THE DAILY CRESCENT.

SATURDAY MORNING, JANUARY 7, 1854.

DEMOCRACY AND REPUBLICANISM COMPARED.

Our neighbor of the Delta, though clever and enlightened, seems but imperfectly to comprehend us, when we set up and insist on a total distinction between Republicanism and Democracy. Now, we ought to be under no necessity of explaining a difference so necessary to be understood and so well known to all the higher class of writers who have treated of Governments and their various forms. But since even our learned brother, a doctor in politics, has fallen into an oblivion of these things, the generality of men less skillful in them than he must surely have done the same; so that it clearly behooves us, little agreeable as it is, to go back to the beginning, and, in order not to be misconceived, to expound a little, systematically but briefly, what seems to require expounding, though it ought not. For it must surely be accounted singular that a country whose entire institutions profess to be the work of art and science, whose Government is one of pure theory, whose population are all the while discussing abstract principles or engaging in high speculations about these matters, should yet have contrived, in the midst of all this, to become ignorant of the very rudiments of all such knowledge, and absolutely to have studied and discussed, like a learned person whom we once knew, until they have forgotten their alphabet.

All who are recognized as having written wisely upon the several forms and natures of Governments have agreed, from Aristotle's time down to the present, that there are three great simple forms; the Kingly, the Aristocratic, the Popular; which, if ever changed among a people, are almost sure to succeed each other, in the order in which we have mentioned them.

All these are considered, by the philosophic writers, as capable of being good alike, because what are called *temperate* governments. For, until they degenerate—that is, until a king shall desire to rule with no regard to nobles or people; or the nobility shall lord it over both the rest of the authority of the monarch and the interests of the community; or this last shall set aside the participation of both the other natural orders of the society in conducting the commonwealth—they will all be a government of laws, not persons or an order; will temper each other.

But each of these forms tends to degenerate into another, the exaggeration of itself, by the destruction of the joint share and influence which the other orders should hold with it, so as that the government may be conducted for their common benefit: the kingly power, if suffered to do so, will pass into a personal despotism, seeking no longer any thing but the gratification of its own will or family or favorites; the aristocratic order is liable, if unchecked but by itself, to grow into an oligarchy or tyranny of a few great nobles; and the popular form is apt to fall into a democracy, or tyranny of the mere multitude, who are, of course, the worst part of the people.

Now, as the three first are considered liberal or temperate governments, the three others into which they are apt to be respectively vitiated are looked on as intemperate ones or tyrannies. For a tyranny is when one order, class or interest in the State rules unchecked by the rest; and there may equally be a despotism of the one or autocrat, of the few or nobles, and of the many or populace.

Finally, a Republic or Commonwealth is neither a monarchy, an aristocracy, nor a dominion of the majority alone; but preserves and combines them all. It may, as a mere name, call the State what it pleases; but so long as the orders or parts of which it is composed limit, restrain, check each other and thus bring about a government of no one class, it is a free government, a true Republic, such as our founders designed that this should be. It is, however, fast degenerating into a mere democracy; and what that is and what its relation to Freedom, we have now, we hope, made sufficiently clear for the Delta and everybody to understand us. In a word, we are Republicans, not Democrats; and shall ever be found struggling to prevent the people—who have now got possession of nearly everything—who are fast overturning in their passions all that was meant to restrain them—and whom, because they are masters, nearly everybody is flattering on to self-destruction, from ruining this government, that was so free and fair.

TOO HONEST.

A Vicksburg paper (the Sentinel) thinks that, in the afflicting event of Mr. Jefferson Davis's laying down the Secretaryship of War, the only consolation which the bereaved public and the fatherless army can receive will be the appointment of Gen. Quitman as his successor.

Now, we grant that Gen. Quitman may be quite as good as Mr. Davis. But why should we not have a better man than either?

The Sentinel seems to think that the Secretaryship of War has become a sort of State-property of Mississippi, and is held by her in fee simple. Now, that strikes us as unreasonable: unless, indeed, it is from her original, cherished and long-worn honors of Repudiation, that she derives her claim to the distinction.

Or if she thinks that no man should be allowed to take charge of the War office, except a fire-eating Disunionist, why, a-God's-name! let the fire-eaters take it, in endless succession, as fast as vacated by a fire-eater, for some other promotion that he likes better, under this Union that he loves so well.

As to Gen. Quitman, however, it would be a little immoderate to make him, all at the same time, Secretary at War and Commander-in-Chief of the expedition now preparing against Cuba. It would be rather awkward to connect things so visibly. The connection should be, and is, private.

We have another scrape about Gen. Quitman: it is decidedly excessive for a gentleman to be at once a Disunionist and an Annexationist.

The Sentinel, however, insists that he is "learned, patriotic and laborious, has seen actual service, and is morally and politically honest, almost to a fault."

Now, all this is beautiful. The loveliness of Gen. Q's character reminds one of that dear old parson, in Goldsmith's Deserted Village, whose very failings are on virtue's side. In fact, out of the excess of his humanity, integrity and patriotism, he is a filibuster, a repudiator and a disunionist.

