New-Orleans Daily Crescent.

DOUBLE SHEET.

NEW ORLEANS:

MONDAY MORNING, JANUARY 26, 1857.

Public Lands in Louisiana.

The report of the State Register of the Land Office of Louisiana is before us. It states that the following amounts have been received by the State from the sale of public lands, to-wit:

Internal improvement lands	$ 50,096 95
Swamp lands	453,903 59
Seminary lands	4,812 31
School lands	15,276 43
Making a total of	$524,308 51

The report states that the swamp lands to the amount of one million acres, the sale of which was authorized by the Legislature of 1855, are nearly disposed of, and that it will shortly be necessary that provision should be made for a further sale. The public lands sold during the year amount in the aggregate to 338,510 acres.

In view of the fact that a large portion of the public lands have recently been donated to the State for railroad purposes, the report recommends that the Legislature make provision for the selection of all swamp lands, as the railroad grants cannot until then be located without prejudice to former grants, as appears by the opinion of the Secretary of the Interior. A growing tendency, the report says, is manifested to give the acts of Congress donating the swamp lands to the State a less liberal construction, which may result in depriving her of the full benefit intended, by those acts. This has been shown by the refusal of the Secretary of the Interior to recognize the "shallow lakes" of the State as part of her original domain. In consequence of this the present Register has refused to sell any of said lakes; sales of portions of them had been previously made, and gives rise to much difficulty.

As difficulties have frequently arisen from improper subdivisions of public lands upon old and erroneous surveys, the report recommends that provision be made whereby the lands sold, as well as those still the property of the State, can be surveyed.

FINE ARTS FOR THE LADIES.—We spent a very agreeable half hour, on Saturday evening, in the studio of Mrs. Virginia J. Sullivan, at the corner of Julia and Magazine streets. We inspected three specimens of five different branches of art for feminine pastime and accomplishment—Grecian paintings, painting on glass, leather embossing, wax work and embroidery. The first is a very pretty and simple method of imparting the richness and beauty of an oil painting to a common steel engraving or lithograph. The second is an equally pretty method of converting plain glass vases and other articles of clear glass, into perfect gems of beauty. The third consists in working leather into different handful shapes—picture frames, baskets, what-nots, etc., and stiffening and polishing them until they resemble fine carving in wood. The two last named arts need no explanation. All of Mrs. Sullivan's specimens are beautiful to behold, and we believe there are few ladies who would not find it as much a pleasure as a pride to become mistress of one or more of the arts which she teaches—arts which she learned for her private amusement in days of affluence, but to which she is now compelled, by the stern vicissitudes of Providence, to resort for a living. She has been following them professionally only about a year and a half, and in that short time has won high encomiums of praise in the different communities in which she has given lessons. From what we have seen of her work, and from our impression of the lady upon acquaintance, we can cordially recommend her to the ladies of New Orleans, as a teacher of several refined feminine accomplishments which are not taught in academies or elsewhere. The specimens shown us are to be raffled off by Mrs. S. as soon as the chances are all taken. The articles consist of four beautiful pictures, painted in the Grecian style; an embossed leather what-not; a magnificent piece of embroidery; a parrot and bunch of flowers in an embossed leather frame; a velvet embroidered vest-pattern; a velvet embroidered pair of slippers; a decorated vase of wax flowers, and a decorated vase of wax fruits. All the articles are beautiful and desirable, and worth striking a small sum to obtain possession. Mrs. S.'s studio is in the large building at the corner of Julia and Magazine streets, ground floor, Julia street front.

MUNROE'S EMPORIUM.—The great clothing establishment of Messrs. Alfred Munroe & Co., at the corner of Magazine and Gravier streets, is at present plethoric in its greatness. It is fairly gorged with the supplies lately received, and presents almost limitless attractions to the purchaser of clothing. The garments generally are magnificent in material, and fashionable and durable in make; all the styles of the day, for outdoor wear, or for holiday or evening festivities, may be selected and taken away upon payment of the smallest connection the quantum of money. We refer our readers, in town and country, to Messrs. Munroe & Co.'s advertisement, and advise the one class not to forget the store if they leave town, and the other class not to forget it when they come to town.

THE APPROACH OF SPRING.—The sweet season of buds, blossoms, birds and universal beauty, is rapidly approaching. Soon the sycamores and lawns will be soon dotted with the brightest emerald; the timid violets will flash their faces and tremblingly offer the dew-drop tribute of gratitude to their parent, the sun; and the little songsters of the groves will twitter together and build their nests for the happy time coming. But there is one indication of Spring's approach, always in advance of the buds, blossoms and birds. This indication is—fly goods. Mr. C. C. Wayland, at the corner of Poydras and Carondelet streets, issues his first Spring manifesto to the ladies of New Orleans, in this morning's Crescent. We would advise the ladies to read it, for we feel quite certain that Spring will certainly come, and every body ought to be prepared for it.

