The Daily Crescent.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL
Of the Council of the Second Municipality.

NEW ORLEANS:
SATURDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 9, 1850.

To Our Advertising Patrons.

☞ Our advertising friends are earnestly requested to send in all advertisements intended for Monday morning' paper, as far as practicable, during Saturday; and the earlier in the day the better it will suit our convenience.

See advertisements of Auction Sales on first page.

See first and fourth pages for a variety of interesting matter.

"My Lord, the Players have Come."—Theatrical people are now arriving by the score, and soon the theatres will be in full blast. We last evening had the pleasure of looking upon the honest countenance of our friend McKean, who was attached to Placide's company last season. Mc. is deservedly popular, as he is exceedingly clever in every thing he undertakes. He is engaged at the American, and we feel assured that he will not only preserve the friends he already has, but make many more during the coming season.

Tulips, Hyacinths, etc.—Mr. F. D. Gay, at his seed store in Crossman street, near the Levee, has a most superb and varied assortment of the above, as well as many other rare and beautiful plants, which he is offering at most reasonable rates.

We are indebted to the steamers Cuba, Fanny Smith and James L. Day for late papers.

New York Elections.—A telegraphic dispatch published in yesterday's evening Picayune, dated Baltimore, 7th instant, states that the returns from the State of New York elect Seymour, the democratic candidate for Governor, by 2000 majority. To Congress, so far, (says the dispatch,) seventeen whigs and sixteen democrats have been elected—one remains to be heard from. The Legislature is largely whig.

Boliva Survey.—The towboat Persian returned at a late hour last night, having on board Mr. Ricker, of the Senate Committee on Levees, and C. G. Forshey, John Hampson, Thos. LaFarelle, and A. S. Phelps, civil engineers, all in good health and spirits.

We learn that the expedition and survey have been eminently successful, in the collection of facts, and the measurements of depths, and capacities, levels and velocities of currents, in all the many passes and mouths of the rivers.

We expect to have an abstract of results for our Monday's paper.

The Cabmen's Association.—By reference to a notice in another column, it will be seen that the cabmen, hackmen, etc., will hold a meeting on Tuesday evening next, with a view to the forming of an association for the purpose of adopting rules and regulations for the future government of all who are engaged in that business. This is an excellent movement. We have long thought that an association of this class of persons not only highly important but necessary. If they will bind themselves together by judicious article of association; adopt stringent rules for their own government, and for the reformation of the abuses practiced by some of themselves, which have greatly tended to bring them as a class into discredit, they will succeed in redressing many of the grievances which they have long suffered, and greatly advance their own interests, while contributing to the public good. We most heartily approve of this movement, and hope that it will be attended with complete success. The meeting on Tuesday evening will be held on the corner of Poydras and Circus streets. The public generally are invited to be present.

On reference to the auction sales of J. A. Beard, to be made this day at Banks Arcade, will be found several desirable properties, improved and vacant, which we are requested to say will be sold without reserve. It is generally understood, when the Major says "unreserved," it must go.

☞ We are requested to call the attention of buyers to Vincent & Co.'s catalogue sale, consisting of upwards of two hundred lots of most desirable styles of dry goods. Sale to commence at 10 o'clock this day, at 41 Bienville street.

The New Steamboat Cuba.—Yesterday morning we were notified of the arrival at our wharves of this new and elegant steamer, by the receipt of late Louisville papers from her polite and gentlemanly Clerk. Her fame had preceded her, and last evening we made a call on board to pay our respects to her officers, and to see what inducements she held out for another *Cuba* expedition. She is a perfect model of steamboat architecture, and it is believed combines the ability to carry, with great speed, in a higher degree, than any boat of her class now afloat. She has four boilers, and two splendid new engines of unusual power for a boat of her class. Her Doctor, in addition to the usual pumps for supplying the boilers, has a force-pump, with hose attached, to throw water in large quantities into the hold, or to any part of the boat, which adds greatly to her safety. If she should take fire in any part, it can by this means be extinguished in a few moments. Her state-rooms are large and commodious, and all of them, in both cabins, are supplied with the very best quality of spring mattresses. In short, her whole finish is in the most exquisite good taste, and her accommodations for passengers unsurpassed. Her intelligent and skillful commander, Capt. Otis, we understand, is one of those extraordinary men who, by the force of his genius, the energy of his character, and the excellence of his habits, has won his way from the ranks to the head of his profession. So those who wish to make a visit to "Cuba," or rather to take a trip on *the* Cuba, may feel assured of being in safe hands. She was built for the Columbus and Mobile trade, but the Tombigbee being too low at present to admit her, she is to take the place of the Emperor in the Vicksburg trade for the present. We wish her the success her enterprising owners and officers so richly deserve. The Emperor, we may add, goes back into her old trade in the Alabama River. This we are sure will be gratifying to the traveling public in that quarter. We should regret it much more if her place were not so well supplied by the Cuba.

