ahead of the mail, and one hundred and seventy hours ahead of the Telegraph, and then her Captain threw in the leading pictorials for luck and old acquaintance sake.

—The steamer St. Mary bound for Minden passed by Sunday evening without stopping, but her officers had the good sense and timely accommodation to throw us out a package of late papers, for which we are really thankful.

—TRUTH is mighty and must prevail, and hits the Packard nail on the head, if Kellogg should be fated to be the last of the robber governors of our State.

—THE Ida Lewis dramatic troupe did a poor, non paying business here and returned to New Orleans with a bad opinion of the love of the Drama by our people.

—A democratic exchange says that "Mr. Tilden always wears spurs in the saddle"—this can't be true, for how could he keep his seat if he did?

THE CONFERENCE BILL.

The Bill reported to Congress by the Conference Committee, regulating the counting of the Electoral votes, although signed by every member of the two Committees except Morton, is meeting with the usual fate of compromise measures, and has elicited the opposition of extreme men of both parties. On general principles we are disposed to think that we can safely endorse whatever Bloody Shirt Morton opposes, but leaving that consideration out, the plan has many objectionable features, while it seems to present the only peaceable solution of the vexed presidential question. It is a waiver on the part of the republican Senate of its pretensions that the President of the Senate alone was vested with authority to decide all disputed questions in counting the electoral votes and it seems to us that the Democrats of the House, although they propose to submit Mr. Tilden's claim to arbitration, they by that act itself show their confidence in the justice of his claims which can not be denied by any fair and impartial tribunal. Their aim seemed to be to secure such a tribunal and if the Commission as finally constituted shall be free from political bias and prejudice there can be no doubt of the triumph of right and justice from the award of the Commission being in favor of Tilden and Hendricks.

—We of the South are in no condition to enforce the recognition of the fact which to us has all the force of certain and absolute knowledge, that Mr. Tilden has been fairly and honestly elected and that his claim to the Presidency should not, as a question of principle, be submitted to arbitration or subjected to compromise of any kind, and if such Southern men as Thomas F. Bayard sign the report of the Committees and our Representatives and Senators vote for the Bill we must be content to follow their lead while we would more readily sustain them in maintaining the absolute and unequivocal assertion of Tilden's election and a refusal to submit to anything but a declaration of that fact and his peaceable inauguration. The public sentiment of the Union which could at any time have secured this result and forced Congress to declare Mr. Tilden's election, has driven the conspirators in that body to abandon their revolutionary schemes and will doubtless insure the speedy passage of the Act through both Houses of Congress and this will at least secure a peaceable settlement of the question. As the matter stood before the agreement of the two Committees it seemed that a civil war was inevitable as it was not probable that either of the two branches of Congress would yield its pretensions and the declaration from each of the election of different Presidents must necessarily have resulted in a resort to arms to decide the dispute; as it will be if the bill passes both houses, both sides are committed to an acquiescence in the award of the Commission as to the vote of the disputed States, unless both Houses should agree to reverse it, which is not at all probable will happen.

—We in Louisiana have so often of late years had questions of vital importance decided for us by one man, and he a bitter partisan, that we ought to accept with some pleasure the prospect of having a somewhat impartial and carefully chosen tribunal to sit in judgment on our case this time, and justice at its hands will be no less acceptable because it will be so tardy and long delayed. If the commission decides the Louisiana question on its merits there can be but one decision and that must be in favor of the Tilden electors and the Nicholls government. It could not sustain the infamous Returning Board in throwing out thirteen thousand votes actually cast at the ballot boxes and reversing a majority of ten thousands. However, as the Bill provides that the States are to be called in their alphabetical order and that the count shall stop with the first disputed State until that is settled, Florida will decide the question in favor of Tilden, and there will be no occasion to dispute as to Louisiana when they reach her name in its alphabetical order. Without the incentive to steal her eight electoral votes for Hayes, the Packard government is and will be such a stench in the nostrils of all men professing any decency, that if the votes of Florida are counted for Tilden by the Commission we predict that Morton and Sherman will be alone in advocating his claims, even if they stick to him in that event. Whatever may be the final result, we regard it as absolutely certain, beyond the peradventure of a doubt, that we will have Nicholls and peace, and it is reasonably certain that we will also have Tilden and peace. If the compromise secures us all these in the end, we will regard it as a very good compromise though it only gives us what is justly ours, and in so much as it fails to give us all these, we shall regard it as a sacrifice of our just rights and a bad compromise.