NEW DRY GOODS STORE.—Mr. S. R. Churchill—whose name is a household word with the up town ladies of New Orleans—has opened a new dry goods store at the corner of Apollo and Erato streets, and one which we are certain will speedily have a very large patronage. To-day he will there display a very large stock of dry goods of the fine and substantial kind, which he will sell at extremely low prices, they having been purchased cheaply at auction. We refer our lady readers to his card.

NEW AND SPLENDID CLOTHING.—Messrs. Francis Fabre & Co., at the corner of Common and St. Charles streets—under the hotel, have received large additions to their stock of clothing and furnishing goods. Everything is wonderful, and the man of fashion may rig himself out most elegantly, in any of the styles at present recognized by the goddess of fashion. The assortment of raglans, talmas, and overcoats, is especially sumptuous, and should be seen by every body. We refer our readers to the card of Messrs. F. & Co.

LIFE PRESERVING TRUNKS.—A supply of these valuable traveling companions is offered to the public by Messrs. H. W. Reynolds & Co., at No. 67 Canal street. Their particular merits are explained in the advertisement, in another column.

CLOSING OUT AT SCANLAN'S.—The winter stock of dry goods at Messrs. D. P. Scanlan & Co.'s, Nos. 12 and 14 Chartres street, will be closed out at cost, beginning to-day, in order to make room for the spring importations. Among the articles to be closed out are many which will be of the greatest service for many months to come. Read the advertisement, ladies.

DOLBEAR'S COMMERCIAL COLLEGE, 106 CANAL STREET.—French, Spanish, German, English, Arithmetic, Geometry, Surveying, Navigation, Penmanship, Phonography, Book-keeping, etc., are taught by able and experienced Professors. There are special apartments and professors for each branch. New classes begin this week.

SUGAR KETTLES.—Messrs. McCutchson, Howell & Co., No. 55 Camp street, are prepared to receive orders for Philadelphia sugar kettles of the Tennessee pattern, with grate bars, and furnace mouths. See advertisement.

JOHNSTON'S HAT EMPORIUM.—All the elegant fashions of masculine head wear for 1857 are to be found at the St. Charles Hat Emporium, under the hotel. Any gentleman in want of a hat, will pay a compliment to fashion and a tribute to economy, and enjoy a personal gratification besides, in dealing with our polite and popular young friend, Johnston. See his card.

BEAUTIFUL VESTS.—A fine lot of fancy silk and cloth vests are being closed out by Messrs. Pierson, Harrison & Co., at the corner of Canal and Magazine streets. They are going off very cheap, in order to make room for spring supplies.

CROCKERY AND EARTHENWARE.—A very large stock of these articles, comprising all patterns and qualities, is offering at New York prices by Messrs. Samuel E. Moore & Co., No. 49 Camp street. City and country dealers are referred to the advertisement.

DOLBEAR'S COMMERCIAL COLLEGE.—We would direct the attention of those interested in Southern education to the advertisement which appears in another column, of Dolbear's Commercial College, No. 106 Canal street. This institution is one of the best conducted and best modeled in the Union. It is intended, however, for adults, male and female, as well as youths, and is eminently suited to those whose time is mainly taken up by the pursuits of business, yet who desire to improve their minds.

From the lengthy list of references which are presented by Mr. Dolbear, it can be easily seen that his institution has been known and appreciated by some of the greatest men that our country has produced, as well as by our own private citizens and business men.

CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE.—These articles, in every variety and in any quantity, are offered to the country trade at Eastern prices by Messrs. P. R. Fell & Co., No. 17 Camp street. We call the attention of dealers to the card in another column.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—Dealers and others may find a very large stock of the drugs and chemicals most in daily requisition, at the wholesale establishment of Mr. E. B. Wheelock, No. 42 Magazine street. For a list of the latest receipts, see advertisement in another part of our paper.

GREAT REDUCTION IN CLOTHING.—Messrs. F. Stringer & Co., at No. 35 Camp street, are now disposing of their winter clothing at a great reduction in prices. We refer all our readers to the advertisement.

CRESCENT JOB OFFICE.—Messrs. Clark & Brisbin, in the third story of the Crescent Building, No. 70 Camp street, are prepared to execute all orders for printing, plain or ornamental, in the handsomest and most expeditious style. Those who may desire any kind of printing done, will find it worth while to visit Messrs. C. & B., examine their specimens, and earn their terms.

DR. KANE.

The treatment which this gentleman has received at the hands of the United States Senate, furnishes another instance of the proverbial ingratitude of republics. His self-sacrificing and heroic labors, resulting in the grandest achievements of the age, and conferring upon his country the highest honors in Arctic discovery, have entitled him to a place in the hearts of his countrymen and to all the rewards his government can afford to bestow. Well, how has he been rewarded? The fact seems almost incredible that a wise and just body of men, as the United States Senate is presumed to be, should have decided that a beggarly compliment of medals was a sufficient acknowledgment of the extraordinary services of this man of genius, yet, they did so decide.