Magnificent Bowling Saloon.—Mr. Chandler, of the Phœnix House, re-opens this evening at 7 o'clock, the Bowling Saloon connected with that elegant and fashionable establishment. During the past summer it has been extensively repaired, without regard to expense, and is now excellent taste. The saloon is 100 feet in length, and 26 in width. The alleys, of which there are six in number, are 90 feet in length. The entire room will be brilliantly lighted by gas. We have seen many bowling saloons in this and other cities, but in all its appointment and entire arrangement, we have never seen one to equal this. It far surpasses the poor description we have given of it, and is, in fact, nothing less than magnificent. We repeat that it is to be thrown open to the public this evening, at 7 o'clock.

Armory Hall.—Last night, to-morrow, this hall was well patronized. Prosper the Great was *great*, indeed. His performances were wonderful, and gave great satisfaction. The Fakir was attractive as usual. He gives his last exhibition to-this city this evening. Let all who have a taste for wonders, magic and mystery, attend.

The McDonogh Will.—A telegraphic dispatch communicates the intelligence that the Hon. Reverdy Johnson left Baltimore on the 6th, for this city, to contest the validity of the McDonogh Will. We presume he will represent the Baltimore claimants to heirship. Aside from the professional engagement which brings him to New Orleans, Reverdy Johnson will be greeted here with such a welcome as is due to one of the greatest lawyers and soundest thinkers in the nation.

Death of Col. Thomas R. Patton.—We have received intelligence of the death of Col. Thomas R. Patton, of Madison Parish. He formerly represented that and Carroll Parish in the Senate of the State Legislature. He was a whig, and, with his party, was greatly admired for the honesty of his political sentiments and the ability with which he maintained them. He was a Mason of high position; and a man esteemed wherever known, for his amiability, hospitality, and devoted friendships. Society loses much in losing such a man.

The steamship Alabama, Capt. R. W. Foster, left for Chagres yesterday at 4 p. m., with the following passengers:

S Switzer, H E Gleason, Mrs Vancourt and two children, F M Rinehart, lady and child, I Dutenhach, A Hedrick, L Blum, L Cooper, S White, John Foreman, Wm Hodges, R Grebble, T Sullivan, A Abernathy, W W Riddle, John Hitchcock, John Robinson, Jesse Lewis, H Clarkson, lady and five children, Capt H E Gee and three servants, P D Cunningham, Capt H B Hunt, W W Hughes, N Douglass, C Douglass, J Bass, J Farrel, John Pouipert, Mrs Kelly, W Maurice, E Bull, C Bull, P Longworth, Mrs Hall and son.

The Canadian sympathizers with our abolitionists, have become alarmed at the rapid increase of the colored population, caused by their non-enforcement of efforts of prevention to all who might escape to that Province. Some of the newspapers are calling on the Legislature to take such action as will put a stop to it. They should have thought of this before.

Third District...Candidates for Congress.

The election for a member of Congress from the Third Congressional District is to take place on the 30th instant, and we perceive that there is quite a large number of gentlemen in the District who are willing to serve their country in that very arduous and responsible position. The democrats of the District have three candidates in the field, and, we presume, will hold a convention to nominate one of them. James M. Brown, of Iberville, Capt. Wm. Robinson, of West Baton Rouge, and Col. Marks, of Bayou Sara, all sterling democrats, have been announced. We have but little personal knowledge of their claims or pretensions, but it is said that Mr. Brown is the most likely to be nominated. He was a candidate for member to the Convention to revise the Constitution of this State for the Parish of Iberville, and was only beaten by one vote. He is said to be a man of talent, and a favorite with his party. He is a large sugar-planter and slave owner, and, if he is a good Union man, might exercise a very wholesome influence in Congress on the slavery question, should it be revived. Though a modest and unassuming man, he has, heretofore, been frequently spoken of for Congress. We should presume, however, with all his advantages, he will have something to gain before his popularity will be equal to that of Mr. Harmanson.