—BARRON, one of the Republican members of the Legislature from Natchitoches, has left the Packard Pest House, joined the Nicholls Legislature and taken his seat therein. The Rump therefore have already expelled him from their company and talk of ordering a new election.

—THE notorious General John A. Logan, a particular and bosom friend of the President, has been defeated in his aspirations for another term in the United States Senate from Illinois. Judge David Davis, of the Supreme Court, was the lucky one who defeated Logan.

—ELSKWIERE will be found the Revenue bill of the Corporation for the year 1877. All the Licenses have been reduced fully ten per cent. on last year's budget.

—So long as brother-in-law Casey is willing to be made a United States Senator, our State and her statu quo are safe.

—ONLY twenty-seven more days of Grant.

IS IT SO?

We believe the people of Rapides, that is the true and tax-paying people of Rapides, presented a solid and honest front at the polls last November for Nicholls and Wiltz and their and our State ticket, and surely helped to elect them, outside of the cheat of the Returning Board. We believe we know, that they are now inaugurated and acting their duties faithfully, coolly and legally, and nothing but the put in statu quo gleam of Grant's bayonets have checked their onward and completely victorious career. And we further know that Packard and his counted in and quorumless Rump, barricaded in the St. Louis Hotel, are really on their last legs, practically in decaying decadence, and what we are now drifting at is to know how far the respective parties here, attached to the Governments as now called, have showed a true fealty and back-bone endorsement of how each acted and voted in November.

—We are ashamed to be forced to the acknowledgment, that the Radicals here, and the Assistant Radicals, their allies, now running the machine by orders of the President of the Returning Board, have come to town, have come to the rack still with some fodder in it, and have evinced a true zeal worthy a better cause, and worthy of imitation by the friends and supporters of the Nicholls Government which we believe and know to be the true and only Government which we can all safely and honestly support. They are marshalled in solid-pap compact and are outspoken in favor of the bastard Packard cheat, and though some of these new leaders pretend to have voted for Tilden and Nicholls, still they have thrown off the mask, have faced the bad music, and now openly ignore Nicholls, and cling with ravenous tenacity to the dirty skirts of the worthy successor of Kellogg.

—And now we ask, how is it with our party, the party under whose colors we marched, under whose broad folds we sought protection, in a word how is it with the Democratic-Conservative party of old Rapides? This is not a hard, but yet a bitter and humiliating query to be forced to come from the Democrat. Thus far they sleeping on the posts of duty, which to our mind is worse than a crime, and it is hard for us to unravel the mystery. We hardly believe our people are really aware of their present and criminal indifference to their affairs of State, but we tell them if they do not throw off this lethargy, this worse than criminal sleep, they will be bull-dozed here, foot and dragons, by the skirmishers and jay-hawkers of that infamous Board, which has so far damned Louisiana and Rapides. We all have but one plain duty to perform, that is to come to the front like men, and true soldiers and supporters of a true cause, and assert all the prerogatives which we so vehemently asserted, and voted for in November. Will it be done?

—THE steady rise in the river has enlivened the steamboat trade, and in the past week, nearly every steamer of the Pool Line have gone up a howling for the staple and anything else they can roll aboard. All three of the Planters' Independent Packets, the R. W. Dogan, Kate Kinney and Fannie Tatum have also passed up with a rush, and if the cutting down of prices of last year is any indication for the present season we may look out for starving prices.

—MR. Packard's prodigious proclamation to "them fellers" to disperse, has been before the country for more than ten days, and the Nicholls Government is still intact. His proud utterances which were expected to sweep us after the manner of a hurricane produced no more effect than the mournful winds of December complaining through a key-hole.

—THE late telegrams culled from our latest New Orleans exchanges will tell our readers, that the Electoral Bill for counting the Presidential vote has passed both Houses of Congress, and has no doubt been signed by the President. Our readers will have to take our editorial opinion, written before its passage, at its true and intended value. We have no cause to take back a single word we have expressed therein.

—THOSE enterprising and go-ahead merchants, and general dealers in everything nice, rich, handsome, useful and rare, Ferguson and Schnack, are out again in the Democrat with a new card for 1877. We feel proud yet to vouch for them as coming under the true standard of solid merchants.

—COL. McGinnis, of the Excelsior Stable, advertises his renowned blood stallion, Planter, to stand the season of 1877 in this Town. A glance at his pedigree, and a good look at Planter must end in convincing all judges of horse flesh that he is a good one, and must prove a valuable and perfect foal getter.

—MRS. Cromwell, the renowned authoress, has sold 70,000 copies of her "Vials of Wrath," but a great many women are glad to give theirs away.

—GRANT is still holding our State by the tail, and that tail is Packard.