The House, a few days ago, passed by a large majority, a resolution for the purchase of fifteen thousand copies of Dr. Kane's work, the "Arctic Explorations," and it was lost in the Senate. Of the intrinsic value of the work itself, it can be safely said that nothing has ever been produced upon that subject that can at all compare with it; but it had a still stronger claim to the consideration and patronage of the government. It possessed a national value, not exceeded by any work ever published by order of government; it is an imperishable evidence of American intelligence, enterprise, courage and perseverance. It is a record of humanity, generosity and deeds of daring, whose memory will live green in the hearts of men when the petty place-holders who thus pronounce upon their merits, rot in obscure graves.

"The world forgetting, by the world forgot."

To Senator Brodhead, of Pennsylvania, is due, we believe, the peculiar infamy of having been foremost in opposition to the bill. In obtaining its defeat he experienced, no doubt, the despicable gratification of a vain and shallow mind in triumphing over worth and intellect—he could neither appreciate nor understand. The numerous friends of Dr. Kane in all parts of the country (for every lover of the great and the noble is his friend) are justly indignant at this mean and unworthy repudiation of his claims upon the country. They have before them the fact that this same Senate voted an appropriation of $20,000 in money to Commodore Perry, furnished him with a thousand copies of his own book, and incurred a cost in publishing it of nearly or quite half a million dollars, and all for a service in no degree so arduous and perilous as that of the Arctic expedition; it would be difficult to remove the impression from the minds of many of them that interested or personal motives have been instrumental in causing this strange discrepancy in the treatment of two equally deserving public men of genius.

In view of the enormous expenditures made by Congress for printing, in a wretched manner, all sorts of documents and speeches, it would seem the most ridiculous plea they could possible set up against supporting such a work as that of Dr. Kane, that the publication department of the government required retrenchment. Yet that was the objection made, and the only one, to the appropriation. Had the printing contract been given to the manevuering government publishers in Washington—who frequently make a fortune by a single job—it would beyond question have been pushed through the Senate, and would have appeared in the miserably shabby style of the Patent Office reports, etc.

This action of the Senate is simply another illustration of the disposition among our public men to carry everything to extremes, and to appropriate money for all purposes but the right ones. Had it but been a proposition for the purchase of a worthless strip of territory, or to pay swindling contractors for work never performed, the appropriation would have been made and the treasury would have bled roundly.

STAND FROM UNDER!—This is emphatically an age of reason. Everything is supported by reason; even unreasonable things are sustained by the semblance of reason, until it is dissipated by the light of true reason. So wonderful are the developments of the present age, that will not a vigorous exercise and intercourse of reason, we would feel as if encompassed in a haze of mystery and romance more impenetrable, more sublime, than any that ever hedievered the poetic idolators of old. The present state of things has put reason in such current dem and that we are becoming addicted to it, and demand it so incessantly as almost to render it a vice; which is the case when we desire others to give us reasons for what we might at once perceive and appreciate if we would but exercise our own reasoning faculties. Moody, the short king, with his usual penetration, has discovered this malady for reason, and accordingly, in this morning's Crescent, he gives thirteen solid reasons why his well-known sanating command, "Cut your Shirts or Moody's" should be obeyed. The thousands who have patronized Moody cannot actually need this string of reasons for a continuance of their patronage; but as there are a great many strangers in this city, who might feel hurt at being ordered to get their shirts at Moody's without knowing why, the publication of the thirteen reasons is both sensible and opportune. Read Mr. Moody's reasons, and you will have no reason to regret it.

CARPETS, ETC.—Messrs. A. Broussean & Co., at No. 9 Chartres street, are as heavily stocked as ever with goods in the floor and window furnishing line. See their card.

PAPER HANGINGS AND UPHOLSTERIES.—A superb assortment of these articles, as well as of all other kinds of house-furnishing goods may be found at the establishment of Messrs. Heath & Miller, No. 75 Camp street, opposite the Crescent office. We refer to their advertisement.

PURE SILVERWARE.—Mr. H. P. Buckley, at No. 8 Camp street, has a beautiful assortment of silver ware on hand, and manufactures the same to order, being a master of his art. See his card.

TONSORIAL.—For a good bath, a good shave, a good hair-trimming or hair-dying, or a regeneration generally, the establishment of Joe Rollins, No. 16 St. Charles street, is all that can be desired. Joe has an accomplished corps of assistants and is a prince in his profession. See his card in another column.

HAIR JEWELRY.—The advertisement of Mr. F. Steinbarnach, of No. 27 Chartres street, will be found worthy of perusal by all who may have a tress of hair of a deceased or absent friend or loved one. Mr. S. is unrivalled in his art, and has on hand a great many testimonials of the highest respectability.

CARPETINGS AND CURTAINS.—A splendid assortment of these articles is offering by Messrs. J. D. Damoron & Co., at No. 124 Canal street. The house keeper may there find a great many other articles of household convenience besides carpets and curtains. See advertisement.

SOUTHERN FURNITURE WAREROOMS.—Mr. Stewart, at Nos. 171 and 173 Canal street, has on hand every variety of household furniture, suited to rich and poor. His prices are very reasonable. Read his card and give him a call.

