look for aid, the institution having an equal claim with Colleges, Public Schools, Penitentiaries and Orphan Asylums for which appropriations from the State Treasury are frequently and freely made by the Legislature of our State.

The 3d resolution calls for a "report upon the condition of the House of Refuge." It is now in the third year of its existence, and the Board regret that from causes perhaps in some degree hitherto unavoidable or beyond their immediate control, its usefulness has not been fully developed. Among those may be mentioned, an unsuitable location. Its large position to the Workhouse has caused it too often to be regarded in the same light with that place of punishment, hence efforts have frequently been made for the release of some of the inmates, chiefly by application to the First District Court, which were generally attended with success. Another difficulty, a defective law, having until recently favored such efforts, by not distinctly defining the period during which the commissioners should have the control and supervision of the youths, while in the House or during their apprenticeship. The difficulty of obtaining suitable employment for the inmates has hitherto been an insurmountable obstacle which the commissioners have had to contend. The original buildings on the present site, were erected before the Board of Commissioners was organized; they were of wood, and were not adapted for the use to which they were to be applied. They were destroyed by fire at midday on the 16th of April, 1849, and it is strongly suspected it was the work of a juvenile incendiary: a number of the inmates taking advantage of the confusion incident to such a scene made their escape, others not only declined availing themselves of the opportunity to escape, but exerted themselves with laudable zeal to quench the flames, and to save the effects in the House. No place at all suited even for temporary occupation could be procured, and it was with the utmost reluctance the Board yielded to the necessity of placing the boys, during two months, in a division of the Workhouse. The erection of the temporary buildings, which are still in use, was retarded by the inundation occasioned by the crevasses, but it was so desirable to remove the boys from the Workhouse, they were occupied before the waters had receded. Notwithstanding the adverse circumstances in which the institution has been placed, it is satisfactory to note that but little sickness has prevailed among the inmates, and that not a death has occurred within its precincts.

The Board of Commissioners was organized in July, 1847, and in September of the same year the first boy was received as an inmate. Up to the present time the whole number admitted is one hundred and nine, whose birth places are as follows: Ireland, 29; New York, 12; New Orleans, 12; Carrollton, (La.,) 1; Louisiana, 7; Germany, 7; England, 9; Ohio, 6; Pennsylvania, 6; Kentucky, 2; Virginia, 2; Scotland, 2; Missouri, 2; South Carolina, 1; Holland, 1; France, 1; Canada, 1; Connecticut, 1; Maine, 1; Texas, 1; Boston, 1; Tennessee, 1; Mississippi, 1; Indiana, 1; Georgia, 1—Total, 109.

The present number of inmates is thirty-one. The escapes have been numerous, owing in a great measure to the construction of the buildings and enclosures. Several instances have occurred in which boys, after having effected their escape, returned voluntarily, and others have requested to remain for a time after the expiration of that for which they were committed. This course has been pursued by them from a conviction that their interest was more likely to be promoted under the care and restraints of the Refuge than when they were roving beyond its limits. A case occurred in which a mother, being desirous of obtaining her son's release, he implored her to allow him to remain "to get education."

The Institution should be regarded as a *School of Reform* for youth, or a *refuge from ignorance, vice and crime*, not as a *prison*, as it has been erroneously supposed by many. In it are taught the some branches of education as in the primary schools of the Municipality; appropriate moral and religious instruction is imparted to them, and parental care at all times exercised over their habits, language and deportment as far as practicable by its officers; hours are allotted for labor and recreation; and finally when fitted by education and reformation of habits, they are placed in situations suited to their capacities, to learn some occupation for their future support and to render them useful citizens; the surveillance of the Institution continuing over them until they attain their majority. Of those for whom situations have been obtained favorable accounts are received.

The history of many of the inmates is such as to render manifest the claims which the Institution has upon the public authorities, and to excite the sympathy of the humane. Some are without parents, destitute of a father or a mother's care, with none to train them in the paths of virtue; others have parents who utterly neglect them, or whose example is only calculated to lead them to vice and crime; some abandoned, homeless, and friendless, were being encouraged and taught by older offenders to obtain a wretched existence by begging or pilfering; roving in the streets and on the Levee by day, and sleeping in market houses, cotton sheds or empty boxes by night.

Thousands upon thousands of dollars are expended to punish old and hardened offenders, in the generally vain hope of their reformation, and shall not this unfortunate class of youth command the protection and fostering care of those who are entrusted with the public weal? It may be well to spend thousands to punish criminals, but it would be far wiser and better to spend tens of thousands to make good citizens of those who, without the fostering care of government, might become, not only a burthen upon the public treasury, but a curse to the community. But an augmented outlay is not necessary; Houses of Refuge eventually cost less than prisons; such has been the experience of those communities where they have been fostered with judgment and protected by wise legislation. If your Refuge be not sustained by adequate appropriations, and judicious arrangements, it must fail, and the juvenile offenders be sooner or later sent to the work-house or penitentiary, there to perfect a vicious education among adroit and hardened villains, at expense to the government while there, and to plunderers upon the community after their liberation. Look into the biography of the swindler, the robber, the assassin, the murderer, and in many cases the conclusion must be inevitable, that if in youth he had been subjected to the salutary restraints and influences of a House of Refuge, he would not have been an inmate of the penitentiary or a sufferer upon the scaffold. It is believed that of 4397 boys and girls admitted into the New York House of Refuge "*three fourths* have been saved from ruin and reformed." It is known that many of them have become highly respectable and useful citizens.

