The Daily Crescent.

NEW ORLEANS:

SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 16, 1850.

PRINCIPAL ADVERTISEMENTS.—We must hereafter refuse to publish articles of literary, etc., etc., unless a responsible agent is met with cash. We have on our books several hundred dollars for each of this kind, which we never expect to collect—the estimated miles of the list exceedingly. We cannot afford to lose any more.

☞ Mr. CHARLES S. RAINEY is our Traveling Agent for the Daily and Weekly Crescent. We bespeak for him a liberal reception in all places at which he may visit.

The Extra-Mammoth Weekly Crescent,

Will be issued To-day, at 3 o'clock, A. M.

And will contain a vast amount of useful and entertaining matter, giving the latest Foreign and Domestic News; Editorials upon the leading topics of the day; Local Items, etc. etc. . . . Copies ready for mailing can be obtained at the Counter, or at Morgan's Literary Depot.

THE SPEAKERSHIP OF THE HOUSE—*Spirit of the Press.*—There seems to be a great difference of opinion among the whig Doctors, concerning the property of electing Mr. Moise, of the empire parish of Plaquemines, Speaker of the House of Representatives. The Crescent, which is edited by two gentlemen, who are decidedly the most popular speakers in the whig party, in New Orleans, thinks that the election of Mr. Moise was all fair and proper.

Such is the Delta's introduction to an article in the Crescent on the Speakership. For the very extravagant and undeserved compliment paid our talking capacity, we are duly grateful; but the unjust misrepresentation of the Crescent's political character, we think the Delta should withdraw. The impression left on the reader is clearly that the Crescent is one of the whig papers in New Orleans. The Delta itself has often complained of the injustice done it, by those who speak of it as a democratic print. Its editors, proprietors, and every one connected with it, are democrats; yet that does not make it a democratic paper. Its tendencies are certainly toward that party; ours, perhaps, are as strongly to the other side. But we resent, as much as the Delta, any charge against the Crescent that it belongs to any political party.

☞ We are indebted to the steamer Oregon for Louisville papers of the 7th, which are not our latest dates from that city. We presume that the Oregon—a very fast, and, in all respects, a very superior boat—has, on some account, been delayed on her downward passage.

ST. CHARLES THEATRE.—A respectable number of persons attended the plays at the St. Charles last evening—the largest portion of whom were attracted thither to witness the representations of the favorite comic actor, DeBar, in the burlesque of the play "Lady of Lyons." They were sadly disappointed. It was a sorry affair, and altogether unworthy of criticism. There was not a scintilla of wit—nothing to redeem its grossness. It seems, in fact, an insult to decency.

We regret that the managers of this establishment should think fit to introduce such a piece on their boards, and we regret, especially, that DeBar, who has some good points as a comic actor, should have determined on its repetition for the occasion of his benefit this evening. If it be not too late, we would suggest a change to something else—almost any thing else.

CASINO THEATRE.—The grand opera of "Lucia di Lammermoor" will be performed this evening by the talented artistes of the Orleans. It will be produced in that perfect manner in which every thing is presented under the management of Mr. Davis.

BENEFIT OF MRS. RAYMOND.—This very estimable lady presents an attractive bill for Monday evening, which is set apart for her benefit. The fine comedy of the "Rivals" will be performed, in which Mr. Raymond also appears. After which, the Misses Raymond will introduce several of their most popular songs. The entertainment to conclude with the rapid farce of "Love and Mystery." We wish the lady a crowded house.

PLACIDE'S.—This evening, "The Alpine Maid." After which, a Grand Divertissement, by the talented artistes of the establishment. "The Fair One With Golden Locks," Mrs. Howard—*Graceful* by name and by nature—appearing therein. A good bill.

THE CAMPBELLS.—We are sorry to announce that this justly favorite troupe are "going away for to leave us." All therefore who would kill care in listening to the original perpetrations of "Brother Bones," or the mellifluous notes of Murphy, would do well to be on hand, as to-night is the last.

FOR CALIFORNIA.—Passengers for California, via Cape Horn, will find superior state room accommodations on the A 1 copper-fastened and coppered brig Salvadora, now loading at post 8, Second Municipality, to sail in ten or twelve days.