THE HOOK AND LADDER BALL.

We are sure that when we call attention to the fact that the gallant boys of the Hook and Ladder Company will give their Annual Ball on February 5th, at the Exchange Hall, their numerous friends and the entire public will determine to make the occasion a grand success.

—There are no more worthy, unselfish and deserving citizens than the men who are ever ready to fight the Fire King in defense of the homes and hearthstones of their neighbors without pay for the labor or hope of other reward for the risks and dangers incurred by them, than the good wishes of their fellow citizens and the approving smiles of the fairer portion of the community. It is the universal custom of all Fire Companies to give occasional Balls in order to meet their lady friends in the social dance, and the latter hail the privilege of thus encouraging their generous protectors.

—The Ball of the "Hooks" will be without special designation as to dress and that matter will be left to the individual taste of the ladies.—The Committees chosen are a guarantee that the management will be highly satisfactory and a cordial invitation is extended by the Company to all who desire to favor them with their presence on the evening of the FIFTH.

—We are sure that it needs no assurance of ours to satisfy the "Hooks" that they will have such an attendance at their Ball as will testify to the esteem in which they are held by the ladies and gentlemen of Alexandria and vicinity, and will start them upon another year of vigilance and encouraged by that assurance.

—OUR State situation yet in a state of statu quo, expressly by Grant's will and military orders, leaves us very little in advance of where we left off last week, and we have to report all quiet on Louisiana's Potomac. Still we can see perceptibly that Packard, the Pretender, is weakening gradually, and unless he receives another side lift from Grant, he must go under before the ideas of March. He has no quorum in his Senate, and can barely gather one in his House, with eleven defeated members already counted in, and two regulars deserted and gone to the Nicholls' House since last week. Governor Nicholls has yet the reins of Government well in hand and legally, and pursues, without faltering, the even tenor of his ways. Under him we must yet win.

—As an evidence, a cash evidence, of the repairs this season on the Bart. Able, we state by the card that the sum of eight thousand and twenty five dollars and twenty-three cents were alone expended on her hull, which after all is the steamboat.—Her Texas has been extended some sixty-five feet, and a fine, comfortable cabin, with large berths in usual size staterooms, have been fixed up expressly for the colored folks. The Ladies' Cabin therein for these persons is just as good and comfortable as the main cabin on most of second class steamers.

—THE four Supreme Court Judges designated as the members of the judicial portion of the electoral tribunal, are as follows: Clifford, Strong, Miller and Field, one Democrat and three Republicans. The fifth Judge to be selected by the four above named, must be taken from the following Judges: Swayne, Davis, Bradley and Hunt, all four Republicans. Chief Justice Waite is left out, as understood, at his own request.

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ALL THE LATEST.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—Yesterday and to-day have been exciting field days for the Electoral bill. Conkling supported it in an able speech. Thurman followed, speaking likewise in support of the bill. Blaine and Dawes both spoke against it.

—After a long night debate, the bill finally came to a vote at 7 o'clock this morning. To the surprise of everybody all the Democrats, except Mr. Eaton of Connecticut, voted for the bill.

—The vote on the bill was as follows: In favor of it—27 Democrats, 20 Republicans; against it—1 Democrat and 17 Republicans.

—The absentees were Davis, Hitchcock, Logan, Oglesby and Spencer. All the Southern Republican Senators voted without exception against the bill, and are bitterly opposed to it.

—The bill will now go to the House as it passed the Senate, and a vote on it will be forced to-morrow. Four hours have been allowed members for debate, so that the speeches cannot be very long. It is certain that a vote on the bill will be reached in the House before to-morrow night.

—There is now not the least doubt of its passage by an overwhelming majority. The Democratic members are almost solidly for it, and a large number of Republicans will also vote for it.

—WASHINGTON, Jan. 26.—The House met at 10 a. m., and immediately resumed the discussion of the Electoral bill. Hooker of Mississippi argued against the right of the President of the Senate to count the vote. The bill involved no new idea; it was perfectly constitutional and exactly in accordance with the ideas that had been asserted in regard to all the rights and powers of the House. It was simply the delegation of these powers to another body a right which the House clearly had.

—Hartridge of Georgia, also argued that the bill was constitutional and vindicated the course of the House in the matter.

—Felton of Georgia, followed in the same strain.

—Mills of Texas, opposed the bill as unconstitutional. He thought the House should observe the forms of law. The change of power from one party to another was always attended with danger. The proposition to form a tribunal of judges, to drag them from the bench into politics, was an unholy alliance between the legislative and judicial departments of the government, fraught with terrible evils in future for the country. On the part of the House, it was a practical abdication of its rights and powers; a relinquishment of all it had claimed and which it should have insisted upon, as sustained by the constitution and laws.

