

DAILY CRESCENT

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THURSDAY MORNING, JANUARY 20, 1910.

MANAGER AND BOARD.

We publish, to-day, a bill (proposed we presume by Mr. Robb) to organize the consolidation of the three Municipalities of New Orleans. We have no idea that this is the bill which is proposed finally to pass. On the contrary, we look upon it, on the current of legislative matters, only as a screening bill behind which, on the river, the hunter fronts down towards his flock of ducks. There is another bill, which Mr. Benjamin has secured us, on his word of honor, as his bill. That bill was by Mr. John Slidell. We had a glance at it—ten minutes' glance—we could get no more, a nobody else could get sight of the bill. We saw but one clause, and that, to our mind, was the only one we would be allowed to see, more, more, and we saw distinctly that to secure his election as U. S. Senator, Mr. Benjamin had consented to advocate and support a bill, which must be the ruin of his own party in this State, and of the Second Municipality. The attempt, notorious in Baton Rouge, to conceal that bill, and to forbid those friendly to the inclusion of Lafayette, from having any knowledge of the contents, alone show the character of the bill, as being unfair and sectional.

Consolidation.

Mr. Benjamin was only a candidate for the United States Senate, on all sides, any side, and every side of Consolidation, and he alone reaped all the benefits resulting from the question, which had no earthly proper connection with the United States Senatorship. He has the Senatorship. Mr. Hunt, by a fair, manly, chivalric, and honorable course upon this question, suspecting no deceit, no underhand working, sacrificed votes, lost by most bigoted and sectional appeals.

On the night preceding the Senatorial election.

On the night preceding the Senatorial election, when it was too late to make any opposition whatever, Mr. Benjamin said, in our presence, with a number of the attorney class, in our right and power to submit or not to submit this bill of Consolidation, and we choose to pass it, we will do so—make it preemptory upon them, and they can help themselves as they can."

This bill is Mr. John Slidell's bill, as Mr. Benjamin himself told us. It is a regular Louisiana affair, as we know from the examination of only one clause. It sells the whig party of Louisiana, now and for ever, to gratify Mr. Robb, the European bond-holder, and to make Mr. Benjamin United States Senator. It sacrifices the Second Municipality, and makes it the servile treasury—a *solida*—for the other Municipalities. To illustrate this, we have only to state one fact. Mr. Benjamin told us when we objected on this ground, "My dear sir, the Second Municipality can *embody* into the other two."

This is not true, in fact, and Mr. Benjamin ought to have known better. This fact, this statement of Mr. Benjamin's, and his refusal, (after plain honest men had distinctly understood him to say that the admission of Lafayette was unconstitutional) to inform us whether or not, upon his reputation as a lawyer, the admission of Lafayette was or was not constitutional, alone the game which was afoot. He distinctly refused, in our presence, to give any opinion whatever upon the subject. Mr. Rendell Hunt, Bayard-like, boldly and publicly spouted out, perilling all his chances, days before the Senatorial election, and said, upon his reputation as a lawyer, that the suggestion that the admission of Lafayette was unconstitutional, was mere dust thrown into the eyes of the unthinking; and he further said, what we entirely believe, that the attempt to put the admission of Lafayette into a separate bill, was an insidious move to secure its positive exclusion.

Now, here is a very nice state of things: Mr. Benjamin is United States Senator, and he says in our presence, and in the presence of others, that, with or without the consent of the people of New Orleans, he has a right to make a law preemptory, absolute upon them; and that if he chooses, he will do so. Mr. Robb says, that he, to prevent all opposition, will push his Consolidation bill through with telegraphic speed, and that he designs to give no chance for exceptions, which will be taken in public discussion—that is, we are to have a bill of Consolidation which suits Messrs. Robb and Benjamin, (to say nothing of Mr. John Slidell, European bondholder, etc.) without regard to popular sentiment.

We have no patience with such matters, and we want no discounts from Mr. Robb. He has said, as we are credibly informed, that he will drive his bill through at once, if it cost him \$20,000. Well, Mr. Robb has the money, the people have the democratic privilege of thinking for themselves; and if he does drive it through in that manner, he will have made his point—will have satisfied the parties with whom he is interested, and, we suppose, it will be a small matter that the people of New Orleans have been contented, the Second Municipality sacrificed, the whig party of Louisiana tied down, and the entire city sunk in a disastrous competition with Lafayette—a city, of all others, possessing the best natural advantages of any other on the Mississippi.

We distinctly say that, without a gross and palpable violation of the chartered privileges of the city of New Orleans, and the three Municipalities, we will not consent to the passage of a bill of Consolidation, the Legislature or Congress, which compels any portion of the city of New Orleans, without referring the same to the voice of the people of the several Municipalities.

In the mean time, we say that this bill of Mr. Robb's is not the bill which is to pass; it is not the bill which it is intended to pass. Mr. John Slidell's bill, Mr. Benjamin's pet project, the bill which sells the whig party of Louisiana, which compels the Second Municipality to pay the taxes of the two other Municipalities—virtually makes us the municipality which Mr. Benjamin himself said could outvote the two others, take a permanent position as an inferior, in a minority of three votes; that is the bill which is to pass, in one form or the other, unless the indignant remonstrance of intelligent men should prevent a great legislative outrage. That bill has already made Mr. Benjamin U. S. Senator, which is something

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