The whigs, we believe, have also several prominent gentlemen before the public eye for this important contest. Christopher Adams, Jr., T. B. Thorpe, and Mr. Waterston, have been spoken of in highly favorable terms, but we learned yesterday from several gentlemen who reside in that District, that in consideration of the capital run made by Col. R. A. Stewart against Mr. Harmanson, at the last election, the field by common consent will be yielded to him if he will accept the nomination. We presume under such circumstances he will not feel himself at liberty to decline.

We have known Col. Stewart intimately for more than twenty-five years, and we have always found him an honest, frank and sincere man, of great force and energy of character, ardent in his temperament, and as devoted in his friendships as he is bold and open as an enemy. His worst defect is that he sometimes acts too much from impulse, and subjects himself to the imputation of rashness. He has many good points as a politician. All his instincts and sympathies are with the great body of the people; and though he is identified with the whig party, he is, as they all claim him to be, a sure and unadulterated democrat, according to the true signification of the term. He is a Union man of the deepest dye, though personally interested in preserving the rights of the South to a very large extent.

Col. Stewart was the originator, we believe, of the proposition to apply to the General Government for a recession to this State, of all the public lands within her limits, which have been offered for sale for ten years. Gen. Downs introduced this measure, embracing, substantially, all the provisions of the plan first presented by Col. Stewart, and succeeded in getting it passed through the Senate. If Col. Stewart, the originator of the plan, had been in the House of Representatives, to have co-operated with Mr. Downs, with all his energy and force of character, the measure might have been carried through. Mr. Harmanson was in feeble health, and consequently, unable to do much. This measure ought to pass, and we believe, with proper exertions, it will pass at the next session Congress, at the last session, appropriated 22,000,000 of acres of the public domain to aid in the construction of public works in other States and sections. Louisiana needs assistance more than any State in the Union, in the construction of those improvements necessary to protect her citizens from ruin.

Col. Stewart, we remember, was one of the first men who came out decidedly and boldly in the state of Mississippi, in favor of an elective judiciary, and was elected to the convention if that State to revise the constitution, on that issue. As old party lines are now almost entirely obliterated, and the only question of any importance now agitating the public mind is that of union or disunion, upon which he is sound to the core, we should rejoice, for old acquaintance sake, to see the Colonel sent to Congress.

Cotton Crop.

The very positive accounts which have reached us from the most undoubted sources, of the great injury to the crop by the frosts of the 25th, 26th and 27th October, place beyond all question the fact of a very short yield; and we are more decidedly confirmed in our views which have from time to time been presented to our readers, in the articles under the above head.

Scarcely a letter comes from any part of the Cotton region, sending to this place, that is not to the same effect as the following extracts:

"NATCHEZ, Nov. 6.

"Our Cotton crop is likely to be even shorter than I expected; for the accounts are more unfavorable every day. The season is nearly closed—the 1st December is fixed upon by the prudent much, with nine out of ten planters—and many will finish in ten days or two weeks. The frost of 25th was a death blow to all hopes of a crop over the past one."

Another letter states:

"The bolls are very light this season, and will continue to be so if the dry weather continues; for it is found, owing to the uncommon elasticity of the Cotton, that it is difficult to make a bale weigh over 400 lbs., and a great number will weigh less."

Those who have read our earlier articles, particularly of Sept. 6 and 14, will recollect how strong and decided was our belief that "we were entering on the shortest picking season" that had ever before occurred. The correspondence of every packet and mail fully confirms the accuracy of that belief; and the very early cessation of picking, must convince the most skeptical that none other than a very short crop can be made. Still, there being no object to lessen our estimate of about 2,050,000 bales, we adhere to those figures, though in our candid belief the chances are that this is an extreme estimate.

