other plants, producing all the tints of dark red, black and green.

Many of the forest trees yield valuable gums, not yet familiar to commerce or medicine; and they comprise some of the most delicious perfumes and incense that can be imagined. Others, again, are like amber—hard, brittle, and insoluble in water. Some cedars yield a gum equal to gum Arabic; others a natural glue, which, when once dried, is unaffected by wet or dampness. The *seringa*, or rubber tree, the product of which is now almost a monopoly with Para, and also the Palo Santo, which produces the gum guilacum, crowd the forests, ready to give up their riches to the first comer; and the sweet flavored Vanilla modestly flourishes, as if inviting the hand of man.

Upon the hills, the celebrated *Yerba Matte*, which is the exclusive beverage of one-half of South America, has only to be gathered. Its preparation is in an exceedingly crude state, and could be beneficially improved by employing some of our extra-hands; and probably its use could be introduced into this country with advantage.

Upon the fertile alluvial banks of so many large streams, sugar-cane, cotton, tobacco of a superior quality, rice, mandoca, Indian corn, and a thousand other productions, vegetate with profusion; while seven varieties of the bamboo line the river banks and dot the frequent lakes with islets of touching beauty. On the plains, quantities of hides, hair, horns, bones, tallow, etc., are lost for want of transportation. If we go to the forests, we find two or three kinds of hemp, vast quantities of wax, *nux sapanico*, or soap nut, the cocoa, and vegetable oils in abundance, with two kinds of wild cotton, admirably adapted for the manufacture of paper.

But it is with the forest trees of Paraguay that I love most to dwell. Giants! there they are, vast and noble in their aspect, and able, as it were, to utter for themselves the sublime music of the wilderness. Sixty varieties already known, furnish timber of all kinds and colors and degrees of durability, elasticity and buoyancy. I have seen timbers of the Lapacho that have supported the roofs of houses, in Buenos Ayres, for more than two hundred years. They are now as sound as ever, and to all appearance, capable of performing the same service to the end of the world. A door sill of the same wood, half imbedded in the ground, and marked "1682," belonging to the front door of the house which I inhabited in the city of Asuncion. Upon the closest inspection, it was in a state of perfect preservation. Several other woods of the same variety are so heavy as to sink in water, and all, while difficult to burn in houses, form, under strong draft, a fire almost equal to stone-coal in intensity.

Another tree, the Selbo, when green, is spongy and soft as cork, and can be cut like an apple; but when dry it is so hard as almost to defy the notion of steel. Again, we have seen the Palo de Vivara, or snake tree, whose leaves are an infallible cure for the bites of serpents. The Palo de Leche, or milk tree, may be called a vegetable cow, and the Palo de Borracho, or drunken tree, a vegetable distillery. The Isaca resin is found at the roots of trees, under ground, and is a natural pitch, ready prepared, to pay the seams of vessels.

DAILY CRESCENT.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SECOND MUNICIPALITY.

THE NEW ORLEANS DAILY CRESCENT
OFFICE NO. 93 ST. CHARLES STREET,
Will be regularly served to subscribers in the city and Lafayette at as early hour every day, (Sunday excepted,) for $5 a year, in advance, payable to the office, or 15 cents a week, payable to the carriers.
TERMS OF ADVERTISING:
From and after this date the following rates of charges, per square of ten lines or less, will be invariably adhered to, viz:
First insertion, $2 00 | Subsequent insertion, $1 00
Every subsequent insertion, 50
Advertisements on the second page are charged at half each day.
A liberal discount will be made with those who advertise by the year or for a shorter time.
All advertisements not marked will be published one month and charged accordingly.
The Crescent has strong claims upon advertisers as a medium of communication with the public. Its circulation, which not long when it came into the hands of the present proprietor, has been steadily and rapidly on the increase, even through the dull season just closed.
October 28, 1851.

SATURDAY MORNING, JANUARY 31, 1852.

MARRIAGES AND DEATHS.—We will hereafter publish the simple announcement of marriages and deaths free of charge.

The Bee and the Crescent.

In yesterday's Bee there appeared an article in reference to an editorial in this paper. It is a singular thing that this article should have appeared on the French side of the paper, with nothing like it on the English side. It should not have appeared, at all, with any regard for gentlemanly principle, after what occurred at Baton Rouge between the editor of this paper and the only known conductor of the Bee, when the best of all opportunities for any thing approaching impertinence, occurred. The article is remarkably vulgar in its tone. We have only to say that a rather discreditable piece of management (not the only one) of Messrs. Robb and Benjamin gave the Bee the State Printing; and it is very welcome to lick the hands which feed it. If necessary, we shall make a very plain statement in reference to some matters which occurred in Baton Rouge. The conductors of this paper are not in the habit of saying any thing severe, except with positive and demonstrative justification, and the principal of the Bee has reason to know that they even abide repeated provocation before taking any action whatever. The Bee *knows*, to a large extent, the truth of what we have charged, as we know positively from one of its conductors.

A Consolidation Charter.

