The Daily Crescent.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL
Of the Council of the Second Municipality.

NEW ORLEANS:

TUESDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 12, 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.

Union Meeting.—Invitation to Gen. Foote to visit New Orleans.—We are requested to state that there will be a meeting of the Union young men of this city, both native and adopted, without distinction of party, this evening, at seven o'clock, at Banks Arcade. One of the objects of the meeting, we understand, is to invite Senator Foote, of Mississippi, to visit NewOrleans *en route* for Washington. We heartily approve this movement. It will be a most gratifying spectacle to see the Chalmette Guards and the Fillmore Rangers meeting to do honor to Gen. Foote, for his gallant and noble stand in defence of the Union of these States. Let all who love the Union and the Constitution turn out!

We are compelled, for want of space this morning, to defer our notices of new books until to-morrow.

Medical Text-books.—We inadvertently omitted yesterday to direct the attention of students and others, as it was our purpose to do, to the advertisement, in its appropriate place, of J. B. Steel, No. 14, Camp street. He offers for sale, on excellent terms, a large assortment of Medical text-books. Steel, by the way, keeps a magnificent establishment; and strange to say offers his books *at publishers' prices!* This is a new feature to us in the book trade. I suppose it will pay the seller—he should know best: it is certainly highly advantageous to the public.

We accidentally omitted yesterday to acknowledge our obligations to the ever obliging officers of the steamboats Oregon, Alabamian, Aleck Scott, and Buena Vista, for favors in their respective lines.

American Theatre.—This evening will be performed the sterling Salonian drama of "The Daughter"—Widow Cheerly, Mlle. Marie Duret. After a variety of dances and other entertainments will conclude with the celebrated afterpiece of "The Married Rake," in which Mlle. Marie Duret will appear.

Corps of Players at the St. Charles Theatre.—We have been furnished with the following list of the dramatic company engaged at the St. Charles for the ensuing season:

Mrs. Parker, Gate Mrs. R. Russell, Mrs. W. G. Jones, Gate Mrs. Wakefield, Mrs. Chapman, Gate Miss Julia Drake; Mrs. Lanier, from the Baltimore; Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Mary Hill; Miss Kinz; Mrs. Anderson; Miss S. Bennett; Miss Ada Bennett; Mrs. Sloan; Misses Schoolcraft.... Mr. Walter M. Leman; Mr. J. M. Weston; Mr. W. G. Jones; Mr. Ben Debar; Mr. Henry Chapman; Mr. Wellesley Venoz; Mr. J. B. Fuller; Mr. C. Watson; Mr. M. Smith; Mr. T. Bishop, vocalist; Mr. Beverly; Mr. Welsh; Mr. S. B. Leaman; Mr. Hunter; Mr. Edwin; Mr. Canner; Mr. Golden; Mr. Emmet; Mr. Fredericks; Mr. Uhl; Mr. Barclay; Mr. Morand; Mr. Ludlow, and Mr. Sol Smith.... Stage Manager, Mr. DeBar; prompter, Mr. Hundyi; clerk and treasurer, Mr. C. Chesley; principal scenic artist, Mr. Laidlaw; leader of the orchestra, Mr. Waldauer; principal machinist, Mr. D. Ellsworth; costumer, Mr. Canter.

We learn with much satisfaction that Mrs. Farren, whose recent engagements in St. Louis, Philadelphia and Baltimore, and other cities, have been attended with such brilliant success, is engaged for a brief season at the St. Charles. Mrs. Farren's friends and admirers in New Orleans are legion. She may soon be expected to arrive. The St. Charles opens on Wednesday.

We invite the attention of our city readers to the advertisement of Henry Hamburger, Merchant Tailor, No. 164 Camp street, which will be found in another column. We had occasion, a few days since, to examine his stock of goods, and we can say with sincerity that we have seen nothing in his line to surpass it. Those who prefer having their clothing made to order, may rely upon Hamburger for a perfect fit, and for a careful and fair representation of the quality of the goods offered.