LADIES' FAIR.—Last evening the Ladies' Entertainment, at LaFert's Saloon, in St. Charles street, was most liberally patronized—that is if numbers were any criterion to judge by. The room was densely crowded to a late hour, and we hope that the fair mercants reaped large profits from their tempting wares. The tables were handsomely filled with every variety of rich confectionery and fancy articles, while the winning smiles and bewitching glances of the ladies opened the hearts and the purse-strings even of the most inveterate bachelor.

THE CAMPBELLS.—These minstrels change their performance every evening, giving a variety of popular melodies and their inimitable burlesque operas. Go and see them at the Commercial Hall.

FURNITURE AT AUCTION.—W. P. Scott will sell to-day, at 11 o'clock, at his Auction-house, No. 87 Camp street, a quantity of superior Household Furniture, well worthy of the attention of housekeepers.

DESIRABLE DWELLING AT AUCTION.—Henry W. Palfrey will sell this day, at 12 o'clock, at Banks Arcade, a handsome two-story dwelling on Prytania street. Terms liberal. See adv.

HATS, HATS—Of every style, kind and shape, intended for city wear, country service, or hard usage in California, can be obtained at the popular establishment of C. D. Bunce, No. 9 Canal street. We refer the public to the advertisements of Mr. B. in another column.

SEASONABLE DRY GOODS.—Andrews & Bro. are now opening at their well known store, corner of Julia and St. Charles street, a quantity of very desirable summer goods, which they offer at prices so low that they cannot fail to sell.

SALE OF SLAVES.—J. B. Phillips will sell at 12 o'clock, at Banks Arcade, a number of good servants, field hands, etc.

SALES OF SYKES, HYDE & CO.—This day, at half-past 10 o'clock, in front of their Auction-house, No. 51 Magazine street, a very heavy lot of Groceries, consisting of the principal articles of trade. Dealers are particularly invited to examine samples. Terms liberal . . . Also, at 10 o'clock, at the corner of Lafayette and Magazine streets, 18 casks Pale Ale, in good order, and a superior article.

GREAT SALE OF PAINTINGS.—To-night commences the sale of Pictures at Cooke's Gallery. We make no pretensions to be connoisseurs. It may not be patriotic to say so, but we doubt whether a man can be a critic of paintings who has not visited the galleries of Europe. When we come back from our travels we will astonish our cotemporaries; but, until that time, we are content to admire such pictures as suit our fancy, without caring who is the painter. A picture, like a man, is its own best pedigree. Without expressing an opinion on the subject, we repeat that of others more competent to judge, who inform us that many of these paintings are of artistic beauty and value. The sale will be continued until all the pictures are disposed of.

☞ Wire has recently been used, in place of lath, for walls and partitions. It is first galvanized and the plaster remains upon it without injury. It is considered greatly to diminish the risk of fire.

AMUSEMENTS.—This Evening.

ST. CHARLES THEATRE.—"The Flowers of the Forest"—"The Lady of Lyons."

PLACIDE'S VARIETIES.—"The Alpine Maid"—Grand Divertissement—"Fair One with the Golden Locks."

ORLEANS THEATRE.—"Lucia di Lammermoor."

COMMERCIAL REFRESHMENT HALL.—Concert.

MECHANICS' HALL—Ethiopian Entertainment.

Mr. Webster's Speech.

We publish to-day a synopsis of Mr. Webster's Speech on the Slavery Question. We regret that we are unable to publish it at length. It is one of the greatest efforts of the greatest mind in the nation. It is the most important event in the life of this eminent Statesman—an epoch in the history of the country. It is liberal to the South, just to North, patriotic and Statesman-like in the highest degree. Its effect in aiding to quiet the agitation of this exciting question, will be immediately felt in every portion of the country where it is read.

Mr. Webster would speak not as a Northern man, but as an American. He acknowledged they were beset by dangers, but were not without hope. He was looking for no fragment on which to float away from the wreck, but for the good of the whole. He spoke out of a solicitous and anxious heart for the restoration to the country of that quiet and harmony which make the blessings of this Union so dear to all.