—Lamar of Mississippi, regretted that he was compelled to differ with the gentleman. The tribunal was merely an agency to ascertain which were good and which had votes and who were elected electors. He denied the right of the President of the Senate to count the votes. He thought that the bill would relieve the country of the terrible excitement now prevailing from one end of the country to the other. As for the tribunal it was clearly constitutional. He did not agree with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Mills) that it was dragging the judges into politics. He thought the selection of these very judges one of the most pleasing features in the bill. The Supreme Court had always stood between the country and obnoxious to legislation.

—After discussion by several members, each being allowed ten minutes Payne closed the debate. He referred to the arduous labors of the joint committee in framing this bill, and pointed out with great force the urgent necessity of some measure of compromise.

—The House then proceeded to vote. The Speaker said that he would exercise his privilege as a member and voted in the affirmative.

—The vote resulted—ayes 181, nays 86.

—The foreshadowing of the Louisiana Senate Committee's report: The majority will claim intimidation enough to justify the action of the Returning Board regarding the electoral vote, but the board's action is illegal regarding the State officers and Legislature. The report will hold that the Legislature should have been organized by members shown to have been elected by the face of the returns.

—The minority report will show that what intimidation did exist was more than offset by the fraud and irregularity of the Returning Board.

—It is intimated that two Republican members regard the Packard Government unfavorably and will so report specially.

—WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—In the

House Mr. Watterson, of Kentucky, concluding his speech in favor of the bill said, the happiness and peace of forty millions of people will press upon the Commission, raised by this act, its members will cease to be partisans, they will sit for the whole country, and as they discharge their full duty will be honored in the land. It seems to me that if arbitration is our only recourse, as I believe it is, that proposed is both legal and just, upon it therefore all good men everywhere will rest the issue, trusting that the God from whom we received our fair free system building wiser than we knew will bring us safely through this present danger.

—Mr. Darrall, of Louisiana, and Mr. Wells, of Mississippi, only of the Southern Republicans voted for the bill.

—JUDGE David Pierson, who was counted out by the Returning Board, for District Judge in the Natchitoches District, but who has qualified under the rightful State Government, is surely a Judge after our notion of such an officer. The Republican Sheriff and Coroner of Natchitoches refusing to acknowledge him as such a few days since, the Judge soon asserted his legal authority and dismissed the recalcitrant officials and filled the vacancy with two good men. At last accounts the Court was going on in perfect order, and what is still better it has a people and a constituency to back it.

—THE Corporation's sun shines for all, and under this blessed dispensation every body can have a fair shake and a chance to bid for the three favorite trade stands, under the Town Hall. The longest pole on Saturday must knock down the perisimmon, and Mayor Paul in his "crying out" will keep a keen eye on all winkers raising the last bid even a half dollar.

—EVERY man, woman and child at this season should take Dr. J. H. McLean's Strengthening Cordial and Blood Purifier, because it purifies and enriches the blood, gives vigor strength and vitality to the whole body and system. Dr. J. H. McLean's office, 314 Chesnut street, St. Louis, Mo.

—ON DITS are roaming around loose, like Japhet in search of a father, that a full baker's dozen of good and sound ones on the Nicholls goose are knocking at the pap door for the lucrative office of Collector of Taxes for the independent Parish of Rapides.

—AND Prelinghuysen, too, has gone through the "hole in the sky" to meet Boutwell and Logan—Hon. John McPherson is the man and Democrat, who by one vote defeated the New Jersey Radical Senator, and will take his seat after the 4th of March next.

—BLACKWOOD.—We are in receipt of the January number of this valuable and always readable Magazine, and are indebted to the Leonard Scott Publishing Company, New York, for this cultured treat.

—THE late Commodore Vanderbilt, left a small legacy to his niece, Mrs. Spoon, of Moffat, Bell County, Texas—she is in no way related to Ben. Butler.

—IT was whispered around Town on yesterday, that H. T. Burgess, our Tax Collector, had settled with the Nicholls Government.

—REAL Admiral Joseph Smith, the oldest officer in the U. S. Navy, died at Washington on the 17th, aged 85 years.

—THE Electoral Bill passed the Senate by a vote of 47 yeas to 17 nays. In the House the vote stood 190 yeas to 86 nays.

—WEST Virginia has elected as U. S. Senators, H. G. Davis for the long, and F. Hereford for the short term.