A case has recently been cited which is calculated, in contrast with the foregoing statement, to show the advantages of a House of Refuge over a prison. A person was lately confined in the prison at Auburn, New York, whose first conviction was at ten years of age; he has since been at different times, twenty-eight years a convict, supported by the State, at an expense at not less than $2000. It has been observed that "half the interest on that sum seasonably expended in his proper training might have given him to the State as an intelligent, industrious, upright citizen, and a sharer of the public burdens."

We have the testimony of that distinguished, perspicacious and lamented statesman, De Witt Clinton, in favor of Houses of Refuge in the following forcible language: "The House of Refuge is the best institution of the kind that has ever been devised by the wit, or established by the beneficence, of man. It takes cognizance of vice in its embryo state, and redeems from ruin and sends forth for usefulness those depraved and unfortunate youth, who are sometimes in a direlict state; sometimes without subsistence, and at all times without friends, to guide them in the paths of virtue. The tendency of this noble charity is preventive, as well as remedial; its salutary powers has been felt and acknowledged in breaking up the haunts of vice, and the diminution of our criminal proceedings."

Of the expediency and urgent necessity of a House of Refuge for our Municipality, there can be no doubt. The mode in which it shall be sustained and administered, alone remains to be considered. The Board entertain the opinion, that some support, at least, is due from the State, but this should not be relied on; the means of the Municipality should be applied upon a more liberal scale than has heretofore been done, so as to place it upon a proper footing in regard to locality, grounds and buildings. The emoluments of the Superintendent and Assistant should be augmented when it is found that they possess the peculiar qualifications requisite for their stations, which can only be ascertained after full trial.

It was with great regret the Board learned that the Council had deemed it incumbent upon them to give such a construction to a late law of the Legislature in regard to appointments by Committees of Council, as to consider this Board a Committee of the Council, and therefore deprive them of the appointment of officers who are to act under and carry out the views of the Board in the management of the institution, when two-thirds of this Board have no seat in the Council. The Board are at a loss to perceive how this construction can be given in regard to this institution, and not to the Public Schools.

Although the Board would regret such a construction being given in regard to the latter, yet they cannot perceive how, if it be correct in the one case, it is to be avoided in the other. The Mayor, Recorder, and a Committee of three Aldermen, with eight citizens, constitute the Board of Commissioners of the House of Refuge; and the Mayor, Recorder, the Committee on Education, (composed of three Aldermen,) with sixteen citizens, the Board of Directors of the Public Schools. The only difference in the composition of the two Boards is, that in the one the number of citizens who are not Aldermen is greater than in the other. *The number of Aldermen is each is the same.*

The appointments of Superintendent and Assistant being now made by the Council, and the other persons employed in the House by *the Superintendent*, the Board has thus lost that influence which the power to appoint and remove from office those employed under them would give.

Should the persons who may, from time to time, be appointed, prove unfit for their stations, unless guilty of offences of a very flagrant character, it is not probable the Board would be willing to assume the character of public accusers before the Council, and yet the usefulness of the incumbents might be such as gradually to impair, in a high degree, the usefulness of the institution. If the composition of the Board constitutes an obstacle to the appointing power remaining in the hands of the Board, the Council possesses the power to change it, by electing as Commissioners citizens who are not Aldermen, and at the same time retain a supervision over the Board, and those employed under them, through a Standing Committee on the House of Refuge.

If the Council deem it inexpedient to restore the appointing power to the Board, it is hoped they will clothe them with power to remove any officer or person employed in the House, when they believe sufficient cause exists for so doing, reporting the same to the Council without delay.

The office of Commissioner is one of neither honor nor profit; its duties are onerous and thankless. It is to be hoped that your honorable body will render it one of usefulness to our fellow-citizens, by giving to the Board that cordial support, which is indispensable to sustain an institution, than which there is none in our midst more truly noble and philanthropic.

Respectfully submitted, by order and in behalf of the Board of Commissioners.

JAS. SAUL, } Executive
L. MATTHEWS, } Committee.

Resolved, That the above report be approved and adopted, and that the Executive Committee sign the same on behalf of the Board.

Resolved, That the Board much regret that the Hon. Council should have deemed their duty to deprive the Board of the appointment of the superintendent and assistant superintendent of the House of Refuge. The Board consider that if so important a trust as the management of the Institution is committed to them, the power of appointing and removing all its officers should also be in their hands, in order that such trust may be faithfully executed and the proper responsibility be attached to the Board.

