The Beauties of Creation.

BY JOHN BOWRING.

Ours is a lovely world! how fair!
The beauties, even on earth, appear!
The seasons in their courses fall,
And bring successive joys to the sea.
The earth, the sky are full of Thee,
Benignant, glorious Lord of all.

There's beauty in the break of day:
There's glory in the noonlitide ray:
There's sweetness in the twilight shades:
Magnificence in night: Thy love
Arched the grand heaven of blue above,
And all our smiling earth pervades.

And if thy glories here be found
Streaming with radiance all around,
What must the Fount of glory be?
In Thee well hope—in Thee confide,
Thou mercy's never ebbing tide!
Thou, love's unfathomable sea!

Gen. Jackson's Endorsement of A. J. Donelson.—When the old patriot was about closing his eyes on earth, and preparing to meet his God, he did not place his sword upon Mr. Donelson, (that he left for us to do,) but with his blessing bequeathed to him his favorite sword, which had been presented to him for noble deeds, in the following remarkable language, which is a literal extract from his last Will:

I bequeath to my well beloved nephew, Andrew J. Donelson, son of Samuel Donelson, deceased, the elegant sword presented to me by the State of Tennessee, with this injunction; that he fail not to use it when necessary, in support and protection of our glorious Union and for the protection of the constitutional rights of our beloved country, should they be assailed by foreign or domestic traitors. This, from the great change in my worldly affairs of late, is with my blessing all I can bequeath to him, doing justice to those creditors to whom I am responsible. This bequeath is made as a memento of my high regard, affection and esteem which I bear to him as a *high-minded, honest, and honorable man.*

Unique quotations from Crescenta's Scrap-Book.

Dear Crescent, will you take the will for the deed, I would, with great pleasure, write you this week, but am suffering from a severe Neuralgic headache, and cannot gather my thoughts sufficiently to make my letter at all coherent. This being the case please accept some quotations in lieu of my letter and congratulate yourself upon having something more worthy of your attention; they were selected at different times and will serve as good material for cogitation:

Better be the head of the yeomanry than the tail of the gentry.

Beware of a silent dog and still water.

Daughters and dead fish are hot keeping ware.

It is not easy to straighten in the oak, the crook that grew in the sapling.

There is many a good wife who cannot dance or sing well.

You will never have a friend, if you must have one without a failing.

There is one good wife in the country, and every man thinks he hath her.

Lean liberty is better than fat slavery.

That's but an empty purse that is full of other folks' money.

One might as well be out of the world as beloved by nobody in it.

He that knows useful things, and not he that knows many things is the wise man.

As light is to the eye, so is the mind to the soul.

As we must tender an account of every idle word, so we must of every idle silence of our tongue.

He is a worthless fellow who lives only for himself.

Hope is the weaking man's dream.

Depend not upon fortune but conduct.

Begin life with but little show, you may increase it afterwards.

Advise not what is the most pleasant but the most useful.

Be contented and thankful; a cheerful spirit makes labor light, sleep sweet, and all around cheerful.

Wedlock is a dangerous thing.

Youth is a thunder, manhood a struggle, old age a regret.

Wherever we tread 'tis haunted holy ground.

Virtue must be thrown off, 'tis a coarse garment, too heavy for the sunshine of a court.

Trust none, for oaths are straws, men's faiths are wafer cakes.

The past but lives in words.

The sun-shine of life is made up of very little beams, that are bright all the time.

A DAY WITH ALLIGATORS.

Life in the Philippine Islands.

While seated one morning in the window of the country residence of my friend Don Arturo, an old Spaniard living in the neighborhood of Manilla, conversing with him and his pretty wife on various topics, occasionally sipping a glass of wine, and partaking of some of the rich fruits which were placed in an old-fashioned silver tray at our elbows, we at length began to feel anxious for some scene of more activity.

"I will tell you what we will do to amuse ourselves," cried the Spaniard, suddenly, removing his cigar, and glancing up and down the river Pasig, which quietly flowed along within a stone's throw of the house.

"I listen," said I, removing the skin from a golden-colored banana.

"What say you to shooting alligators, my friend? That will be amusement worthy of men who have passed through the trying scenes of the earthquake with unshaken nerves. What say you, shall we go?"

"On one condition—that we invite my friend Allen to be one of the party."

"Invite him by all means," cried Don Arturo, with warmth. "I will write him a note requesting him to ride over to-night, and start with us in the morning."

"Don't trouble yourself," I answered: "I will ride over myself and ask him."

"A good plan, my friend, and worthy of you. Order the best horse in the stable, and let the servant put the old Spanish saddle upon his back—the one that I use."

This was an act of politeness that I never expected of the Don, as he prized that saddle almost as much as he did his wife.

"I will be back before many hours," I said, as I left the room to dress for my ride.

I found Mr. Allen at home, and received a warm welcome. He was about sitting down to breakfast, and I required no urging to join him. After the meal I made my errand known to Allen, who took some time to consider on the subject, much to my surprise.