We are requested to call the attention of buyers to the sale, by catalogue, of extra fine French clocks and assortment, rich merino shawls, ginghams, and other styles of fresh imported dry goods; also, four cases warranted genuine Jean Maria Cologne Water. The whole just received direct from the manufactory, and to be sold this day, by Vincent & Co., at No. 6 Conti street, at ten o'clock, for cash.

Mud Islands at Mouth of the Mississippi.

NOVEMBER 4, 1850—8 P. M.

Messrs. Editors—This afternoon we spent a short time in the examination of one of the many "mud islands" that are appearing and disappearing about the mouths of the Passes of the Mississippi rives. Our survey brought us near to many of them, and the time spent on one, to which our attention had been directed by Capt. La F., who had previously examined it, was certainly well compensated, a compliment we cannot pay to the survey itself.

For the benefit of those who may never have read of or seen those *mud lumps*, or as some call them "mud blows," let me premise that they appear and disappear suddenly, as compared with the usual history of Island growth, even on the Mississippi river. For instance, one having about two hundred feet diameter, near the Island below described, has appeared within two years, risen to an elevation of six feet above the Gulf water, and is now flat beine removed by waves, weather and sinking. Others have much greater duration, and become permanent additions to the crescent banks along the Passes.

Arisean Isle, as we have named this, first made its appearance in 1842, and has partly well maintained its form and dimensions to the present time. It has a length of about 600 feet, a width of about 250 feet, and a present maximum height of 7 feet 4 inches.

Not far from its eastern end there is a salt spring, which forms the leading feature of the Island, and furnishes a tolerably clear solution.

As you approach it, a cone appears some two or three feet high, and of 50 feet base, from the summit of which you see bubblings, and on nearer view you find that a thin dark land colored mud or slime is being constantly discharged, with occasional emissions of gas, the mud running over sluggishly, and flowing down the sides of the cone, until the waters evaporate, and leave the mud to form permanent additions to the *growing* cone. This process continues in each case till the cone reaches an altitude of some seven feet above the water level, when the spring breaks out in some less elevated place, or ceases to run. The surface of the Island has evidences of many such tumuli having been formed upon it, yet the mass of the island has not thus been formed. On the contrary, the mud islands often show themselves first without springs, rising in a hemispherical form from the water, and the springs appear subsequently. In other cases, however, the springs are discharge into the Gulf water without ever producing an island, the mud, if any, is discharged, being carried away by waves and currents.

The water, when settled, is very strong salt water, without any foreign taste, and upon the drying mud and clay the whole island glistens with crystal salt. The mud forms a blue clay, which attains a great hardness on being dried and burnt, but retains its intense salt taste after being leached into solid brick. The sediment of the spring is almost destitute of sand, but it mixes with the deposits of the Mississippi, and alternates with its sands, forming a laminated clay, breaking as it does on the surface, into discoidal fragments, and crescent septaria of many curious forms.

On sounding the spring, which we did by constructing a bridge across it, the best mud is 25 feet, and slowly ceased to descend. Others have sounded with a larger lead to twenty-five fathoms. Below that depth either the mud thickens, or the direction of the channel changes, so that soundings are not practicable. In the case of 25 fathoms sounding, the lead could not be withdrawn, but adhered till its strong line parted.

Islands of this character seem to rise only about the Passes, or wherever there is a great amount of sedimentary matter deposited. In the shallow bays on either side of the river there are none visible. If any have heretofore formed, when their margins were in a position similar to the banks along the bars of the river, they have been worn down beneath the waters, or have sunk by their own specific gravity.

When any of these islands come to be supported by discharging springs, they soon disappear from these two causes.

The mud islands seem to have escaped the searching eye of Mr. Lyell; and the solution given by Dr. Drake of these wonders, is to me unsatisfactory. My own previous more cursory examination led me to the same conclusion with Lyell. I am satisfied now that the causes assigned by him are not adequate to the effects produced.

I offer a hypothesis, based on geological considerations, without attempting here to demonstrate its reasonableness.

Those who know the Geology of nearest uplands, north of the Gulf and west of the River, need not be told of the salt springs that abound in the tertiary beds, in Middle and Northern Louisiana. The beds from which they issue, dip southward and disappear beneath the diluvial and alluvial beds about latitude 31 deg. north.