It is difficult to refuse one's sympathies to a man who unites so many claims upon the affections; and so we are excessively averse to seeing Gen. Q go to Washington. "Evil communication corrupts;" "touching pitch defileth;" and why should Gen. Q. associate the snow of his morals with the soot of Marcy's and Cushing's? He should keep unsmutched his whiteness of soul and avoid Mr. Pierce's Cabinet.

But hold! We may be exaggerating things to ourself. The Sentinel, 'tis true, extols Gen. Quitman as "morally and politically honest, almost to a fault;" but, meantime, it may take but a very small amount of moral and political honesty to make a great fault, among the Repudiators.

ANOTHER RAILROAD TAX CASE.—In the local column will be found an abstract of the decision and reasons for judgment, delivered yesterday in the Fourth District Court by Judge Reynolds. Want of space alone prevents us from publishing the entire document.

FIRE AT CLINTON, LA.—A fire occurred on the 27th at Clinton, by which several houses belonging to Mrs. Killion, Mr. R. Bist and Mr. Harris were destroyed. Loss estimated at $10,000.

Amusements.

ST. CHARLES THEATRE.—The play of "Ingomar" was performed last evening to a very respectable audience, with Miss Dean as *Parthenia*, and Mr. Jamison as *Ingomar*. The piece itself is one which we both detest and despise—as being untrue to nature and also untrue to art. We cannot, nevertheless, refrain from commending the performance of Miss Dean, which was more critically near to the character of *Parthenia* than any other we have ever seen; simple without being childish and natural without being weak. The artificial was merged in the natural and labor almost lost in the reality. Mr Jamison performed his part very well, but we should have preferred Mr. Mark Smith to Mr. Potter in the part of *Polydor*.

PLACIDE'S VARIETIES.—The "Rivals" was re-produced at the Varieties with the same strong cast as on the previous evening. It is a most beautiful and classic play, containing nothing offensive or improper, but abounding in the keenest wit and the most racy humor. Mr. Brown's *Bob Acres* was unexceptionable, and beyond this we do not know that we can say any thing commendatory. Mr. Bass as old *Sir Anthony Absolute* pleased the entire audience, as did Mr. Allen in the *Captain's* role. Mr. White and Mrs. Waverley had also materially improved on their respective parts, and White gave the brogue of *Sir Lucius* more like an old Irish gentleman than before. We ought to speak of Mrs. Stuart in *Julia* and Mr. Lynne in *Faulkland*, but reserve them for some more favorable opportunity.

DAN RICE'S AMPHITHEATRE.—We dropped in for a moment at Dan Rice's last evening, in hopes of seeing the performance of Madame Tournaire, but were so crowded as to be compelled to leave. The French Troupe is attracting the whole town. They give a performance this afternoon and evening.

Yesterday's Races.

The race over the Metairie Course commenced yesterday. The day was fine, the track was excellent and the horses were in good condition—moreover, the attendance was very large.

The race had three entries, of which one paid forfeit, leaving the contest between T. J. Wells' ch. m. *Lecomte* and a gray filly from the stable of Mr. Kenner. The race was a sweepstake—three mile heats—and *Lecomte* was the favorite at 10 to 4 and 2 to 1.

First Heat—On the first heat the nags got off well, *Lecomte* leading, and ran the first quarter close together. The filly passed *Lecomte* on the back stretch, the latter being held in strongly. They came down the third quarter at a good pace, the filly leading slightly. Coming into the home stretch, *Lecomte* took the lead and opened an increasing gap all the way to the stand, winning by about a length and a half. Time: 1:47.

Second Heat.—The filly got off ahead and held her position to the close of the back stretch, when *Lecomte* went up, challenged and took the lead. From that time the race was in the hands of *Lecomte*, who won in hand by about three lengths. Time: 1:47.

At the close of the second heat *Lecomte* continued his running as though determined for a two mile race and went the first half mile in 51, and the second in one minute—making one mile in 1:47, and two miles in 3:38.

SUMMARY.

T. J. Wells' ch c *Lecomte*, by *Boston*, out of *Reel*.....1 1
D. F. Kenner's gr f by *Glencoe*, out of *Sallie Ward*.....2 2
Time—1:47—1:47.

It will be observed that the foregoing time is not so good as that made by *Lecomte* last year when she ran in 1:45½, the fastest mile heat ever made in this country.

SECOND RACE.—The second race was for a proprietor's purse of $250, single dash of four miles, for which there were the four following entries:

Col. A. L. Bingaman's names ch g *Wade Hampton*, 5 years old, by *Boston*, dam by *Priam*.
J. S. Hunter names ch f *Blonde*, 3 years old, by *Glencoe*, dam by *Wagner*.
D. F. Kenner names b m *Medina*, 4 years old, by *Sovereign*, dam *Flight*.
S. M. Reed names (R. P. Field's) b g *Jim Barton*, 3 years old, by *Gray Eagle*, dam *Jim Bower*.