"There is more danger in such sport in what you propose," Allen said; "but you shall not go alone."

"I do not intend to go alone. Don Arturo is to be one of the party."

"And he will run on the first appearance of danger."

"Do you think so?"

"I know that he will; but I will make one of the party. Stop here until afternoon, and then I'll ride over with you. In the meantime I will get my rifle in order and send it over to the Spaniard's house."

I readily consented to this plan, and spent an agreeable afternoon in listening to his interesting stories of adventures. Before dark we were at the Spaniard's house, and made all preparations for an early start on the next day. At an early hour we retired to rest, after dispatching a servant to hire two large *banqos* for the transportation of ourselves and provisions to a small lake up the river.

We rose at daybreak, partook of a hearty breakfast, swallowed a few cups of coffee that was strong enough to bear an egg, and then walked to the river banks where the boats were awaiting us. One of the *banqos* was filled with our tent, blankets and provisions, while the other, which was handsomely decorated, was reserved for ourselves. Four Metis, or half-castes were detailed for each boat, to row or use their long poles, as the state of the river's current permitted.

"The *alligador*," said Don Arturo, as we shot into the stream, lighting a fresh cigar, and reclining his head upon a bundle of pillows, "is a peculiar animal and requires some skill as a marksman to kill with a rifle shot. This is the season for the females to lay their eggs, so that we shall have plenty of chances to hit them before they take to the water—although I am bound to confess that they are more ferocious now than at any other time of the year."

"Did you ever kill one at a single shot?" asked Allen, imitating the Don's example, and stretching himself at the bottom of the boat.

"No, I think not," replied the Spaniard, after a moment's hesitation; but I am in hopes to do so before we return."

"Humph!" grunted Charley, raising a bottle of red-colored liquid to his mouth, which had been wrapped in wet flannels to keep cool.

"Fall, rascals!" suddenly shouted the Spaniard, looking towards the oarsmen—"Fall, rascals! and you shall dine off an alligator, if I kill one."

Singular as it may appear, the promise did not inspire the men with that enthusiasm which one might have expected under such strong temptation. They made a grimace, expressive of disgust—but bent to their oars with cheerfulness; and, in a few minutes we shot out the burial-ground by turning an elbow of the river.

We passed numerous small villages, the houses of which were built of bamboo, thatched with leaves of the same tree, and raised from the ground on poles, at an elevation of about five feet. This is done to prevent their being swept away during the rainy season, and also for the purpose of resisting the shocks of earthquakes—flexible supporters yielding as the ground rumbles, and unless the earth opens, the dwellings of the natives are more secure than those of their masters. Frequently, during a slight shock I have seen the huts sway to and fro, like trees in a strong gale, while the occupants preferred remaining in-doors in trusting themselves out, well-knowing that if such agitations should fall they would be in no danger of injury, as the materials were too slight to break the back of a respectable sized flea.

It was nearly 11 o'clock before Don Arturo gave orders to the natives to pull for the land. We stopped under the shade of large cocoa trees, unloaded the boats, and then, leaving one of the men follow, to carry our ammunition, started for the lake, about a dozen rods distant. The sheet of water was not very large, covering an extent of about fifty acres; but I think that it was the most beautiful spot I ever saw.

The foliage of the trees was rank with the richness of the soil; while all along the borders of the lake bright colored flowers and dense creeping vines were spread from branch to branch, until even the sun could not penetrate with a single ray. Hundreds of birds, with plumage of the most gaudy description, were fluttering from tree to tree, too tame to be frightened at our approach; while monkeys, with impudent gestures, and bold, defiant chattering, gathered in groups, and wondered why we should thus invade their domains.

Upon arriving at the lake, we found a large raft, built of bamboo, which had been left by some sportsmen, a few days before, fastened to a tree. Upon this we determined to embark, and try our fortune upon the water. The natives were sent back to the boats for paddles, while we proceeded to load our rifles. As soon as they returned, we shoved off, and worked our way slowly along the shore.

"As I am the most experienced alligator hunter," Don Arturo said, "I shall claim the privilege of the first shot; and if—"

"There is a chance, then," Charlie said, interrupting the Spaniard, and pointing to what I supposed to be a large log upon the surface of the water.

"By Saint Antonio, but you are right!" the Don said, dropping upon his knees for the purpose of steadying his aim, and trembling with nervous impatience.

"Well," cried Cearley, after a moment's pause, "are you not going to fire?"

"In a minute, *amigo*. Now I think I've got him on a line."

He discharged his rifle, and the ball flew harmlessly over the alligator, and struck the water about thirty yards beyond him.

"Did I kill him?" inquired the Spaniard, springing to his feet.

"I should rather think not," answered Allen, with a laugh; "what did you aim at?"

"The alligator."

"Then the alligator appears to be very much obliged to you; for see, he is swimming this way, and seems determined to make us a call."