We sincerely declare an indisposition to take any captious exceptions to any plan of chartered Consolidation. We freely acknowledge that the bill introduced by Mr. Robb (prepared, we understand, by a very intelligent gentleman of this city,) has many merits in the management of details.

Its great vitiating principle is the failure to include Lafayette; its prominent feature is the nicest care of those who bought the bonds of the Third Municipality at nothing, and who now work Consolidation to make the Second and First (the Second the more largely) pay the most extraordinary profit ever known in a pecuniary speculation. The Second Municipality holds Forty Millions; the First, Twenty Millions; the Third, Ten Millions, of taxable property. Over both the other Municipalities the Second has an excess of over Ten Millions of taxable property, and she is the only progressive section of the city. The Levee streets of the First Municipality (such is the state of things in it) have been presented by the Grand Jury as nuisances; the Third is, unfortunately, in even a worse condition than the First; and the Second, with greater ability to pay, in proportion to indebtedness, has 500 per cent. the amount of its public improvements and repairs.

Now, so far as we can see, this plan of Consolidation proposed by Mr. Robb, merely adds to the burthen of the Second Municipality by making her share the much greater burthens of the less able (pecuniarily even combined) First and Third Municipalities. This may help bonds of the Third (in which Mr. Robb and others through him and in his name are reported to have speculated); but it must injure the Second Municipality. The Charter should provide that the revenues raised in each Municipality should pay its bonds, make its improvemnts, and then (subsequently) meet general expenses. (The matter of Municipal representation is cunningly devised in this matter; but of this, hereafter.)

But, worse than all this, look at the provisions for the payment of back debts, in which the mover of this bill is notoriously so largely interested. Not only must the Second Municipality, with her excess of ten millions of taxable property, assume a large portion of the debts of her less prosperous neighbors, but she must share in a most ruinous decree of liquidation—a plan very agreeable to Mr. Robb and others who can swear to $5,000 capital in NewOrleans, boast of millions elsewhere, and move off tomorrow, but gravely burthensome to the mass of already over-taxed citizens. Look at it. Says this bill:

"The Mayor, Comptroller and Treasurer shall constitute a commission to be called the Commissioners of the Consolidated Debt of NewOrleans, and they shall have power to issue bonds of the city of NewOrleans, having not less than five nor more than forty years to run, with interest, payable at such place as may be agreed on between said commissioners and the parties to whom the bonds are issued, in semi-annual coupons, at the rate of eight per cent. per annum on those having less than ten years to run, seven per cent. per annum on those having ten and less than twenty years to run, six per cent. on those having twenty and not over thirty years to run, and five per cent. on those having over thirty years to run, in exchange for any bonds, obligations or debts of the old corporation, or of any of the Municipalities, whether matured or not; or to sell the new bonds and apply the proceeds to the payment of the matured debts of the old corporation, or of the Municipalities, but to no other purpose."

We will say nothing of the extraordinary and dangerous power placed in the hands of three individuals—the Mayor, Comptroller, and Treasurer. But can the Municipalities stand up under eight per cent. on ten years' bonds, and seven per cent. on less than twenty years' bonds? But there must be a special tax of seven hundred thousand dollars every year, within every Municipality, over and above all other expenses, to pay Mr. Robb's bonds. All the tax-payers of the Third Municipality willing to, are they prepared to meet, is there any necessity that they or the tax-payers of any other Municipality should pay, this extraordinary tax? should thus urge themselves, at a most oppressive cost, to anticipate the liquidation of their liabilities?

But of this bill, more hereafter. To show something of the spirit at work in the premises—to say nothing of the Delta's "political and sectional feelings," we quote the following editorial remarks from the Orleanian, the only paper in the Third, of yesterday:

"THE FIRST AND THIRD.—Not a little surprised were we last evening, on the perusal of a private letter of a friend, dated from Baton Rouge, to learn therefrom that some of the members of the Legislature from the First Municipality were friendly to the annexation of Lafayette, and that gentlemen even from the old Third were supposed to favor the measure. Who can *the* gentlemen be? The interests of the Third Municipality, it would seem from the present aspect of Consolidation, would be better promoted by standing aloof from all connection. In the event of Consolidation, as now regarded, she will be a paltry outskirt of the city, with no Recorder, no newspaper, no standing and no respect!"

Approving of the bill of Mr. Robb, it adds:

"By acting in concert, which will not always be the case, the First and Third can have the preponderance in the Board."

Are the tax-payers of the Third Municipality prepared to pay a special liquidating tax of seven hundred thousand dollars a year? Can the city of NewOrleans, struggling in embarrassments, pay all her expenses, and then add two millions one hundred thousand dollars in liquidation to foreign bond-holders? Why should she?

MR. RICKER.—In reply to our correspondent, "Query," we are requested to state that Mr. Ricker has been compelled to delay his report to the Legislature in consequence of serious illness, but that his labors have been properly urged, and that he hopes to be able, in a few days, to present the results to the Legislature. A friend of Mr. R. makes this request.

