The Daily Crescent.

NEW ORLEANS:

WEDNESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 19.

☞ There was no Eastern mail at all yesterday in consequence of the non-arrival of the Mobile boat, which is reported as aground.

OPENING OF THE LYCEUM.—Last evening the beautiful and spacious hall in the Magazine street, would more fully contributing with the fashion and beauty of the city, to hear the opening address by Judge McCalleb. The room showed to great advantage; it was brilliantly illuminated with gas, and the perfect taste displayed in the chaste decorations of the interior, elicited warm commendations from all. The galleries were filled with the pupils of the public schools—presenting an interesting array of the rising generation—who were not only seen, but heard, in the exercises of the evening. A better commentary than their joyful faces and beaming glances of hope and pleasure, could not have been given to prove the good effects of our almost perfect system of public schools. Side by side the child of the humble mechanic and the wealthy citizen looked down upon the upturned faces of parents and guardians, collected to witness the joining of another link to the chain of improvement unwound for the benefit of their children.

The Lyceum has been established upon article 7th of the ordinance submitted to the Council by Mr. Peters, and adopted on the 3d December, 1844, which is as follows:

ART. 7. *Be it, &c.*, That when $10,000 shall be invested in books, as hereinafter said, of the annual income (hereafter) shall be applied to purchasing such chemical and philosophical apparatus as may be necessary to aid in imparting a knowledge of the natural sciences; and for obtaining during eight months each year, able professors, to lecture weekly on such branches of useful knowledge as may be determined on by the Directors of the Lyceum, that the lecture rooms of the Lyceum shall never be used for any religious or political discussions, and that no person shall be allowed to lecture therein, without the consent of the Directors previously obtained.

By a resolution of the Board of Directors of the Public Schools the lectures will be open to the public at the following prices for admission: For the course of eight months, tickets to admit a gentleman and two ladies, $8; single ticket, $5; and tickets for one evening, fifty cents. The course commences on Monday next.

Recorder Baldwin opened the proceedings with some appropriate remarks and a very courteous welcome to the audience; after giving a few statistics relative to the Lyceum, he introduced Judge McCalleb, who was received with long continued applause.

The Judge addressed a very attentive auditory for an hour and half, roaming over the field of literature and scattering rich fruit on every side. We shall not pretend to mar by a brief report its many beauties, expecting to have a perusal of the address in pamphlet form, as we understand that the Trustees will ask it of the speaker for that purpose—a merited tribute to a fine composition, which showed the sign scholar and profound thinker.

At the close of the address we had some enlivening strains from the pupils, who joined their voices in lend chorus on the occasion of the opening of the Lyceum Hall.

MERCHANTS' EXCHANGE READING ROOM.—This old and favorite resort of our merchants has just been repainted and repaired throughout, and is now one of the most elegant and commodious establishments of the kind in the United States. The proprietor has spared no pains or expense to supply his subscribers with all the best journals of this country and of Europe, and has, we believe, given very general satisfaction. The moderate subscription ($10 per annum) puts it into the power of almost every one to enjoy a real luxury at a cheap rate.

THANKS.—We are indebted to the officers of the Rockaway for Red river papers; to Capt. Buisson, of the schooner Renaissance, for Mexican files; to Mr. Henderson, of the Ne Plus Ultra, and the officers of the Pride of the West, for St. Louis papers; and to the officers of the New World for western papers.

☞ South Carolina contains, according to Gov. Seabrook's message, 220,986 white inhabitants. "Only think," says the New York Republic, commenting on this statement, "of the political influence it wields on account of its slave representation." This is not so logical as it might be. The slave representation is that of three-fifths of the whole number. If they were not slaves the whole number would be counted, as the blacks and mulattoes—women and children—are at the North. The political influence of the South is therefore actually diminished by the slave character of the blacks—unless, indeed, the Republic desires to be understood as saying that *free* blacks in the South must not be represented, although they are at the North.

NEW NOVEL.—Morgan has sent us the new tale of "Shirley," by the author of Jane Eyre. The work has excited much attention, and critics have spoken of it in very different styles. As we intend to read the book and judge for ourselves, we shall not speak of it more particularly at present.

COUNCILS AND CREVASSES.—Is it not said that experience brings wisdom; and has it not been sung that "sweet are the uses of adversity?" Read the proceedings of the Council last evening, and see what has been learned by the crevasses of last year. Maybe, as the present Council had its advent celebrated by the miseries of one inundation, it intends that its exit shall not be altogether unmarked in the annals of the city. Two crevasses under one Council would be glory enough for the most ambitious. A wreath of cypress-leaves for our sage councilmen; let their portraits be hung with the moss that dangles from our swamp trees.

"NEW YORK IN SLICES."—This is the title of a thick pamphlet of 128 pages, sent us by Dr. Hunter. It is a republication of the very graphic and amusing sketches of New York city—its remarkable localities, classes of persons, habits and humors—first published in the New York Tribune about a year ago.