"Pull for the shore!" shouted the Spaniard, dropping his rifle, and grasping a paddle.

Charley quietly winked to me, raised his rifle, and the next instant its sharp report reverberated over the lake, and started more than a thousand monkeys into an unearthly chattering. I watched for the ball to strike, and saw the monster raise his head with a sudden jerk, and then lash the water into a white foam with its tail. In another instant he had disappeared beneath its surface.

"You have killed him, Charley," I cried.

"Not so," Allen said; "the ball struck him in the mouth, and to-morrow he will be as well as ever."

He had scarcely finished speaking, when a cry from Don Arturo startled us. We turned towards him, and saw that he had forsaken his paddle, and was pointing with a trembling hand towards half-a-dozen black objects which were slowly swimming towards us, and were not more than thirty yards distant.

"By all the saints in the calendar, but we are in for it," Allen said, throwing a charge of powder into his rifle, and ramming down a ball with haste.

"What is the matter?" I inquired.

"Don't ask questions, but fire at the nearest one. Hit him in the eye, if you can."

I did not wait for further instructions, but took deliberate aim, and had the satisfaction of seeing the monster leap high out of the water, and then sink from view.

"Well done," Charley cried: "load again as soon as possible. We must fight our way to the shore, for every inch of ground will be disputed."

I glanced towards the Don as I loaded, and saw that he was seated on the raft, his rifle lying by his side, and his eyes fixed upon the approaching alligators with a strong expression of fear upon his face. The rowers also had ceased their labor, and were nearly as pallid as their master. Charley shouted out something, speaking to the natives in their own language, which they understand much better than they do Spanish. They at once obeyed his order, grasping their oars with energy; and dashing them into the water, they urged the light raft along at a rapid rate.

It appeared as though each discharge of our rifles brought fresh alligators to the surface, for I saw no less than a dozen with their heads out of the water, watching our movements with great interest, and gradually drawing nearer, as if they wished to revenge themselves for the injury inflicted upon their companions. Presently one much larger than the others darted towards the raft; and when within a few feet, suddenly disappeared from view.

"Mind your nothing," shouted Charley, sinking upon his knees; "the brute will try to capsize us."

"I had hardly time to follow his example when the raft was struck a violent blow, and shook as though every bamboo in it would break. I clung to the lashings for support, and vainly shouted to the natives to do the same. They either did not understand Charley's warnings or were too anxious to reach the shore to pay any attention to it, for they still paddled on—when suddenly one of them lost his balance, and, with a wild yell, fell headlong into the water.

In an instant every alligator disappeared beneath the surface, and only a few bubbles which slowly rose told of the struggle that was going on beneath.

"Now for the paddles," shouted Allen, springing to his feet, grasping one, while he motioned to me to take the other.

"But the native?" I gasped.

"Is dead before this time, and they are quarrelling over his bones below. They have tasted blood, and if we do not reach the shore before he is eaten, there will be another victim. Pull for your life, if you value it."

I dashed the paddle into the water, and we urged the raft rapidly towards the landing, which was only about fifty feet distant.

"Look," cried Charley, glancing over his shoulder, "but don't spare your strength."

I followed the direction of his eyes, and saw more than fifty black snouts raised above the surface of the lake, and after a short survey disappear.

"The devil knows where we are," Allen exclaimed, without ceasing his toil; "but I think we shall disappoint them this time."

"I vow a gold candlestick to Saint—"

At this instant the raft struck the shore, and the Spaniard, without waiting to complete his vow, sprang to the land, and was quickly followed by the natives and ourselves. We had hardly secured a foothold before half a dozen slimy monsters rose beside the raft, and even rested their heads upon it, to be certain it was vacated. I was too thankful at our escape to molest them; but not so with Allen. He took deliberate aim at the largest, and fired.

In an instant we were covered with mud and water, which the alligator in his death struggle hurled upon us; and then all was calm, and the monster's dead body floated beside the raft. As if by magic every black snout had disappeared, and the waters of the lake were unruffled.

"A brave shot, Signor Allen," cried the Don, searching amongst the provisions for something to revive his courage. "A brave shot, and to prove to you that I appreciate it, we will open a bottle of the wine of Spain."

We did empty the bottle, and it was not until near sundown that we left the borders of the lake and returned home. By that time the Don fancied that he had killed the alligator; and, as we did not contradict him, he used to frequently boast of his skill as a marksman.

The death of the native was hardly alluded to by the Spaniard, for they value not the lives of Metis in Manilla.

Tenacity of Life in a Tortoise.—A water tortoise in the possession of Mr. James G. Shute, of Woburn, Mass., an amateur Zoologist, has just died, after living in water two years and six months without food. It is believed that this exceeds very much any known instance of this reptile's wonderful tenacity of life. Redi, a distinguished Italian physician, kept one fasting eighteen months; and a land tortoise, in which he had removed its entire brain, lived and was active more than six months afterwards. It seems that this lowly animal, enclosed in a strong suit of armor, in which it ordinarily lives above a century, is no less dilatory in the process of dying than in its motions, which have passed into a proverb. [Boston Tray.