Since the above was written, we have received the following. We understood "Query" to be a particular friend of Mr. Ricker's, and to have written with his full knowledge:

Messrs. Editors—In reply to "Query," who asks, "what has become of Mr. Ricker?" I have the pleasure to reply that he has survived the election, and is making his report ready as fast as practicable.

With your correspondent I believe the result of the election does not alter or modify my duties in relation to a report. Some delays have unavoidably occurred in getting those who have volunteered to aid me to complete their notes and calculations, and for a few days past I have been confined to my quarters from indisposition. Early next week, however, the report and the accompanying documents, (which are exceedingly elaborate and valuable,) will be submitted; and the delay I hope will be pardoned, when it is remembered that this entire work, which could not have been purchased for thousands of dollars, has been prosecuted under every disadvantage, without one cent of appropriation of public money.

Whatever may be the favor with which the report of the committee and the elaborate papers from the men of science engaged in the work may be received, the committee have the satisfaction to reflect that they have spared no pains to obtain accurate information respecting the levee wants of the State; and though they must regret their inability, either personally or by their engineers, to visit Red river and the Ouachita, still sufficient has been determined by their extensive surveys, as they believe, to justify the State in adopting an entirely new system of levee protection.

Without anticipating further the publication of the report itself, and promising, without further prompting, to perform my whole duty, I remain, very respectfully,

Rickerville, January 30, 1852. S. RICKER.

P. S. Your correspondent uses "*engineer*" in the singular. Several gentlemen of that profession have rendered valuable services, and I have been under great obligations for the promptness and public spirit with which they have responded to my call. S. R.

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.—We have received the third Criminal Report of the Board of Administrators of the Louisiana Insane Asylum, and the Report of A. D. Wooldridge, State Engineer, on the internal improvements of Louisiana.

COMPLIMENTARY.—The Boston Bee says: "NewOrleans sends out the prettiest newspapers of any city in the Union—and they are good ones too."

REPORT OF THE LAND REGISTER.—W. H. Crenshaw, Esq., Land Register, has submitted his annual report to the Legislature.

At the date of the last report, February 4, 1850, there remained unsold 130,666 acres of the Internal Improvement lands.

The Seminary land remaining unsold is 10,166 82-100 acres.

The quantity of School lands to which the State was entitled, was 154,529 47-100 acres, of which 2063 49-100 acres has been sold. Mr. Crenshaw mentions the issue by his predecessor, Richard Loucks, Esq., of several fraudulent warrants for lands and the circumstances are such, that the money cannot be returned.

ABUSE OF AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP.—A Constantinople correspondent of the NewYork Tribune complains that many Italian refugees have been provided with American passports as American citizens, and that they do not always do credit to the character. The Consul does right to give the refugees passports, but he should not represent them as American citizens, when they are not.

VALUABLE BUILDING LOTS.—We would direct attention to the property advertised by Lewis Floranee, auctioneer, to be sold at Banks Arcade, this day, at 12 o'clock.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.—We are informed by A. Kendall & Co., 72 Magazine street, that they have just received per ship Caledonia Brander, a fresh supply of Pepsin, and that they can again supply the needy with the great Dyspepsia cure—the Gastric Juice.

GEN. PIERCE AND THE JOKE BOY.—BRILLIANT INCIDENT. When the resolution nominating General Frank Pierce for the Presidency, was introduced in the Newhampshire Democratic State Convention, it was responded to, among others, by General Steele, who related the following brilliant and exciting incident which stamps the hero of it with undying fame:

"Sir, (said Governor Steele,) I have known the whole career of General Pierce, from the day he first took his seat in this hall. I have admired his exploits in Congress and in Mexico. But I have an incident in my mind which I will relate, which, in my humble judgment, exhibits the character of the man in a more illustrious light than all his efforts in the forum or the field.

"It was something more than twenty years ago—Gen. Pierce was then somewhat younger than he is now. He was travelling through one of the western towns of this State; and as he entered the principal village, he beheld three boys together eating candy. At a brief distance he beheld another boy sitting alone. And that boy was not eating candy; but he was crying. General Pierce, feeling interested in so strange a circumstance, inquired into the cause, and ascertained that he was crying because he had no money to buy candy. No sooner had he learned the facts in the case, than, with that noble generosity which has ever distinguished Pierce through his whole life, *he cut his hand in his pocket, drew forth a cent, bought a stick of candy and gave it to the boy, although the boy was a total stranger to General Pierce.*"

The enthusiasm in the Convention was so great at this period that several members were compelled to loosen their cravats, and amid the exultations of the assembly, General Pierce was nominated to the Presidency. Small boys, however, are notified that General Pierce don't do this sort of thing every day.