We are most happy in being able to confirm what we stated in our article of Saturday last, in regard to our domestic demand for Cotton. The New York "Dry Goods Report" of 30th October, exhibits a decided advance in all American Cotton fabrics, with extensive operations in the lower kinds; indeed, brown and bleached shirtings and sheetings, osnaburgs, drills, and prints, seem to have suddenly come into active favor, and a most marked and beneficial change appears to have taken place in the Northern manufacturing Cotton trade.

In regard to the extent of the crop, we may add that the yield is so evidently short in the Atlantic States, that the last Charleston Prices Current and Commercial Report states that two millions and under have become quite a general estimate.

The Weather, the Crops, etc.

The Weather.—Since our last issue, the weather has been quite cool, and bracing to the nerves of all classes. On Thursday last, the horizon was filled with angry and threatening clouds, and we began to flatter ourselves that the prospect for a refreshing shower, which is very much needed at this present time, was quite cheering; but we were doomed to a sad disappointment. The clouds passed over, the wind shifted around North, and the next day found the good citizens of this place snugly apparelled in winter habiliments. Since then, we have had several successive frosts. [Alexandria (La.) Democrat, Oct. 30.

Sugar Crop.—From the present yield of the cane we believe we can safely say that the Sugar crop of this Parish will not be much over a half of that usually made, in consequence of the long continued drouth. As to its quality, we cannot say a word, not having been favored with any samples from those who have commenced grinding. [Ibid.

On Friday night last, a killing frost—the first of the season—withered and blackened the leaves and gave us a foretaste of a winter. The season has been very favorable for picking Cotton, and the planters generally speak much more hopefully of their prospects than a few weeks since. [Farmerville (La.) Enquirer, Nov. 1.

From Buenos Ayres.—The bark Millary has arrived at Boston with dates from Buenos Ayres to the 3d September. The French steamer Falmouth had arrived, with Admiral Fredour on board, commander-in-chief of the French naval forces, in place of the actual Minister Plenipotentiary of the French Republic. After a salute from the Falmouth, which was returned by the vessels in port, the Admiral was received by the high functionaries, and a cordial meeting ensued. We also learn by this arrival that complimentary notes had been exchanged between the British Ambassador and the Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

Senator Downs and the Committee of Seventy-Eight.—At a late hour last night we were put in possession of the correspondence which will be found in another column. The reply of Mr. Downs is, as was expected by all who know him, frank, without equivocation, and directly to the point. How striking the contrast between his course and that of his colleague.

The Merchants' Exchange Reading-Room.—There is, probably, no other city in the United States that can boast of a reading-room at once so liberally supplied with newspapers and periodicals, so admirably arranged, and so well conducted as that in the Merchants' Exchange of our own city. New Orleans people are so familiar with it that none think of praising it, and few really appreciate its advantages until a visit to other places forces a comparison upon them. Our citizens, and especially the commercial portion of them, owe much to Mr. George B. Young, the able superintendent of the establishment, for the judgement and care which he has exercised in its arrangement and conduct.

It is proposed, we understand, by a number of our merchants, to meet at the reading-room, as was formerly the custom, on Change, every evening, making the hour of meeting, however, six o'clock, instead of eight, according to the old system. We would recommend that all the business men of the city join in the measure, and give us once more, what every other city has, a regular "High 'Change."

The Cotton Sugar Crop.—We learn from an intelligent friend, that there is a prospect of a fair crop of sugar on the coast. The cane is good, and has not, as reported, been injured by the frost. That, however, which has been cut is very dry, and many cylinders have been broken in the attempt to grind it. There is great scarcity of water; and, until supplied by rain, many planters will be compelled to postpone grinding. The hauling of water from the river, has, in many cases, been rendered impossible or dangerous, from the constant caving in of the banks.

In connection with the above, we learn with regret, that the break at Plaquemine is continuing to enlarge. A considerable portion of the town, embracing a number of the business houses in it, have already been taken off, while for the remaining portion there is no satisfactory security. This is, indeed, a calamity.

Another Obstacle to Permanent Settlers.

In our former article I, in my homely way, pointed out some of the obstacles to permanent settlers here. Permit me to point out a few more, subject to your own revision.