Quackery.—The statistical returns of Providence, R. I., show that two patent medicine establishments in that city render the enormous product of 1,000 barrels and 432,000 bottles of medicine to the value of $700,000.

A writer in one of the Western papers on School Discipline, says: "Without a liberal use of the rod, it is impossible to make boys *smart*."

In olden time, unmarried women used to wear a scarlet petticoat during leap year. If they showed the edge of this garment to any man, he was bound to marry them, but could buy himself off by presenting the lady with a new gown—a cheap alternative.

For men to resolve to be of no religion, till all are agreed in one, is just as wise and rational as if they should determine not to go to dinner till all the clocks in town struck twelve together.

The Avaricious Man.—Four more truthful lines than the following, are rarely written:

"That man may breathe, but never lives,
Who much receives, but nothing gives;
Whom none can love, whom none can thank,
Creation's blot, creation's blank."

Boasting.—Whenever you hear a man boasting often of the riches or the power of his ancestors, you may be pretty certain that he possesses but little merit himself.

It is related of Johnson—"rare Ben Johnson"—that going home in his wagon, one hot day, he fell asleep. Some young scamp, passing that way, unhitched his nag, and sending the poor beast a roaming, drew the wagon to the fence. After a time, Ben awakes. He wonders, and wonders, and wonders, exclaimes: "Am I Ben Johnson, or am I not? If I am Ben Johnson I have lost a horse; if I am not Ben Johnson I have found a cart."

Doctor Fordyce sometimes drank a good deal at dinner. He was summoned one evening to see a lady when he was more than half-seas over, and conscious that he was so. Feeling her pulse, and finding himself unable to count its beats, he muttered, "drunk, by——!" Next morning, recollecting the circumstance, he was greatly vexed; and just as he was thinking what explanation of his behavior he should offer to the lady, a letter from her was put into his hand. "She can well forgive," said the letter, "that he had discovered the unfortunate condition in which she was when he last visited her; and she entreated him to keep the matter secret, in consideration of the inclosed" (a hundred pound bank note.)

A Death Bell.—A story is told of the casting of the bell for the church of St. Magdalen, Breslau. When the metal was ready to pour into the mould, the chief founder went to dinner, and forbade his apprentice, under penalty of death, to touch the vent by which the metal was conveyed. The youth, anxious to see the operation, disobeyed orders, and the whole of the metal ran into the mould, and the enraged master, returning from his meal, slew him on the spot. On breaking away the mould, he found he had been too hasty, for the bell was cast as perfect as possible. When it was hung in its place, the master had been sentenced to death by the sword for the murder of his apprentice, and he entreated the authorities that he might be allowed to hear it once before he died. His petition was granted, and the bell has since been rung at every execution.

We agree with the editor of the Nashville Gazette, who he says "a man that has a soul worth a sixpence must expect to have enemies. It is utterly impossible for the best of men to please the whole world, and the sooner this is understood, and a position taken in view of the fact, the better. Do right, though you have enemies. You cannot escape them by doing wrong; and it is little gain to barter away your honor and integrity, and divest yourself of moral courage to gain what? Nothing. Better abide by the truth—frown down all opposition, and rejoice in the feeling which must inspire a free and independent man."

Manufacture of Brooms.—There are eight manufactories of brooms in the town of Poland, Ohio, which turn out about three hundred dozen per week, or 150,000 dozen through the year.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL.

THE COMMON COUNCIL.

BOARD OF ASSISTANT ALDERMEN.

TUESDAY, 18th March, 1856.

The Board met this day pursuant to adjournment.

Members present: Hon. E. L. Tracy, President; Messrs. Banister, Benit, Bouny, Chambers, Fabre, Guyol, Howell, Kelly, Stith and Violett—11.

No quorum.

On motion of Mr. Benit, the Board took a recess of ten minutes, after which the roll was again called.

Members present: Hon. E. L. Tracy, President; Messrs. Banister, Benit, Bouny, Chambers, Fabre, Guyol, Howell, Kelly, Stith, Long, McKnight, Rusha, Stith, Thayer and Violett—15.

The reading of the journal was dispensed with.

The following message from the Mayor was read, and, on motion, laid on the table, subject to call:

MAYORALTY OF NEW ORLEANS,
City Hall, March 18, 1856.

To the President and Members of the Common Council:

Gentlemen: I would respectfully call your attention to the 1st section of an Act of the Legislature entitled: "An Act to incorporate the Touro Almshouse, approved, 14th March, 1853," by which it is provided that two citizens of New Orleans are to be annually elected by the City Council to act as Directors of said Institution.

Respectfully,
JNO. L. LEWIS, Mayor.