Further South, throughout the States of Arkansas and Missouri, a saliferous group underlies the coal measures, and in many places the rupture of the superincumbent beds permits the salt water to escape, in springs, of greater or less force, as the neighboring uplands, or elevation of the group requires. Geologists are familiar with this phenomenon, and its explanation.

Suppose some of these beds, whether tertiary, secondary or transition, to underlie the portion of the delta, dipping southwardly from an elevation some feet above the Gulf, and that a rupture occurs about the present debouchure of the Mississippi river, permitting the waters to rise to siluvium and escape through it to the waters of the Gulf.

If this hypothesis be true, many of these jets, along the bars of the river, got covered and choked with the deposits of the river mud; and as this has great tenacity in its semi-dissolved condition, the dynamic force of the Artesian spring would elevate large masses of the mud to several feet elevation before it would just sufficiently to let the accumulating waters escape. It is probable, too, that many of these springs intermit, on principles well known; and if so, the liquid would gradually sink to the level of its base, even without the aid of the waves and currents, which form powerful auxiliaries. Where no deposits occur, of course the springs soon establish their channel of discharge into the Gulf; and when this happens near the surface, the springs are visible in the constant bubbling and in the distinct color of the water. I am confidently informed that some get up to the surface in four or five fathoms of water.

These islands lie bare for several years, until the rains wash out some of the salt, when no algæ and asters, and several grasses, make their appearance, clothing them with a rich covering of herbage.

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What do the Agitators Want?

The California bill, even if it were wrong, is now past repeal. California is now a State; and there is no ascertained legal process by which she can be expelled from the sisterhood. The Constitution gives Congress the power to admit new States, but prescribes no formula by which it must be done, except that they must be republican in their form of government. There is nowhere to be found, either expressed or implied, the power to revoke the admission of a State. If California wants slavery, she has the unquestioned power to adopt it. If she had it now, she has an equally unquestionable power to abolish it. Her course on this subject will scarcely receive direction from the caprice which governs Northern or Southern fanatics. Men everywhere consult their best interests, and there can be no doubt that, if slave labor can be made profitable in California or elsewhere, it will be put in requisition. The wildest fanatic reality abandons his scruples to the dictates of self-interest.

But granting that the admission of California was premature and illegal, the objection is heartless, and highly technical. Thousands of our citizens had gone thither; they were without government or laws; Congress had neglected them; they elected delegates to a convention; a majority of those delegates were *Southern* men; they, voluntarily, provided against slavery; the limits they proposed did not compare with those of Texas in size; there was 'not near the length of sea-board belonging to Florida; and yet, with such facts before them, these disturbers of our national fraternity complain of "fraud upon the South," "too large a State," "too much sea-board," and for such, and other wide-shooting notions, must kick up a fuss generally. We advise them to recur to the history, and their own advocacy, of the admission of other States.

The suppression of the slave trade in the District of Columbia is only such a municipal regulation as Mississippi, Kentucky, and other States have heretofore adopted. Mississippi had the provision in her constitution. Congress has exclusive jurisdiction over the District of Columbia. Unless we are greatly mistaken, the adoption of this measure will have a salutary effect. It is simply intended to suppress the *slave prisons* in and about Washington. Every man, who has visited Washington City, knows it to be a concentrating point for slave dealers, from Virginia and Maryland. Thousands of slaves are brought there in manacles and chains, and are put in these prisons, until sold; and are then, perhaps, carried away in irons. This has always excited Northern prejudice. They have consequently assailed and denounced the institution of slavery, and pointed to those scenes as true specimens of it as it exists in the Southern States. It is well to remove so exciting a cause of dissatisfaction and crimination.

The citizens of the District lose nothing by the law. It only reaches the traffickers. A citizen can take a slave into the District, for his own use, now, as well as he ever could.