FINE CUTLERY.—A splendid supply of pocket-knives for gentlemen, and scissors for ladies, has just been received from the celebrated manufactory of Joseph Rodgers & Sons, by Mr. T. P. Guion, at the corner of St. Charles and Canal streets, and at the branch store, No. 5 St. Charles street. Each article has Mr. Guion's name on it, being manufactured to his order, and is warranted. See advertisements.

CHEAP GOODS AT FRENCH'S.—Mr. French is still disposing of all sorts of bargains at No. 159 Poydras street. The auction sale will be resumed at half pass 10 o'clock to-day, and none can drop in without seeing something they ought to buy. Great bargains are to be had like wise at private sale. See advertisement, under auction head.

NEW GROCERIES AT "THE GEM."—New supplies of the choicest and freshest groceries have been received by Mr. Bercier, at No. 23 Baronne street, opposite the car station. Housekeepers can find no better place than the Gem at which to replenish their larders. See advertisement.

RICH FANCY GOODS.—A very extensive and variegated stock of watches, jewelry and fancy goods is on display at the store of Mr. F. Roberts, No. 20 Camp street, under the City Hotel. Watches and jewelry are also repaired in the neatest style. See advertisement.

FURNITURE BOUGHT OR EXCHANGED.—Those who may wish to buy second-hand furniture, sell their own, or make an exchange, are referred to the card of Mr. P. M. Tourne, at No. 22 Baronne street. He offers strong inducements for trading in his line.

FASHIONABLE CLOTHING.—All the rich, elegant and fashionable articles of the season, for gentlemen's wear, are to be found at the clothing emporium of Messrs. Norris, Mandl & Co., at the corner of Camp and Common streets, under the City Hotel. We refer citizens and strangers to their advertisement.

WINES AND LIQUORS.—The well-known store of Mr. S. P. Taylor, No. 17 Royal street, is as richly stocked as ever with wines, brandies and malt liquors of the choicest brands. See advertisement.

NEW FANCY GOODS.—Messrs. D. Kernaghan & Co., No. 6 Canal street, have in store a brilliant display of watches, jewelry and fancy goods, comprising all the novelties and varieties in that line; their stock of guns, pistols and cutlery is also a superb one. Everything is offered at the lowest living price. We refer to the advertisement for particulars.

FINE WATCHES AND JEWELRY.—Mr. E. Dillon, (late Dillon & Hovel,) at No. 9 Camp street, is offering a choice display of goods in the watch and jewelry line. See his card.

CHEAP MEDICINE CHEST.—We refer our readers to the advertisement of "A Medicine Chest for Twenty-five Cents," in another column. Messrs. Wright & Co. always have an indefinitely large supply of the said "medicine chests" on hand.

DR. DAVIS' SYRUP.—Dr. Davis' Compound Syrup of Wild Cherry and Tar is a medicine of high repute in lung complaints, and particularly in warding off consumption. It is for sale in any quantity by Messrs. J. Wright & Co., Nos. 21 and 151 Chartres street.

STOCKHOLDERS' BALL—GAIETY THEATER.

It is with some diffidence that we undertake a description of the ball which was given at the Gaiety Theater on Thursday night last, by the stockholders of that elegant establishment. The conception and the realization of the ball were so entirely different from any thing of the kind ever previously gotten up in New Orleans, that the other balls of the past cannot be brought into comparison with it; and in describing it, our diffidence is that which is naturally felt upon venturing into a new field of description.

For some days previous to the ball, we were led to believe that it would be a magnificent affair; not only from rumors of the lavish manner in which the committee of arrangements were making the preparations, but from the universal talk concerning the assemblage which it was expected would be present. Prepared as we were, however, for something extra, we must confess that we were still surprised when we visited the ball on Thursday night, and saw it in full progress. We went there about ten o'clock. The streets were choked with carriages on every side, and crowds of ladies and gentlemen flocked along the banquettes, picking their steps with dainty tread, toward the theater. We found the entrance crowded, and great numbers of gentlemen manifesting the intensest anxiety to get rid of their hats, cloaks, and canes. It took us a good half hour to get rid of our encumbrances and get up stairs, so dense was the crowd. After a persevering struggle, pushing, elbowing and wedging our slow way along, we got to the central doorway, and there, whilst we were charmed with the unusual beauty and brilliancy of the coup d'oeil presented by the interior, we were made to doubt the expediency of attempting to push our way any further. The parquette had been covered with a stage, so that the dancing-room was very large, extending all the way from the central or front part of the dress circle to the rear of the stage, and to the full width of the theater between the opposing sides of the dress circle and the wings on the stage—sloping down gradually from either end to the middle, like the deck of a steamboat, thus giving the blaze of beauty and gallantry at either end an opportunity of beholding and vieing with the blaze at the other.