He would first give a history of the events which had led to the present agitation. In 1846 this country declared war against Mexico, and by conquest and treaty obtained a territory of seven or eight hundred miles on the Pacific. In 1848 the gold mines were discovered, and there was a rush of population to them. It became necessary to establish some form of Government; but this was found impossible at the last session. The people of that region have established for themselves a Government. Of the members who framed that Constitution, sixteen were from slave States, twenty-two from free, and ten were Californians born. They excluded slavery, and it is this prohibition which leads to the present state of feeling.

It cannot be denied that the war was prosecuted for the acquisition of territory. It was supposed that the territory to be thus acquired would be Southern territory, and easily rendered subservient to Southern interests. Events have turned out differently, and hence much disappointment. It is evident that the question of slavery has again come upon us for discussion. He now spoke of the history of slavery from the earliest period. The Greeks endeavored to find an excuse for it in the inferiority of the enslaved race; but they did not show by any close process of reasoning that if this were true, the more intelligent and the stronger had the right to subjugate the weaker. The more manly philosophy of the Romans placed the justification on entirely different grounds. They admitted that slavery was against natural law, but argued that by the laws of war captives taken in battle were subject to death, that the conqueror had a right to place his own terms for the prolongation of the life of the captive. The Roman law too recognized the right of men to sell themselves into slavery, to be sold by their creditors for debt, or by the State for crime. Christianity found the world full of slaves; it did not preach against that relation—its object was to touch the heart, to purify the soul and improve the lives of individual men. Here he spoke of the different views honestly entertained on this subject by good men of the North and the South.

He alluded to the separation of the Methodist Church; he had seen it with regret; he had deemed it unnecessary. Discussions in religious assemblies always lead to excitement. The history of the world proves this. Sectarians establish a line and guard it by dogmas, as lines of a boundary are marked by posts and stones. His description of these religious bigots was most philosophical.

Slavery did exist in the United States now, and it existed previous to the establishment of the Federal Government. In 1787 there was as great diversity of opinion among men on this question. They all regarded it as an evil. There was not much cold against it as inhuman and cruel. The objections were chiefly political, that it weakened society; that taking the place of free labor, society was less strong; and they attributed its existence to the Mother Country.

They thought that slavery could not continue if the African trade was stopped. It was proposed to stop it at the end of twenty years. The South opposed this as too long. Mr. Madison was somewhat warm against this long license. The terms *slavery* and *slave* were studiously excluded from the Constitution, at the instance of Mr. Madison, who did not wish it recognized in the Constitution. The Convention sat in Philadelphia, and the old Congress at the same time was sitting in New York. All the great men of the country were in one or the other of these assemblies. The ordinance of 1787 was passed at the time when the present Constitution was forming. That ordinance excluded slavery from the north-western territory. He paid a most eloquent eulogium to Virginia, for the generosity she had exhibited in surrendering that vast domain to the Union.

"Three things are quite clear as historical facts. One is, that there was no expectation that on the coming of the immigrants of slaves from Africa, they would begin to multiply. That was hoped and expected by Americans, that as far as there was any power in Congress to prevent the spread of slavery in the United States, that power would be exerted in the most absolute manner and to the fullest extent."

Mr. Calhoun had spoken of that ordinance as the first act to weaken the South. Yet, it had been adopted by the representatives of the South, unanimously. There was but one vote against the ordinance, and that was given by a Northern member. Since the change of opinion has taken place, the North has become much more warm and strong against slavery—the South more warm in its support. There is a tendency in generations to lean to those opinions which coincide with the pressing interests of the day. What has happened at the South has been natural. What cause has produced this change of sentiment in the South, making slavery to be no longer an evil and a curse, but a great moral, religious and social blessing? It was the culture of cotton. It was this interest that gave a new desire to promote slavery, to spread it and to use its labor.