Judge Hunter's filly *Blonde* was the favorite against the field, although we heard of no long odds being laid.

The start was a very fair one, *Medina* taking the lead—hard pressed by *Blonde*. The nags run to the close of the first quarter very much in a heap and spread out down the back stretch, *Medina* leading, *Jim Barton*, *Blonde* third and *Wade Hampton* last. As they took the third quarter *Jim Barton* lapped without passing *Medina*; *Wade* and *Blonde* began to make more entire play. They passed the stand, *Medina* still leading, *Blonde* second, *Wade Hampton* (passing *Jim Barton*) third and *Jim Barton* fourth. Over the first quarter of the second mile *Wade* and *Jim* fell off very badly, the filly and mare running close together. On the back stretch *Blonde* made a push to pass *Medina*, but finding it useless, fell off and was collared and passed by *Wade Hampton* who then challenged *Medina* took away the lead and won by about half a length.

SUMMARY.

Col. A. L. Bingaman's ch. g. *Wade Hampton* by *Boston* out of *Priam*, 5 years old.....1
D. F. Kenner's b. m. *Medina*, by imp. *Sovereign* out of *Flight*, 4 years old.....2
J. S. Hunter's ch. f. *Blonde*, by imp. *Glencoe* dam by *Wagner*.....3
S. M. Reed's b. g. *Jim Barton*, by *Gray Eagle* out of *Jim Bowie*.....4

THIRD RACE.—The closing race of the day was a sweepstakes of four miles—a single dash—for all ages, for which there were the following entries:

R. P. Field names b g *Flea*; D. F. Kenner names ch g *Arrow*; J. L. Duff names w h *White Eagle*.

Arrow was decidedly the favorite, and we heard of as high odds as 2 to 1 being laid.

White Eagle got off ahead, pressed by *Arrow*; *Flea* being held in hand. Before turning the first quarter *Arrow* took the lead and held it—*Flea* falling off badly down the back stretch. On the third quarter *Arrow* was still gaining and went by the stand about five lengths ahead of *White Eagle*—*Flea* nowhere. This placing was held by the nags through the second mile, *Arrow* continually gaining. The third mile was almost a repetition of the second—*Arrow* leading, *White Eagle* one-eighth mile behind with *Flea* still behind him. On the first quarter of the fourth mile *Flea* collared *White Eagle*, passed him at the beginning of the home stretch, began opening a big gap, although without any hopes of holding other than the second position. The nags came in in accordance with this placing—*Arrow* held hand in hand, and *Flea* at an easy gallop.

SUMMARY.

Sweepstakes for all ages. A single dash of four miles
D. F. Kenner's ch g *Arrow*, by *Boston* out of *Jeanette*, 4 years old.....1 1 1
R. P. Field's b g *Flea*, by *Gray Eagle* dam by imp *Action*, 5 years old.....2 2 2
J. L. Duff's w h *White Eagle*, by *Gray Eagle* out of *Sarah Miller*.....3 3 3
Time—1:49—1:51—1:53—2:44. Total, 7:29.

As we before remarked, the races were largely attended and went off with a great deal of spirit. Our space prevents our giving any longer notice.

RACES TO-DAY.—We call the particular attention of our readers to the advertisement, in another column, of to-day's races over the Metairie course. Mr. Ten Brooek is determined to render the present meeting superior to any that has ever preceded it, and advertises an exceedingly interesting and attractive prospectus. We recommend our friends, and friends of the turf, to turn out en masse as they will have no other opportunity before Wednesday next.

FOR ASPINWALL.—The steamship United States, Capt. Lucas, will sail for Aspinwall this morning at 8 o'clock from her wharf at the foot of Jackson Square, with passengers for California. The United States is one of the swiftest and most commodious steamships in the California trade, and as gallant and polite a commander treads her decks as is to be found in the service of the public.

FOR SAN JUAN.—The steamship Pampero, Capt. Flanders, sails for San Juan del Norte this morning at 8 o'clock.

☞ The agents of Adams & Co.'s Express have favored us with a bundle of San Francisco papers, for which they have our thanks.

☞ Mr. John Hume, the purser of the steamship El Dorado has our thanks for having as usual kindly furnished us copies of Panama and Aspinwall papers.

☞ The purser of the Crescent City has our thanks for late copies of the *Diario*, of Havana.

☞ Mr. M. B. Hart, purser of the steamship Daniel Webster, has obliged us by furnishing us copies of San Francisco papers and memorandum of her trip.

THE SOUTHERN SABBATH-SCHOOL JOURNAL.—This is the title of another fine looking weekly, published and edited by Mr. J. S. Sargent. We notice an interesting article upon the press of the Confederacy in the present number.

LOWER CALIFORNIA.—This new Republic is about 700 miles long and from 50 to 100 miles wide. It is a Peninsula, which embraces about latitude 22 north, and runs about south-west and forms the Gulf of California. It has over 1200 miles of sea coast, and some very good harbors, which may be named San Quintin, Magdalina, San Jose, La Paz, Mulege and Encinada, nearly opposite Guaymas, and the present capital of the Republic of Binnasters. La Paz was captured by the United States sloop-of-war Portsmouth in 1847, and was retained for several months by a battalion of New York volunteers. At that time the population was estimated at 10,000, of which 200 were Indians.