VESSEL ASHORE.—Capt. Teale, of the bark Yarmouth, arrived yesterday from Philadelphia, saw, on the 9th inst., a bark (supposed to be Spanish) ashore about six miles to the Northward of Gun Key Light, with several wreckers alongside.

THE OTHER SIDE.—The Baton Rouge Gazette, of last Saturday, speaks as follows of the removal of the seat of government to Baton Rouge, and of the accommodations there for the State officers, members of the Legislature, etc.: "The chase making said removal was inserted in the Constitution after mature reflection. A beautiful and stately edifice, a pride to the South, has been built at considerable expense, and every convenience will be furnished the officers of the different departments to dispatch the business of their various offices. Ample accommodation can be obtained at a moderate price for the members of the Legislature, and if they have to submit to a little inconvenience during the first session, the evil will be amply remedied at the second. What cause, we ask, is there for any discontent on the part of the members or their friends? The object of legislation will be attained; away from the dissipation and allurements of a city life, the members will coolly and deliberately go to work, and much of the hasty and imperfect acts which are yearly passed will be avoided."

AMERICAN THEATRE.—Chanfrau had a crowded house last night, and he received throughout the performance the most enthusiastic applause. His style of action is novel and attractive; the character of Mose should be seen to be appreciated. In the hands of Chanfrau it is most equally true to the life. The evening will be presented "Love in Humble Life," Mr. Booth as Corbitt. After which "A Model of a Wife," Mr. Chanfrau as *Pygmalion Bonsefer*. To conclude with "New York as it is," Chanfrau as *Mose*.

ST. CHARLES THEATRE.—This evening Mlle Rissey will appear in the ballet of "La Vivandiere." "The Pride of the Market," and the farce of "Mr Aunt," will also be represented.

PALMO'S TABERNACLE.—Tonight will be presented at this house the play of "Nicholas Flam," after which the inexpugnable farce of "The Beast." To conclude with "The Living Statue."

PONSKEEN'S PANORAMA.—Our citizens are waking up to the merits of this beautiful exhibition. Last night, the large saloon at Armory Hall was crowded with a delighted audience. A few evenings more are left to enjoy a full view of Father Mississippi.

SOUTH-WESTERN CIRCUS.—Notwithstanding the great attractions of the three theatres, still this place, with its management of innovations and superior clowns, is nightly crowded with fashionable and intelligent audiences. A night at the circus may very easily pass our time beneath the pavilion, little heeding on the outside beats of the hundreds of people that continue when all the rest of the city is asleep, or is at work. And if this could be yet more easily a source, it would move, so considerable, thus the small admission fee, which is the best performance of equestrians given in the city.

The Perpetual Motion.

The New-York Journal of Commerce contains a description of the new machine invented in Georgia, which is claimed to have solved the problem of perpetual motion. It consists of wheels and levers carried by weights, which are so constructed that they throw out bars while descending on one side, which bars, carried beyond the lowest point of the wheel, by their own impulse and the force of gravitation, fold up while ascending on the other side of the wheel. The description is sufficient to determine its character. The idea that any combination of wheels and weights can be so contrived as by their own power to overcome friction and gravitation, so as to move in a circle without diminution or loss of velocity, is at variance with the known and essential laws of matter. Perpetual motion of this sort is a chimera of the imagination—a physical impossibility—yet many an acute intellect has wasted years of precious time in contrivances to overcome the most fixed laws of nature. The delusions of perpetual motion-makers are sometimes successful in attracting a great deal of attention, and making warm converts of men of great general intelligence, who have not paid particular attention to the mathematical branches of physical science. One of the most bold and successful was the noted Readheffer, who put one in motion in Philadelphia, in 1812, which he claimed to be moved by its own internal force, which would continue forever. Many men of standing and influence examined it, took it apart and saw it put together again, and came to the positive conclusion that perpetual motion was discovered. The State Legislature was so far influenced to believe in its importance, that they appointed a joint committee of members of both houses to make the examination, and report a specific description to the Legislature. The examination never took place. Readheffer consented to the examination of a copy, made by another; but that failing to satisfy, he made loud complaints of fraud and conspiracy to deprive him of the advantages of his discovery, and in a subsequent publication accused the committee—composed of some of the most prominent men in the State—of unfairness and falsehood. They had reported to the Legislature his conduct, and added a resolution declaring his "machine a deception, and himself an imposter." We believe it was subsequently ascertained that he produced his motion by the aid of a confederate in another apartment.

☞ INTERESTING DECISION.—An important case was lately decided in the U. S. Circuit Court at New York, Judge Nelson presiding, on an appeal from the District Court. It was originally a libel to recover a balance for freight on a cargo of cotton shipped from New Orleans to New York; John A. Bradstreet, libellant; Heran, Lees & Co., respondents. The defence was that the cotton was not delivered in good order and condition, and that the damage exceeded the freight due. The respondents were consignees, and had advanced largely on the bills of lading, which bills described the cotton as received "in good order and well conditioned." The testimony showed that the cotton had arrived at New York in bad condition, and that this probably originated from what is termed "country damage," existing in the cotton at the time it was baled; but it was strongly inferred that the injury was perceptible at the time of shipping, and that the master was "negligent or inattentive" in signing the bills of lading. The voyage was but twenty days, and no damage is shown to have happened at sea.