The following communication from the Comptroller was read, and on motion referred to the Finance Committee:

COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE,
New Orleans, March 17, 1856.

To the Honorable the Common Council of New Orleans:

Gentlemen: On this day, I adjudicated to Henry Diamond, securities Wm. McCulloch and James Dawers, the contract for running the draining machines of the Third Section, at $4,700 per annum.

I also adjudicated to F. J. Correjolus, securities George and Dennis Cronan, the contract for repairing the paved streets of the First and Second at $8,946 per annum.

Yours, etc.,
O. DEBUYS, Comptroller.

The following communication from the Comptroller was read and, on motion, referred to the Finance Committee:

COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE,
New Orleans, March 18, 1856.

To the Honorable the Common Council of New Orleans:

Gentlemen: I herewith transmit to your honorable body the statement required by Ordinance No. 2,614.

O. DEBUYS, Comptroller.

[The statement referred to in the above communication will be found in another column of this paper.]

The following weekly report from the Treasurer was read, and, on motion, referred to the Finance Committee:

TREASURER'S WEEKLY REPORT,
FROM 10th TO 15th MARCH, 1856, INCLUSIVE.

To Cash.	Dr.
To balance on hand	$64,098 99
Merchants	6,337 51
Peddlers	150 00
Coffee-houses	4,950 00
Family Groceries	2,100 00
Billiards	100 00
Drays, Carts, etc	382 00
Cabs and Carriages	30 00
Market Carts	22 00
Interest on Pontchartrain Railroad Bonds	707 50
Balls	105 00
Work-House	35 89
Artesian Well	235 19
Ground Rent	719 18
Police Jails	181 00
Taxes and other assets to Municipality of Lafayette	235 14
W. H. Garland	1,529 93
Oyster licenses	45 00
Boarding-houses	60 00
Consolidated Tax of 1852	8 10
City Tax of 1853	12 52
Painting	2 00
Law Charges	108 75
Interest	237 38
Consolidated Loan Tax, 1855	534 30
N. O., Jackson and G. N. Railroad	238 30
N. O., Opelousas and G. W. Railroad	152 12
City Tax, 1854	372 00
Fines	136 27
	$84,754 58

By Cash	Cr.
Interest on Pontchartrain Railroad Bonds	675 00
Elections	3 75
Office Expenses	189 32
Public Pounds	24 00
Printing	332 90
Salaries	800 00
Work-House	4,331 09
Charity	161 00
Secret Police	50 00
Streets	3,594 59
Law Charges	91 25
Wharves and Levees	30 00
Commissions	55 68
Courts	907 00
Judgments	320 38
Lighting	7,410 99
Police Jail	140 60
Public Squares	280 00
Public Schools	537 92
Military Companies	40 00
Police	11,031 81
Markets	36 00
Insane Asylum	13 25
Balance	52,422 03
	$84,754 58

ADAM GIFFEN, Treasurer.

New Orleans, March 16, 1856.

The following communication from the Treasurer was read, and, on motion, referred to the Finance Committee:

TREASURER'S OFFICE,
City of New Orleans, March 18, 1856.

To the honorable President and members of the Board of Assistant Aldermen:

Gentlemen: I beg leave to lay before you the number of licenses which have been issued from this office from the 10th to the 15th March inclusive, with the name of the party to whom issued, and the amount received for the same. The number issued is as follows, viz:

35 coffee-house licenses,
42 family grocery do,
1 billiard table do,
1 pistol gallery do,
1 theater do,
19 wholesale merchant licenses,
20 commission do do,
1 pistol do,
1 restaurant do,
1 ship broker do,
1 produce broker do,
3 retail cigar store do,
1 undertaker do,
1 ice-cream saloon do,
2 dentists do,
2 circus do,

CARTS, CABS, ETC.

5 licenses, First District,
5 do do, Second do,
4 do do, Third do,
1 do do, Fourth do.

CARS AND CARRIAGES.

2 licenses First District,
3 market cart licenses.

Very respectfully,
ADAM GIFFEN, Treasurer of the city of New Orleans.

[The statements referred to in the above communication will be found in another column of this paper.]

The following communications from the Surveyor, were read, and, on motion, referred to the Committee on Streets and Landings:

SURVEYOR'S DEPARTMENT,
City Hall, New Orleans, 17th March, 1856.

To the Honorable the Common Council:

Board of Assistant Aldermen:

Gentlemen—At the instance of his Honor the Mayor, in view of the probability of an unusual rise in the Mississippi river, I, on Saturday, the 15th inst., proceeded to make, and completed, a critical examination of the levees along the line of the city, and above, as high up as Kenner's plantation, where the Metairie ridge meets and connects with the river ridge, within which distance all danger, if any, must arise, as apprehended of the overflow of the city from a crevasse. The result of my investigation was highly satisfactory and gratifying, as it affords me the pleasure of being able to report to the honorable the Common Council, that the levees, all along the said distance, are strong, substantial, and, in fact, in a better condition than I remember to have ever seen them—and that in my judgment, unless an extraordinary rise should suddenly occur, there need be no apprehensions of an overflow from crevasses anticipated.