"I suppose, then, it is owing to the sudden uprising and rapid growth of the cotton plantations of the South. So far as any motive of honor, justice and generosity is concerned, it was the cotton interest that gave a new desire to promote slavery, to spread it and to use its labor. I again say that this is produced by the cause which we have had always present to us, to produce its effects—their whole interests become connected with it. If we look back to the history of the commerce of this country at the early commencement of this Government, what were our exports? Cotton was hardly, or but to a very limited extent, known. The tables will show that the exports of cotton for the years 1790 and '91 were hardly more than forty or fifty thousand dollars a year. It has gone on increasing rapidly until it may now be, perhaps in a season of great product and high prices, a hundred millions of dollars. Then there was more of wax, more of indigo, more of rice, more of almost everything exported from the South than of cotton. I think I have heard it said, when Mr. Jefferson negotiated the treaty of 1794 with England, he did not know that cotton was exported at all from the United States; and I have heard it said that, after the treaty which gave to the United States the right to carry their commodities to England, the cotton-house in London refused to admit cotton, upon an allegation that it could not be an American production, there being, as they supposed, no cotton raised in America. They would hardly think so now!"

A desire soon sprung up for increase of Southern territory. In 1802 the government obtained from Georgia a cession of its western lands; in 1803 Louisiana was purchased; in 1819 Florida was added. Mr. Calhoun thinks it is the operation of the government, not of time, that has produced the more rapid population of the North. On this there might be a difference of opinion. But the South certainly has derived advantage from the action of the government. It was not time which acquired Louisiana, nor Florida, nor Texas. The last closed the account. That gave to slave labor the entire country from Washington to the Nueces. He read the clause in the annexation resolutions authorizing the formation of four additional States out of Texas, and leaving to the people of those new States south of 36° 30' the right to admit slavery. "And, therefore, I say again that, so far as Texas is concerned—the whole of Texas south of 36° 30', which I suppose embraces all the slave territory—there is no land, not an acre, the character of which is not established by law, a law which cannot be repealed without the violation of a contract." Texas was annexed by eighty Southern and fifty Northern votes, in the House. In the Senate, thirteen out of the twenty-seven Senators who voted for it were from the North. This did not look like hostility to the South. He charged upon the Northern democracy the desire to acquire territory, and after having acquired it to quarrel about it—"to buy it and then put upon it the slavery proviso."

Texas was acquired for the avowed purpose of strengthening the slave interest. Mr. Dix and Mr. Niles would vote for the annexation resolutions and for no others. These gentlemen voted against Mr. Berrien's resolutions during the Mexican war, disapproving the acquisition of Mexican territory. By their votes they defeat his resolutions, they aid in acquiring the Texan and Mexican territories, and then go home and turn free soilers. They leave us bound hand and foot to slavery, and then go home and make capital speeches against it.

In 1836 he had voted for the recognition of the independence of Texas; but as early as 1837 he spoke against its annexation. Here he read an extract from his speech. He had nothing to add, nothing to retract. He voted against its admission in 1845. He had been opposed to any more territory; we had enough. But Texas had been received with certain conditions, and we were bound to carry out those terms. He, for one, would fulfil the contract. When the population would justify it we should form the new States, which would be slave States. This was the clear design of the parties.

As to California, the law of nature itself forbids slavery, as we understand the term. The same principle extended to New Mexico. His description of California is very grand. He would vote against any clause prohibiting slavery in the territorial governments for California and New Mexico. The use of such a prohibition would be idle, and he would not take pains to reform the ordinance of nature, nor to re-enact the will of God, and he would put in no Wilmot Proviso for the purpose of taunt, or a reproach. On this point he dwelt at much length.

"Now, Mr. President, I have established, or far as I proposed to go into any line of observation to establish, the proposition with which I set out, and upon which I propose to stand or fall; and that is, that the whole territory of the States in the United States, or in the newly acquired territory of the United States, has a fixed and settled character, have fixed and settled by law, which cannot be repealed in the case of Texas without a violation of public faith, and cannot be repealed by any human power in regard to California or New Mexico; that, under one or other of these laws, every foot of territory in the States or in the Territories has now received a fixed and decided character."