The whole interior of the theater was decorated in the most beautiful and tasteful manner. An American flag projected over each chandelier; a drapery of pink hung all around the second tier, relieved by festoons of flowers and magnolia leaves, swinging gracefully between the chandeliers, with thick wreaths of the same twined around all the columns of the dress circle. The stage presented the appearance of a huge pavilion, or royal tent, of pink and white muslin, in alternating stripes—completely shutting out all view of the stage wocks, though the stage lights in glass globes projected through the muslin and shed the light of day upon the scene. The rear of the stage was beautified by a painting of a palace scene, executed for the occasion by Mr. Boulet. Immediately over the stage, and beneath the pavilion, was displayed the beautiful gas arch, describing, in quivering jets of flame, the words "Vive la Danse." Having viewed all the decorations in detail, we went into the second tier so that we might take in and enjoy the whole at a glance—theater, decorations, assembly and all. The scene was truly magnificent. Nothing like it was ever beheld in New Orleans before, and we very much doubt if anything approaching it was ever seen in this country. The dress circle in its flush of flowers and evergreens, and its blaze of living beauty; the stage with its majestic pavilion; the immense and brilliant multitude on the floor; the golden light that bathed the whole, and caught up the prismatic hues of the costumes and jewels; and the aggregation of sounds that a large and gay crowd of people create—at times almost drowning the music of Meyer's orchestra, which had been augmented for the occasion—together, constituted a scene which charmed, not as alone, but crowds of people who occupied the circles, and gazed, hour after hour, as if they could not see enough. We have given a pretty fair account of the theater and its decorations. We must now devote some attention to the multitude present.

When we first caught a glimpse of the stage, or dancing-floor, it appeared to be an undulating sea of human heads—the *coiffures* of the ladies showing in brilliant relief amid the dark crowns of the gentlemen. More than heads, it was impossible to take in at a sweep of the vision, so dense was the crowd. The costumes could only be seen by mingling in the crowd, and only by short glimpses at that. No one saw much of the ball in its details, so excessive was the crowd, so ceaseless the rush. We never before saw half as many people on a dancing floor at one time. There was actually, for a time, no room to dance. The most persevering of the ladies and gentlemen—about one-tenth of those present, we should judge—managed to force a narrow space down the centre, in which they went through condensed quadrilles, compressed waltzes and abbreviated polkas, with a zest which paid little heed to the lack of room. The rest of the assembly formed a solid crowd, circulating around to get a good view of itself, the gentlemen frequently squeezing each other severely in their endeavors to avoid undue violence to the splendid dresses of the ladies.

The dancing-room was not the only place crowded. The dress-circle was crowded, back to the wall—the second tier and private boxes were crowded—the aisles were crowded—the lobbies were crowded—the stairways were crowded—the dressing-rooms were crowded—the building, in short, was entirely choked up with human beings. In the dress-circle, it was possible to derive some idea of the splendor in which the ladies had enrobed themselves for the occasion; but on the floor, the density of the assemblage smothered the beauty of the costumes.

It will of course be understood that the splendor of the ball was in no manner inferior to its quality. The wealth, beauty and fashion, not only of New Orleans, but of Louisiana and the neighboring States, were largely represented. The dark-eyed, angel-formed creole beauties of New Orleans and the adjacent Coast were there in their usual bewitching attire, but in unusually large numbers; the upper section of the city was as handsomely represented as the lower section; and there were not a few ladies from distant cities of the Union, who heightened the charms of the occasion with their rosy faces and costly attire, and vied with the beauty of our own sunny clime. We saw many familiar faces that were strangely bewitching, and many beautiful faces that were strange. Among the gentlemen we recognized any number of State and city notabilities, all looking happy, elegant and gay. The sashes and epaulettes of some army officers from Baton Rouge agreeably relieved the black monotony of the gentlemen's dress.

The dressing-rooms of the theater having been set apart to the use of the ladies attending the ball, came in for their share of the excitement. They were perpetually thronged by the ladies, who seemed to relish highly the novelty of finding themselves fairly within the penetralia of a dramatic temple.

From 10 o'clock till 12, visitors continued to arrive and the jam in the theater would have become insupportable, had not the opening of the supper-room afforded a very considerable expansion. The stockholders' club room, under the dress-circle of the theater, was used for the supper-room. The club room was always a beautiful place, but on this occasion it seemed to have been touched by an enchanter's wand, and metamorphosed into a glittering bower of plenty. Flowers and evergreens were wreathed and festooned; extra gas lights had been arranged in a handsome manner; the table, extending all around the apartment, and being shaped necessarily like a horse-shoe, was ornamented and loaded down in the extra-luxurious and brilliant style of the St. Charles Hotel. The choicest dishes of the *cuisine* of that famous establishment were strewn around in the most lavish profusion. The ladies and the gentlemen who were with them—for the single gentlemen had to be barred out, owing to the unexpected magnitude of the crowd—formed in brilliant array around the outside of the table; (the waiters having the inside for their field of action;) and the scene was one of the greatest brilliancy and the most unalloyed enjoyment. As the crowds departed, new crowds filled their places; again and again the waiters cleared off and reset the table, diving like men possessed into the smoking coppers in the center, and fiendishly beheading the wine bottles. For five whole hours did this scene last—from half-past 11 to half-past 5—and during the whole time the hot coppers yielded forth their savory viands unstintingly, and champagne flowed like water. After 2 o'clock, the press of the ladies having abated, the single, or lonely gentlemen—that is, those who came without ladies—had access to the supper-room. The elegance of the arrangements, and the unexampled profusion of the good things, were sources of wonder and admiration to all who feasted.