A chain of mountains, broken and irregular, run its entire length, about 700 miles, with spurs running each way, to the gulf on the one side, and ocean on the other. Captain Hallock estimates some of the mountains to be 5000 feet high.

The plains between these spurs, he says, are numerous, broad and covered with stunted trees, and in the wet season, with a thin but nutritious grass, which, in the dry season affords valuable food for herds of cattle and horses. There are but few perennial streams, and water is scarce, but in the plains it can be found by digging fifteen or twenty feet. Vegetables grow with great rapidity, and nearly all the tropical fruit can be raised with great perfection. The general aspect of the coast is barren and dreary, and the people are indolent and roving in their habits. Yet lemons, olives, figs, grapes, dates, maize, sugar cane, and potatoes are grown. Hides, sugar, beef, figs, raisins, etc., are exported to Mexico. The pearl fishery has been prosecuted with much success. There are also gold, silver, lead and copper mines, which it is thought may be profitably worked. The salt mines on Charmon Island in the gulf, and nearly opposite the port of Loreto, are very abundant, and competent, said Capt. Hallock in 1847, to supply the entire coast of California and Mexico. [Marysville Union.

LATEST TELEGRAPHIC NEWS

TO THE NEW ORLEANS DAILY CRESCENT.

By the National Line.

Further by the Canada.

NEW YORK, Jan. 5.—The following are additional items of the news brought by the Canada.

EASTERN AFFAIRS.

The latest intelligence with regard to the Eastern question is to the effect that the allied fleets entered the Black Sea with the object of maintaining the armistice.

The British Government and Louis Napoleon are fully resolved to use coercion with Russia, and the admirals commanding their respective fleets have been instructed to seize the Russian ships found cruising in the Black Sea, and force them back to Sebastapol.

It is rumored that an engagement had taken place on the Black sea, but nothing authentic was yet known at London when the Canada sailed.

The Vienna journals state that the combined fleets had entered the Black Sea on a peaceful errand, their object being to prevent further collisions between the Russian and Turkish naval forces.

The Paris journals have published a document purporting to be the letter of instructions from the four powers to their Embassadors at Constantinople. It bears rather hard on Turkey in its terms.

The Sublime Porte is reported to have refused to agree to an armistice, but consents to send a representative to the proposed conference.

The Emperor of Russia is also said to have consented to send an envoy to the conference.

The loss on both sides in the recent attack upon Kalafat is stated at 4000 men.

CHINA.—The latest advices from China state that a battle had taken place at Arridy between the insurgents and the imperialists, in which the former were defeated. They continue, however, to hold firm possession of Shanghai. The markets at Canton had improved.

OHIO RIVER—MARKETS.

PITTSBURG, Jan. 6.—The river here is unchanged, and navigation is still suspended. The weather is cloudy but cold and freezing.

CINCINNATI, Jan. 6.—The river here is yet stationary. The flour market is quiet, with sales at $5 50 to $6 00 per barrel. A sale of Bulk Shoulders has been made to-day, deliverable on the first of February, at 4½c per lb. Sales of lard in kegs at 8½c per lb.

LOUISVILLE, Jan. 6.—The river here is now rising slowly. Weather cold and freezing.

By the Southern Line.

MOBILE COTTON MARKET.

MOBILE, Jan. 6.—Cotton has been more active during the past week, and the sales embrace 22,500 bales. The receipts of the week are 15,800, and the exports 19,900 bales. The market closes with buoyancy.

Arrival of the Crescent City.

The steamer Crescent City, Capt. R. Baxter, from New York the 27th ult., and Havana the 3d inst., arrived at this port yesterday afternoon, bringing the following passengers:

Mrs Galer two sons and two children, Mrs Helfers and two children, Mrs Loveland and two children, Mrs Reldeo, infant and mother, N Herkiotz and lady, Miss Margaret Montgomery, Miss D Lobenstein, Mrs J Rosenfeld, Miss Hannah Burnie, W Burns and lady, J P Gardner, T Ford, Jas Stewart, Jacob Sargent, Herman Schultz, James Foster, D Gazzo, A Fenelie, H Bosworth, Rev J Alexander, Rev C A Walsworth, Rev J Becker, Rev A F Hewit, Miss R Lebanden, Thos H Marshall, W A Witherspoon, F Quintana, J Rodriques, Silas Daily, Mr Smith, Mr R Lawrence, lady and Miss H T Lawrence, and 15 in steerage.

The Crescent City encountered much heavy weather and hard winds on her passage from New York to Havana.

The brig Mary Elizabeth, of New Orleans, entered the harbor of Havana when the Crescent City left.

On the 6th inst., at 5 p. m., sixty miles S. R. from the Balize, passed ship St. Petersburg, of Boston, bound eastward.