We have now given a synopsis of the whole. It cannot act as "a dangerous precedent" of legislation; because it embraces *all* our territory. Of what, then, have we to complain? *What do the agitators want?*

We have already reviewed their position. When we take into consideration *the facts, that before* the last session of Congress convened *a constitution for a Southern confederacy was prepared* by those who have the will to shatter the Union any day in the vain hope that upon its ruins they may establish themselves in power; that a distinguished Senator, whose mantle Mr. Soulé fain would wear, proposed to Southern members to amend the Constitution of the United States, by providing for the election of two *Presidents—one North and one South—with the double veto power;* and that other and more startling *means*, not yet disclosed to the public, were discussed, in midnight caucus, for the evident object of disunion—when we consider these facts, we cannot well misconceive the motives and actions of the agitators.

What do they want? To use one of Mr. Soulé's finest expressions, we ask them to clear away "*every rubbish,*" and permit us to see what they are after. If they will not take the compromise, what will they have! They tell us themselves that they are imposed on, and that these impositions will continue to increase in number and magnitude. They tell us that Northern compromise men are hypocritical, and cannot be trusted. We would ask are their friends and coadjutors, *the abolitionists*, more to be trusted! If they tell us truth, had we not better cling to the compromise, as better than we could get, if it should be disturbed! The very admission that the North is faithless, proves that if we go further, we may fare worse. With such a belief, why will they co-operate with the abolitionists to undermine the only ground of our safety! They pretend to be the peculiar guardians of the South! They are sentinels over our household! Such sentinels! They cry out "robbers," and call us to the uncertain strife, while they throw open the gate to let the depredators in.

We proclaim them *disunionists*, madly ambitious of the distinction their own merits deny them of being called great and good, and wise. They say our rights are violated, and must be restored; which means that the compromise must be altered, or we will secede. In the next breath they say, the whole North are treacherous, and will deceive us, which means, that coming aggressions are to be greater than those we now have. Of course, then, they make it clear that, in either case, we must go out of the Union. The verdict is made up; give to Soulé, Quitman & Co. all their position calls for—concede all they say—and dissolution is inevitable.

If we have mistaken them, will they clear up "*every rubbish,*" and tell us *what they do want?*

Tribute of Respect to the Memory of the Late Hon. S. S. Prentiss.

At the opening of the U.S. District Court yesterday morning, being its first meeting since the adjournment in July last, the following highly interesting proceedings were had. Mr. Hunton, the District Attorney of the United States, rose and addressed the Court as follows:

May it please the Court—Since your adjournment in July, a distinguished member of the Bar has terminated his earthly career—has been summoned from this to a higher tribunal; and at a meeting of the members of the Bar of New Orleans, on the occasion of his death, resolutions were adopted expressing regret and sorrow for his loss, and admiration for him as a man and a lawyer.

I have been requested to present these resolutions, and to ask that they be inscribed on the records of the Court, which I now do.

It is not my purpose to pronounce a eulogy on Sargeant S. Prentiss; neither the time, nor the place, nor the occasion is, in my judgement, appropriate for such a proceeding; and I regret that expectations have been excited that such a purpose was entertained.

Under other circumstances, it would give me mournful pleasure to trace the brilliant career of that extraordinary man, from the time when he arrived in Mississippi, the poor, friendless, stranger boy, till the period of his death, to delineate his character—to tell how, at a single leap, he bounded from obscurity to renown, from the very foot to the topmost round of the Ladder of Fame; and to show how, by his indomitable spirit and mighty mind, he was enabled to maintain, against all competitors, that proud position so suddenly, yet so honorably won.

He was a life of constant struggles, and of action. He was always engaged in the best and dust of professional or political efforts. In these efforts, he, perhaps, sometimes indulged in unwarrantable invective and bitterness, yet I believe all who knew him will bear testimony with me, that after the excitement of debate was over, he had no memory for any thing he had uttered against his adversary; he bore no malice; indeed his breast was filled with the milk of human kindness; he was generous to his foes, faithful to his friends, and devoted to his clients—he made their cause his own.

He had an ardent and fiery temperament, yet there was a singular blandness and serenity of deportment about this remarkable man that won for him the confidence and affection of all who knew him intimately.