ANOTHER CASE OF INTERVENTION.—A correspondent of the NewYork Tribune gives the following account of an international question in the far East, to which the advocates of intervention cannot properly be indifferent:

"A serious misunderstanding has occurred between the British Embassy in Russia and the Government of this country. The town of Herat has been a bone of contention between England and Persia many years. It is situated in the eastern portion of Persia and been *quasi* independent of that kingdom, which, however, has frequently endeavored, though in vain, to conquer it. It has proved a chieftainship rather Afghan than Persian, and as Great Britain now pretends to the whole of Caboolistan and Afghanistan, it is not willing that Persian rule should be extended over the strong and wealthy place of Herat. In the hands of Persia, (for it has at last fallen into them,) English domination over the Afghans, who are most warlike and next to the Circassians, the most courageous people in the East, Herat would be a strong inducement for a union of Persia with the Afghans. In this Russia, probably, is not idle; the policy of the Czar is to reduce Persia in point of warlike capability, and check English arms from advancing further northward than they now have done. The English Minister at Teheran, Col. Shiel, has left Persia for Erzeroum, in Turkey, and the question whether the Shah will continue to hold Herat, or, in obedience to England's demands, restore it to its former position."

Professor Gliddon's Lecture—Lyceum Hall.

We made our first visit to the lectures of this renowned Antiquarian and Egyptian Archæologist, on the occasion of his third discourse, which was delivered last evening. A very full audience was in attendance. The Hall presented an interesting spectacle to the lovers of novelty, of the grotesque, and of the horrible; being hung round with numerous copies of quaint, old pictures, "the counterfeit presentments" of defunct kings, who lived before the flood; with specimens of ancient history done on papyrus, older than the days of Abraham, and with arrow-headed characters more inexplicable to the uninitiated than the mystic "handwriting on the wall."

Mummies lined the walls, having a plentiful lack of flesh, together with "most lean hams."

"Coffins stood round, like open presses
That show'd the dead in their last dresses;"

and stretched on one of the shelves was the full length anatomy of a veritable crocodile, hooked up from the bed of old Nile, and having "a most ancient and fish-like smell." A body (supposed to be that of one of the ancient kings) lay in gloomy state, displaying a dark, dry and shrivelled anatomy.

The subject of the lecture was, "Egypt's place in the world's history." The lecturer sketched the history of Egyptian discoveries, as brought to light during the last six years, and compared its extraordinary developments with the rapid results brought about by the electric telegraph. He contended that the records discentombed from the sarcophagi buried beneath the pyramids were more ancient than the times of Abraham by two hundred years, and that the oldest Hebrew manuscripts represented but the middle ages of the early world. Specimens of Papyrus were shown, on one of which was written an oration against Demosthenes, and on another two books of Homer. We will not attempt to give even a sketch of the interesting topics touched upon. The lecturer was listened to with profound attention by a most intellectual audience. At the conclusion of the discourse the audience dispersed to various part of the hall, each occupied in admiring survey of the drawings that lined the room, the quaint old pictures, the arrow-headed writings, and the other wonders.

"Horrible and awful,
That even to name would be unlawful."

The next lecture will be on Tuesday next. In the meanwhile we await with anxiety "the unrolling of the mummy"!!

Things at the Capital.

From Our Own Correspondent.

BATON ROUGE, Jan. 27, 1852.

SENATE.—Mr. Sandidge presented resolutions requiring the Register of the Land Office to report to the Senate the amount of land located by the State, how much has been sold, and how much remains of the donation made by the General Government for purposes of internal improvement.

Bill to renew the provisions of the veterans of 1814–15. Referred.

Mr. Labauve—Act relative to sales of succession property. Referred to Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Richardson, of Ouachita—Act granting further power to clerks of Courts. Referred to Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Benjamin reported, from Judiciary Committee, on instructions to introduce a bill to abolish the office of Superintendant of Public Education, and confer the duties on other officers, that the office is provided for by the Constitution, and the Legislature can not deprive him of its functions. An act to reduce the fees of clerks and other officers.

Message from the Governor, enclosing resolutions and memorials on the subject of the Compromise and slavery, from the States of Maryland, Delaware, Indiana, Mississippi, Texas and Illinois. Referred to Committee on Federal Relations.

On motion of Mr. Wickliffe, the bill for appropriation to pay for printing the proclamation of the Secretary of State and amendments to the Constitution, allowing to each paper $200. After some discussion the bill was recommitted, with instructions to examine each bill and report within the limits of $150.

Message from the Governor, informing the Senate of the burning of $1,864,000, and coupons, of Union Bank bonds.

The Governor's veto message of the Citizens' Bank Bill was made the special order for Tuesday next.

The resolutions instructing our members of Congress to ask a donation of the Barrison and fixtures to the Government buildings at Baton Rouge for a Military School, were taken up. Mr. McVea moved to strike out "for a Military School," on the ground that it was encouraging a military spirit, to which we were already too prone. Mr. Phillips sustained Military Schools as the best for useful education. Mr. Renner moved to lay the resolutions on the table, which prevailed.

Resolutions introduced appointing a Joint Committee to district the State.

Resolutions requesting our Senators and Representatives in Congress to obtain a Naval Depot at New Orleans.