The density of the crowd caused a great many ladies and gentlemen to decline dancing, or attempting to dance, and consequently a great many went home, after satisfying themselves with a good look at the ball-room and a taste of the supper-room. From twelve o'clock, the crowd steadily decreased; still, so great was it, that the hour was three before there was what we could consider respectable dancing-room. It was then that the ball assumed its phase of highest vivacity; for the whole space was given up to dancing, and the fairy forms and dazzling costumes, as they whirled around in the waltz or polka, could be advantageously seen and admired. The ball, indeed, did not get fairly started until two o'clock—for previous to that, the dancing amounted to hardly more than jostling in a crowd, and its only consolation was that there could be no tripping up or falling down in it—there being a wall of spectators in close proximity on every side.

It is estimated that over four thousand people altogether were at the ball, about half being ladies; and that the largest number on the dancing floor and in the dress-circles at the same time was little short of three thousand. Many of the ladies left remnants of their dresses behind—the fault either of too great length in the skirts, or of collisions and hitchings whilst dancing in the crowd.

The only unpleasant episode of the ball, was the catching fire of a piece of paper in one of the ticket-offices. The people below, with commendable presence of mind, never raised an alarm, but at once put out the flame, whilst several others in their zeal heaved the cloaks, hats and canes, to the extent of about two wagon-loads, out into the passage, in a promiscuous heap. The result was a great loss of time, sustained by gentlemen in overhauling the heap and selecting their property, and some compulsory swapping as the heap lessened in size. Since then, the coat tangle has been pretty well unraveled; but there is about half a cart-load of shocking bad hats—that is, good hats badly smashed—still on display in the ticket-office, awaiting claimants. Swapping of coats and hats is by no means uncommon at private parties; but this party was an unusually extensive one, and the swapping, started by the flash of fire, was necessarily extensive in proportion. It was a most fortunate thing that the alarm of fire did not reach the crowded interior of the theater. Had it done so, we are certain we would have had fearful consequences to report.

So ended what all join in saying was by far the largest and most splendid ball ever given in New Orleans. It was much talked of beforehand, and will be widely talked of for many years to come. The gentlemen stockholders of the theater got the thing up for their personal gratification, and must necessarily have expended a large amount of money in so doing. They were already embarked in the handsome enterprise known as the Gaiety Theater, and they have now demonstrated that they understand getting up gaiety of another kind. Their success is a fact which will stand brightly for many years in the annals of New Orleans festivity. As these gentlemen have shown their liberality and large-heartedness in so signal and gratifying a manner, we would be much pleased to be able to give our readers a list of their names. As that, however, is a private matter, we do not feel at liberty to do so. We take the privilege, however, of appending the names of the Committee of Invitation, without permission, because the publicity cannot add to or detract from the golden opinions they won by the faithful and able manner in which they discharged their arduous duties:

Charles M. Waterman, W. Vogel, C. Pelopee, S. Smith, S. P. Dancan, J. W. Price, W. Harrington, W. Jackson, Jr., W. J. Minor, J. J. Hughes, G. S. Mandeville, W. H. Avery, H. Pitman, S. D. Hinton, W. G. Stanton, J. B. Donegan, E. Roach, A. C. Hensley, P. Delachaise, A. G. Kennett.

Dauphine Theatrical Items.

NEW YORK.—Forrest and the German Opera Company alternate at the Broadway theater.

The Academy of Music was to open on the 19th, with an Italian opera troupe under the management of Strakosch.

Mr. Belton, from Barry's Boston theater, has joined Burton's company temporarily, and with Mrs. Barrow and him in the leading characters, Burton is doing a good business. At Laura Keene's another new piece has been produced, entitled "Rachel the Reaper." The Pyne and Harrison company continue to do a fair business at Niblo's. Mrs. McMahon, the lady who made so decided a failure at Buffalo, has taken the Chambers street theater, where she was to appear on the 19th. She was to play Juliet to Mrs. Coleman Pope's Romeo, at the Academy of Music, on Saturday, 17th.

The Bowery—King John, after a successful run of two weeks, has been withdrawn. Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Davenport and Mr. Wheatley continue at this house.

Wallack's—Mrs. John Wood was to close on the 17th. Miss Matilda Heron was announced as Camille for Monday, the 19th.

PHILADELPHIA.—Mr. Lorraine has been playing a star engagement at the Walnut. He has not succeeded in pleasing the critics.

PROVIDENCE, R. I.—Mr. Anderson and Miss Ellsworthy are playing to good houses.