On the 6th passed the schooner Louis McLain lying at anchor at the head of the passes.

In the Havana papers which we have received we find no news of importance.

Arrival of the Steamship Daniel Webster.

The steamship Daniel Webster, Captain B. A. Womack, from San Juan on the morning of the 31st ult., arrived yesterday afternoon. She encountered a strong succession of northerly gales during most of her passage.

The Royal Mail Steamship Dee, Capt. Parker, arrived at San Juan del Norte from Navy Bay. Officers and crew all well. She brought as passenger Mons. M. Fontanilo, French Consul of Carthagena.

There were in the harbor when the Webster left the American bark Martha Clark, with naval stores; the brig Queen Victoria, discharging coal for the Transit Company; brig Alida, with an iron steamer in sections from New York, for same company, intended to run on San Juan river.

This steamer, when completed, will be the largest and most commodious by far of any in use on that river and will accommodate nearly one thousand passengers. She will be put together and finished in good style immediately, under the superintendence of the very efficient Capt. Scott, general agent of the Transit Company.

The river is in excellent boating order and passengers came through in two days from ocean to ocean. The country was never more healthy.

The Star of the West left San Juan same day as the D. W., with two millions of treasure and three hundred passengers, for New York.

The Daniel Webster brings the following passengers:

Mons Fontanil, Capt G W McLeren, A Trenton, J Milne, C Stockman, J McGord, M Baldwin, J M Coit, J C Webb, J B Tell, S P Curr, D R Jerome, A C Read, B Drake, N Bickerman, J Campbell, A Colton, B F Wolford, W Rubell, G W Crowley, J Crowley, G B Crowley, S Catin, G Daugherty, A Fisher, R Austin, R Snook, H Bartlaile, W Williams, B H Cramer, C F Mason, L Van Gilder, S Bert, E Barnes, H Bischilt, A Sinclair, F W Cannon, J H Bringham, J F Russ, P M Rudford, A J Haley, J Franklin, D Burke, C Dilworth, C Marshall W A, Young Mrs Young, L Argo, J G Williams, F Mitchell, J N Donis, D Y Hillingworth, T D Cooper, W J Cleveland, J W Quick, J K Payne, G Patterson, A Gilbert, R Gilbert, H Bonchell, A J Jolas, S H Cooper, F M Rice, C Schmidt, J Van Ness, J W Book, J Shaw, D McKee, A O'Neal, W P Campbell, R Jones, A Philbur, R Dearman, H S Arthur, J P Smith, W Young, A Woodlins, N Case, G Wasson, H A Stewart, J Reese, I Dorsi, J Marsh, W Haley, J D Gabbell, M Burns, J Walker, W Jones, D N Hillman, S Lidington, J King, G M Armstrong, J B Hurst, G Case, D S Stombs, F Lawler, T C Howard, J A Armstrong, W S Cox, S C Wier, N Roping, B Blackburn, M Short, H Hyde, T Gist, W J Hickle, S R Smith, N Mason, L C Murnin, T W Skaggs, J Fanny, J Dickens, J Munkville, M C Hawkley, D M Osgood, J T Burger, C Burge, F Bael, J D Grizzil, J Rangue, D Hanna, H F Patts, M Burns, J Tirge-ron, C Jungebloud, J Newbank, Master W Williams, J E Williams, M A Williams, J C Williams, J Williams, F S Williams, J Williams, T W Burger, B Burge, K S Beones, G Chacland, Miss Beones, Charcland M Williams, H Williams, and 64 in the steerage.

Taking a Drink.

We have nothing to say as to the *morale* of drinking. It is sufficient for us that almost all people in all countries do, either to a greater or less extent, indulge in the custom, and it is very questionable whether those who do not much improve the matter by means of opium and arsenic. In our own country at least, brandy and water, whisky or mixed liquors rule paramount and supersede every other style and instrumentality of exhilaration. A drink is conceived to be a necessity. Whether to cement a friendship or terminate a hostility; to make an acquaintance or to call one out; to do honor to an introduction or magnify a favor, the readiest and most acceptable means is supposed to be found through "a drink." One is invited to indulge before dinner to sharpen his appetite, at dinner to relish his food and subsequently to settle it. He is requested in the morning because it is customary; and in the evening, because it is necessary. The shaking of hands cannot be performed with true cordiality unless cemented by a drink. Hospitality flags unless spurred by a drink. Every class and all time recognize the binding force of the custom and continue its prevalence.

We have been astonished at the multiplicity of occasions which call for this acknowledgment and warrant its acceptance. They are countless and innumerable—occupying all hours and monopolizing all occasions; seized upon with avidity and assiduously encouraged. Men drink to honor a birth or mourn a death, for business purposes, from friendship and because they like it. It would seem to be a prevalent idea that the heart was most immediately reached through the throat, and that the affections were moved by liquor as the liver is supposed to be affected by calomel. It is very evident that some popular belief is attached to a custom which so universally obtains, and is so supremely acknowledged.