The news daily received from the upper rivers of the breaking up of the ice, and the rise of the waters—excited the minds of many for the time; but since, we are credibly informed, the waters are subsiding, and even been at our levees the rise has ceased, and the river evidently going down again, so that we may safely rest for the present upon the height and strength of our levees. The large amount of snow in the mountains, I have no doubt, will give us an unusual high water, and such is the general opinion, therefore, that watchfulness on the part of the city and planters above, as high up as Kenner's plantation, is indispensably necessary, that we may have timely notice to apply the remedy; and as the water will be at a moderate stage here—when we are apprized of the rising of upper rivers—which generally occurs in May—we can then adjust work and raise, and strengthen our levees to meet the same, and keep the river within its accustomed bank.

I remain, respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
LOUIS H. PILIE, City Surveyor.

SURVEYOR'S DEPARTMENT,
City Hall, New Orleans, March 18, 1856.

To the Honorable the Common Council:

Board of Assistant Aldermen:

Gentlemen—In obedience to resolution No. 2698, I have, on the 29th of February last, taken possession of the draining machines and apparatus used for draining section No. 2, formerly under contract with Mr. John Thom. I proceeded immediately after to make a thorough examination of the buildings and engines, in company with Messrs. John Commany and Grianell, engineers of recognized skill and competency, and have the honor to report the result of our investigation, as follows, to-wit: The build ng, where the gable end was raised as part of the framing of the roof, We found settling badly, and in a dangerous condition; the large wheel and engine we found in a very dilapidated state, almost a perfect wreck, and no longer fit for use; the boilers attached to the same are very badly burnt, and dangerous, the flood-gate of the small engine we found entirely rotten and out of order, and the small wheel, engine and boilers are requiring extensive repairs. As drainage could not be dispensed with, I reported these facts to the Chairmen of the Finance Committees, who authorized me to have the required repairs made, and consequently I entered into contract with Messrs. Leeds & Co., to perform the work at the prices stipulated in the herein enclosed statement.

A change being about to occur in the administration of city affairs, I most respectfully ask of your honorable body to adopt the proper resolutions ordering the payment of the bills on completion of the work.

I remain, respectfully, your obedient servant,
LOUIS H. PILIE, City Surveyor.

The following letters from the City Attorney were read, and on motion, referred to the Finance Committee:

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY,
New Orleans, March 16th, 1856.

To the President and Members of the Board of Assistant Aldermen:

Gentlemen—Enclosed are the papers in the case of Dugue vs. Girard. It will be seen that the Street Commissioner sold an estray mule, which was purchased by Girard. Dugue, Jr., brought suit to recover the mule, and obtained judgment before Justice Cutler, of the Parish of Jefferson. On appeal, his Honor Judge Burke affirmed the judgment.

The city must warrant the title that is implied in all sales. I would advise the payment of the price paid by Mr. Girard, and the costs.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
J. LIVINGSTON, City Attorney.

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY,
New Orleans, March 18, 1856.

To the President and Members of the Board of Aldermen:

Gentlemen: I have the honor to inform you that judgments were rendered by the Supreme Court in the 17th inst., in favor of the city in the following cases: Hyde & Goodrich, Godfrey Rudolf, Faucette, Davis & Co.

The liability of the city won't, in all probability, have exceeded $109,000 of the plaintiff had succeeded in the first suit which was brought to recover the sum of $789, the amount of the tax upon capital assessed by Municipality No. 1, under an ordinance passed in 1850. Judgment was rendered by the Judge of the Sixth District Court in the second case against the city for $1962, for the alleged illegal acts of the Board of Health in 1853. The reversal of the judgment justified the action of the Board of Health.

In the third case the Judge of the Fourth District Court rendered judgment against the city for the sum of $917, with legal per cent. interest from the 27th March, 1848. The late city of Lafayette was justly indebted to them in the sum of $899 69, which the present city offered to pay in 1852. But the plaintiffs claimed eight per cent. interest from March, 1849, which the city refused to pay. The Supreme Court reversed the judgment and rendered once for the correct amount, with five per cent. interest from February 23d, 1852.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
J. LIVINGSTON, City Att'y.

The following message was read:

BOARD OF ALDERMEN,
March 19th, 1856.

To the President and Members of the Board of Assistant Aldermen:

Gentlemen: I have the honor to inform you that the following resolutions, adopted by your honorable body, were concurred in by the Board of Aldermen:

A resolution appointing a special joint committee, who, together with the Surveyor and Street Commissioner, shall examine the protection levees of the city and report thereon.

A resolution authorizing the Street Commissioner to have the benches on Jackson Square repaired, and to have the iron railing around said square repainted.