CHARLESTON.—Mr. Neafie closed a brilliant engagement on the 17th, and was followed by Miss Annette Ince.

RICHMOND.—Mrs. Bateman's comedy of "Self" was produced here on the 15th, with John E. Owens and Mrs. Melinda Jones in the leading parts.

LOUISVILLE.—The Florences are having a succession of good houses.

ST. LOUIS.—The Keller troupe are meeting with immense success at the People's theater. At the St. Louis "The Dreamer," a pantomime, is having a run.

CINCINNATI.—John Drew continues at Bates. At Wood's, Crisp's opera troupe were to open the 14th.

AUGUSTA.—Mr. Neafie was announced to open on the 19th, in his own tragedy of "Harolde."

MEMPHIS.—Miss Albertine, and Mr. Chanfrau closed here on the 17th. Miss Maggie Mitchell was announced to succeed.

MOBILE.—Mr. Hackett closed with Mr. Duffield on Saturday, and appears at the St. Charles to-night. Mr. Bourcicault and Miss Agnes Robertson open in Mobile to-night.

[COMMUNICATED.]

Editors Crescent: My attention has been called to an extract from the Report of E. W. Moise, Esq., Attorney General, to the State Legislature, in which occurs this statement: "I addressed a note to each of the Recorders of the city, requesting to be informed of the number of homicides committed within the year 1856, by parties known, but who had not been arrested. As yet I have not received a reply from any of them."

The object of this communication is to say that so far as the statement applies to the Recorder of the Third District, it is—not true.

The note addressed by the Attorney General to Recorder Solomon, was, by direction of the Recorder, answered by me in writing, on the 17th inst. and sent by a special officer, who delivered it personally to Mr. Moise. In that answer, I stated there was only one case in the Third District, where a party charged with homicide had not been arrested, to wit: James Cruse, charged with having murdered Michael Fanning and Alexander Bennet, on the 30th of December last. Respectfully yours, ED. STARR,

Recorder's Chief Clerk Third District.

SNOW IN THE NORTH.—The streets of Northern cities were rendered almost impassable on the 18th from snow.

PIANOS.—The best American pianos for sale in the South—selected in person by Mr. L. Gabler—may be found at the establishment of that gentleman, No. 98 Camp street. His card, which gives all needful particulars, may be found in another part of our paper.

GOOD THINGS FOR THE MILLION.—The old-established and widely-known house of Messrs. A. H. Carter & Co., at the corner of Common and Tchoupitoulas streets, presents unusual features of attractiveness to city dealers and country merchants throughout the South and West. Their establishment is a grand source of good things, where the choicest fruits of Western produce is bracketed by that of the teeming Yankee land, and all leavened by an experience of good things from the foreign parts of the world. Country merchants visiting the city will find whatever they may want, in the largest quantities and upon the most advantageous terms, at this establishment. A list of the latest supplies is set forth in our advertising columns, and it will repay no unkrowsome to find it.

DR. FRYER, THE INDIAN DOCTOR.—This gentleman, who has for many years enjoyed a large patronage in the practice of his peculiar system of medicine, announces having removed his office to a more eligible location—No. 15 Elysian Fields street, opposite the Railroad depot. We refer to his card.

DR. WINGARD.—This gentleman has opened an office on Canal street, between Burgundy and Rampart, where he proposes to prescribe for all physical ailments by means of clairvoyance and spiritualism. He produces testimonials of the highest character of cures performed by him. We refer to his card, in our advertising columns.

WISTAR'S CANADIAN VERMIFUGE.—This widely-popular medicine for children is for sale, wholesale and retail by Messrs. J. Wright & Co., Nos. 21 and 151 Chartres street.

HEIDSIECK CHAMPAGNES.—The great house of Messrs. E. J. Hart & Co., Nos. 77 and 79 Tchoupitoulas street, are in receipt of supplies of this celebrated wine, and will keep it always on hand. See advertisement.

SOUTHERN ENTERPRISE.

We visited, a few days since, the Orleans Molasses Refinery of Messrs. A. Thompson & Co., at the corner of Delord and Commerce streets, and there beheld what energy, industry and perseverance may do, in creating a business where previously there seemed hardly any call for business, and in redeeming the city from the pall of slothfulness under which it has so long lain, as compared with cities in other parts of the Union. Five years ago Messrs. Thompson & Co. took this refinery into hand, when it was suffering under a reputation of breaking everybody who invested in it. Under their judicious management, however, it began a new life; and in the five years of their proprietorship, instead of encountering any symptom of the fate of their predecessors, they have enjoyed a steadily expanding patronage and increasing profit, and are now doing as sound and lucrative a business as men of moderate ambition could desire.