The custom of taking a drink is so general that the manner is almost equally notable. One man, who drinks in order to great the return of his friend, hardly swallows sufficient to moisten his throat. Another, who drinks because he was requested, pours down the liquor as though a bottomless pit was yawning to receive the contents of his glass. A lady merely touches her lips, as an old soldier drains to the very dregs. Mr. Brown by his considerate manner of pouring from the decanter and glass will be able to congratulate friends all day; while Mr. Smith, less careful in his philosophy, will be put to bed in a very inodorous state, before dinner.

Our people do not acknowledge the old writer who sang *strollen now indeed*. They put adore out of the door and stick stoutly to manufactured beverages. The wisdom of the practice lies with themselves and we have nothing to say. Only sometimes the custom becomes a nuisance and costs, in the shape of cocktails much more than it comes to. Our own community is not specially marked by the habit. It rules as largely in the North and West as here, and in Great Britain as the United States. In fact the taking of a drink has became a necessity as well as a custom, and cannot be abrogated by all the "Maine Laws" ever prayed for. It has been sanctioned by the poets from Anacreon to Tom Moore, and by the novelists and literateurs in general. The world has accepted the habit and recognized its propriety. The verb "to drink" is conjugated daily, in all moods and tenses, from drink to drank, between the Aroostook and Rio Grande. We are invited to honor the custom even while recording its prevalence.

NEWS OF THE CITY.

FOURTH DISTRICT COURT—*Judge Reynolds.*—City of New Orleans ss. Madame H. de St. Romes.—This suit was instituted to recover of defendant the sum of $928, being a tax levied on her property to meet the subscription to the New Orleans, Jackson and Great Northern Railroad Company, in conformity with an act of the Legislature approved March 12, 1852; also, the sum of $152, being the first instalment of the subscription to the New Orleans, Opelousas and Great Western Railroad Company, levied under the same law.

To this action defendant has filed an exception and an answer, setting up various grounds of defense.

In rendering judgment against the claim Judge Reynolds has not (as did the Judge of the Sixth District Court in a similar cause not long since) based his decision on the ground of unconstitutionality; but he sets forth the irregularity of the manner in which the election was ordered and conducted; he quotes the 3d section of the law of 1852, prescribing certain regulations and conditions for the conduct of the election, and then remarks that the evidence in this case shows they have not been complied with, and, "considering that the checks and guards prescribed in the law of 1852 were the only protection to the property holder, who alone was to be taxed for the railroads, he could not but come to the conclusion that all the provisions of that law should have been rigorously complied with."

Judgment was therefore rendered in favor of defendant against the claim of plaintiff, with costs.

ALMOST A DUEL.—A free negro man named A. Cailon and one John Beauseigneur, an elegant colored gentleman—almost a white exquisite, in fact—yesterday made arrangements to refer to mortal arbitrament a quarrel which had arisen between them in regard to a right of property in some sooty wench. The authorities somehow smelled out the affair (probably being to leeward of the belligerent parties) and officer Jennings was despatched in pursuit and soon had them in custody. They were placed under bonds to keep the peace.

A SAD PICTURE.—A man whose name it is not necessary to mention, brought his little son to the First District watch-house last night for safe keeping, declaring him to be a vagrant, and stating that he could no longer exercise any control over him.

THIEVING.—Moses, a slave of Mr. Gottois, was arrested last night on the Levee for purloining a hand from the cargo of the steamer Indiana. He was locked up in the First District calaboose.

RECORDER WINTER'S COURT—*First District.*—Sundry cases of savage assault and severe battery were brought before this court yesterday and fixed for future examination, the offenders being placed under bond for their appearance.

USING THE TAOT GLOVE.—John Murphy deposed that A. C. Thorp and R. Hunt came to his house on Philippa street, and pretending to be officers arrested him, declaring that they were in search of a dog which had been stolen, and that as he was probably the thief he must render up the canine or go to the calaboose. Murphy chose the latter alternative, and he charges that white on their way his custodians assaulted him with iron knuckles, knocked him down and then left him to go where he pleased. This latter proceeding naturally led Murphy to suspect that their crescents and commissions were altogether imaginary, and he accordingly laid complaint. The examination of the affair is fixed for the 16th inst. A charge is pending against Murphy for stealing the aforesaid dog—or rather his collar and chain—and if he cannot establish his present charge his case may be looked upon as a decidedly shabby one.

LARCENY.—Two affidavits were made against Bridget Coffey yesterday, charging her with stealing money from house No. 8 St. Peter street in this District. Mrs. M Hart deposed that her bed room was entered on Wednesday night and the sum of $75 taken from an armoir, and that Bridget afterwards confessed she had taken the money. James Beecher, who occupies a room in the same building, charged that Bridget entered his room on Thursday morning, while he was absent, and stole therefrom $122 in paper and gold. Her examination is fixed for the 10th.

RESISTING PROCESS.—Michal Haley, a constable of the First Justice's Court, made an affidavit against Patrick Gafney, charging him with resisting the execution of a writ of sequestration, and threatening, and assaulting deponent while in the discharge of his duty. The case will be examined on the 13th inst.