He spoke of Mr. Polk's course in signing the Oregon bill with the Wilmot Proviso; he signed it because he considered the prohibition as entirely surplusage. He would himself vote for the prohibition whenever it was necessary, and he had the right to do so. But he would as soon vote for prohibition of slavery in the event of the annexation of Canada as he would now in regard to New Mexico. But he would not do a thing unnecessary which wounds the feelings of others, or does a disgrace to his own understanding.

He then passes to the criminations and recriminations of both sections. He thinks the South has a right to complain of the course pursued by the North in regard to fugitive slaves. The States have no right to pass laws interfering with the rights of the master. He calls on Congress to pass proper laws to carry more effectually into execution the provision of the Constitution.

He then takes up the anti-slavery resolutions of the Northern States. They have nothing to do with the subject, and he would not present any petitions from the Legislature of Massachusetts. He repudiates the doctrine of instruction.

As to abolition societies—they are not useful; they have produced nothing good or valuable in the last twenty years. Their effect has been prejudicial to the cause they advocate—the violence of the Press—there was a sin chargeable on both sections. The Press was violent every where; they mistake loud and violent talk for eloquence and reason.

The North has its complaints—first, that the South is eager to extend slave territory. Then, the intemperate language of Southern politicians is caught up, circulated by mischief-mongers. He alluded to the recent speech of Mr. Downs, who had run a parallel between the slaves and the white laborers of the North to the advantage of the former.

He spoke of peaceable secession as a thing impossible:

"Mr. President, I should much prefer to have heard from every member of this floor declarations of opinion that this Union should never be dissolved, than the declaration of opinion that it is my duty, under the pressure of any circumstances, such a dissolution was possible. I have with pain heard, in this and distant, the word secession—especially when it falls from the lips of those who are eminently patriotic, and known to the country, and known all over the world, for their political services. Secession! Peaceable secession! Sir, your eyes and mine are never destined to see that miracle. The disembowelment of the vast territory without convulsion! The bursting up of the fountains of the great deep without rippling the surface! Who is so foolish—I beg every body's pardon—as to expect to see such a thing? Sir, we are one people. The States, now revolving in harmony around a common centre, can expect to see them quit their places and fly off without convulsions, may look at the next hour to see the heavenly bodies rush from their spheres and pursue their journeys other in the realms of space without producing a crash in the universe. Peaceable secession is an utter impossibility. Is the great Constitution, under which we live, here—covering the whole country—is it to be thawed and melted away by secession, as the snows on the mountain melt under the influence of a vernal sun, or disappear almost unobserved, and die off? No, sir! No, sir! I will not state what might produce the disruption of the States; but, sir, I see it as plainly as I see the sun in heaven—I see that disruption must produce such a war as I will not describe in its two-fold consequences.

"Peaceable secession!—peaceable secession! The concurrent agreement of all the members of this great Republic to separate! A voluntary separation, with alimony on the side and on the other. Why, what would be the result? Whom is the line to run through? What States are to secede? What is to remain American? What States are to secede? What is to remain American? What line is to be? Where is the flag of the Republic to remain? Where is the eagle still to soar? or is he to cower and shrink and fall to the ground? Why, sir, our ancestors—our fathers and our great-fathers, those of them that are yet living amongst us with prolonged lives, would rebuke and reproach us; and our children and our grandchildren would rise up to curse us as their ancestors, if we of this generation should dishonor these emblems of the power of the Government and the harmony of the Union which is every day felt amongst us with so much joy and gratitude."

He spoke of the Nashville Convention. He hoped it was to be an assemblage to conciliate, not to dismember. If for the latter purpose, they had selected a most inappropriate place. Andrew Jackson would turn in his coffin, could he know of such an assemblage within ear shot of the Hermitage.

He was favorable to the purchase of a portion of the north of Texas, to be formed into a new State.

He would vote appropriations to any extent to remove the free colored population to any colony selected. The government had received $80,000,000 from the sale of lands ceded by Virginia. The remainder will probably yield over $120,000,000. He would give all this for the purpose of removing the free people of color.