Resolved, That the Hon. Council be respectfully requested to authorize this Board to remove any officer from the House of Refuge, when they may deem such removal sustained by sufficient cause, and in case of any such removal that the Board immediately report the same to the Council.

Resolved, That in adopting these resolutions the Board are influenced by no disrespect, personal or official, to the Council, but truly by a sense of duty to the Institution and of justice to themselves.

Resolved, That J. N. Hawthorn, Esq., Chairman of the Committee on the House of Refuge, be requested to present to the Hon. Council at its next meeting, the report prepared under instruction of the Board by the Executive Committee and addressed to that body, also the three resolutions relative to appointments and removals.

A true copy from the minutes.

C. V. JOSTE, Sec'ty.

NEW ORLEANS, AUGUST 7, 1850.

The committee offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That seven hundred and fifty dollars be and the same is hereby appropriated for the use of the House of Refuge.

The rules were dispensed and the resolution adopted.

Mr. Sewell, Chairman of Committee to examine books of Treasurer and Comptroller, presented the following report:

GENTLEMEN—I have counted all coupons, Municipality notes, Treasury notes and bonds, entered as paid in 1847, examined calculations of interest, compared all vouchers of disbursements with the books of the Comptroller and Treasurers, checked all additions, and find them correct.

The amounts entered as received by the Treasurers and Comptroller in 1847 also agree.

You have herewith a statement of the transactions of 1847; a copy of a statement rendered by the Comptroller at the close of that year. It is correct and corresponds with the Treasurers' warrants.

The statement of the assets and liabilities of the Second Municipality on 31st Dec., 1847, is from the Comptroller's Ledger. The Treasurers in 1847 did not keep their accounts in the same way; merely an account of their receipts and disbursements, of which quarterly returns were made.

Among the vouchers for 1847 are several mortgaged notes, receipts for payments on account of judgements, some of which are not finally settled, and a receipt of the Carrollton Railroad Bank for notes to the amount of $35,960 17, held by the Bank as collateral security for payment of twelve notes issued on 12th June, 1847. This receipt is among the vouchers for June.

Your ob't serv't, JAS. T. B. FEATHERSTON'S.

NewOrleans, 27th August, 1850

MESSRS. SEWELL, HALE and HAWTHORN, Committee.

The committee offered a resolution making the compensation of the Accountant $200 per month, and the time indefinite. On motion, Mr. Renshaw, the salary was fixed at $150 and the original time extended two months, and the resolution thus amended adopted.

Resolved, That the resolution passed Tuesday, May 14th, 1850, creating a Committee of three, with an Assistant, to examine the Treasurer's and Comptroller's books, be so amended that the Assistant's salary be increased to the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars per month, and the time extended two months to complete said examination.

ORDER OF THE DAY.

The following resolution was taken up for the second reading and final passage, and was adopted:

Resolved, That permission is hereby granted to the following persons to emancipate their slaves herein named, according to law, with permission to remain in the State, upon their giving the usual bond and security, to the satisfaction of the Recorder: John Sullivan, curator of the estate of Charles Evans, the slave Minerva, a mulattress, aged about thirty-five years.

Salem Campbell, f. m. c., his slave Margaret, a dark mulattress, aged thirty-five years.

Mrs. Ann Fidler, her slave Young Sally, black, aged forty-five years; and P. D'Appremont, his slave Nancy, aged thirty-two years, and her children, Alfred, aged sixteen, Clementina fourteen, and Mary eight years.

Mr. Marks offered the following resolution:

Whereas, It has been fully ascertained that Charles Petrie, First Lieutenant of Police, has been guilty of conduct unworthy the station he occupies, prostituting the Watch-house of this Municipality to vile and infamous purposes, and

Whereas, If such conduct goes disregarded by this Council, it is calculated to inflict disgrace upon our police system, and to bring it into entire disrepute and contempt; be it therefore

Resolved, That Charles Petrie, First Lieutenant of Police, be, and is hereby dismissed from said office.

A motion to lay the resolution over was carried by the following vote:

Yeas—Messrs. Hale, Hopper, Johnson, McCormick, Sewell, Stewart and Tanner—5.

Nays—Messrs. Hawthorn, Marks, Renshaw, Sykes and Slaughter—5.

Mr. Stewart offered the following resolution, which was referred to Committe, on Streets and Landings.

Resolved, That the Surveyor be and is hereby authorized to have the banquette, on the East side of St. Peter street, raised from the centre of the square to the corner of Poydras street, in such manner as to correspond with the grade of the streets in that district.

On motion, the Council adjourned to Tuesday next.

JOHN CALHOUN, *Secretary.*

From the Plains.—The Missouri Statesman of the 16th inst. gives the following news from the plains:

The Ferry Company of D. H. Hickman & Co., reached home in good health on Sunday last.