The Committee on the Petition of the Assessors of New Orleans, reported unfavorably.

Bill for relief of W. E. Florance, of NewOrleans, passed.

Bill introduced to restore C. A. Cammeyer to his civil rights.

Bill to encourage the building of ships and steamboats in Louisiana.

An act granting appeals from all judgments rendered by Justices of the Peace of the Parish of Orleans.

An act providing for the appointment of Notaries by the Supreme Court.

An act to appropriate $138,000 of School funds for paying the parishes and city of NewOrleans the unpaid amount accruing to them as collected the last year. Passed.

An act to prevent illegal voting in NewOrleans, by Mr. Sever.

The Speaker laid before the House a communication informing the Legislature that the block of stone prepared for the Washington Monument has crumbled to pieces.

The bill to take the sense of the people on the expediency of calling a Convention to change the Constitution, was made the special order of the day for February 4.

Everything quiet. Business progressing steadily, but most expensively.

I understand that some exceptions have been taken to what I said about Mr. Robb, in connection with the election of Secretary of the Senate. I only said the democrats expected his vote—that I did not believe he would act in such bad faith to the whigs, who elected him, and if he did, he contradicted all he had promised. He has voted uniformly with the whigs, and has thus met my belief of him; had he done otherwise, he would have been stained with culpability. "Make treason of that." H.

BATON ROUGE, Jan. 29, 1852.

The following important bill has passed the House. It came up before the Senate to-day, and after some explanatory discussion, from Mr. Robb, drawn forth by the proposition of Mr. Phillips, to refer it, and have it printed, it was ordered that 500 copies be printed. It will no doubt pass:

AN ACT CONCERNING PLEDGES.

Be it enacted by the Senate, etc.—Sec. 1. That when a debtor wishes to pawn promissory notes, bills of exchange, stocks, obligations, or claims upon other persons, he shall deliver to the creditor the notes, bills of exchange, certificates of stock, or other evidences of the claims or rights so pawned, and if the notes or other evidences of debt be negotiable, he shall endorse them, and such pawn, so made, without further formalities, shall be valid, as well against third persons, as the pledgers thereof—if made in good faith.

§ 2. *Be it further enacted, etc.*—All pledges of moveable property may be made by private writing, accompanied by actual delivery, and the delivery of property on deposit in a warehouse, shall pass by the private assignment of the warehouse receipt, so as to authorize the owner to pledge such property, and such pledges so made, without further formalities, shall be valid, as well against third persons as the pledgers thereof—if made in good faith.

§ 3. *Be it further enacted, etc.*, If a credit not negotiable be given in pledge, notice of the same must be given to the debtor.

§ 4. *Be it further enacted, etc.*, That in all pledges of moveable property, it shall be lawful for the pledgee to authorize the sale or other disposition of the property pledged in such manner as may be agreed upon by the parties, without the intervention of Courts of Justice.

This bill requires much close examination to ascertain whether it will not be a great benefit to bankers and delinquent debtors, to the injury of third parties, even though they be judgment auditors, and in effect exclude much litigation. Mr. Robb's explanation of its beauties, and the crying necessity for its adoption, was logical, plausible, and financially eloquent; yet it struck me that there was something in the bill rather too indistinct to be chowdered through in such a manner. It destroys notarial or other records. The great security of notice to creditors at large is placed in jeopardy, and much facility afforded for collusion of fraud.

The intention of the bill may be good, and my hasty examination of it may have misled me as to its merits but I have the most serious apprehensions that it is faulty.

Accompanying this I send you the report of the Land Register.

The bill which passed the Senate yesterday, providing for the proper taxing of Sheriff's and Clerk's fees, requires the Sheriff to specify on all papers returned; also endorse on *fi. fa.* specific bill of costs, and on retiring from office shall file specific bill of costs accrued; and failing or making over charge, shall forfeit his fees and suffer the other penalties for exorbitant charging. The only things worth noting of yesterday or to-day have been reported by telegraph. There was a general disposition, which was backed out from when the ayes and noes were spoken of, to adjourn over till Monday. Both Houses held long sessions of very little tangible importance.

To-night there is a general rush to get away. The wharf-boat is crowded with members, waiting for a boat, and there will probably be no quorum in either House tomorrow. Weather beautiful. H.

Telegraphed to the "Daily Crescent."

By the People's (O'Reilly) Line.

Legislative Proceedings.

BATON ROUGE, Friday, Jan. 30.

In the Senate to-day, Mr. Phillips introduced a bill to reorganize the internal improvement of the State—Ordered printed.

The joint resolutions of the House were taken up, appointing a committee to district the State—Concurred.

The joint resolution regarding the establishment of a naval depot and navy yard in NewOrleans, was also taken up and adopted.

Several bills were reported from the Committee on Claims, one granting pensions to certain veterans of 1814 and '15—Were passed.

Joint resolutions from the House were adopted, instructing the Senators and requesting the Representatives of this State in Congress, to obtain the donation of Fort Jesup; and for a seminary of learning in the Parish of Sabine.

