The Daily Crescent.

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The Daily Crescent.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL
Of the Council of the Second Municipality.

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TERMS OF THE CRESCENT.

DAILY—Fifteen Cents per week, payable to the carriers, or Eight Dollars per year, payable in advance—half yearly and quarterly at the same rates.

THE WEEKLY CRESCENT—Three dollars a year, payable in advance. Postmasters and others acting as agents, by sending five dollars, will be entitled to two copies.

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From and after this date, the following reduced rate of charges, per square of 12 lines or less, in Agate, or 10 lines or less, in Pearl, will be invariably adhered to, and thus, while all the patrons of the Crescent will be put upon an equal footing, its columns will be opened to thousands who have never been able, heretofore, to advertise, viz:

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Congress.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22, 1851.

SENATE.—Mr. Seward presented two petitions, praying the repeal of the Fugitive Slave Law, which were laid on the table.

Mr. Yulee reported a bill giving naval surgeons, when performing duty on shore, the same rations as are allowed military officers of the army, and it was ordered to be engrossed.

Mr. Foote reported a bill to re-organize the State Department.

Mr. Clay's resolution directing an inquiry by the committee on commerce into the expediency of making more effectual provision for the suppression of the African slave trade, and especially into the propriety of refusing sea letters to American vessels trading between Rio Janeiro and the Western Coast of Africa, was taken up.

Mr. Hale read a publication in the morning papers which pledged the signers of it, being members of Congress, to support no man for the office of President, Vice President, Senator, member of Congress, or member of a State Legislature, who was in favor of disturbing the compromise acts of the last session. He said this resolution commenced the agitation of slavery, and he feared the signers of that paper would themselves be subject to its ostracism.

Mr. Clay replied, defending his resolution, and avowed himself a signer of the paper alluded to, and his determination to carry out the pledge.

Mr. Foote followed, defending the paper, and avowing himself one of the signers.

The debate was further continued, and the resolution was adopted—yeas 45, nays 9. The nine noes were Messrs. Benton, Borland, Butler, Davis, of Miss., Hale, Rhett, Soulé, Turney, Yulee.

The French spoliation bill was then taken up. The eleventh section, appropriating $50,000 to defray the expenses of the board of commissioners, was stricken out, so as to prevent the necessity of its being referred to the committee of the whole in the House.

Mr. Rusk moved to amend it by providing that none of the five millions should be paid to any assignee or usurer, and, after long debate, this was rejected—yeas 25, nays 30.

The Senate then adjourned.

HOUSE.—A short discussion took place on a motion to refer a bill reported by a committee, authorizing an individual in Ohio to locate certain land warrants, which had been assigned in good faith, but which were inoperative, owing to the absence of witnesses to the instruments, which the law prescribes.

Mr. Hall, of Missouri, suggested an amendment, for extending the provisions of the bill to persons holding land warrants for services performed during the revolutionary war, which they are unable to locate, owing to the reserved tracts in Ohio having been disposed of, and which do not embrace over 500,000 acres.

The amendment was not passed; and the bill was read a first and second time, and passed to a third reading.

Another Land Bill, granting pre-emption to persons settled on lands in Louisiana, the grants for which at present are contested before the Supreme Court of the United States. The object of this bill is give the right of pre-emption to the occupants of the land in question, in case of an adverse decision in the Supreme Court, and to prevent other persons in that case from settling and purchasing the same.

The bill was then read a third time and passed.

A joint resolution was read, which had been reported by the Judiciary Committee, in favor of printing and binding up the opinions of the Attorney Generals of the United States subsequent to 1841; the expense of which is estimated at $8600.

Mr. McLane, of Maryland, submitted another resolution or amendment, the object of which, he stated, was to have the opinions of the Attorney Generals since 1840, furnished the House, precisely as they were for the preceding period, upon a motion made by himself during a former session, and which were supplied through the labors of a copying clerk, to be deposited in the archives of the House; whereas, the object of the resolution, which had been reported by the judiciary committee, is, that Congress should subscribe for a certain amount, to be paid from the public treasury, for the publication of a book, of the magnitude of which no estimate could at present be formed, and towards which the sum of $8000 was proposed to be applied. He contended that the proper course of proceeding would be to have the opinions of the Attorney Generals since 1840 furnished the House in manuscript, and which would, in all probability be ordered to be printed, and could be done at a comparatively insignificant expense.