Their location on the Platte river was about 130 miles west of Fort Laramie, and 720 miles from St. Joseph. They left the ferry for home on the 8th July. Previous to their leaving the great body of the emigration had passed. Yet on their homeward trip they met 500 wagons before reaching Fort Laramie, and nearly 600 more between the latter place and Fort Kearny. Of this number about 700 were Mormons en route for the great Salt Lake.

The mortality from cholera, or a disease much resembling it, has not been exaggerated by correspondents of the Republican and other newspapers. The sickness, however, had very much abated before the emigrants reached the crossing of the Platte, and but few deaths occurred that far west. Of this number we regret to learn, was our much esteemed countryman, Mr James D. Woods. He was connected with the Ferry Company, and died suddenly of cholera on the 24 July. Also, Mrs. Lamme, wife of M. J. Lemme, and daughter of Mr. Thomas C. Maupin, all of this county, and en route for California, died of cholera at Court-house Rock, 85 miles this side of Fort Laramie.

According to the register of the commanding officer at Fort Laramie, the number of wagons that had passed that post before the Ferry Company left was about 10,300. Number of emigrants not short of 50,000.

A large proportion, perhaps as many as one-twelfth of the whole emigration, abandoned their wagons and packed through from Fort Laramie, or between that place and the South Pass.

A court martial was in session at Fort Laramie, when Hickman & Co. passed. Col. Sumner, late commanding officer at Fort Leavenworth, was there on his way to the Arkansas river for the purpose of establishing one or more forts on that stream. Fort Hall had been abandoned, and the Government supplies, designed for that post, were stopped at Fort Laramie.

Messrs. Hickman & Co. represent there is comparatively no danger from Indians on the route. They returned to the States with only eleven men in company without interruption, and the California train experienced no loss or detention on account of them.

A large number of wagons, freighted with goods for Salt Lake, passed during the season. Yet it is thought that the supply will be sufficient, as the Mormon emigration to the new land of promise has been immense; and many others, who made a late start for California, intend wintering in the vicinity of Salt Lake City.

The stay of the company at the ferry was anything else than pleasant. Arriving at a late period of the season, with the emigration close upon their heels, no time was allowed for the erection of even a temporary hut in which to live. Not had they an opportunity to secure the services of a hunter, and game could not be had without leaving the main traveled road several miles. Yet they occasionally had elk, bear and the mountain sheep. The most of the latter are represented as remarkably delicious.

The weather was pleasantly warm and the water of the Platte river cool and fine up to about the middle of June. About this period the snow disappeared from the mountains, which appeared in full view eight or ten miles south of the company's encampment.

Many portions of the Platte bottom are sandy and barren, while others, and the valleys between the adjacent hills, afford a luxuriant grass, resembling very much our finest blue grass. In the latter end of June, a host of grasshoppers, which no man could number, made their appearance, and destroyed almost all the green vegetation on this side, and beyond the crossing of the Platte, so that emigrants were compelled to leave the road and go a distance of eight or ten miles to find grass for their animals. From Fort Laramie to the Missouri River the company on its return trip found the grass exceedingly fine.

Messrs. Hickman & Co. brought in about 2000 letters, designed for persons in different sections of the Union, chiefly, however, for the Western States. These, with the exception of such as were addressed to persons in this county, were mailed at St. Joseph.

The Daily Crescent.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL

Of the Council of the Second Municipality.

NEW ORLEANS:

THURSDAY MORNING, AUGUST 29, 1850.

☞ **Second Congressional District.**—We are authorized to announce Col. T. G. HUNT, as a candidate to fill the vacancy in this District occasioned by the appointment of the Hon. C. M. CONRAD to a seat in the Cabinet.

The Land Reform.

One advantage to the nation arising from a system of *small* farms, is the *moral* influence which grows out of it. Talk as you will of patriotism, there can be no doubt that this feeling is strengthened by the possession of a competency vested in property identified with the country. The man of immense wealth, amassed perhaps by commercial skill or good luck, is much less indentified with his country, than the small but independent farmer. The man of large fortune, especially if engaged in commerce, is much more sensitive to a policy which affects the commercial operations, than the other. He can, too, at once remove his wealth to another country—he is not so closely connected with his own country. So, too, with the mere hireling: where he can procure the best wages is his home. Otherwise with the farmer, who tills his own ground—who entering upon his little tract has himself cut down the forest—cleared his own fields, planted his own orchards, built his own house. His love of country is no ideal abstraction—it is a tangible reality. In the travels of an English baronet through Holland, we find the following observations on the advantage of the small farm system, as it has been manifested in that country. Agriculture in this country is far in the rear of modern improvements. Prof. Johnson, of England, who has recently visited this country for the express purpose of studying this subject, says that American farming at this day, is on a par with that of Scotland eighty years ago. There are millions of acres now which our people disregard, and consider worthless for cultivation, which by the discoveries of modern science, can be made to yield a rich return. In connection with the surrender of the public domain to the Western States, as trustees for the *people* of all the States, there should be established an agricultural bureau in every State, soils analyzed, surveys made, reports published, experimental farms established, premiums awarded, and every means used to improve the slovenly agriculture of the country.