The Court below held that the respondents were held to be *bona fide* purchasers, on the representations of the master in the bill of lading, and gave judgment in their favor, thus setting off the computed damage in the cotton, existing at the time of shipment, against the ship's demand for freight. The Supreme Court confirmed the judgment.

Another point was also taken, that the advance in price of cotton had saved the consignees from any loss, but the Court held that to be immaterial, and said:—"The respondents are entitled to the cargo, as described in the bill of lading, as their security for the advances, without regard to the fluctuations of the market, or sales to be made at any particular state of prices."

ARREST.—The Baton Rouge Gazette of the 16th inst. contains the following:

On Thursday night last, two horses, belonging to Edmond Cooper and Mr. Yelvington, were stolen while their owners were attending a marriage celebration at Mr. Harris's, near the Amite river. As soon as the robbery was ascertained the suspicions of some of the party were fixed on a man named Capers, who lived at Marvin Wilson's, near the Amite. On repairing to the residence of said Wilson, Capers could not be found. On Sunday last, however, he was caught at Greensburg, parish of St. Helena, in possession of the two stolen horses and a negro girl named Betsy, the property of John Buhler, Esq., of West Baton Rouge, who had been missing for about three months, and who it was reported had been harbored by Mr. Wilson's house for more than a month past. Joe Capers was immediately taken in custody at Greensburg, and on Tuesday an affidavit was made before John R. Dufrocq, Justice of the Peace, of this town, accusing said Wilson of harboring said slave and aiding and abetting said Capers to steal and run her off. He was arrested the same evening and committed for examination.

We have learnt since writing the above, that Joe Capers broke jail on the 12th, at Greensburg. Several citizens started in pursuit of him.

TRIAL OF JOHN B. HESTER.—The Little Rock Banner of the 11th inst. says: "On Friday last the trial of John B. Hester, for the murder of Henry Carr, in Saline county, September, 1848, was commenced in the Pulaski Circuit Court. The Attorney General, assisted by L. A. Whiteley, E. H. English, and W. K. Ingliss, counsel for the prosecution, and Messrs. Pike, Trapnall, Fowler, and Yell, for the defense. The character of the deceased, the standing of the accused, the multiplicity of witnesses, and the high reputation of the attorneys engaged, have combined to render this trial one of considerable interest. The evidence on the part of the State was closed on Saturday; the whole time of the court has since been occupied in a discussion upon the admissibility of the wife of the accusing as a witness in behalf of the prisoner."

☞ A judgment of $500 was obtained at the last term of the Putnam Circuit Court in Indiana against the clerk of that county, as damages, for issuing a marriage license to a male minor. The suit was brought two years after the marriage.

☞ Lane, the new Governor of Indiana, was to be inaugurated on the 12th.

☞ For Annuals, Illustrated Works, and Books suitable for Holyday presents, see the advertisement of J. B. Steel, 14 Camp street.

The Holydays.

BY SPEAR-EZ.

It is now getting near Christmas and New-Year, and all the Mas and Pas have lots of little sons to make presents to on those days. What is money planting to children due to bear their parents say, "Come, now, my dear daughter and sons, if you will be good children and mind your Pa and Ma, and go to school every day, obeying the instructions of your masters or mistress, during the time, we shall take you out to witness Christmas and New-Year Days, and make you a nice present." Just imagine what happiness is spread upon their little countenances at the intelligence. One will say, "Pa, what are you going to give me?"—and a second, with great joy, will say, "My good Pa and Ma, what will you give me?" What is more gratifying to those parents than to know that they have made their little offspring so happy. Just listen to the innocent prattle that follows. "Well, Pa, this is Saturday, and in three days is will be Christmas, and then I must put on my new hat, jacket and trousers, and my new boots." "Yes," says the little daughter, "Ma's going to let me put on my new, pretty, little pocket merino frock, satin bonnet, and gold necklace; and Ma says she is going to visit Aunt Eliza, Uncle William, and all the rest of our northward aunts; and, Pa, you must go to Mr. Nichols, on Camp street, buy lots of cakes and sugar-plums. There will be Dick on one knee, George on the other, Morris between the two, and the smallest crawling in to get a piece, perhaps a little scared that the elder ones might have the biggest pieces. Pa now begins to talk to Ma. Dick tells George that he is the oldest, and Pa will give him two pieces of sugar-plums; Maria says that she can George wasn't have a bigger piece of cake than she will. After the row is all hushed, Pa, Ma, Dick, George, and being about the little ones' bed time, the children get ready. "Come, children, it's time to go to bed." Berry is called to get the candle, and the children all say, "Good night, our dear Pa and Ma." "Now