At the conclusion of Mr. McLane's remarks, Mr. Bayly, of Virginia, moved that the House resolve into Committee of the Whole, on the state of the Union, which was agreed to, and Mr. Meade, of Virginia, took the chair of the committee.

The deficiency bill was thus taken up, and Mr. Robinson, of Indiana, went into a general review of the pension department; the general impression being, from what was to be collected from explanations from other members, as well as what was stated by that gentleman, that the department is in a very inefficient state; and it was asserted that the duties were formerly better performed by the Secretary of War.

Mr. Hampton, of Pennsylvania, followed in a long speech, abounding in statistical information connected with the iron interests of his State; where he stated about 600,000 persons are dependent upon the iron works for support. Of course his object was to recommend an increase of the present tariff, which he said he wished modified so as to improve all other interests.

A good deal of impatience was manifested during the reading of this speech, particularly after three o'clock had arrived, the usual hour of adjournment; and when he had finished his remarks the committee rose and the House adjourned.

A SCENE WITH THE MUMMY.—Yesterday, the Egyptian Mummy was opened to the prying eyes of the curious, who desired to see the mortal remains of humanity which existed two thousand years before the Christian era. Previous to the ceremony, there was gathered round a collection of bald-pated and spectacled gentlemen, whose thoughts seemed to have little to do with things modern, and from their air of mystery, they appeared to be lost in the gloom of ages. These ancient gentlemen were inspecting the characters on the case of the dried specimen of antiquity, when suddenly they were startled by a voice from amid the folds of the linen which wrapped the mummy—

"Open the box! open the box!" said the voice.

"Who are you?" inquired one of the learned Thebans, whose curiosity had got the better of his astonishment.

"I am a descendant of the Pharoahs," answered the voice within.

"Are you a genuine Mummy?"

"Yes, genuine and no mistake—regularly manufactured in Egypt by some of the first artists."

"Do you come from Ham?"

"Ham—no, I am a better specimen of dried beef."

"What do you want here?"

"Ask yourself; your confounded prying Yankee inquisitiveness has waked me up from a slumber of ages."

A thought struck the scientific questioner, and he determined to settle the mooted question.

"Were the Egyptians black or red men?"

"Red as the knave of hearts."

"What caused the decline of the Egyptian nation?"

"It didn't decline; like the modern Celt, the Egyptians emigrated to America."

"To Mexico?" inquired the doctor.

"Yes; open the box, open the box."

"Then the pyramid at Cholula is——"

"Exactly; it is nothing else."

"And you are——"

"Bobby."

"Bobby who?" said the astonished inquirer.

"Bobby Blitz," said a little man with a peculiar head of hair, who glided out of the hall and disappeared in the Lecture Room of the Museum. The doctors looked at each other, and the word "sold" was audibly heard coming from the box, as if the dried descendant of Mizraim was laughing in its sleeve at the credulity of science, which could not tell a lying ventriloquist from the dried remains of burnt rags and a monkey's skeleton. How this voice was made to proceed from a wooden case will be explained this afternoon and evening at Blitz's Lecture Room. [Philadelphia Ledger.

DEATH OF A SCOTTISH POET.—We notice in a foreign paper the announcement that Mr. Robert Gilfillan died near Edinburgh, on the 4th December, 1850. Mr. Gilfillan has been favorably known as the author of many beautiful pieces of poetry, and his death makes another vacancy in that list of which Robert Burns was the most illustrious example. A Scottish critic remarked of Gilfillan's songs, that they were "marked by gentle and kindly feelings, and a smooth flow of versification which makes them eminently suitable for being expressed in music." As a specimen, we give

THE EXILE'S SONG.

Oh! why left I my hame?
Why did I cross the deep?
Oh! why left I the land
Where my forefathers sleep?
I sigh for Scotia's shore,
And gaze across the sea,
But I canna get a blink
O' my ain countrie!
The palm tree waveth high,
And fair the myrtle springs,
And to the Indian man
The chuchat sweetly sings;
But I dinna see the broom
Wi' its tassels on the lea;
Nor hear the lintie's sang
O' my ain countrie.

* * * * * *

THE FROZEN DEAD.—The scene of the greatest interest at the Hospice of the grand St. Bernard—a solemn, extraordinary interest, indeed—is that of the morgue, or building where the dead bodies of lost travellers are deposited. There they are, some of them as when the breath of life departed, and the death angel, with his instruments of frost and snow, stiffened and embalmed for ages. The floor is thick with nameless skulls and bones, and human dust, heaped in confusion. But around the wallas are groups of poor sufferers in the very position in which they were found, as rigid as marble, and in this air, by the preserving elements of eternal frost, almost as uncrumbling. There is a mother and her child, a most affecting image of suffering and love. The face of the little one remains pressed to the mother's bosom, only the back part of the skull being visible, the body enfolded in her careful arms—careful in vain, affectonate in vain, to shelter her offspring from the elemental wrath of the tempest.