On motion of Mr. Robb, the bill to consolidate the city of NewOrleans was referred to the Judiciary Committee, and made the order of the day for Wednesday next.

Mr. Richardson, of Ouachita, introduced a bill for the relief of Henry H. Bankster—Passed.

Mr. Richardson also introduced an act to incorporate the town of Trenton, in Ouachita Parish.

Joint resolutions, authorizing the cancelling of the bonds of the State Treasurer, were adopted.

Nothing was done to-day in the House of Representatives.

Both Houses have adjourned over to Monday.

The Fire in NewYork.

NEWYORK, January 29.

The principal losers by the fire on the corner of Liberty and Nassau streets are F. C. Duremus, J. L. Nixon, Fisher & Robinson, and Hodges & Co. The total loss is estimated at $300,000.

Death of a Prominent Man.

PITTSBURGH, January 30.

Harmer Denny, a well known citizen and President of the Steubenville and Pittsburgh Railroad, died in this city yesterday.

Steamboats Passing.

VICKSBURG, January 30.

The following steamboats have passed this place during the last 24 hours, bound for NewOrleans: The Bulletin, at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon; the Isabel, at 10 o'clock last night; the Tuscumbia, at 3 this morning; the Aleck Scott, at 5 this morning. The Magnolia is to leave for NewOrleans this evening.

DEATH OF GEN. FOX.—Gen. Arthur Fox, whose name has been long and honorably connected with the political history of Mississippi, died in Lawrence county on the 8th inst.

MAIL ROBBER CAUGHT.—The Augusta (Ga.) Constitutionalist says: "We learn that C. Colson, who was arrested for robbing the United States Mail at Camac, and made his escape from Warrenton jail, was rearrested at Camac, and passed through this city yesterday, on his way to Savannah, under charge of the Deputy United States Marshal.

FIRE.—A fire broke out in the Odd Fellows' Hall, at Clinton, La., on the 22d inst. Fortunately it was discovered in time to extinguish the flames before serious damage was done. The Floridian comments earnestly on the necessity of having a fire engine in that village.

LECTURES FOR THE PEOPLE.—A movement has been made in NewYork for a series of cheap lectures by some of the best lecturers in the country. The price of admission is to be a York shilling, or a ticket admitting one gentleman and two ladies for twenty-five cents. Half the gross proceeds is to go to the lecturer, the other half to defray the other expenses.

INCENDIARISM.—A negro boy set fire to some out-houses in Vicksburg a few days since. The flames were discovered in time to prevent serious damage. The boy was arrested and is in jail.

PARDONS.—The Georgia Legislature, during its last session, pardoned Brickly Bishop and James Johnson, each under sentence of death for murder. Granland D. Cornett, convicted of murder, was also pardoned.

THE PROPOSED INDUSTRIAL CONVENTION.—Gov. Collier, of Alabama, has appointed seventy-five delegates to attend a Convention to be held in NewOrleans in May next, preliminary to a great Southern Agricultural and Mechanical Exhibition.

THE INDIANS IN FLORIDA.—The Tallahassee Floridian contains the proceedings of public meetings held at Alfia Bridge, at Hebepuckassa and at Old Tampa, on the subject of the removal of the Indians. They demand the immediate ejection of the Seminoles by the action of the State authorities, if the General Government should delay.

ANOTHER LARGE CARGO.—The ship Hungarian, Captain Patterson, was cleared on Tuesday last, at Mobile, for Havre, by I. Bell, Jr. & Co. with a cargo of 3553 bales of cotton, weighing 1742,424 pounds, and valued at $128,377 06.

NATAL.—The Norfolk Herald says: "Our Navy Yard, at this time, presents an animated and interesting appearance, the mechanics being constantly employed, and from the Dry Dock to the Navy Yard gate, every thing is in full block."

FIRE AND LOSS OF LIFE.—The dwelling-house of Mr. Wm. Sales, at Hamburg, S. C., was burned on the evening of Saturday the 20th, and a little daughter of his, aged about three years, perished in the flames.

DEED READING HIS PAPER.—The Woonsocket Patriot says: "Mr. Tertius Freeman, of Mansfield, Conn., a subscriber to this journal, died while reading the Patriot a few days since. He was aged 73 years. Peace to his manes." Mr. Freeman endured his afflictions to a good old age.

RED RIVER FROZEN OVER.—The Caddo (La.) Gazette says it is assured that Red River was actually frozen over above that place on the 20th instant. Silver Lake, in the vicinity of Shreveport, has been frozen over, and what is more, has been skated on.

The Red River Republican of the 24th says the river is falling at that point.

MURDER BY A SLAVE.—A Mr. Matthew Lassley, an old man living near Kingston, Adams county, Miss., was killed by his own negro man a few days since. The negro was arrested, and is in jail awaiting his trial. He has confessed to the murder, with the further declaration that he had formed the resolution twenty years ago, to kill his master, and feeling that he would die naturally he thought it time to execute his purpose!