FORGERY.—A day or two since we gave the particulars in the case of one Chenoweth, *alias* Acres, who was up for forging the name of Mr. Bates, agent or clerk of the Jackson Railroad Company, to an order upon a clothing store for $15. The examination took place yesterday, and Chenoweth was sent before the First District Court under bond of $500.

FOOD.—Pleasant Harris was arrested a day or two since on a dangerous and suspicious character. Upon his person were found when arrested a bowie knife of enormous dimensions and a commission as supernumerary policeman of the Third District, signed by Recorder Seargeant. We hardly know which of these instruments would render him most dangerous to society; the police here, and others who know him, give him the character of a notorious rascal, and yet he is found with a commission in his pocket empowering him to protect the property of the public apparently, but really giving him wider scope and a safer field in which to exercise his own operations. A fine of ten dollars was imposed upon him for carrying a concealed weapon, and then he was permitted to depart and attend to his business.

LOST.—MARTHA WASHINGTON BRUGNIERS and CELIA RYAN, each aged 5 years, strayed from home last evening. Any information regarding them will be thankfully received by their parents, at the First District Police Station house.
CLAUDE BRUGNIERS,
THOMAS RYAN.
jan7

BANK OF NEW ORLEANS, January 6, 1854.—The Sixth Instalment of Ten Per Cent. on subscriptions to the Union Bank of Louisiana is due and payable at the Banking House on TUESDAY, the 10th instant.
W. P. GRAYSON, Cashier.
jan7 11

WANTED—An accliimated young man, who writes a handsome hand and is a good accountant, wishes employment in a respectable house, either as in our or outdoor Clerk. Can be referred to given. Address addressed to Box A, 38 Post-office, receives attention.
jan7

WANTED—Fifty Laboring Men, to cut wood and get posts and shingles, near the city. Apply to
GUITMAN & HALL, 38 Gravier st.,
or to T. THAYER, Algiers.

METAIRIE RACES.
WINTER MEETING.
SATURDAY, Jan. 7, 1854.
Sweepstake for two year olds—Half mile—Entrance $300 subscription, $100 forfeit. To carry three pounds overweight.
T S Gibbons's ch c by Imp Magnum, out of Fanny Ring.
Also ch c by imp Glencoe, out of Pandora by imp Leviathan.
W J Minor names ch c by Wonder, out of Norma by Longwood.
Also ch c by Wonder, out of Lady Jane by imp Leviathan.
A L Bingaman and R Ten Broeck names ch c by imp Glencoe, out of Nanna Bubb.
A L Bingaman names ch f by Flying Dutchman, out of Mrs Hinkle.
SECOND RACE—Same Day—Sweepstake for 3 year olds. Two mile heats. $100 entrance, $100 forfeit, $250 added for Jockey Club.
T J Wells's ch c by Imp Glencoe, out of Trolley's Rhodora.
W J Minor names ch g Consul the Consul, by Wonder, out of Lady Jane.
Also ch f by imp Boldnazer, out of Variety by Pacific—the cost of imp Boldnazer by Sultan.
D F Kenner names ch c Arrest, by imp Glencoe, out of Pizarro.
A L Bingaman and R Ten Broeck names b c Lexington by Boston, out of Alice Carlisle.
WEDNESDAY, January 11—Jockey Club Purse $400. Two mile heats.
Thursday, January 12—Hurdle Purse $300. Three mile heats.
Friday, January 13—Jockey Club Purse $400. Four mile heats.
Saturday, January 14—Sweepstake—Mile and a quarter—Three year old fillies.
Monday, January 16—Proprietor's Purse $300. For beaten horses for purse and stake losers. Two mile heats. $100 to go to second horse.
☞ Stewards' Stakes for the town days, $125. Public Stand, $1. Field, 50 cents.
☞ Ladies must be invited to the stand provided for them by a member of the Jockey Club.
☞ No admittance to gentlemen without tickets.
☞ Carriages and cabs, either having their accounts at the stands, will remain in the field until after the race.
☞ Races will be run, rain or shine. First race 2 o'clock, second 2 p. m.
RUFUS THOMAS, Proprietor.
jan7

FANCY FAIR AND MUSEUM OF CURIOSITIES and ARTS, No. 9 St. Charles street, open every evening from—improved and beautiful and for sale of JEWELRY, TOYS, FANCY GOODS and curiosities of every description.
The Proprietor of the above establishment would respectfully inform the citizens of New Orleans that he has fitted up expressly for the season and in the most elegant manner, the saloon formerly occupied by Messrs. Hooks, as the fancy and museum department of his establishment, and will spare no pains or expense to make it the most attractive place of amusement in the city. Admission free. Shooting galleries will be kept on the regular way, they have proved so popular last year.
☞ Attractive curiosities from Europe.
☞ Exhibition of the celebrated MICROSCOPIC VIEWS, with a scientific lecture on the wonders of the microscope.
☞ Amusing curiosities and instructive lectures, the proprietor wishes it to be understood that no liquors, or gambling of any description, will be permitted in the establishment.
jan7 tf
W. NORTH, Proprietor.