A resolution granting to the Washington Monument Association the use of Lafayette Square for the erection of an Equestrian Statue of Washington.

A resolution authorizing the Street Commissioner to repair the pavements, and curb and gutter stones that may be broken up by the fire department for the extinguishment of fires.

A resolution authorizing the Comptroller to sell the contract for running a ferry from the foot of Canal street, Second District, and Jackson street, Fourth District.

A resolution declaring the contract entered into with C. Connell, for curbing Calliope street, null and void.

A resolution authorizing the Comptroller to sell the contract for attending the bridge across Bayou St. John.

A resolution authorizing the Finance Committee to employ additional counsel in the prosecution of the suits of the city against W. H. Garland.

A resolution authorizing the Street Commissioner to employ the late contractors for cleaning the Fourth and Eleventh Wards, to clean the said Wards at the late contract prices.

The following resolutions, adopted by your honorable body, were rejected by this Board:

A resolution placing $1000 at the disposal of the Mayor for secret service.

A resolution authorizing the Comptroller to sell the contract for repairing the plank and shell roads of the city.

The Judiciary Committee was appointed a committee of conference on the following resolution, rejected by the Board of Aldermen and persisted in by your honorable Board:

A resolution authorizing the City Attorney to bring the case of J. B. G. Arnault vs. the City of New Orleans before the Supreme Court of the United States.

Respectfully,
CHAS. CLAIBORNE, Sec'y.

The following resolutions, adopted by the Board of Aldermen, were read, the rules being suspended, and unanimously concurred in:

A resolution instructing the City Attorney to cause to be erased from the records of the mortgage office, the mortgage given by L. Surgis's securities for the contract entered into by Municipality No. 1 and said Surgi, for the repairing of the wharves and levees of said Municipality under date of August 24, 1850.

A resolution instructing the Street Commissioner to notify the lessees of the levees and wharves of the First District to remove certain beams and posts, obstructing the levees, and cause others to be erected.

A resolution instructing the Street Commissioner to notify the conductors of the Female Orphan Asylum, First District, to discontinue the new stabling and dairy on their premises and repealing all ordinances granting the privilege for said dairy.

The following resolution, adopted by the Board of Aldermen, was, on motion, referred to the Finance Committee:

A resolution authorizing the Treasurer to pay sundry bills.

The following resolution, adopted by the Board of Aldermen, was, on motion, referred to the Committee on Streets and Landings:

A resolution instructing the Comptroller to sell the contract for cleaning all the streets, and repairing the unpaved streets of the Sixth Ward.

By a message, this Board was informed that the Board of Aldermen had adopted the following substitute for the "Resolution to pay R. E. Schlutius $163 25:

Resolved, That the Comptroller warrant on the Treasurer in favor of R. E. Schlutius for the sum of $267 53, for making 4th copies of judgments in suits of the city against delinquent tax papers.

On motion, the substitute was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

PETITIONS.

The following were referred to the Finance Committee:

Of John Brandenburg, asking payment of bill.
Of J. M. Dirhammer, asking payment of bill.
Of John McCarthy, asking payment of bill.
Of Silas Chickering, asking payment of bill.
Of Crozier & Wing, asking payment of bill.
Widow H. Boulet, asking payment of bill.
St. Joseph Orphan Asylum, asking payment of bill.
Of 1st W. Police asking for the yearly appropriation due to the Louisiana Legion for 1855.

The following were referred to the Committee on Streets and Landings:

Of sundry residents and property holders on Sixth street and its vicinity, asking for the removal of a certain bridge that encumbered the banquette on said street.

Of residents and property holders on First street complaining of the bad condition of the sidewalks on said street.

Of Samuel Nicholson, in regard to his patent wooden pavement.

A petition from the Clay Monument Association, asking permission to erect a monument to the memory of Henry Clay at the intersection of St. Charles and Royal streets, was read, and, on motion, referred to a special committee composed of Messrs. Chambers, Thayer and Stith.

The petition of Jacques Zino, asking for a free license to keep an oyster stand, was, on motion, laid on the table.

Messrs. Rusha, Bridge and Chiapella, took their seats.

A communication from G. W. Smith, Superintendent, U. S. Marine Hospital, and Thomas S. McCoy, U. S. District Attorney, asking permission to run a plank road from the site of the building to the New Basin, to facilitate the conveyance of material to the spot, was read, and, on motion, referred to the Committee on Streets and Landings.

Mr. Howell offered the following resolution in regard to the above petition, which was read, and, on motion, referred to the Committee on Streets and Landings:

Resolved, That the Surveyor be and is hereby requested to lay before the Committee on Streets and Landings at their next sitting, the portion the city will have to pay for the construction of a road such as is desired by the petitioners, Messrs. McCoy and Smith, on behalf of the U. S. Government.

RESOLUTIONS.