The snow fell fast and thick, and the hurricane wound them both up in one white shroud and buried them. There is also a tall, strong man, standing alone, the face dried and black, but the white unbroken teeth, firmly set and closed, grinning from the fleshless jaws; it is a most awful spectacle. The face seems to look at you, from the recesses of the sepulchre, as if it would tell you the story of a death-struggle in the storm. There are other groups more indistinct, but these two are never to be forgotten; and the whole of these dried and frozen remnants of humanity are a terrific demonstration of the fearfulness of this mountain pass, when the elements, let loose in fury, encounter the unhappy traveller. You look at all this through the grated window; there is just enough light to make it solemnly and distinctly visible, and to read in it a powerful record of mental and physical agony, and of maternal love in death. That little child hiding its face in its mother's bosom, and both frozen to death! One can never forget the group, nor the *memento mori*, nor the token of deathless love. [Dr. Cheever's Wanderings of a Pilgrim.

BREVITY IN WOMAN.—We find in a California diary, the following glorification of a quality we should like. "A man of few words" is very well, but "a woman of few words" is a matter open to argument:

"I encountered the other day, in a ravine, some three miles distant, among the gold washers, a woman from San Jose. She was at work with a large wooden bowl by the side of the stream. I asked her how long she had been there, and how much gold she averaged a day. She replied, 'Three weeks and an ounce.' Her reply reminded me of an anecdote of the late Judge B——, who met a girl returning from market, and asked her, 'How deep did you find the stream? what did you get for your butter?' 'Up to the knee and ninepence,' was the reply. 'Ah!' said the judge to himself, 'she is the girl for me; no words lost there:' turned back, proposed, was accepted, and married the next week; and a more happy couple the conjugal bonds never united; the nuptial lamp never waned; its ray was steady and clear to the last. We who paddle off and on for seven years, and are last, perhaps, capsized, take a lesson of the judge. That 'up to the knee and ninepence' is worth all the rose letters and melancholy rhymes ever penned."

THE DEAD LETTER OFFICE.—The Washington Republic has a lengthy article detailing the operations of the "Dead Letter Office" of the United States Postal Department. We take from it the following extract:

This whole division of the Post Office Department is, in connection with other important duties, under the supervision and control of J. Marron, Esq., Third Assistant Postmaster General, and all the officers we have named operate under his especial direction. It is to him that communications in relation to the dead letter office are addressed.

The dead letters containing no remittances are never read, and those containing enclosures are looked into only so far as is necessary to obtain a clue to the proper ownership.

The whole number of dead letters returned to the department we can only vaguely estimate. Thus, in one quarter, the bulk of opened letters equalled about 6000, crammed; each bushel is supposed to contain 1000 letters. The number returned in a quarter is therefore about six millions, or twenty-four millions in a year.

Unclaimed moneys, less the discount, are handed over to the general treasury, subject to the demands of the rightful owners; but we believe that, for the half year ending June 30th, 1850, the amount of these was not more than about $1700.

Drafts, deeds, and other papers of value, and also jewelry, mementoes, etc., are preserved in the dead letter office. These are often recovered by their owners with much delight. In one instance, not a great while since, a gentleman, for want of certain documents believed to have been lost from the mail, found himself in the power of an unscrupulous person in a matter in which property to the amount of ten thousand dollars (all the gentleman was worth) was involved. As a possible means of obtaining the papers, he applied to the dead-letter office, and in about three minutes they were produced! The package had been improperly addressed.

Dead letters are usually unpaid letters. The custom of pre-payment has become vastly more general since the reduction of postage to five and ten cents. In the fourth quarter of 1850 the number of dead letters received from Cincinnati, not pre-paid, was 8700; the number pre-paid, 1300. In the third quarter of 1850 the pre-paid letters from the Boston post-office numbered 1612; of letters not pre-paid, 9401. These instances are taken at random.