—THE Maria Louise, on her up trip, provided our office with a bundle of late papers.

—THE late commander-in-chief of the late Mr. Kellogg's militia is not the Longstreet that has no turning.

—THE late Chief Justice is not deluding the people as much as he used to.

—TIME and the advance of honesty have made an end of Boutwell and Logan.

—PACKARD is using the law library for a barricade—the law itself is being used by Governor Nicholls.

—PACKARD must soon collapse, for Augur seems to have bored a hole in him, and let the wind out.

—WE are having a good deal of weather now of one kind and another—assorted to suit nobody.

—THE mails all of last week resumed their wonted regularity, and came to schedule time.

—HON. Ben. Hill has been elected U. S. Senator from Georgia.

COMMUNICATION.

EDITOR DEMOCRAT.—Whilst I was looking on in Morrison's Congressional Committee, I heard three affidavits read that had been forged for the Returning Board in the count in the Parish of Vernon, to change the votes to elect the Radical District Judge. There were but sixty-seven registered colored voters in Vernon, and sixty-six voted—one could not attend because of sickness. One affidavit made by a man of straw, "Thomas Brown," stated he saw one hundred and fifty-two negroes refused the privilege to vote at Poll No. 1. Another affidavit stated that eighty-seven negro voters were refused the privilege to vote at another Poll, and a third affidavit made by a straw man from Texas, stated that twenty-seven negro voters were rejected at another Poll.

I saw a gentleman on the witness stand who stated he knew every colored voter in the Parish, and there were but sixty-seven, and sixty-six voted. That no colored voter was rejected at Poll No. 1, for he was at that Poll all day. This a clerical error? No, it was baseness for a bad purpose. If a man steals your purse and hands it to another is he not equally guilty with the thief? If your vote is stolen and thereby a man gets an office, is he not also a thief? It is stealing.

Trusting that the election of Nicholls and others of the Conservative party will put an end to all such rascalities and stop noisy demagogues and orphans hunting parents, I remain yours, DEM.

—WE have received the January number of LEISURE HOURS, a handsome mammoth 16 page (64 columns) family paper, filled with the choicest literature—serial and short stories, sketches, poetry, wit, humor, etc.—It is entertaining, amusing and instructive, and is one of the cheapest papers—the amount and quality considered—that we have seen. The price is \$1.20 per year, including as premium a genuine fine-line steel engraving, called "The Mithereless Bairn," printed on 22x28 plate paper, which the publishers claim is superior in point of merit and attractiveness to any premium ever offered by any other paper in this country, and is alone worth the money asked for both.

The publishers, J. L. Patten & Co., 162 William st., New York, authorize us to say, that in order to introduce the paper in this vicinity they make a special offer to every one of our readers to send them the paper—a "trial trip" of four months, post-paid, commencing with the January number—for 25 cents.

Our readers who avail themselves of this offer will, we feel certain, thank us for having called their attention to it. The publishers of LEISURE HOURS would like to employ some one in every place to canvass for this paper.

THE MERRY DAYS OF OLD.—In reading of the middle ages one is struck by the accounts given of feats of strength, ac. of the actors of those times. The suits of armor worn, would certainly indicate the possession of greater physical strength than is developed by men in these latter days. What wrought the change? Men lived in the merry days a more out-door life than this advanced civilization of ours can afford. There is a greater consumption of brain matter, and that increased demand on mental and physical power necessitates the use of a pure vegetable, stimulant tonic, such as the Home Stomach Bitters.

—PACKARD talks of a new election in Rapides for a member to the Legislature to his Rump. Won't some of the galvanized assistant Radicals allow their names for the office? As Colonel Mulberry Sellers did not say, there is not millions in it now!

—THE best omen of the decay and downfall of Radicalism in Louisiana, in the present crisis, is the partial suspension of their great organ, the New Orleans Republican. It has tumbled down from a daily to a semi-weekly issue.

—THE personnel, at the last accounts, of the Rump Senate stood: elected 11; counted in by the Returning Board 3; counted in by the Senate 2. House—elected 46; counted in by the Returning Board 8; counted in by the House 7.

—Two coming weddings are announced in the royal family of the President. Mr. Lent Sharpe, the nephew, is to marry Miss Harrell of St. Louis, and Ulysses Jr., is to unite with the handsome and wealthy Miss Paul of Philadelphia.

—WHEN is Mr. Packard going to order a special election to fill E. J. Barrett's vacancy so-called? If he will wait a few days he will have a chance to order one at the same time in place of DeLacey and Drew.

—THE District Attorney has bulldozed Kelso.