The following resolutions were read and, on motion, referred to the Committee on Streets and Landings:

Resolved, That the Comptroller sell at public auction, after ten days' notice in the official journal, a contract for making a fence on each side of Melpomene Canal and on each end of the bridges across said Canal, according to specifications in the Street Commissioner's office, the adjudication being subject to the approval or rejection of the Common Council.

Resolved, That the Comptroller sell at public auction, after ten days' notice in the official journal, the contract for the continuation of the Artesian well on Canal street, to such depth as may be determined by the Artesian Well Committee, according to specifications on file in the Surveyor's office and subject to the approval of the Common Council.

Mr. McKnight offered the following resolution, which was read, the rules being suspended, adopted, and, on motion, sent to the Board of Aldermen for concurrence:

Resolved, That the joint committee, consisting of Messrs Converse, Duaer, Cuthbertson and Gillmore, of the Board of Aldermen and Messrs. Howell, McKnight, Barbarin and Chiapella, of the Board of Assistant Aldermen, to whom was referred the various subjects connected with the wharf privileges and extensions, be and they are hereby requested to report to the Council on next Tuesday evening, on the following propositions:

1st. The location of a Sugar platform.

2d. The granting to the Natchez and Vicksburg packets a fixed place of landing.

3d. The granting to Harris & Morgan's steamers a fixed place of landing.

4th. The views and consent of the lessees to the foregoing propositions.

The following resolutions were read, the rules being suspended, and adopted:

Resolved, That the Street Commissioner be instructed to make a flag-stone crossing across Camp street, opposite the upper opening in Magazine market, provided it shall not cost more than twenty dollars.

Yeas—Messrs Banister, Benit, Bouny, Bridge, Chambers, Chiapella, Eager, Fabre, Guyol, Howell, Kelly, Long, McKnight, Rusha, Stith, Thayer and Violett—17.

Resolved, That the Surveyor be, and is hereby authorized and instructed to cause to be repaired immediately with shingle ballast or other material, the street leading to St. Joseph Street Wharf, and to take such measures as are necessary to compel the lessees of said wharf to repair the same in conformity with the terms of their lease.

Yeas—Messrs. Banister, Benit, Bouny, Bridge, Chambers, Chiapella, Eager, Fabre, Guyol, Howell, Kelly, Long, McKnight, Rusha, Stith, Thayer and Violett—17.

On motion, the foregoing resolution was sent to the Board of Aldermen for concurrence:

Mr. Guyol offered the following resolution, which was read, the rules being suspended:

Resolved, That the Treasurer pay on the warrant of the Comptroller the following sums to the proper officers representing the late Fire Department of the city of New Orleans, to-wit:

To the Treasurer of Vigilant Fire Company No. 3, balance due on the yearly appropriation	$50 00
Fire Company No. 9, balance due on the yearly appropriation	50 00
Fire Company No. 12, balance due on the yearly appropriation	50 00
Fire Company No. 13, balance due on the yearly appropriation	50 00
Fire Company No. 16, balance due on the yearly appropriation	50 00
Fire Company No. 21, balance due on the yearly appropriation	50 00
Fire Company No. 22, balance due on the yearly appropriation	50 00
Hook and Ladder Company No. 1, balance due on the yearly appropriation	50 00
	$500 00

Mr. Howell moved to refer the foregoing resolution to the Finance Committee—carried.

Yeas—Messrs. Bridge, Chiapella, Eager, Howell, Long, McKnight, Rusha, Stith, Thayer and Violett—10.

Nays—Messrs Banister, Benit, Bouny, Chambers, Fabre, Guyol and Kelly—7.

The following resolution was read, the rules being suspended, and adopted by the following vote:

Yeas—Messrs. Banister, Benit, Bouny, Bridge, Chambers, Chiapella, Eager, Fabre, Guyol, Kelly, Long, McKnight, Rusha, Stith, Thayer and Violett—16.

Resolved, That the Street Commissioner be, and he is hereby authorized to cause to be repaired the iron railing around Lafayette Square, provided the cost does not exceed fifty dollars.

Mr. Fabre offered the following resolution, which was read and adopted, the rules being suspended, and on motion sent to the Board of Aldermen for concurrence:

Resolved, That the polls for the election to be held on Monday, the 24th inst., to elect a Mayor for the city of New Orleans, Treasurer, Comptroller, Street Commissioner, Surveyor and four Recorders, one for each District, seven members of the Board of Aldermen and twenty-seven members of the Board of Assistant Aldermen, be fixed at the following places and under the direction of the the following named Inspectors:

First Precinct.—At the School house, corner of Pleasant and Richard streets.—Inspectors—J. B. Walton and James Ross.

Second Precinct.—At the engine house of Fire Company No. 20 on Thalia street, between Apollo and Bacchus.—Inspector—Robert Hamilton.

Third Precinct.—At the engine house of Mechanics' Fire Company No. 6. Inspector—R. E. Redwood.

Fourth Precinct.—At the engine house of Jackson Fire Company No.