"The many spires and chimneys of villages resting above the trees in all directions, the small divisions of land, the neat and numerous little farm-houses which abounded on all sides of us, presented a picture of industry and prosperity all one seen in any other country. The sound wisdom displayed by the Dutch in preventing the overgrowth and consolidation of farms, cannot fail to strike the observation of the traveler, and particularly an English one. By this admirable policy, Holland is enabled to maintain its comparatively immense population in comfort, under the disadvantage of far from being genial; hence it is but little burthened with paupers, and hence the abundance of its provision. In England, on the contrary, the farmers, are nowhere, but by awaiting themselves of the calamities of unseasonable seasons, and consequent scarcity, have for many years past omitted no opportunity, by grasping at adjoining farms, to enlarge their estates, and hence a portion of land which, if separated into small allotments, would give food and a moderate profit, to many families, is now consolidated in one; and those who ought to be farmers on a small scale, are now obliged to toil as laborers in the fields of their employer, at wages that are not sufficient, if their families are numerous, to prevent the necessity of their applying for parochial aid. If some legislative provision could be devised to restrain this monstrous and growing evil, by that wisest and certain lever of his country, and particularly of the lower classes of society, Mr. Whitbread, who was laudably in parliament applied his enlightened mind to ameliorate the condition of the poor, it would be one of the most beneficial measures that ever received the fiat of the British senate."

Proceedings of Council of Municipality No. 2. The length of the important proceedings of the Second Municipality Council at its sitting on Tuesday night, has precluded the publication of a good deal of matter intended for this morning's number.

The Protest.—Ten of the Senators who voted against the admission of California, are in high judgeon because they were not permitted to spread on the journals of the Senate their reasons for their votes. If this right belongs ten, it belongs to every one. Now, suppose on the passage in each bill, each member were to exercise this right of entering his protest at any length? The journal is a record of actions, not of arguments. As early as 1789, the matter was debated in the Senate, and the right refused. The House of Lords is the only deliberative assembly where such a right is tolerated. We observe that a member in the Texas Senate has entered his protest against the resolution to furnish each member with five copies of the Austin papers! That fact is the best commentary on this practice of protest.

Southern Press in NewOrleans.—The Memphis papers will have it that the Press of Louisiana does not represent the feelings and opinions of the State. Well, gentlemen, if you have any more money to expend in *fancy stock*, come down here and establish a Press which will represent the enslaved and oppressed people. But don't think of starting with $20,000—that sum may do for a liberating expedition, when turned into $200,000 of stock—but it will not begin to do for the establishment of a Southern Press in this city. The great man you want to make President, must pay up at least $50,000, in *par funds*, to manufacture public opinion here. A paper devoted to a section, rather than to the Union, will find no favor nor support in NewOrleans.

Northern Louisiana and the Union.—The Farmersville Enquirer, a democratic paper published in Union Parish, on the Arkansas line, contains a long and able editorial on Southern ultraism. Its conclusion we commend to those politicians out of this State, who so often pretend to speak for Northern Louisiana:

"The Georgia papers may 'save their breath to cool their' secession porridge, or perhaps to blow into flame the more moderate spirits of the majority of their own well-judging fellow-citizens. Louisiana—we will answer for North Louisiana, at least—will never be found wanting in the defence of her own rights or those of the South. But she is not to be schooled in her duties to the South, to the Union and to herself, by the hot-brained advocates of violent and revolutionary remedies for political evils, which would readily yield to gentler treatment. She knows her rights, 'and knowing, dares maintain them;' and if the bitter moment come, when the Constitution shall cease to be a barrier against the encroachments of fanatics and higher-law-men, she has the means and the will to throw herself into the breach, for the safety of the South. But until that moment arrives she begs her sister States to remember that an honest difference of opinion is not Treason, nor weak Submission, and that, *within the Constitution* the will of the Majority is the Law of the Land."

Mississippi Politics.—It is reported that Gov. Quitman has it in contemplation to call an extra session of the legislature for the purpose of taking into consideration the boundary difficulties between Texas and New Mexico. The public need not be surprised at any movement, however ridiculous, that may now take place. There are a few hundred thousand dollars on hand which might as well be put in circulation as remain unproductive in a repudiating treasury.—*Jackson Southron.*

Meetings are being held in all parts of the State, and public opinion is divided, though the Nashville Conventionists are the noisier. Gen. Foote will meet with strong approval as well as condemnation.

The Cotton Crop.

The two articles that immediately follow appeared in the Vicksburg (Miss.) Whig of Saturday last, 24th inst.:

The Cotton Crop.—Speculation is now rife as to the prospect of the crop of the present year. From the best information we can get from practical planters, and the newspapers in our State, we are satisfied that the crop will be short in Mississippi. It is the opinion of men of observation and experience that under no circumstances will it go higher than two-thirds of what is considered a good crop, and an early frost, or bad picking season will reduce it to one-half. In the overflowed regions, an early frost would destroy almost the entire crop.