He came among us here with a reputation as a popular orator, almost unequalled in the South-west. His fame as an Advocate had extended all over the Republic; his cases now ever in high rank as a lawyer were continued and contested, yet he very soon gave unerring proofs that he was not only the brilliant Advocate, but was a sound, acute, and discriminating lawyer; his reputation as such was advancing with steady progress—he was widening and deepening the foundations of his legal learning. Rich imaginative faculties, with high intellectual endowments of solid order, were united in the mind of Mr. Prentiss in a higher degree than I have ever known in any other man.

Of his social qualities—his sparkling wit—his humor—his unchanging cheerfulness, I forbear to speak. His eloquent voice will no more be heard—his bright face will no more be seen in these Halls. When such a man dies, it is meet and proper that we pause for an instant and take note of the event. I therefore move that these resolutions be placed on the enduring Records of the Court.

[The resolutions are the same as those passed at a meeting of the Bar in July last, and published, at the time, in the Crescent.]

In granting the motion just made by the District Attorney, I shall be excused, I trust, if I embrace the occasion to make a few remarks.

Amid the painful regrets we experience at the loss of Mr. Prentiss, we can still dwell with a melancholy pleasure upon his many noble qualities of head and heart. As the learned, able and eloquent advocate, he was at all times the object of our warmest admiration; as the kind and confiding friend—the honorable and chivalric gentleman, he had secured our affectionate and lasting regards. In our sorrowful reflections upon his departure from the active scenes of life, we can truly say, that a lawyer of extensive and profound acquirements, an orator of rare powers of argumentation, and of most brilliant fancy, a man of unrolled honor, a patriot of valiant devotion and undaunted courage, and a friend whose generosity knew no bounds, has prematurely passed from the theatre of his usefulness and his fame.

The intellectual endowments of Mr. Prentiss presented a remarkable example, in which great logical powers and the most vivid imagination were happily blended. With silver readiness in debate, he never failed when an opportunity offered, to enter into the most laborious investigations to obtain the mastery of a subject. If he frequently sought to amuse, he rarely failed at the same time to instruct an audience. The rapidity with which he seized the strong points of a case, added to his untiring assiduity, rendered him at all times a most formidable adversary.

In happy exhibitions of extemporaneous eloquence—in striking illustrations by a rapid and harmonious succession of brilliant metaphors, he was rarely, if ever, excelled. But those who regarded him as a merely eloquent declaimer, were widely mistaken in their estimate of his powers. He honorable seal in the assertion of the rights of a client, his high professional pride, his generous and the noble impulses of his nature, prompted him, in all cases of importance, to diligent and careful preparation. His own wonderful powers of illustration were at all times supported by the solemn mandates of authority; and the facility with which he was wont to call to his aid the thoughts or effusions of others, proves him to have been a student of an extraordinary memory, and of unremitting industry. Those who have seen him in his study, or in an attentive study of the best models; and those who enjoyed with him the pleasures of social intercourse, are aware with what humility and veneration he paid his devotions at the shrine of ancient genius. No man with all his admiration of modern excellence, was more prompt in according unreservedly to those master spirits of antiquity whom modern genius could kindle into new life. Those who have read his eulogy—lightning-like strip in the rays of true greatness and glory.

It was in 1845 that Mr. Prentiss removed from the State of Mississippi to the city, with the view to a permanent residence among us, and for the purpose of pursuing the practice of his profession. His name with a brilliant reputation as a lawyer and an orator, and I think it will be admitted by every candid mind, that the public were in other sections of the Union had not been extravagant in its estimate of his abilities. His almost unprecedented success as an advocate before the tribunals of Mississippi; his eloquent efforts in the political arena, before large popular assemblages in different parts of the country, and in the Hall of the House of Representatives of the United States, had gained him no vague applause, and indisputable established his claims to the possession of talents of the highest order. It was my good fortune to be present at the Circuit at Washington in 1838, during the long and exciting debate which arose out of the Mississippi contested election. The most prominent champions who enlisted the lists on that interesting occasion, were Mr. Prentiss himself, then claiming his seat, and Mr. Lejare, the distinguished patriot and statesman, then the sitting member from the Vicksburg District. Mr. Prentiss was then in the prime of his powers, and in the full vigor of his manhood