IMPORTATION OF SLAVES IN GEORGIA.—A bill previously passed by the Senate of Georgia, prohibiting the importation of slaves into that State, passed the House on the 19th inst., with an amendment reducing the penalty, which was originally penitentiary, to a fine, one-half of which was to go to the informant. The Senate probably concurred in this amendment, and we presume the bill became a law before the adjournment of the Legislature.

CHANGE IN THE CAPITAL.—The subject of removing the capital from Montgomery (Ala.) to Tuscaloosa, where it originally was, is talked of. One of the reasons for the proposed change is the high price of board at Montgomery, the honorables alleging that they cannot afford to pay it. Another reason is, that the members from Montgomery have, by some course, made themselves obnoxious.

SHIP AMERICAN OF WISCASSET.—The Savannah Republican says: The damage to this ship, which arrived here on Friday last, was more serious than was reported in our Saturday's paper. The American was run into in the night near the Western Islands, by some unknown vessel which struck her on the quarter and cut her wheelhouse down to the main-deck. Every spoke of the wheel was broken. The man who was steering at the time has not been seen since and was undoubtedly knocked overboard. The American lost mizen-mast, yards, etc., and hence her long passage.

CLOCKS BY TELEGRAPH.—It is proposed in England, to regulate, by means of the electric telegraph, all the public clocks throughout the kingdom of Great Britain, in accordance with Greenwich or railway time. Precisely at noon, the signal indicating the Greenwich time, as observed by the great electric clock, in the central station, Lothbury, is to be sent over the various lines of wire, giving at an imperceptible interval the exact time at every terminus. Greenwich time, as distinguished from local time, is at present kept by nearly all the towns of importance in England, but they have not the advantage of exact regulation. The only towns of consequence where uniformity of time is not adopted, but where local time is adhered to, are Norwich, Yarmouth, Cambridge, Ipswich, Colchester, Harwich, Oxford, Bristol, Bath, Portsmouth, Exeter, Dorchester, Launceston, and Falmouth, on the east and west of England.

THE WEATHER AND SUGAR CANE.—The Red River Republican has the following remarks about the weather and sugar cane:

"From the same reliable source, we learn that this is the coldest weather we have had here in twenty years, except one night, viz.: on the 4th of March, 1834, when the thermometer was within four degrees of zero. In some instances we have heard of the existence of ice in ponds strong enough and thick enough to bear up a horse. For the first time, in the memory of that venerable and veritable individual, the 'oldest inhabitant,' Bayou Rapides was completely frozen over. We learn this fact from Major W. Bowmer, who has been living upon the bayou since 1819, and has never seen or heard of the like before.

"The effect of this severe weather upon the seed cane is a matter of anxious and serious conjecture. We understand that some that has been well and carefully put up has been examined and found and pronounced, by good judges, to be entirely destroyed. We hope that it will not all prove to be so."

Later from the Brazos.

The steamship Yacht, Capt. Thompson, arrived yesterday from Brazos, having left there on the 26th inst. She brought a considerable number of passengers, among whom were the Mexican General Jose Lopez Urago and Capt. Margarritta, and $59,738 50 in specie.

The Yacht reports that the schooner Susan, from this port for Brazos, on the 22d inst., when near the bar, shipped a sea which stove in her bulwarks and cabin, and killed a Mr. Martin, a passenger.

Gen. Urraga intends to take a tour through the United States, the insurrection on the Rio Grande being considered at an end. Besides his aid, Capt. Margarritta, he is accompanied by Judge Curozas, a member of the Mexican Congress.

Judge Watrous has organized the U. S. District Court at Brownsville, and business is proceeding.

The Brownsville Flag contains the following letter from Gen. Harney, addressed to Gen. Urraga:

HEADQUARTERS OF U. S. TROOPS ON THE RIO GRANDE, Brigadier Barracks, Texas, Jan. 16, 1852.

General—It would be injustice to my appreciation of the service you have rendered our respective countries did I permit you to take your departure from this frontier without returning to you my thanks for your kindness towards me, and through me to my countrymen; and, without expressing in the most positive manner my opinion of the great importance of your own country, of your conduct in the difficult and complicated troubles which at present disturb this portion of the Republic of Mexico.

I have made no request to you for the facilitation of commerce, or for the convenience or protection of my countrymen, that you have not readily granted; and this, too, despite of the participation of some of the lawless citizens of the United States in the unfortunate internal difficulties existing in the State of Tamaulipas.

You have also furnished me much information which has been useful in preserving unsullied the honor and integrity of my country, and which I could not have obtained from any other source.

For these acts of kindness and marks of consideration I desire, General, before taking a final leave of you, to return my sincere thanks.

It affords me much pleasure to bear testimony to the wisdom, energy and effectiveness of your administration of this frontier. Placed in a most difficult position, you have done much to restore the reign of order and quiet among the restless inhabitants along the line of the Rio Grande. The non-existence of actual war on this border is due, in a great measure, to your exertions.