The Boll Worm.—We have conversed with a number of planters living in different parts of this (Warren) county, who all represent the boll worm as being very destructive to their cotton. One planter says he counted thirty bolls on a single stalk, pierced by the worm, and that in a field of ten acres of new land that had been topped, and the tops put into bags and carried off and destroyed according to the recipe published by us some time since for destroying the boll worm. From this it will be seen that neither topping cotton or new land is proof against this destructive insect.

The Cotton Crop in Sumter Co., Alabama.—The Sumter Whig of the 20th says the Cotton crop of that county cannot be a full one, though there is no doubt of its being a much better one than that of last year.

The Crops in Marengo county, Alabama.—The Linden Free Press of the 20th says: The Cotton crop of Marengo county this year, it is supposed by many planters, will be near an average one, but the Corn crop will fall far short of that mark.

The Alabama Argus of the same date says:

"Since our last notice the weather has been rather unfavorable for Corn, but very favorable for Cotton. Cotton stalks appear very full of blooms and bolls, but the stalks are much smaller than usual. The difference in the height of the weed and length of the limb will of course make quite a difference in the result of the crop. A few bales of new cotton have been brought to our Warehouses. The first bale brought to town last season arrived on the 2d of August—the first this season on the 13th."

From the Greensboro' (Ala.) Beacon, 25th inst.

The Weather and the Crops.—We have had another week of most oppressively warm and dry weather—though several light showers have fallen in the vicinity. Except on the rich black and bottom lands, the Cotton has been suffering greatly for the last three weeks. Several sandy land planters have assured us this week, that the crops in their neighborhood are not likely to turn out better than last year. Picking commenced pretty generally on Monday last.

The Washington Press.—The Mobile Herald thus speaks of the papers at the Capital:

The "Southern Press" at Washington, announces that its subscription list has reached six thousand and is rapidly increasing daily.

We are glad to hear it. It has already done inestimable service to the South, and we trust may entirely supersede in these regions, the miserable and prostituted presses which exist now at Washington. All those presses reap their profits from the plunder which they derive from the public treasury by the success of their party. With such a constant temptation to sacrifice truth to policy, it no wonder that they are degraded and dishonest. They are a national nuisance.

We have considered the National Intelligencer the model of a party paper, firm and decided in the expression of its opinions, but free from personalities and intolerance. The violent language of the Republic and the Union does not suit our taste. But certainly they are no worse, the more's the pity, than the majority of the party press through the Union. As to the Southern Press that is certainly no exception.

The Selkirk Caravan.—Mr. Ross, a trader from the Selkirk settlement, 600 miles north of St. Paul, whose teams helped to compose the train that has recently arrived from the Red River of the North, called on us last week and gave the following details of their journey:

He is a native of the Columbia river country, a half-breed, and a man of vigorous frame, good intellect, fair education, and gentlemanly address. He and his companions have come all the way to Sauk Rapids, 100 miles above St. Paul, with 176 carts.

The carts are most of them drawn by a single ox, harnessed into the thills as we harness a horse. Some of the carts are drawn by small-sized horses. They were some fifty days on the way; had a most wearisome journey, on account of the floods. The Red River valley is so deluged that the inhabitants have all escaped to the highlands.

The company had to cross forty streams, and frequently by means of pontoons got up on the occasion. The pontoons are made of one or two buffalo robes, distended by sticks and boughs. The empty carts are dragged after by ropes, and the cattle buffet the stream in swimming. The men sleep under their carts by night. Their food on the way is pemmican, (dried and pulverized buffalo beef,) flour, tea, coffee and sugar. Their freights are principally buffalo robes, moccasins, and dressed skin coats. A large number of these equipages will come as far as St. Paul. One division of the line passed down Third street on Thursday.

Mr. Ross says that they prefer this market before the Hudson's Bay Co., because they get a better price here for their wares. Probably they get goods for less here, but they are wary when driving a bargain, of making too hard admission, for they use the tactics of Irish customers in the fair, who say to the seller they can buy cheaper elsewhere.

The Selkirkers, simple hearted as they are, are smart at a bargain. Whatever may be the truth of their representations as to the comparative prices of goods at Hudson Bay and St. Paul, there is this fact in the case, their trade on the Mississippi increases every year, and they will transport from St. Paul on this occasion, all the goods their means will afford.

Mr. Ross says that Selkirk, and the region within twenty miles, has six Protestant churches, two Catholic, and one nunnery. It has good schools too. The church bell which was carried up through St. Paul, one year ago, for Pembina, the upper U. S. settlement, got stuck in the mud on the way: and it is doubtful whether it will ever get there to peal in those far-off realms, whose rocks and valleys, "the sound of the church-going bell never heard."—*Minnesota Pioneer*, 1st.

Passengers.—Below is a list of passengers by the steamship Falcon, Lieut. Hartstene, U. S. N., Commander, which left yesterday morning at 8 o'clock, via Havana and Chagres:

For New York.—Mr. Jourdan and two sons, Dr. M. F. Bouzano, M'me L. F. Repouty, Mr. L. F Repouty, Mr. Rathbone and family, F. Castro and neice, Peter Cottle, H. M. Claude, James Liner, M. Geblin, Mary Young.