Another obstacle is the *Landlord's Law*; for it is no landlord and tenant's law. By this, if the head of a family be taken sick, he disappointed by his employer, or by any other cause is unable, for a single day, to pay a few dollars rent, the landlord may seize upon every article in the house, although of value ten times the amount of rent due. His whole effects are rudely torn away, carelessly injured or damaged, and his family turned into the street without an hour's notice or any reserve. A few hours after he gets his money and goes to pay his rent and get his goods, he finds he has most exorbitant costs to pay, and finds his property damaged beyond the amount of rent, by hasty and careless removal. Yet he has no redress against officer or landlord.

Few men feel willing to subject themselves to such a contingency, unless necessity compels or ample funds gives them assurance of success.

That law is a blot upon our statutes, and should be changed, for the benefit of both landlord and tenant.

Another: Most of the Northern cities find their interest in fostering the mechanical and manufacturing classes, as they are more stable and less affected by fluctuations in the market and foreign markets, than the mercantile population. The city is considered so strictly commercial, that most of our laws, State and Municipal, are arranged for their special interest; and that, frequently, to the great injury of the mechanical and manufacturing portion. In the North, if the head of a poor family be out of employ or sick, the wife or children may, for ten or twenty dollars, open a little shop, and are maintained by their neighbors and friends, and thus obtain support until the trouble is over, without appealing to charity. There is no license and no tax until the income amounts to a considerable sum.

Here, if from a like cause, with the same capital, the family open a little shop to relieve their necessities, they are in a few days required to pay a city license of $10, city tax, $5, and a State tax of $10 more; amounting to $25—when their whole capital is only $40 or $45. And they are bullied until they have to shut up shop, and lose their stock, which they have at home, and the sick are removed to the Charity Hospital; while the rest of the family may beg, starve or be forced into immoral and illicit means of getting subsistence in such way as they can. Such cases do occur in this city almost daily.

That law is wrong, and should be repealed, and a small per centage on income, with a bill to be payable before voting, substituted, would yield the city more funds, and be less felt by the really poor. All laws must be something of a burthen to some part of the community; and every man is expected to yield some of his natural rights for the benefits he derives from the society in which he lives. But here many of our laws are promulgated without being enforced. The law abolishes penalties; it bears most oppressively on complaint, while those most obnoxious, and against whom the law was specially directed, are suffered to violate it with impunity, and the nuisance against which the law was directed still remains. For instance, the ordinances against balls and disorderly houses, contains clauses affecting many of our citizens, who still live in it. Yet balls, bawdy houses, noise and disorder are daily and nightly occurrences on Gaind street, and some other parts of the city. The license for retailing liquors keeps hard upon the honest dealers, yet hundreds upon the above and other streets sell without it, and create more misery, licentiousness and disorder, than those who pay the license and obey the law. Yet the law is seldom enforced.

Well-meaning persons, wishing to settle here, find it difficult to know what laws to obey among the multiplied and vague and ordinances piled upon each other undigested, obeyed by some and transgressed by others. It would require a long course of legal reading for a new-comer to steer clear of them, however well disposed he may be. There is scarcely a man among the best of our old citizens but may be brought before the Recorder and mulcted in a fine upon some of the many obsolete acts of our laws.

We need a good digest of our municipal laws, and strict obedience enforced. A habit of neglecting the laws begets a want of respect for our codes. A law that is not obeyed or enforced, is better repealed. YOUNG. HARCHWAY.

Mr. Clay in his own State.—At a large Union meeting of the citizens of Kentucky at Lexington on the 17th October, at which Mr. Clay was present, several able and patriotic resolutions were adopted. The eighth was as follows:

"*Henry Clay.*—Kentucky, with one heart and one voice, places Henry Clay where, during the late session of Congress, he had placed himself, *high above the platform of party*, and on this lofty eminence she proudly presents him for the admiration of the present and coming ages. This priceless honor is the gift, not of party, but of his country, for his spirit stirring eloquence, his lofty patriotism and courage in defence of our beloved Union, the last hope of freedom and of mankind. Nobly has he won the honor—long may he wear it."