"And now, Mr. President, instead of speaking of the possibility or utility of secession, instead of dwelling in the cave-haunts of darkness, instead of grouping with those who seem to fall of all that is hopeful and humble, let us cherish these hopes which belong to us; let us devote ourselves to those great objects that are set before us by our Constitution and our action; let us raise our conceptions to the magnitude and importance of our duties that devolve upon us; let our comprehension be as broad as the country for which we act, our aspirations as big as its certain destiny; let us not be pygmies in a case that calls for men. Never did there devolve on any generation of men higher trusts than now devolve upon us for the preservation of the Constitution and the harmony and peace of all who are destined to live under it. It is a great popular constitutional Government, guarded by legislation, by law, by judicatures, and defended by the whole affections of the people. No monarchical throne nor iron throne States together; no iron chain of despotic power encircles them; they live and stand upon a Government popular in its form, representative in its character, founded upon principles of equity, and calculated, we hope, to last for ever. In all its history it has been beneficent; it has rendered down no man's liberty; it has crushed no State. It has been in all its influences benevolent, beneficent; promoting the general prosperity, the general glory, and the general renown, and, at last, it has received a vast addition of territory. Large before, it has now, by recent events, become vastly larger. The Republic now extends, with a kind of benediction, over the whole continent. The two great seas of the world wash the one and the other shore. We may realize the beautiful description of the ornamental edging of the buckler of Achilles:

"Now the broad shield complete the artist crowned,
With his last hand, gave the finishing sound;
In living silver seemed the waves to roll,
And beat the buckler's verge, and bound the whole."

DRY GOODS AUCTIONS.—Sales in New York are on the increase. There were no less than five held on the 5th inst., two of which were of French goods. The whole lot was sold. Messrs. Warren, Moran & Co. offered about 300 lots of assorted goods, which were all disposed of. The bidding was very effective. The attendance was good, being better than at any one of the other four auction sales simultaneously going on.

BIOLOGICAL EXPERIMENTS.—Mr. Fiske will commence this evening, at Armory Hall, an exposition of the philosophy of curing diseases without the use of medicine, and will afterwards exhibit his really wonderful as well as laughable amusements. His lectures have been fully and fashionably attended. We have seen many of our most influential and intelligent citizens there night after night. His class for instruction will be formed on Monday.

☞ **Seamen's Home.**—A Public Meeting will be held at the Lyceum Hall, at half-past 7 o'clock, on MONDAY EVENING next, the 18th inst., at which the Seamen's Home is to preside, and addresses will be made by J. P. BENJAMIN, Esq., J. W. CROCKETT, Esq. and others, showing the condition and wants of Seamen in this city, and the importance of the creation of a Sailor's Home. mh16

☞ **Bethel Services.**—Rev. Mr. NICKELS, Seaman's Chaplain, will preach on board the ship Tropic, at Post 14, Second Municipality, TO-MORROW AFTERNOON, at 4 o'clock.

☞ **Notice.**—The Regular Monthly Meeting of the SOCIETY OF INQUIRY ON MISSIONS will be held in the Second Presbyterian Church (Rev. Mr. Hatch,) on to-morrow (SUNDAY), the 17th inst., at half-past 3 o'clock, P. M. The usual Missionary intelligence may be expected. The public are respectfully invited to attend. mh16 B. G. LATTING, Rec. Secretary.

Arrivals at the Principal Hotels.....15th.

ST. CHARLES—Lt. Col. A G Bennett, U S A; R O Richardson, Tenn; C C McLatton, W F, Tunnard, W S Fike, W M Smith, Jas Brown, Jas Johnson, Lt J Smith, N P Hamilton, Mobile; E E Wells, W Wright, Philadelphia; S M Ogden, Wade Hampton, W J Bull, S C; R K Bull and lady, Mrs C B Officer and son, Miss H W Jeffrey; S Harrison; S Vernon, Ohio; C Thompson, Jr, Boston; La Marr, W W Bateman; Col. Roberts.

HEWLETT'S—J M Chaney, J B Taylor, Ala; S York, Texas; H E Hale, H B Wylie, W F Mansfield, T Lee Allen, Jas A Wilson, Miss; J Adams, La; J Smith, N Y; J