For Havana.—J. Albess, Jose Fort, Juan Guardiola, Jose Fernandez, Jose Warlong.

For Chagres.—Mrs J. Flasman, Wm. H. Archer, Thos. J. Howard, Thos. McAllister, R. S. Worten, H. Montgomery, J. Birge, Mr. Gonzon, Mr. Coulton, Putt O. Toole, J. Sunney, J. G. Stevenson, R. Dwson, F. Baller.

The citizens of Gallatin, Tenn., have completed a beautiful and appropriate monument in the cemetery of that village, in honor of the volunteers from Sumner country who fell during the Mexican war.

Mr. E. W. Whelan, late principal of the Tennessee Institute for the blind, in the city of Nashville, has resigned his place in that institution. It is Mr. Whelan's purpose to establish another institution, perhaps in St. Louis, for the education of this most afflicted and unfortunate class.

Richard Jones was convicted of having murdered Watchman Hibbler in St. Louis on the 19th. The punishment is death.

The village of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, has a population of 1400.

The Aleck Scott.—We are indebted to the splendid steamer Aleck Scott, for late St. Louis papers. Speaking of the Aleck Scott it gives us pleasure to copy the following from the St. Louis Republican of the 20th:

"Few boats have done a better business than this favorite craft. Between the 21st of March, 1848, and the 8th of June, 1850, a period of two years two months and nineteen days, she has made *thirty-six* trips down to, and the same number of trips up from New Orleans. In her thirty-six trips down, she carried down 34,004½ tons of freight, and brought up 16,875¼ tons, making a total of 50,880 tons. This was exclusive of her passengers, their baggage, etc., etc. The average of her freights on her down trips is a fraction over 944 tons, and her up trips a fraction over 468 tons. These facts show the immense business done by some of the large class of the New Orleans boats."

Henshaw House at Bayou Sara, is kept by the well known Major Kelly, and is one of the very best country houses in the State. Every body in NewOrleans knows the Major; and of course all who visit the village of Bayou Sara will be sure to stop with him.

Races to-day.—We refer those concerned to the advertisement of Mr. C. S. Ellis in another column. We see by the Mobile papers of the 24th, that Mr. Ellis' splendid trotter, *Boston*, won a handsome purse over the Mobile Course on Thursday last. Speaking of Ellis himself the Advertiser says: "Whoever he goes sport follows, and we hope the time is not distant when we shall again see his smiling face in Mobile. He is one of the coolest, calculating men that ever stretched a rein over a horse; no misfortune dampens or success elates him. He is as smooth and even-going as his gallant old Boston."

Louisiana Law Books.—By the advertising columns it will be seen that Steel is going largely into the law trade. He offers the Reports and Digests of this State at reduced prices.

Correspondence of the Crescent.

"Spiritual Rappings" on the Coast—Preliminary Whig Meetings in Ascension and Assumption—Messrs. Soulé and Downs—Mississippi and Attakapas Railroad—Whig District Convention.

DONALDSONVILLE, August 26, 1850.

Dear Crescent—Rochester, Stratford, and other Northern towns have, within the past year, been visited by "spiritual rappings," but let not those places flatter themselves that they alone have communication with the spirit world. For Donaldsonville, too, can now boast of mysterious spirits in its midst. For some time past, between 8 and 9 o'clock in the evening, to the great terror of the inhabitants of Opelousas and St. Patrick streets, have certain mysterious lights appeared in our grave-yard, for which, as yet, no satisfactory solution has been given. "Now, there is nothing strange," you will say, "in the appearance of lights in such places, for we are all familiar with *ignis fatuii*." But the mystery lies here, that these lights always appear to be confined to the same spot of ground—a range of twenty feet of ground, on which is built an splendid mausoleum of a wealthy family of this parish, the head of which and its two children are its only tenants. This large marble tomb is surrounded by iron railing, at each corner of which is a lamp post on which is a glass lantern. Now, these lights, or rather this light (for there does not seem to have arisen more than one at a time) seems to make its appearance always in one of these lanterns—at first but a mere speck, but gradually increasing in size until it has outgrown and entirely illuminated the lantern, when it again gradually disappears; and thus appearing at different times in the different lanterns. Hundreds of persons now of an evening congregate at a *respectful distance* to witness this strange phenomenon. And strange indeed are the different accounts given by the witnesses, varying with the different degrees of their imagination and superstition. I shall leave it to the wise ones of your *sanctum* to solve the mystery, and, as attendant, I shall this evening pay a visit to the "City of the Dead."