This resolution was submitted with the following accompanying remarks by Maj. Breckenridge:

"The position of our distinguished guest during the recent troubles, was unanswerable to the tenor of his life. Born before the adoption of the Federal Constitution, he has been an actor in the principal events of our history. In the strife of contending interests, the existence of the confederacy has been more than once endangered. And such crises have disclosed the mighty difference between mere politicians and true Statesmen. At every period of danger or alarm, some have been found who would mount to fame on the confusions of their country; but, happily, others have been found who sought the nobler distinction of being its benefactors. Among the latter, history will record the name of Henry Clay. For surely if he possesses in an eminent degree, one claim to the gratitude of his country, it is a claim founded on his constant and diamitless devotion to the Union of the States. The love of that Union is deeply seated in the hearts of the people; they feel that he has, with a pure spirit labored to preserve it honorably, and hence they great him with a universal welcome.

"If any man shall ask, why, on this occasion, the barriers of party have been broken down, and the generous emotions of the people flow in an undivided current to a single person—the answer is, that a sentiment, more sacred than party, forms a bond of sympathy between the source and the object of these emotions, and that sentiment is the love of a common country.

"It may be affirmed, sir, with confidence that Kentucky considers her rights and honor secure under the late adjustment. As she would have resisted promptly a gross violation of the Federal compact—she exhibits her devotion to the Union, based on the Constitution. For him, who with his patriot compeers, secured the public safety, her prayers second, that Heaven will shed its richest blessings on his declining years, and that it may be his happy fortune to close his long and eventful life amidst the general applause of his countrymen."

Mr. Clay responded eloquently and patriotically. His remarks had not been, but were to be, published.

From the Plains.—Brevet Capt. M. Lovell's light battery arrived at Fort Leavenworth from the Plains on the 13th ult. The 7th Regiment of Infantry arrived on the 17th. Six companies left the same day for Jefferson Barracks, which have since arrived. Four mounted companies will be retained at Fort Leavenworth for further orders.

TORONTO, Oct. 29.

A heavy defalcation in the Indian Department is under investigation, the particulars of which have not transpired.

Wood & Co. have withdrawn their proposal for building the Toronto and Lake Huron Railroad.

Fugitive slaves continue to arrive from the United States.

A Regiment of United States Artillery in Florida will leave Fort Brooke on the 10th Nov. for New York.

To the Democratic Party of Louisiana.

In our address to you of the 31 November last, accompanying our letter to Mr. Soulé and his answer, we observed: "A similar letter has been sent to Mr. Downs. As soon as the reply of Mr. Downs reaches us it will be laid before you." We have this day received Mr. Down's reply, and we herewith present it to you:

To the Hon. Solomon W. Downs.

Dear Sir—Great excitement prevails at the South and at the North at the result of the recent legislation of Congress. This excitement has progressed so far in several of the Southern States, that a dissolution of the Union is openly advocated. The undersigned, a portion of your constituents, and members of the Democratic party, desire to know from you and your colleague in the Senate, Mr. Soulé, respectively, your views on this important subject. Permit us, therefore, in respect your reply to the following questions in a manner so distinct as to place beyond doubt or cavil the position you occupy. We will understand us, we trust, as making these inquiries of you in no spirit of unkindness, but with the single view to a fair and proper comprehension of your opinions, and in the exercise of what we regard as a right, which will be at once recognized and conceded by you:

Are you in favor of a dissolution of the Union, now or hereafter, because of the legislation at the late session of Congress.

Are you in favor of the establishment of a Southern Confederacy, now or hereafter, because of the legislation of the late session of Congress.

Are you in favor of a secession of the State of Louisiana from the Union, now or hereafter, because of the legislation of the late session of Congress?

J. C. LARUE, THOS. H. HOWARD,
John M. BELL, P. K. WARNER,
W. W. KING, M. M. REYNOLDS,
ROBT. MOTT, CHARLES S. REESE,
And others.

Reply of Senator Downs.

MONROE, LA., Nov. 2, 1850.

Gentlemen—I have this moment received your letter of the 28th ult., propounding to me the three following interrogatories:

"Are you in favor of a dissolution of the Union, now or hereafter, because of the legislation at the late session of Congress?

"Are you in favor of establishing a Southern Confederacy, now or hereafter, because of the legislation at the late session of Congress?

"Are you in favor of a secession of the State of Louisiana from the Union, now or hereafter, because of the legislation at the late session of Congress?"