NEW WINGLESS BIRD.—At the meeting of the Linnean, Dec. 17, Mr. Westwood called the attention of the Society to a wingless bird on Lord Howe's Island—an island situated between New Holland and Norfolk Island. This spot has been accidentally visited by Capt. Poole, of the East India Company's service, who, considering it a favorable spot for colonization, had induced six Irishmen and their wives and families to settle on it. The place is now one of constant resort for the supply of water and provisions for the South Sea whalers. As no government has owned it, this island is at present the property of Capt. Poole. It is of considerable extent, and has on it two high hills which can be seen at a distance of sixteen leagues at sea. On this island Capt. Poole had discovered the bird in question. It is about the size of a rail—and is considered by the settlers as good eating. Mr. Westwood thought the announcement of the existence of this bird—which was not previously known to exist in those regions—would be received with interest in connection with the discovery of the extinct wingless birds of New Zealand. No specimen has yet arrived in England, but some are on their way. [Athenæum.

MEG MERRILIES.—While Miss Charlotte Cushman was playing her great character of *Meg Merrilies* at the St. Charles, the other evening, a gentleman from Mobile observed: "I never saw but one woman's eye I ever quailed under, and that was Fifinia, the witch of Mobile; and Miss Cushman's *Meg Merrilies* is the very picture of her. She always carried a staff in her hand; and her disordered dress, her stoop, her disheveled hair, and the wild, supernatural glare of her eye, were all that the Gypsy queen appears. It is some four years ago since Fifinia used to be seen about Mobile. It is said she walked all the way from New York to that city. She was the terror of children, and many ignorant persons believed in her incantations. In her ravings, her wild demoniac glare would make the blood freeze in the veins. When she would straighten herself, her form was commanding, and there could still be traced in her haggard and worn features the remnants of great beauty. In her lucid intervals, she showed that she had been elegantly educated, and, no doubt, in her pristine days of loveliness, she had been surrounded by many admirers who were made to acknowledge her bewitching charms. The record of the past had been effaced from her memory by some terrible affliction, for she could not or would not give the slightest clue to her history. She was often found wandering in the woods, and would sleep out either on the bare ground or in sheds or out-houses. One moonlight night, while riding in from the country, I met her in the road; the horrible wild stare, and hollow, fiendish laugh she gave me, startled me so that I did not get over it for months. In the character of *Meg Merrilies*, I can see her now." [Picayune.

THE HAYTIEN SABBATH.—A correspondent of the Journal of Commerce, writing from Hayti, gives the following account of a Haytien Sunday, which is parade day and review, attended by the Emperor and his suite:

The various companies are dashing by on horseback, or marching to the music of their bands. They assemble first in the large enclosure in front of the palace, and afterwards march to a beautiful plain outside of the city, where they are busy for an hour or two. When all things are in readiness, the Emperor and his suite come dashing out, and ride around the entire line, when he makes a stand, and they are all marched before him.

But all that is going on here by no means leaves the city quiet. Every store and shop is open, and the goods displayed more attractively than on any other day of the week, and the streets are full of people going and coming, some with mules loaded with vegetables, wood, grass, coal, etc.; some with bananas, plantains, sugar-cane, etc., on their heads, some with a few chickens, some with one thing, and some with another. They thus crowd on, bartering, selling, disputing, quarrelling, swearing, singing, laughing—all in the most boisterous tones, making altogether a scene of confusion, of which you can have but a slight conception. But the great scene and centre of confusion is the market. This is a large open square in the centre of the city, where perhaps two thousand persons, many of them from a distance in the country, are assembled, and all eager in driving their bargains and disposing of their various articles. I shall attempt no description of this scene.

Strangely enough, as I have stated in a former letter, the Catholic Church is upon a slight elevation directly fronting upon one of these markets. Old women, who are busy either in selling or buying, come along to the church, lay their baskets on the steps, go in and cross themselves with holy water, kneel and count their beads for a time, and then come out and go on with their trading. Thus multitudes come, and those who are able to stay, and engage in the services for a longer period, seem to be not at all disturbed by them, nor indeed to be conscious of their inconsistency.

At length the parade is ended, the companies of soldiers, preceded by their music, disperse to the various parts of the city, and the Emperor, attended by a hundred or more guards, gallops through the principal streets of the city, around the market, and past the church, to his residence.

Thus, with noise and excitement, the day passes on. By two or three o'clock the business begins to subside, and sports of various kinds begin. The boys fly their kites, spin their tops, and run and laugh and shout in their various plays. The young men walk, or ride, or visit, as they may prefer. The more wealthy, having finished a late dinner, amuse themselves with dancing or cards; and thus each, according to his taste, seeks his pleasure.