Yesterday there was held, in the Court-house, in this place, a whig meeting, for the purpose of appointing delegates to the coming Convention, which is to assemble to make choice of a candidate for the office made vacant by the promotion of Charles M. Conrad to the post of Secretary of War. The whigs of the district were invited to meet in this place on Thursday, the 5th September next, to hold the Convention. Very strong resolutions were adopted condemnatory of the course of Hon. Pierre Soulé in the U. S. Senate on the "Compromise bill," and laudatory of the course of Hon. Solomon W. Downs.

A live meeting for the appointment of delegates was held in the parish of Assumption, on Saturday, at which likewise several resolutions were passed, touching the course of Mr. Soulé. These testimonials but show with what deep regret the defeat of the Compromise is met through our section of of the State.

The all absorbing topics of interest now in our village, are the building of a permanent wharf—the contract for which has been taken by a gentleman from your city, who has had a good deal of experience in constructions of that kind—and the project of "Mississippi and Attakapas Railroad," which has for its object to connect the town of Franklin with the Mississippi river. This is an improvement which has long been needed by the planters of the Attakapas and of the interior; and will prove a most profitable investment to capitalists. Several routes have been proposed, but, as yet, by far the most practicable and most economical one, is the one which is proposed to start from the Mississippi river about a quarter of a mile above Donaldsonville, running directly back of the plantations on the Bayou Lafourche about three miles, then taking a Westerly course three miles and a half, and thence South three miles to the Grand Bayou, making nine miles and a half; which, when completed, could ce put into immediate operation. Until the completion of the balance of the road to Franklin, the planters of the Western parishes—who are to be benefitted by this road—may have their transportations made through the Grand Bayou, which is navagable the whole year round for boats of a moderate tonnage. The great advantage of this route, is that it runs on an elevated soil and through a populous and rich country; and at the same time a shorter distance than the route proposed to come out at Bayou Gauche—much of which route is through a swampy region.

"Old Sol," not the knight of the sock and buskin, but his great brother luminary, has been for a week past most profuse of his blessings—the weather is the warmest within the memory of that venerable individual, "the oldest inhabitant."

The Sugar crop in this neighborhood is looking quite well, and I think that our planters will reap a rich harvest this year.

YOURS, etc., BAPTISTE.

Mobile Bay—Daphne House—Its Inducements.

NEW ORLEANS, 28th August, 1850.

Edr. Crescent—Have you ever been at Daphne House, Mobile Bay? If you have not, I would advise you to take a trip in that direction as soon as possible. I have just returned from spending a few weeks at the place, and regret that business imperatively compelled me to return to the city sooner than I anticipated. For the last seven years I have spent a portion of every season at bathing quarters at different places across the Lake, but at no place have I spent my time more agreeably and comfortably than at Daphne House. The location, the company, quite select—and the obliging dispositions of the worthy host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. Howard, were such as to please, and make a favorable and lasting impression. Daphne House, is a most pleasant retreat, is worthy of selection: There is the mineral water, a compound of iron, and sulphur and magnesia; there is the shower bath, the temperature of which is 70 degrees, and there is the fine bay bathing to boot, not to say a word about the pleasant company to be met with there, all inducements sufficiently strong to recommend it as a most desirable place to spend a few weeks. I was glad to find your paper at the Bay, which was read equally by all who could get their hands on it. *Very respectfully*, H.

Six Men Drowned.—The following particulars of a melancholy event at Pensacola are from the Mobile Advertiser of Tuesday:

"A storm of great violence was experienced at Pensacola and the Navy-Yard on Friday, which, it is supposed, must have extended its destructive influence for some distance out on the Gulf. The waves ran higher—breaking on the bar and beach as high as forty feet—than they have done for years.

"While this storm was raging, a schooner to the West of the Round Fort was observed to be dragging her anchors, and likely to go ashore. Seeing her danger, Passed Midshipman Dyer, of the U. S. schooner Flirt, Mr. Hale, Engineer at the Navy Yard, and four seamen, jumped into a boat and attempted to go to the rescue. After getting outside the bar, they pulled towards the schooner, but, as was supposed by those watching them, finding the waves running high, and their situation becoming critical, they made an effort to return. It was too late. After making every exertion in their power for an hour, they were driven among the breakers, where the hand of man could not save them from a watery grave. Parties were out on Sunday, but neither the bodies nor the wreck of the boat had been found when the Swan left the Navy-Yard on Sunday evening.

"It was the swell left by this terrible storm which the Swan met on Saturday night on her passage, but she rode it with ease and safety. Several vessels were known to have been wrecked, but we did not hear of any further loss of life."

The Electric Telegraph across the English Channel.—The Paris correspondent of the National Intelligencer, in his letter of the 1st inst. says: The wires of the electric telegraph were at last laid *across the Channel connecting France with the Continent*, from Shakspeare's Cliff, one mile S. W. of Dover, to Cape Grinez, about twelve miles S. W. of Calais. The distance between the points is eighteen miles; but the wires are twenty-three miles long, to allow for the inequalities of the bottom upon which they lie. The first experiments made with the apparatus long used between New York and Philadelphia have completely succeeded, and the line will soon be opeard to public use; a strictly limited use, however, and of which the