And fully recognizing your right, as a portion of my constituents to do so, I answer, substantially, to each and all of them, decidedly "No."

My late Mobile letter, to which I refer you, contains my views on these points more at large.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,
S. W. DOWNS.

Messrs. P. K. WARNER, J. C. LARUE, M. M. Reynolds, J. M. Bell, W. W. King, and others.

We subjoin the letter to which Mr. Downs refers:

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29, 1850.

GENTLEMEN—I have just received your letter of the 23d inst., inviting me to a barbecue and shoulder party proposed to be given on the 5th of October next, by the citizens of Mobile without distinction of party, friendly to the adjustment first brought forward by the Committee of Thirteen of the Senate of the United States, "that in a social way they may meet together and congratulate each other on the cheering prospects of restoring harmony and good feeling through the broad extent of the nation, and, as far as possible, cement those kindly feelings so essential to the perpetuity of the Union," and regret that a previous arrangement to return home by another route, will prevent my being with you on that occasion. But I shall be with you in spirit and feeling, and heartily can gratulate you on the final success of the adjustment, which has, I hope and believe, given a new charter and guarantee of our glorious Union, and shown that if it is not perfect, it is as near it as any thing human, and under the protection and guidance of that kind Providence which has so often favored us in our greatest dangers, seems capable of showering its manifold blessings upon us forever.

That we have not gained all we claimed or were entitled to, is not a sufficient reason why we should war with our brethren of a sister section, upon the minor points of difference, or resolve to the flames, the honeycomb of our political fabric, because all the family do not precisely agree in opinion, always in the management of it. We do not believe the co-partnerships for every little dissatisfaction or discontent. Why should we then dissolve the Union on slight ground? We of the South have gained much by the adjustment. It was proved in the debates, and time will demonstrate it. We have lost nothing certainly of principle.

But if we had lost in fact, what is it? Is it sufficient to justify civil war? This is the issue now raised in some quarters. Is it being prevented from going with our slaves to California? We were prohibited, not by Congress, but by the people of the State, in the same way as we were previously prevented from going to fifteen other States. We were satisfied with fifteen free States, but the moment another comes in what we secede or fight? But California, it is said, is a large State. True, but she is not half as large as Texas, a slave State, brought into the Union five years ago. Our Northern brethren complained of that as we do of this, but they did not make war on us, nor ought we now to make war on them, nor will we. Why not secede or fight because Illinois and Indiana are free States, as well as because California is? There are much nearer, more important and valuable to us than California with all her gold; and yet we enter free States. But I will pursue the theme no further. It is too clear to leave a doubt, or make argument necessary.

I have the honor to remain, respectfully, your most obedient servant,
S. W. DOWNS.

To Hon. A. F. Hopkins, and others, committee.

Next Expedition to Liberia.—The Colonization Journal expresses the hope that the Liberia packet will return in time to sail on her ninth voyage by the middle of December. The prospects for emigrants are very favorable. Advices have been received of a few from Frederick co., Md., who have been making preparations for a move the past two years, one or two good families from the city, and quite a number from St. Mary's county. The Journal adds that it is desirable that early application be made for passage, as space not so desired will be filled with cargo.

The Fugitive Slave Law.—We not only stand by this law in its integrity, but we take ground against any alteration of it, unless the more effectually to carry out its provisions. To say that it shall be obeyed, and at the same time to denounce its main points, or to declare that they must be repealed or amended, is the course of many of those who profess to be alarmed at the movements of the ultra-Abolitionists, in regard to this very important law. *We are in favor of the law as it stands.* It may be defective as all laws may be; but we are opposed to its amendment, unless the more effectually to enforce that plain provision of the Constitution upon which it is based. We do not underestimate the clamor which has been raised against it, when we declare that we are not in the least alarmed by it. Such clamors have no terrors for us. We solemnly believe if this law had not been enacted in connection with the recent measures of Compromise, that the present agitation in the South would have toppled our proud Union into ruins. The law may be denounced as severe—in some of its provisions it is doubtless severe—but we would rather see that law carried out, in all its integrity, and in all its parts, than that a single feature of the Union should be mutilated. It has infused some life into the country. We do not care to the general, we care to the flames, the homesteads of our childhood