At the evening approaches, new and still stranger nerves begin. The more common and ignorant part of the people assemble in large companies in the open air, and engage in what is called a dance; though it is perfectly unlike any thing that is called a dance in the United States. Their music is made by pounding with the flat of their hands upon a drum, which is made by stretching a skin over the head of a barrel, like a drum-head. This drumming they accompany with singing, clapping of hands, etc. The noise thus made is very loud, and by sundown you hear it in all directions. There is something most remarkable in the passion of this people for this kind of music and dancing. To an ear unaccustomed to the sound, there would seem to be as much music in the skin and confusion of a tin or a cooper's shop; and yet to them there is nothing more exciting. At the sound of one of these drums in a neighboring yard, I have seen the children that were passing along the streets, begin at once to move to the sound of the tune, and hop and wheel and balance most gracefully, as they went on their way; and the effect seems much the same upon those who are older.

FAMILY OF PATRICK HENRY.—The distinguished Virginia orator, Patrick Henry, had five sisters, Jane Meredith, Anne Christian, Lucy Wood, Susan Madison, and Betty Russell. The last lady was the grand-mother of the Hon. Wm. C. Preston, President of the South Carolina College. William Henry was the only full brother.

Patrick Henry's mother was Sarah Winston. His father was John Henry of Aberdeen, Scotland; John Henry's mother was Jane Robertson, sister to Dr. Wm. Robertson, the historian.

If the above is correct, Lord Brougham (descended from the Robertsons,) is nearly related to Patrick Henry's descendants. Two such orators from the same race, are not to be found in all history.

CAN ANY ONE TELL WHERE GEN. TWIGGS LIVES?—We heard of an elderly gentleman the other day, making this inquiry. His head was frosted white, and he sought the General, not as the hero of Mexican battles, but as the vendor of hair dye! Alas! for the laurels of the warrior. The fame acquired on the bloody fields is nothing; the laurels have withered, and a lock of gray hair, or sandy whiskers, changed dark by Acetis plumbi, and Sulp. Hepar have taken their place. [Charleston News.

THE PRINTERS' BANQUET.—Among the volunteer toasts presented at the recent Printers' banquet, in New York, was the following, by Gen. George P. Morris:

"*The American Union*"—A noble *folio work of thirty-one pages* by the best *authors* in the *Republic of Letters—set up, stereotyped, printed* and *bound* in a *form* that will last forever. *Additions*, not *erasures*, may be made; but *I love the original copy—even "if it goes out of the window!"*

FOPS, NOT USUALLY SO CALLED.—Sidney Smith once said:

"There is a class of fops not usually designated by that epithet—men clothed in profound black, with large canes and strange, amphorous hats—a big speech and imperative pronunciation about Plato—and great affecters of sentiment—despisers of women, and all the graces of life—fierce foes to common sense—abusive of the living, and approving no one who has not been dead for at least a century. Such fops, as vain and shallow as their fraternity in Bond street, differ from those only as Gorgo its differed from Ruffiles."

On the 21st, a daughter of Alderman Harcourt, of Albany, went out in company with a little girl. The girl shortly after returned, saying Miss Harcourt would be back directly. Since then nothing has been heard of her.

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MUTUAL BENEFIT LIFE AND FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF LOUISIANA.
(INCORPORATED IN APRIL 1849, AND DECLARED A DIVIDEND OF 25 PER CENT. ON 12 MONTHS BUSINESS.

Office, No. 38 Camp street,
Between Gravier and Common sts.

Business of the Company confined to Life Insurance Only

This Company being organized, solely for the protection of the policy holders and their families against want and poverty, is in its operations a great national benevolent institution, conducted upon the most secure and solid principles, and affording for a small annual sum, paid during life, a large and handsome legacy to widows and children after death.

All policy holders, whether for life or shorter terms, who continue the insurance till death, participate in the whole of the profits of the company.

Creditors can insure the lives of debtors. A married woman can effect insurance on the life of her husband, for his sole benefit and use of herself and children, free from the claims of creditors.

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By the Charter only $5,000 is taken on a single life.

☞ This Company is prepared to entertain propositions for Life Insurance, and issue Policies on all sound and healthy White persons and Negroes, at the Table of Rates established by the Board, which are less than the rates charged by the New York and London offices, and without their restrictions as to residence in the South. By the charter, Dividends of Profits are declared annually, and the profits draw interest, and can be made available at once to the extent of two-thirds of their amount, where the party has paid his premiums in full.

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