BROUGHT to the First District Police Prison:
DANIEL, black, 5 feet 8 inches high, about 40 years old, has a scar on the forehead. Says he was born in Mississippi.
JOHN, a mulatto, 5 feet 10 inches high, 20 years old; has a scar on the forehead. Says he belongs to Mr. Lanzon.
JOHN, a mulatto, 5 feet 10 inches high, 19 years old; has a scar on the forehead. Says he belongs to Mr. Sulomon.
The owners will please come to the Police Prison and take them away.
JONATHAN WORRALL, Warden.
New Orleans, January 7, 1854.
jan7 1w2tw

NAVAL STORES—2800 barrels Wilmington Tar, Pitch, Rosin and Spirits Turpentine, for sale by
A. DELAGRAVE & CO., 71 Magazine st.
jan7

FIRE BRICKS—250,000 English and Pensacola Fire-bricks for sale by
A. DELAGRAVE & CO., 71 Magazine st.
jan7

FOR RENT.—A tight and spacious office. For terms, apply to
J. H. ASHRIDGE & CO., 62 St. Charles st.
jan7

CORDIALS—
25 baskets ANISETTE DE BORDEAUX;
10 baskets RATAFIA DE GRENOBLE;
40 baskets CURAÇOA;
10 baskets CINTRON;
10 baskets ANISETTE DE DANTZIG;
10 baskets ORANGE CORDIALS;
10 baskets CURAÇOA, well shaded and for sale by
A. CORDER, 110 Common street.

PECANS—25 kegs new Pecans for sale by
A. F. COCHRAN & HALL, 34 Gravier st.

SMYRNA FIGS—500 drums new Smyrna Figs for sale by
A. F. COCHRAN & HALL, 34 Gravier st.

GUANO—25 tons Peruvian Guano for sale by
A. DELAGRAVE & CO., 71 Magazine street.

INDIA BAGGING—120 pieces in store, for sale by
E. M. DALEY, 66 Tchoupitoulas st.

PLASTER—300 bbls. Calcined, landing from brig Russian, and in store, for sale by
JOHN G. HARDILL & CO., 37 Magazine st.

OATS—552 bags, landing ex steamer Delaware, for sale by
E. M. DALEY, 66 Tchoupitoulas street.

CASTOR OIL—20 bbls Blow's No. 1, in store and for sale by
E. M. DALEY, 66 Tchoupitoulas street.

WANTED—A Carrier for the CRESCENT, for the route comprising the entire Third District of the city. This being an important route, it will not be given to any but a first-rate Carrier. Apply at the Office, between 10 o'clock a. m. and 12 M.

CENTRIFUGAL SUGAR MACHINES.—G. B. Hartsen, the exclusive Manufacturer of these celebrated Machines, is at present in New Orleans, and will remain but a few weeks. Planters wishing to secure them for the present or next season, can now, by addressing Messrs. Fellowes & Co., have the benefit of his experience. He will visit their respective plantations, and give such directions as will enable them to erect and operate them satisfactorily. dec 31 w6*

Arrivals at the Principal Hotels.....January 6.

ST CHARLES.....Ed Shepherd, R W Collins, W H Murphy, D H Bent, H H Davis, W H Horney, N O; W A Loyd, Dr E M Yerger, W Lessney, Miss R W Gest, Monmouth; C Sydall, Thos Bond, Texas; H Erskine, D T Kouns, La; Geo Young, W T Moulding, Ark; S P Bradley, Ky; T J Walts, Jeff Wells, La; Cross Waples, C J Hays, N Y; W C Whitcomber, J A Peebles, La; C Hutchins, C J Hutchinson, Polka; R C Hilford, Jas H Mere, La; E F Wilkins, A Noble, Cal; W Henderson and lady, T B Greene, B B Simons, La; C Morgan, Cal; D M Mead, T A S Douglas, Miss; W A Burns, N McGillough, La; H Chelers and lady, Miss Chap ins and son, Miss; W J Moore and lady, daughter and servant, Miss Wilkins, G Gilbert, Miss; Thomas A Baxter, Henry Houghton, La; John Parker and servant, Miss Rokelsper, Miss; Dr King, Miss; Kilcrach; W H Broughton, W L Keen and lady, Miss; W B Wertzlick, James R Wertzlick, La; W M Jewell, Tuca N Shelby, Miss; W Brougton, Ohio; Mr M Smith and servant, Miss Brown, S H Stockett, Mrs E McGrane and servant, Jos W Burroughs and lady, C Smith, Miss; W T Tate, La; S Parkinson, Texas; J C Jones, K G Cook, Miss; G H Barton and lady.

ST LOUIS.....A Shows and servant, Mrs Buchanan, Miss Parkins, Cin; S Spring, Md and Mrs Emery, N O; Duncan S Cage, R C West, Miss; Mr, Barnes and child, Mr Brown, Cal; A C Gray, steamer Eldorado, C