Under the polite guidance of Mr. Thompson, we entered the refinery where the molasses enters, followed the molasses through all its multitudinous windings, and made our exit where it makes its exit, barreled and on drays. We found it altogether an interesting round, as would any one, under the guidance of some one connected with the refinery. We entered at a door on Commerce street, and immediately saw the initiatory process to which the molasses was subjected. The casks were rolled in and unbunged over a trough or a gutter with a brass sieve-wire bottom, through which the molasses strained itself into a cistern of about 500 barrels capacity—the cistern being nearly full at the time of our visit. The boiler—one of the largest kind—and the machinery are in this part of the refinery. After the casks have drained themselves as nearly empty as possible, they are rolled to the farther end of the trough, where a jet of hot steam, let in at the bung hole, brings out the sediment and leaves the casks entirely clean.

The molasses, being fairly deposited in the cistern, starts off on its travels. It is let through a gate into a smaller cistern, where it undergoes the process of "blowing up"—a copper pipe, or worm, filled with hot steam, and permitting a small portion of the steam to escape through small holes, coiling about through the molasses, and starting its fermentation. The molasses then goes, by the persuasion of a pump, into a very large cistern above ground, the top of which reaches into the second story. A trough from this cistern lets the sweet tide into two large copper boilers or kettles, of the capacity of five barrels each, in which the boiling is done by copper pipes coiled in the bottom and filled with hot steam. A man is kept busy filling the kettles, skimming off the fermentation, and sending off the molasses on its travels. The skimmings are thrown into a trough, and run off to a receptacle where they are kept for rum making. The molasses, when it has boiled so long that scarcely any fermentation rises to the surface, is drained off through cocks at the bottom of the kettles into a new receptacle, whence it is again persuaded away by pumps, and mounts, through copper pipes, into the sixth story of the building. We are compelled to part company with it awhile, and take a very tiresome climb up stairs.

In the top story we meet it again. It comes steaming out of the pipe, almost as thin as water from its great heat, and is distributed by troughs and gates into seven large coolers. Each cooler is an inclined plane of zinc, in a frame about fifteen feet long and five feet wide, with a descent of less than a foot. The molasses is let in at the upper end; it spreads out slowly on the zinc at about a proper thickness for buckwheat cakes, and settles slowly in a puddle at the lower end. Whilst the puddle is accumulating, a boy removes the tough crust, or second skimmings, by raking it to the end of the cooler with a wooden rake, dipping it out, and sending it off for rum material. As soon as the cooler is full, a cock at the bottom is opened, and the molasses runs into a trough in the story below. Here it repeats the cooling operation—is distributed into seven more large coolers, and again let off. The operation is repeated on another floor lower down, and still another. The molasses is so well graduated in its descents, by means of the numerous gates and cocks, that one small boy is entitled to attend to the whole twenty-eight coolers, on the four different floors. There is a fifth floor of coolers, but it is not used at present. By the time the molasses has got down to the fourth floor, it is reasonably cold, and goes off in a trough to the last cistern of all. There is a provision for warm weather, which is not needed at this season. In its final passage from the cooling-house to the cistern, if the weather be warm, it is pumped through a pipe which coils all about in an intervening cistern of water. At this season, it goes straight to the last receiving cistern by the force of its own gravitation.

This last cistern stands on the ground, outside the building, under a shed, where the drays can back up and receive the barrels as they are filled and bunged. The molasses is let out through a large spout, into a trough covered with a fine brass strainer—being its seventh and last passage through the straining process. This trough has ten cocks, and a barrel being placed with a funnel under each, is speedily filled. Two men can keep the cocks going, each attending to five barrels at a time. Opposite this cistern, the barrels, fresh from the cooper's shop, are stacked up. They are thoroughly washed before being filled with molasses; one man is kept busy painting the heads, and another the brands. The barrels are branded differently, according to the different kinds of molasses used. The molasses which we accompanied in its journey through the refinery, was a lot from Cuba, the first put through there. One kind of molasses is run through one day, and another kind the next day; and the daily capacity of the refinery is about five hundred barrels. On the opposite side of Commerce street is the cooper's shop, where a crowd of coopers are kept constantly at work making barrels.

The different brands of molasses turned out by Messrs. Thompson & Co., at their refinery, are having a wide sale in different parts of the country, their excellence and cost standing the test everywhere. The refinery is now one of the "fixed institutions" of the city, and is well worth a visit from any who can spare the time.

DANGEROUS PRISONERS.—It seems that the statement, recently published, that the only survivor of the Baltimore prisoners was a nephew of "Mad Anthony Wayne," is incorrect. The Springfield Republican gives the names of two now living in Massachusetts—one, Christopher Smith, of Hadley; the other, Jonathan Lander, of Greenfield. The Boston Transcript mentions two others, both residents of Massachusetts. These are William Baily, of Germantown, and Isaac Nowell, of Newburyport. Besides these, there is one other survivor residing at Baltimore.

THE MINIE RIFLE.—As is well known what is termed the "Minie rifle" is nothing more nor less than the adoption of the expanding bullet, for small arms. William Greener, the celebrated gunmaker, of Birmingham, claims the honor of the invention, and the London Times of the 20th of December publishes a communication, showing that Lord Panmure has sanctioned the submission to Parliament of an award of £1,000, in the estimates of the ensuing year, "as a public recogn