I desire most heartily that your country may have as able and faithful a representative in your successor.

In this closing act of our correspondence, General, I offer you the assurance of my high consideration, and pray you to believe that, wherever your public duties or your private fortune may lead in future, you will bear with you the kindest regards of your very obedient servant and sincere friend. WM. T. HARNEY,

Col. 2d Dragoons, Brevet Brig. Gen. U. S. A.

To Gen. Jose L. Urraga, of the Mexican Army.

Music and the Drama.

ST. CHARLES THEATRE.—Miss Davenport takes her benefit this evening in a new drama, said to be expressly written for her. Though her engagement has not been a successful one, so far as crowded houses are concerned, she has established a high reputation with those who have had the courage to abstract *her* from her *surport*. Unquestionably we consider her as one of the best actresses on the American stage. Her conceptions are chaste, her readings accurate, her enunciation distinct—her action replete with energy, and a native delicacy tempers the impulses of passion. We trust that the house to-night will be a tribute to her merit, and that she will be permitted to leave us under the pleasing impression that she has made many friends during her short stay.

FRENCH THEATRE.—Halevy's opera of the "Jewess," is to be repeated again this evening. Tyssere, the tenor, made a most decided hit on Thursday last, in the character of the *Old Jew*, and as the opera is one of Halevy's best, we expect to see a full house to-night.

CONCERT.—The grand vocal and instrumental concert, by Mr. E. Beulanger, will come off at the Armory Hall on Friday evening next, the 6th instant.

FIREMEN'S BALL.—The annual ball of Perseverance Fire Company No. 13, comes off as the Armory Hall to-night, and we anticipate one of the most brilliant affairs of the season. The members of "13" are *au fait* in matters of the kind, and every exertion has been made to sustain their high reputation in the reunion of to-night.

New Music.

FROM WM. T. MAYO, No. 5 CAMP STREET.—Mr. Mayo sends us several pieces of new music, published in most excellent style: "Choice Selections from Verdi's Opera of Ernani" "Sweet Bessie from Over the Water," etc. The names of those composing and arranging the pieces guarantee their superior merits.

Late Publications.

BOOKS FROM WALKER'S.—Percival Keene: a tale of the sea, by Marryatt, and the Miseries of NewOrleans, by Ned Buntline. The above are for sale by C. J. Walker, No. 7 Exchange Place.

CATHOLIC ALMANAC.—We have received from T. O'Donnell, No. 160 Camp street, the Catholic Almanac for 1852. It is a valuable book of reference.

City Intelligence.

THE CHARTRES STREET FIRE.—A man in the employ of Mr. Busel, whose premises were destroyed on Thursday night, yesterday came forward voluntarily and stated that it was he who had set the building on fire. He states that he took a lamp in one of the upper rooms, occupied as a store or rectifying room, and containing large quantities of alcohol and other inflammable liquids, when the lamp burst, and the light falling communicated with the spirits in a vessel on the floor. It spread in an instant over every thing in the room, and he made a narrow escape with his life. It appears that Mr. Busel's losses are not nearly covered by the insurance on the property destroyed.

FOURTH DISTRICT COURT.—*Matthews Finley & Co. vs. C. M. Rutherford*—Suit was brought in this case for a note for $1900, made by defendant in favor of and endorsed by S. B. Conrey, and when due protested for nonpayment. The petition was filed the 17th ult., and judgment by default rendered on the 12th. The judgment was set aside on the 15th, and defendants filed an answer averring that plaintiffs were not owners of the note sued for, but merely held it as collateral security; further, that no consideration was ever given by Conrey, the payee, to defendant, the maker of the note; and further, that there was no legal transfer of the note to plaintiffs, they not having paid any consideration therefor.

The case came up yesterday, and S. B. Conrey, the payee and endorser, was called to the stand by defendants. Plaintiffs objected to his being sworn in the case, on the ground that he was a party interested in the issue of the suit. The Court overruled the objection, and Conrey gave his testimony. He testified that he had borrowed $4,500 of Matthews, Finley & Co., and had given them his individual note for that amount. He had also given them as collateral security several notes drawn by C. M. Rutherford, and endorsed by him, (Conrey.) He had returned only $1500 of the money borrowed, leaving $3000 due. He considered the note an accommodation note. It was given for the special accommodation of himself. He does not know that Matthews, Finley & Co. knew that it was an accommodation note. Thinks they do not know it. The arrangement made between witness and Rutherford was that he, witness, should raise money on the note. Upon this testimony, Judge Strawbridge rendered a verbal decision in favor of defendants; and plaintiffs' counsel filed a bill of exceptions, excepting to the ruling of the Judge, admitting Conrey's testimony.

ALLEGED ROBBERY.—Mr. A. Simon a jeweller of Mobile, arrived here yesterday in search of a French mechanic named Dowde, who as Simon alleges, feloniously brought with him two "jewellers ribets"—worth $200 or $250. A search warrant was issued by the Recorder of the First Municipality, by virtue of which the rollers were found in the chest of the accused